

Volume 47, Number 3 • July 2020

**N E A**

# NEWSLETTER

NEW ENGLAND ARCHIVISTS

# BLACK LIVES MATTER

Read the statement of solidarity from the New England Archivists Executive Board: <<https://newenglandarchivists.org/news/9019342>>.

**I N S I D E** — Rachel Onuf and Sarah-Jane Poindexter discuss the Vermont and Massachusetts roving archivist programs (page 4); Mahala Nyberg and Laura Johnson share how the DH Hub supports collaboration in the field of digital humanities (page 20); the recipients of the Inclusion and Diversity Scholarship describe archiving the sanctuary movement (page 18); Greta Kuriger Suiter reviews the *DACS* principles workshop (page 17); NEA President Linda Hocking reports

on the organization's response to the coronavirus pandemic (page 8); conservator Carolyn Frisa of Works on Paper reflects on working from home during the pandemic, and Lauren MacLean describes how Sarah Lawrence College is documenting student experiences of COVID-19 (pages 14–16); and regional repositories share their efforts to stay engaged during COVID-19 (page 9).

**TAKING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE**

N E A

# New England Archivists

TAKING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE

7 Central Street • Beverly, MA 01915  
<[www.newenglandarchivists.org](http://www.newenglandarchivists.org)>

## NEA Executive Board

President:	Linda Hocking
Vice President/President-Elect:	Genna Duplisea
Immediate Past President:	Jamie Rice
Secretary:	Kate Herbert
Treasurer:	Michael Dello Iacono
Representatives-at-Large:	Jennifer Betts Molly Brown Stephanie Krauss Christina Prochilo
Clerk of the Corporation:	Juliana Kuipers
Archivist:	Laura Smith
Vendor Coordinator:	Jane Ward
Newsletter Editors:	Danielle Castronovo Vanessa Formato Charlotte Lellman Katy Sternberger
Listserv Moderator:	Maryalice Perrin-Mohr
Registrar:	David Read
Meeting Coordinator:	Emily Atkins

Membership in *New England Archivists, Inc.* is open to all.

**Annual Dues** are \$35 for individuals, \$17.50 for students and \$45 for institutions. Sign up online at <<https://www.newenglandarchivists.org/renew>>. Payment can be made via PayPal or by check made out to New England Archivists and mailed to Michael Dello Iacono, NEA Treasurer, 7 Central Street, Beverly, MA 01915.

The *NEA Newsletter* is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October. The contents of the *Newsletter* may be reproduced in whole or in part provided that credit is given.

**Articles** and **News** of interest to archivists, historical society members, historians, and other NEA members should be sent for consideration to the attention of: Katy Sternberger at <[newsletter@newenglandarchivists.org](mailto:newsletter@newenglandarchivists.org)>.

Requests for changes or updates to website content should be sent to: <[webmaster@newenglandarchivists.org](mailto:webmaster@newenglandarchivists.org)>

**Deadlines** for submitting materials are:

November 15 for January issue	February 10 for April issue
May 15 for July issue	August 15 for October issue

## Advertising Policy:

There will be no fee to list position openings. Advertisements for archival products will be accepted as space permits. Advertising should be submitted to <[vendorcoordinator@newenglandarchivists.org](mailto:vendorcoordinator@newenglandarchivists.org)>.

**Rates:** Full page: \$175; half page: \$100; quarter page: \$50. Payment is requested at the time the ad is submitted. All checks should be made payable to *New England Archivists*.

Newsletter design and production by Culp Design <[www.culpdesign.com](http://www.culpdesign.com)>.



# Table of Contents

<b>From the Editors</b> .....	3
<b>Archival Insight</b>	
Back Roads and Best Practices:	
Roving Archivists in New England.....	4
<b>Inside NEA</b>	
From the President.....	8
<b>News and Notes</b>	
Connecticut.....	9
Maine.....	9
Massachusetts .....	9
Rhode Island.....	12
Other News .....	12
<b>Archivists @ Home</b> .....	14
<b>Reviews</b> .....	17
<b>Who's Missing from This Table?</b>	
Preservation and Elevation: Raising the	
Voices of the Sanctuary Movement.....	18
<b>Archival Insight</b>	
Collaboration in Action:	
Reflections from the DH Hub.....	20
<b>NEA Roundtable Updates</b> .....	22
<b>This Season in New England History</b> .....	24

# From the Editors

- Katy Sternberger

History is in the making. This year, the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has caused global disruption, and locally we saw the cancelation of the NEA Spring 2020 Meeting and the postponement of the Fall 2020 Meeting. But archivists are keenly aware of the significance of documenting the now. We have shifted our routines by collecting community responses to the pandemic, providing more online services, and focusing on digital projects for perhaps the first time. With change comes the opportunity to grow.

In this issue, members share their COVID-19 reflections and initiatives. The News and Notes column is full of announcements about quarantine documentation projects and digital collections (page 9). The Preservica and Teaching with Primary Sources roundtables provide updates about how their members have responded to COVID-19 (page 22). We have also created a special section, Archivists @ Home, containing two articles about the perspective of doing conservation work from home and the process of collecting student experiences of COVID-19 (pages 14–16).

We also feature the relationship-building projects of the Vermont and Massachusetts roving archivists (page 4) and introduce you to Boston's DH Hub, a program that brings together students and researchers in the digital humanities (page 20). Greta Kuriger Suiter reviews the highly participatory *DACS* principles workshop led by Maureen Callahan and Adrien Hilton, which took place in February (page 17).

The Inclusion and Diversity Committee presents the recipients of this year's Inclusion and Diversity Scholarship: two Yale undergraduate students who describe their efforts to archive the sanctuary movement (page 18). In lieu of their session at the Spring 2020 Meeting, we are pleased to share their work in the *Newsletter*. Also, the Nominating Committee announces the winners of the 2020 Distinguished Service and Archival Advocacy awards (pages 16 and 23).

As we continue to adapt to our changing circumstances, we hope that the *NEA Newsletter* will serve as an outlet for you to share your challenges and successes. Send your ideas to the editors at <newsletter@newenglandarchivists.org>. ■



## ARCHIVERA

Archives Collections Management

The answer to archivists' collections management challenges—for archives large, small, or somewhere-in-between.

Supporting your success; today and tomorrow.

**Request a free demo**—see our unrivaled capabilities for yourself!

[sales@lucidea.com](mailto:sales@lucidea.com)

ARCHIVERA
MAKE A REQUEST

SEARCH
BROWSE COLLECTIONS
BROWSE CREATORS
BROWSE SUBJECTS
CART
SUPPORT

**BROWSE COLLECTIONS**

Browse the collections list alphabetically with the alphabet filters.

[A][B][C][D][E][F][G][H][I][J][K][L][M][N][O][P][Q][R][S][T][U][V][W][X][Y][Z]

Print Save to Cart More

1 2 3



Air Protection Society Collection  
1979-1990



Avalon Corporation Records  
1990-1978



Brandywine Ranch  
1901-1989



Commission on Cancer Collection  
1913-1968



Council on Dental Education  
1940-1949



David Warren Brubeck Papers  
1950-2012



Emil Bunjes Papers  
1890-1934



Fraternal Order of Eagles  
1953



Helen Eleanor Kat Collection  
1862-1968



Horace M. Kallen Papers  
1913-1998

[lucidea.com/archivera](http://lucidea.com/archivera)

## ARCHIVAL INSIGHT

Back Roads and Best Practices:  
Roving Archivists in New England

By Rachel Onuf and Sarah-Jane Poindexter

**A**uthors' Note: The only job title better than Roving Archivist is Keeper of Manuscripts, which Rob Cox somehow managed to wrangle for himself when he took a job at the American Philosophical Society in 1998. Among many other accomplishments, Cox was a member of the MA SHRAB for several years. He passed away on May 11, 2020. We dedicate this article to him.

Peripatetic archival workers are variously called field archivists, circuit riders, itinerant archivists, or field service representatives. New England prefers the more romantic *roving archivist*, though we are dismayed to see the Merriam-Webster definition of *rove* is “to move aimlessly: *roam*.” Despite this definition’s negative connotation, the entry further explains that *rove* “suggests vigorous and sometimes purposeful roaming.” We would like to think that, in traveling to historical records repositories throughout Massachusetts and Vermont to provide advice, training, and resources, our work is quite vigorous and not sometimes—but *always*—purposeful. In this article, two regional rovers provide context for their respective programs and how they have evolved over the last few years. We also discuss how we envision roving work will adapt to the ongoing pandemic and ruminate on some current and future opportunities for cooperation and collaboration.

In 2012, the Massachusetts State Historical Records Advisory Board (MA SHRAB) put out a call for consultants to serve as roving archivists, visiting repositories that had applied to the SHRAB for either a strategic assessment of the institution or a program review. The on-site consultations and follow-up reports were funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), through the State Board Programming Grant program. For the following funding cycle, the MA SHRAB decided to make the roving archivist a part-time contract position. Rachel Onuf, who had been one of the consultants during the first iteration, was the successful applicant. Over the course of several years, Onuf made about 150 site visits to nearly 100 repositories.

In 2017, she also started working part time for the Vermont Historical Records Advisory Board, based at the Vermont State Archives & Records Administration, with fund-

ing from the Office of the Secretary of State. In addition to serving as a roving archivist for Vermont repositories, Onuf was charged with writing an NHPRC grant to make the position full time. The application was successful and in 2018, as Onuf transitioned to working entirely in Vermont, Sarah-Jane Poindexter assumed the mantle of Massachusetts roving archivist.

In both states, the roving archivists’ services are free to participating repositories, the only criterion being that they should have fewer than 500 linear feet of archival materials. Preference is given to sites without a professional archivist, and in truth most places have a limited staff or are entirely run by volunteers. In Massachusetts, they need to express their commitment by completing a simple application for the SHRAB to review—we cannot recall an instance when an application was denied! In Vermont, repositories need only ask for a consult. One of the great rewards of this position is that we get to see many types of cultural heritage institutions: historical societies, museums, municipal offices, public libraries, and small colleges, and we get to share what we observe among program participants. This unique behind-the-scenes exposure to a large variety of repositories positions roving archivists well to help establish ad hoc networks, communities of practice, and peer-to-peer support. Often this is a critical service for repositories without a trained archivist who can take advantage of links to the larger professional community.

One of the best aspects of the roving archivist program is the explicit focus on building a long-term relationship with staff and volunteers at historical records repositories and the emphasis on the rover as an ongoing resource, available *when needed* to answer questions or return for another in-person meeting or training session. In some cases, the relationship does not go beyond the initial site visit and fol-

low-up report. For the majority, however, there are at least email inquiries, sometimes months or years later. And there are a few people we work with who amaze and inspire us with what they build from a modest free consultancy.

The all-volunteer Noble & Cooley Center for Historic Preservation in Granville, Massachusetts, is one example. The center initially applied for a strategic assessment in 2015 and followed that up with a successful regrant application and a request for a return visit for processing assistance. When they weren't writing grants, Thom Gilbert and Dick Rowley rehoused and inventoried many feet of records of the Noble & Cooley drum company, stabilized artifact storage, and built a heated room within their unheated factory building for the low-cost digitization workstation they'd MacGyvered together. They uploaded digitized drum catalogs to the Internet Archive, started a blog <<http://ncchpresearchlibrary.blogspot.com>>, and partnered with the Granville Public Library to create a Granville History Digital Collection <<https://granvillehistory.omeka.net>>. They applied to the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for a Preservation Assistance Grant for Smaller Institutions to attend Northeast Document Conservation Center courses, to have Onuf and a recent Simmons University graduate do a thorough preservation assessment and lead a handling and storage workshop, and to purchase a flat file. They didn't miss a beat when Onuf passed the baton to Poindexter, securing her services to assist with the Granville Public Library Historical Room, and jumping on

her hot tip that Boston College had an Atiz BookDrive Pro scanner, free to a good home.

One of the advantages the Massachusetts roving archivist program has over the Vermont program is the availability of many low- or no-cost solutions for historical records repositories. The SHRAB's regrant program pays for archival housing and other supplies. The Boston Public Library scans materials and, for a reasonable membership fee, Digital Commonwealth makes them available to the world. The free Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners environmental monitoring program provides data loggers for a five-month period and an extensive environmental assessment report. And we can't forget to mention the Community Preservation Act. In communities across the Commonwealth, funds have been used to preserve historic buildings and, in some cases, to fund archival processing and digitization work.

Since none of these programs existed in Vermont, state archivist Tanya Marshall hit upon the idea of an expanded roving archivist program, one that would also work to build capacity to support historical records repositories. Thus the Vermont Historical Records Program (VHRP) was born. Serving as roving archivist is an important aspect of the program, but the mission is broader: "to improve public access to and engagement with Vermont historical records and to encourage and facilitate collaborative efforts among Vermont historical records repositories." As VHRP director, Onuf has helped to develop three new statewide groups: the Vermont Arts and Culture Disaster and Resilience Network <<https://vacdarn.org>>, the Collections Care and Conservation Alliance <<https://collectionscarealliance.org>>, and the Vermont Suffrage Centennial Alliance <<https://vtsuffrage2020.org>>. She also cooks up collaborative grant projects (some successful, some not) and offers workshops and training sessions.

Both roving archivist programs continue to evolve. The different categories of assistance offered in Massachusetts change over time, and this past year saw the introduction of the new archival field fellowship, coordinated by the roving archivist. The fellowship seeks to meet two needs we observed: some repositories had trouble implementing our recommendations and some recent graduates of archival programs had trouble gaining additional archival experience. The field fellows, mentored by the roving archivist and staff and volunteers at the repository, provide hands-on processing assistance and receive a small stipend. Several



Librarian Marjanneke Wright demonstrates the security of a homegrown collection storage area during a roving archivist site visit at a public library.

Your Researchers want to find it, request it, see it.

So

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ABOUT

Aeon?

That's our question for you. We're sure you have questions for us.

Email us for the answers to these and other questions about Aeon.

aeon@atlas-sys.com

 **NEW online events and courses.**  
Visit [www.atlas-sys.com](http://www.atlas-sys.com) for details or to request an Aeon demo.

[www.atlas-sys.com/aeon](http://www.atlas-sys.com/aeon)



**HOW CAN ATLAS SYSTEMS HELP US WITH ARCHIVESPACE?**

**HINT:**  
No more wasting time with messy data migrations or tracking down training and technical support options.

**HOW WILL AEON HELP US GATHER BETTER, MORE MEANINGFUL STATISTICS ON OUR COLLECTIONS AND USERS?**

**HINT:**  
No more tally sheets with tick marks.

**HOW WILL AEON HELP US ENHANCE SERVICE?**

**HINT:**  
No more paper call slips since researchers make requests online and in advance.

**HOW WILL AEON HELP US IMPROVE SECURITY?**

**HINT:**  
No more manually tracking where items are or who used them last.

field fellows have reported on their experiences on the MA SHRAB blog <<https://mashrabblog.wordpress.com>>.

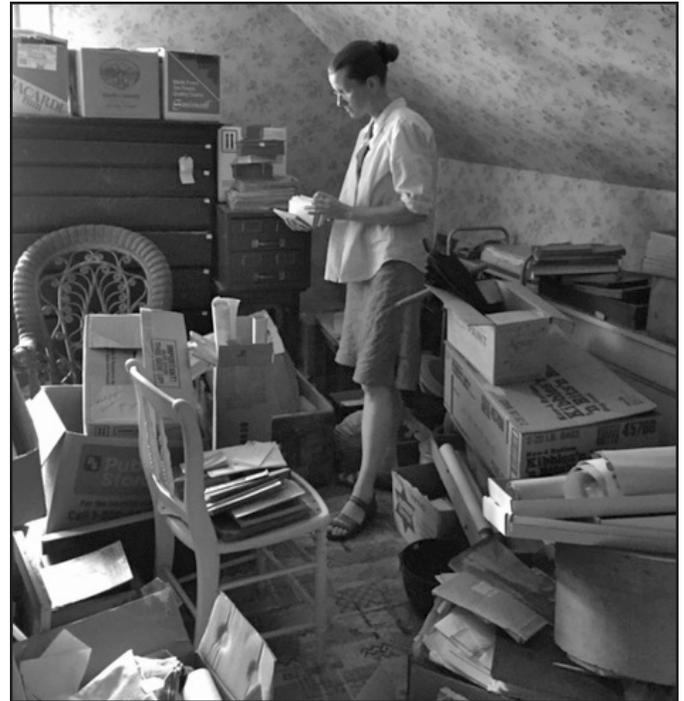
In Vermont, Onuf is identifying repositories that could serve as regional hubs, mentoring the smaller organizations around them. She is also exploring ways to encourage board members, staff, and volunteers to participate in the Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations (StEPs) developed by the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), perhaps by emulating the highly successful model developed in Connecticut <<https://cthumanities.org/programs/steps-ct>>.

As the impact of the coronavirus pandemic continues to be felt across the world, we are contemplating how our programs will adapt. Site visits, those vigorous and sometimes purposeful roamings, are suspended for the time being. As we catch up on report writing and keep the other aspects of our programs going, we also consider how vertiginous a virtual tour of a site's storage areas might be, and whether those sites without internet access will be left behind. We are resolutely in-person people—and yet we can see that there is great opportunity to connect efficiently, and we hope effectively, via video.

This pause of site visits and freeing of time typically spent driving thither and yon, gives us a chance to imagine other ways we might connect people interested in the archival endeavor. Being physically apart has reinforced the importance of social exchange, of networking, of open communication. We need to keep doing this part of our work, even if we remain physically distant.



Textile and mannequin storage in the attic of a Massachusetts museum.



Roving archivist Rachel Onuf in one of her favorite places: the attic of a historical museum.

Roving archivists are well positioned to serve as the bridges, whether between repositories and field fellows, or repositories and nascent networks for emergency management. We bring together collections care professionals across different fields. Since we work primarily with folks who do not have formal archival training, we know that one area where we can continue to foster connections is between professional and nonprofessional archivists. We look forward to hearing your ideas on how we might facilitate mentor–mentee relationships; broaden our collective communities of practice; and support one another in collecting, preserving, and providing access to the documentary evidence of this wild world we humans have lived in for millennia. Contact us at <[Mass.Roving.Archivist@gmail.com](mailto:Mass.Roving.Archivist@gmail.com)> and <[rachel.onuf@vermont.gov](mailto:rachel.onuf@vermont.gov)>. ■

**Rachel Onuf** is the director of the Vermont Historical Records Program and, in that role, serves as the roving archivist for Vermont. Previous jobs include teaching for Simmons University, 2005–2019.

**Sarah-Jane Poindexter** is the roving archivist for Massachusetts. Prior to her work in Massachusetts, she worked at the University of Louisville Archives and Special Collections and the Filson Historical Society.

# Inside NEA

FROM THE PRESIDENT

- Linda Hocking



Many of us have had the experience of looking through documentation of historic times. How odd it is to be documenting extraordinary times while experiencing them. I am sure you have seen (or maybe even created) a project designed to retain the response of communities to the pandemic and wondered how to maintain distance and perspective on what to collect about an event that is impacting us all personally. I know I have. As we navigate our way through an unfamiliar situation and learn how to operate our work life, home life, and professional development opportunities in new ways, I hope NEA is able to serve as a space for discussion, sharing ideas, and supporting one another.

The NEA board is working to operate through the crisis as effectively as possible. Following the cancellation of the Spring 2020 Meeting, we held our first virtual annual business meeting via Zoom, and although it wasn't the same as an in-person gathering, we were happy that so many members were able to participate. The board also made the difficult decision to postpone the Fall 2020 Meeting. After considering both the uncertainty surrounding whether it will be safe to gather and the budgetary constraints we are aware many of our members are currently facing, the board agreed that not holding a fall meeting was the best action. NEA's board also voted to donate the \$2,000 that would have ordinarily been awarded to scholarship recipients to the Society of American Archivists Archival Workers Emergency Fund (AWEF), established to provide financial aid to archival workers experiencing hardship as a result of the pandemic.

Although it is disappointing to put off events that were created with many hours of volunteer effort, I am pleased

that NEA is working hard to bring programs to you where you are. In a normal year, the Program Committee's work would have been complete by now. This year, they have shifted focus to finding ways to virtually offer some of the sessions they had scheduled for the Providence meeting. Similarly, the Newsletter Committee would have filled this issue with session reports. They, too, pivoted their work to bring you different and valuable content.

I hope that NEA can offer a space for our community to meet challenges together, and I look forward to hearing from you about how you are coping with the pandemic and how NEA can help you. ■



## NEA Fall 2020 Meeting Postponed

Dear New England Archivists members,

The leadership of New England Archivists (NEA) is closely monitoring the ongoing coronavirus developments and their implications for our organization. The health, safety, and well-being of our community are our top priorities. Due to the continuing uncertainties affecting our ability to plan for the future, and the personal and professional challenges many of our colleagues are experiencing, the NEA Executive Board made the difficult decision to postpone the Fall 2020 Meeting until we can, hopefully, safely meet in fall 2021.

Please continue to consult the NEA website, social media, and listserv messages for information regarding the resumption of our regular meeting schedule in 2021. Until that time, we wish the best of health to you and your loved ones.

Regards,  
Katherine Isham  
NEA Fall 2020/2021 Meeting Chair

Visit NEA online at:

[www.newenglandarchivists.org](http://www.newenglandarchivists.org)

# News and Notes

## CONNECTICUT

### **New ArcLight Search Application Available for Connecticut's Archives Online**

Connecticut's Archives Online (CAO), hosted and administered by Western Connecticut State University (WCSU), has been in operation since 2009. CAO searches across 7,000 EAD finding aids, representing the collections of fifty-seven repositories from around the state, including universities, historical societies, and public libraries. However, WCSU was looking to upgrade and replace the current homegrown search application.

Because of altered workplace routines caused by the coronavirus pandemic, archivists Brian Stevens and Stacy Haponik accelerated efforts to leverage ArcLight software from Stanford Libraries. A prototype of the new application is now available, and users are encouraged to try out the service and provide feedback. Also, WCSU plans to partner with other Connecticut repositories to seek funding for training and outreach to further enhance the scope and services of CAO. Find the link to test the ArcLight search application at <http://library.wcsu.edu/cao>.

## MAINE

### **McArthur Public Library Responds to COVID-19**

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, the Archives and Special Collections of the McArthur Public Library in Biddeford launched a weekly YouTube tutorial series and coordinated the creation of the Biddeford COVID-19 Community Archive.

Available on the library's YouTube channel, the tutorial series produced by archives staff features a new topic each week to help patrons explore and use the library's online local history resources. Topics covered include how to use the image catalog, historic newspaper archive, and online history maps and tours.

Additionally, archives staff launched the Biddeford COVID-19 Community Archive in partnership with the Biddeford Historical Society and Biddeford Cultural and Heritage Center. The website is one of many such community archives that are being created in cooperation with the Maine State Library and led by a dedicated group of librarians and archivists from around the state. View the community archive at <https://biddefordc19.omeka.net>.

## MASSACHUSETTS

### **Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center Responds to COVID-19**

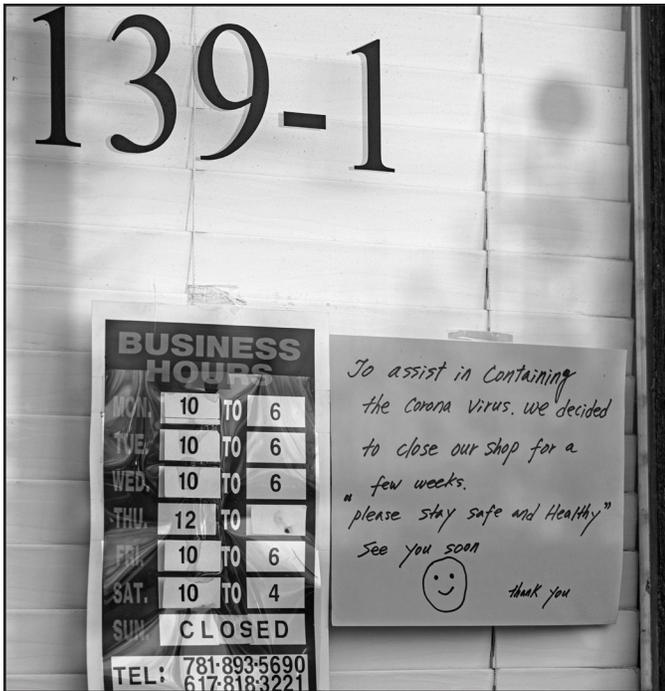
The Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center (JHC) at New England Historic Genealogical Society developed a collecting project for Jewish individuals, organizations, and communities throughout New England to share their observations and reflections during the public health crisis. Called #ForTheFuture, the project provides a variety of prompts for people to respond to, including specific prompts about how the coronavirus pandemic has altered and impacted Jewish life.

So far, donors have been eager to share their photographs of quiet urban streets and Passover seders recorded on Zoom—the latter of which included family and friends from across the globe who otherwise would not have celebrated together. As permissible by donors, the JHC will share submissions online in an exhibit or on social media platforms at a later date.

For more information about this project, visit the JHC online at <https://jewishheritagecenter.org/forthefuture>. For questions, contact senior archivist Lindsay Murphy at [lindsay.murphy@nehgs.org](mailto:lindsay.murphy@nehgs.org).

### **Waltham Public Library Launches Project to Document COVID-19**

On April 17, the Waltham Public Library (WPL) launched "Your Stories: COVID-19 in Waltham" as a way to document the impact of the pandemic on the city, its residents, and businesses. The project was spearheaded by archivist Dana Hamlin and came to life through staff brainstorming sessions. The project also drew inspiration



A sign on a Moody Street storefront announces temporary closure due to the coronavirus pandemic, from the "Your Stories: COVID-19 in Waltham" collection. *Courtesy of the Waltham Public Library Archives.*

from "Documenting Your Community's Experience of COVID-19: A Resource List" by Elizabeth James at Marshall University.

"Your Stories" uses Google Forms to ask several questions about respondents' experiences and encourages the submission of photographs, journals, artworks, and other documents, both digital and analog. This is the WPL Archives' first born-digital collection and will be used to create an online exhibit. The project can be found at <<http://www.waltham.lib.ma.us/yourstories>>.

### The Trustees Archives and Research Center Announces Transcription Project

The Archives and Research Center (ARC) of the Trustees of Reservations launched a project to transcribe journals from the Fruitlands Shaker Manuscript Collection after staff recently digitized twenty-two microfilm reels with images of records kept by the Harvard Shakers. View the collection's finding aid at <[https://bit.ly/fmshakers\\_findingaid](https://bit.ly/fmshakers_findingaid)>.

Transcribers receive access to a web folder containing JPG images of five to ten journal pages to be transcribed. Af-

ter finishing an assignment, participants complete an online form where they can submit questions for the archivists, upload their transcriptions, and request new assignments. The online submission process has streamlined administrative work, allowing the ARC to take on more volunteers.

The transcription project has served as a way for the ARC to continue working with interns and volunteers after offices closed due to the coronavirus pandemic. It has also raised awareness of how the ARC supports the organization, researchers, and site visitors. For more information, contact digital archivist Sarah Hayes at <[shayes@thetrustees.org](mailto:shayes@thetrustees.org)>.

### Perkins School for the Blind Digitizes Teacher Training Photographs

Nearly 150 photographs documenting the Teacher Training Program at the Perkins School for the Blind are now available on the Archives' Flickr page. The bulk of the photographs are group portraits of the training classes and span 1920 to 1984.

Teacher training has been an integral part of Perkins since the nineteenth century. Founded in 1920 in partnership with Harvard University, the Teacher Training Program was the first formal training initiative for educators of students with blindness. It combined study with experiential learning in the Perkins classrooms. The program and partnership later moved to Boston University and then to Boston College. The first graduate-level teacher training course, designed to prepare instructors of students with deafblindness, was held in 1956. The program drew educators from around the world, many of whom became leaders in their native countries.

To explore the digital collection on Flickr, visit <<https://www.flickr.com/photos/perkinsarchive>>. For questions, contact Perkins archivist Jen Hale at <[Jennifer.Hale@perkins.org](mailto:Jennifer.Hale@perkins.org)>.

### Lawrence History Center Responds to COVID-19

The Lawrence History Center (LHC) closed its doors to the public in mid-March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff began to work remotely and volunteers were asked to remain home, but LHC did not stop pursuing its



Graphics promoting the LHC's COVID-19 oral history and community diary projects. *Courtesy of the Lawrence History Center.*

mission to collect, preserve, share, and animate the city's history. Staff continued to assist researchers worldwide through online platforms. Existing digital content was "repackaged" and posted on the website and social media. Collecting activities continued through the acceptance of digital materials and the scheduling of physical donations for when we reopen. LHC also launched two projects: "Remote Oral History: Physically Distanced, Socially Connected" and the "Lawrence Community Diary." Both projects are bilingual, remove access barriers, and capture stories of our community coming together in a time of crisis in real time. For more information on these projects, visit <<http://www.lawrencehistory.org/collections>>.

### Massachusetts Historical Society Responds to COVID-19

The Massachusetts Historical Society (MHS) invites people to share their stories about the COVID-19 pandemic and contribute to a collecting initiative that will help future historians tell the story of this unprecedented time. The "Witness to History: What Are Your COVID-19 Experiences?" website asks contributors to either 1) assemble a journal with ongoing entries (on paper or electronically) and make plans to donate it to the MHS, or 2) share thoughts and images via an online submission form, which features a different prompt every week. View the project at <<https://www.masshist.org/projects/covid>>.

Also this spring, MHS programs for the public and educators shifted to an online format. Book talks, lectures, and National History Day in Massachusetts events were hosted



Harriet E. Hess house and garage (on common), Enfield, Massachusetts, January 14, 1928, taken by staff engineering photographer Benjamin B. Burbank (1901–1979). *Courtesy of the Massachusetts Archives.*

virtually. The reader services department responded to reference questions asked by email, tweet, phone, and a new online chat option.

### Quabbin Reservoir Photographs Available on Digital Commonwealth

In order to improve water supply to the greater Boston metropolitan area, the Metropolitan District Water Supply Commission (MDWSC), was authorized to take property in the watersheds of the Swift and Ware rivers to develop the Quabbin Reservoir. This special construction agency took photographs to document houses, barns, mills, schools, churches, and other real estate in order to plan for their removal and the reimbursement of the property owners.

The archives of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the library of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), and the Massachusetts Archives jointly announced digital access to photographs of real estate in the Swift River Valley. The collection, consisting of 2,952 photographs taken between 1927 and the late 1940s, is now available online through the statewide consortium Digital Commonwealth. The digital imaging was undertaken by Boston Public Library Digital Services.

View the collection at <[www.digitalcommonwealth.org/collections/commonwealth:qr46sf05h](http://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/collections/commonwealth:qr46sf05h)>. For more information, contact DCR archivist Sean M. Fisher at <[sean.fisher@mass.gov](mailto:sean.fisher@mass.gov)>.

## R H O D E I S L A N D

### Providence College Archives and Special Collections Responds to COVID-19

In early April, Providence College Archives and Special Collections invited the college community, including staff, faculty, students, and alumni, to document their personal experiences during the coronavirus pandemic. Staff laid the groundwork in mid-March by developing a submission form and a web page describing the purpose of the project and answering anticipated questions. We used social media and email to invite donations and encouraged a variety of documentation styles, including journaling, photography, audio and video interviews, and art. Several faculty planned related class assignments and students volunteered their completed work. We will continue to take submissions through the fall, and the collection will be processed and available at a later date. We plan to have a representative collection in our digital repository and an exhibit when the time is right. For more information, contact Michelle Chiles, head of archives and special collections, at <mchiles@providence.edu>.

## O T H E R N E W S

### SAA Foundation Announces Archival Workers Emergency Fund

In April, the Society of American Archivists (SAA) Foundation announced the creation of the Archival Workers Emergency Fund (AWEF) to support archival workers experiencing financial hardship during the COVID-19 crisis. Grants of up to \$1,000 will be awarded to financially vulnerable and at-risk workers.

As repositories have been forced to temporarily close or institute remote work in response to the novel coronavirus pandemic, many archival workers—particularly those in contingent positions—are facing significant financial and employment challenges. The AWEF will help to meet urgent financial needs. Developed based on a proposal from an ad hoc group of concerned archivists, the fund will be administered through the SAA Foundation, which is providing seed money of \$15,000. Tax-deductible donations to the AWEF are being accepted.

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis up to December 31, 2020. Visit <<https://awefund.wordpress.com>>.

### SAA Launches Dictionary of Archives Terminology

In April, the Society of American Archivists (SAA) announced the publication of an online resource, the *Dictionary of Archives Terminology (DAT)*, compiled by the Dictionary Working Group. With hundreds of terms, thousands of citations from more than 600 sources, and a brand-new online platform, the *DAT* expands upon *A Glossary of Archival and Records Terminology* written by Richard Pearce-Moses in 2005.

The website makes it easy to search for terms, find related words, and trace their roots in the archival literature. Definitions are based on a term's actual usage. Explore the dictionary at <<https://dictionary.archivists.org>>.

The *DAT* is a work in progress, and updates will be made regularly as new terms are defined and existing terms revised. Users can help shape the lexicon by providing feedback and suggesting new terms for potential inclusion. You can also sign up for Word of the Week, a weekly email that delivers archives terminology straight to your inbox. ■



Members of the Holland and Gould families enjoying summer weather in Washington County, Rhode Island. Given by Christine Hendrick. Courtesy of the South County History Center Collection.



# You have a job to do.

We help you do it.

When you need help with **ArchivesSpace**, you shouldn't have to think about how big or small the challenge is. Whether your ArchivesSpace project is a small step or a giant leap, Atlas Systems can help.



## ATLAS SYSTEMS

*Library Excellence Through Efficiency*

*Help:*

“ We installed the application, but would like some help using it.”

Atlas meets your training and support needs, regardless of experience or comfort level with technology.

*Help:*

“ We have legacy data in multiple silos and in different formats.”

Archivists' Toolkit? ARCHON? MARC? EAD? Spreadsheets? Atlas can convert your data and migrate it for you.

*Help:*

“ We don't have the server capacity to run the application, or our IT department doesn't want to deal with it.”

We can manage your implementation and host your installation.

*Help:*

“ We're up and running, but not sure we're using ASpace to its fullest potential.”

We can assess your data and use of the application to optimize your work.

*Help:*

“ We have a special ArchivesSpace project we don't have the time to do.”

Our team of ArchivesSpace experts is here to handle your custom project. Just ask!

▶ **FREE** ArchivesSpace Software Hosting Trial Offer | Visit [atlas-sys.com/aspacespace-trial](http://atlas-sys.com/aspacespace-trial) for details

To get the help you need—big project or small—contact us at [ASpace@atlas-sys.com](mailto:ASpace@atlas-sys.com).  
[www.atlas-sys.com/archivesspace](http://www.atlas-sys.com/archivesspace)



### ATLAS SYSTEMS

*Library Excellence Through Efficiency*

#### Atlas ArchivesSpace Services

- > Training & Support
- > Migration
- > Implementation
- > Hosting
- > Data Conversion
- > Custom Consulting

*Atlas Systems is an ArchivesSpace Registered Service Provider.*

# Archivists @ HOME

## Vermont Conservation Studio, Works on Paper, Adapts to Working from Home during COVID-19

– Carolyn Frisa

Despite my experience helping cultural institutions prepare for emergencies through my work on the National Heritage Responders team of the American Institute for Conservation (AIC) and the Vermont Arts and Culture Disaster and Resilience Network (VACDaRN), I never expected to close my own conservation studio in response to a pandemic. However, my training in emergency preparedness allowed me to do so safely and quickly while continuing to serve clients.

Vermont Governor Phil Scott declared a state of emergency on March 13, and I had already been following the news as well as discussions of COVID-19 on the Vermont

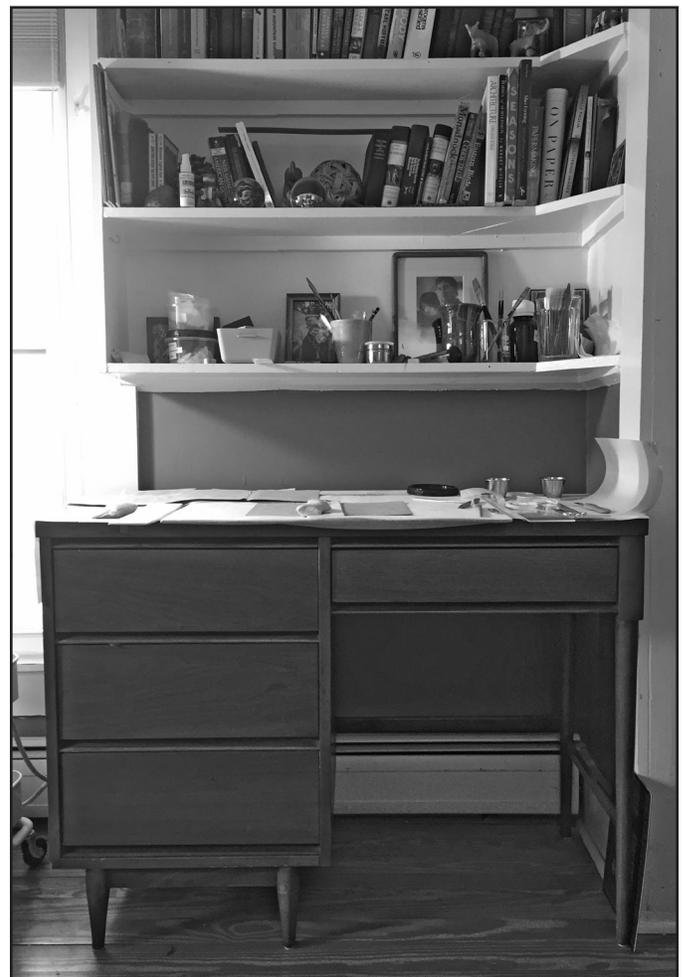


Archaeological field notebooks in the collection of the National Park Service undergoing treatment at Carolyn Frisa's remote conservation studio. *Courtesy of Works on Paper LLC.*

Libraries listserv. When the state of emergency was declared, I knew it was time to enact a plan that would allow me to close my conservation studio in a way that would keep the collections inside safe and allow my assistant conservator, Raven Norlander-McCarty, and myself to work on projects remotely.

The first step I took was to ensure that Raven, our building's maintenance manager, and I had current copies of our Pocket Response Plan (PreP), based on the template developed by the Society of American Archivists. This concise document easily folds up to wallet size and contains all of the vital information needed in case of an emergency; it is something that I recommend all of my clients create for their collections.

The second step was to identify which projects would be ideal candidates for treating at home-based studios



Conservation treatment of nineteenth-century text block at Raven Norlander-McCarty's remote conservation studio. *Courtesy of Works on Paper LLC.*

over the weeks to come. Many of the objects we conserve require complex wet treatment and large pieces of specialized equipment, but fortunately we had a number of archives collections that could be easily treated remotely. I contacted each client to explain our anticipated closure and plan for establishing temporary work spaces closer to home—Raven in her guest room and I in my family’s empty cabin next door to my home. Everyone was open to this suggestion, and Raven and I made a list on Google Docs of all the materials, equipment, and supplies we would each need. We officially closed the studio on March 25 and spent more than two months working remotely, making weekly solo trips to the studio for additional supplies and to check on the collections in storage.

Overall, working remotely has been successful and rewarding for us, despite the challenges we both faced as we also homeschooled our children. We are incredibly grateful to our clients for allowing us to work outside of the studio, and this experience has also made me think about the possibilities of performing similar types of treatment remotely in the future.



Flattening treatment of nineteenth-century text block at Raven Norlander-McCarty’s remote conservation studio. *Courtesy of Works on Paper LLC.*

For more information, visit <[www.works-on-paper.net](http://www.works-on-paper.net)>.



# HOLLINGER METAL EDGE

## Archival Storage Materials



**DON'T LET PRICE DETERMINE THE PRODUCT YOU WANT, WE WILL BEAT ALL COMPETITOR'S PRICES!**  
**800.862.2228 hollingermetalede.com 800.634.0491**



Humidification and flattening of field notebooks (collection of the National Park Service) at Carolyn Frisa's remote conservation studio. *Courtesy of Works on Paper LLC.*

## Documenting the Student Experience of COVID-19 at Sarah Lawrence College

– Lauren MacLean

On April 10, the Sarah Lawrence College (SLC) Archives launched the “Documenting the Student Experience of COVID-19 at Sarah Lawrence College” project. We invite current Sarah Lawrence students, both at home and abroad, to participate in documenting their experiences as college students living through the pandemic. The project focuses on the lives of students from their own perspectives as they not only adapt to the off-campus and online learning environment, but also adapt personally and socially to an international crisis. By encouraging students to chronicle their own experiences, the archives supports its mandate to preserve and make available materials that document the history of the college, which will allow future students, researchers, and scholars to study the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In late March, we started researching initiatives at other institutions and posted a query on Arcan-L, the Canadian archival listserv, to gather precedents. We learned that the Southwestern University Archives in Texas created an archive using Omeka that closely resembled what we had in mind for our own project. Omeka, a web-based publishing platform for digital collections, allows us to collect photos, videos, audio files, documents, and text entries directly on the site. Students can opt-in to making their submissions publicly viewable, and there is an option to geotag their

location on a dynamic map. Students must also agree to a rights and privacy statement before completing their submissions. We are open to all manner of digital items, provided they relate directly to the students’ experiences of the pandemic. For the time being, we are not accepting physical items.

To promote the project, we sent out a global email to students and faculty. We created promotional materials for social media and periodically highlighted submissions on Instagram. This proved quite effective, and submission numbers go up in the day or two after posting about the project.

While it became increasingly clear that the COVID-19 pandemic was an event of historical magnitude, we also recognized that it can be difficult to fully grasp the significance of an event while it is still unfolding. The scale of its impact is wide ranging, both geographically and socially, and we wanted to ensure that the historical record similarly reflects wide-ranging experiences of this challenging time. The SLC Archives is documenting more than simply the college’s response to the crisis. This is undoubtedly a transformative event in the history of student life and the academic experience at SLC.

For more information and to view the incredible work being created by Sarah Lawrence students, visit <<https://slccovid.omeka.net>>. ■

## Distinguished Service Award

The New England Archivists Nominating Committee is delighted to announce that the 2020 Distinguished Service Award has been given to **Ellen Doon**.

Over the course of her professional career, Doon has proven to be a highly effective and influential archivist, whose contributions within New England and beyond have been both sustained and prodigious. As head of the manuscript unit at Yale University’s Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Doon has overseen two major space-planning initiatives and an ambitious backlog description project. She has held various volunteer roles in both the New England Archivists (NEA) and the Society of American Archivists (SAA) for close to two decades. In addition to serving on the board and as president of NEA, Doon was a key member of SAA’s Manuscript Repository Section Steering Committee.

# Reviews

## Review of Principled Archivists: How to Make the New DACS Principles Work for You and Your Users Workshop

- Reviewed by Greta Kuriger Suiter

It seems like a lifetime ago, but on Valentine's Day, I attended the DACS principles workshop led by Maureen Callahan, Sophia Smith Collection Archivist at Smith College, and Adrien Hilton, head of the manuscript section at Harvard University's Houghton Library. The workshop, Principled Archivists: How to Make the New DACS Principles Work for You and Your Users, is an in-depth review of the principles that guide archival description. It was hosted by Tufts University and was open to the local archives community—a big thank you to the staff at Tufts that made that happen! I was very excited to experience the workshop with a large group of Boston-area archivists.

Before meeting in person, there was some homework. Suggested readings included the DACS Statement of Prin-

ciples <<https://tinyurl.com/wwaury>>, Jefferson Bailey's "Disrespect des Fonds: Rethinking Arrangement and Description in Born-Digital Archives" <<http://www.archive-journal.net/essays/disrespect-des-fonds-rethinking-arrangement-and-description-in-born-digital-archives>>, Sam Winn's "The Hubris of Neutrality in Archives" <<https://tinyurl.com/y6wh8wdk>>, and the DACS principles literature review <<https://tinyurl.com/yb3yyjhc>>. If you are looking for professional readings while working from home, these are all great to get you thinking about how you can improve collection descriptions.

In addition to these readings, participants were advised to look at the AORTA Collective's guidelines for community agreements for meeting facilitation <<https://tinyurl.com/y9ctzm6x>>. I found this to be a great resource. Some of the community agreements we adhered to during the workshop were: One Diva, One Mic, a reminder that one person should speak at a time; No One Knows Everything, Together We Know A Lot, which called attention to the fact that we were all there to learn, and that there was a lot of knowledge in the room not just from the presenters; and Move Up, Move Up, which encourages those who tend to

Continued on Page 23



  
**The MediaPreserve**<sup>SM</sup>  
 An Audio Visual Laboratory

Reformatting  
 film, video and  
 audio archives  
 into high-quality  
 digital masters and  
 user-playback files.

724.779.2111 | 1.800.416.2665  
 111 Thomson Park Drive  
 Cranberry Township, PA 16066

[www.themediapreserve.com](http://www.themediapreserve.com)





## WHO'S MISSING FROM THIS TABLE?

About the dynamics of inclusion and exclusion, social justice, and diversity within the archives profession and NEA.

Preservation and Elevation: Raising the Voices of the Sanctuary Movement

*By Jordan Cozby and Christina Pao*

While coverage of immigration policy, deportations, and asylum seekers dominates the headlines,<sup>1</sup> those seeking safety in the United States are often stereotyped, villainized, or at best simplified through portrayals in mainstream media. Rarely are the stories of immigrants fleeing volatile situations conveyed and preserved by the immigrants themselves—a disparity that has implications in modernity and in the writings of history. We believe the current sanctuary movement presents an avenue to record sanctuary recipients' stories, in their own words and on their own terms, for both historical posterity and contemporary public discourse.

In 2018, we set out to preserve and document the sanctuary movement, aiming to elevate the narratives of the migrants who have themselves lived in sanctuary, their advocates from the activist community, and the faith leaders who have negotiated their protection in houses of worship. As two undergraduate students at Yale University, we started our outreach with the New Haven and greater Connecticut area. Over the past two years, we have been in the process of creating a digital archive of materials donated to us by members of the community involved in the modern sanctuary movement. In our project, we limit our definition of sanctuary to the protection of migrants in religious spaces.

The impact of creating this archive is twofold: while primary source information about migrants' experiences and the effects of deportation tactics will be valuable for historical understanding of our current political moment, we also believe the project can be used to inform contemporary journalists, researchers, students, and all citizens about the lived realities immigrants face.

### **A brief history of the modern sanctuary movement**

During the 1980s, the modern sanctuary movement developed out of a need to protect undocumented asylum seekers fleeing from wars in Central America. The Salvadoran government imposed martial law on its citi-

zens, impelling many to leave their homes to come to the United States.<sup>2</sup> Thousands of Salvadorans came through Mexico to the United States, and, by 1981, the killing had spread to Guatemala—resulting in another wave of asylum seekers. The United States played a central role in creating this instability through military intervention and antidemocratic interference throughout the twentieth century.<sup>3</sup> In July 1980, over a dozen Salvadorans died crossing the border, and churches that had initially offered help to the refugees learned that the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) planned to deport the refugees to El Salvador without due asylum-seeking process.<sup>4</sup> As the churches thought that the refugees should have been protected under the 1980 Refugee Act, faith-based organizations in Arizona established a task force to assist asylum seekers.<sup>5</sup> On March 24, 1982, six congregations in Arizona and California named themselves sanctuaries to support refugees.

Since that point in time, the sanctuary movement has persisted and anti-migrant action (e.g., detention and deportation) has not abated. In response to measures led by both Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in the past decade,<sup>6</sup> current places of sanctuary have been focused on protecting undocumented migrants escaping deportation orders.

### **Developing an archive of the interfaith sanctuary movement**

Nelson Pinos, a father of three children, and a resident of the United States for the last three decades has lived in fear of deportation for the past two and a half years at First and Summerfield United Methodist Church in New Haven. The discordance between Pinos' struggle and our own removed position while living just one block away encouraged us and many fellow students to identify ways to demonstrate solidarity with Pinos and his family. Spurred by protests, marches, and activism that have been primarily associated with the grassroots group *Unidad Latina en Ac-*

ción,<sup>7</sup> we started our inquiry into the sanctuary movement around us—curious as to whether materials relating to this advocacy (such as homemade signs from protests or copies of speeches distributed at rallies) were being preserved.

With this question in mind, we contacted Rabbi Herbert Brockman, one of the initial faith leaders involved in creating New Sanctuary CT, which self-describes as a group for “People of Faith: Creating Safe Space for Immigrants Facing Deportation.” With Rabbi Brockman’s guidance, we began outreach to individuals involved in the sanctuary movement within Connecticut, particularly relating to three cases of sanctuary: Nury Chavarria (who was in sanctuary in July 2017 for five days at Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal in Fair Haven), Nelly Cumbico (who was in sanctuary in February 2018 for six days at First and Summerfield United Methodist Church in New Haven), and Sujitno Sajuti (who was in sanctuary for 589 days from 2017 to 2019 at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden).

With primary advising from Michael Brenes (previously a senior archivist for American diplomacy with Yale’s Manuscripts and Archives) and Jennifer Snow (a program director at Yale’s Marx Science and Social Science Library), we began to envision the logistics of archival creation. We were particularly interested in creating a digital archive that could be accessible to the communities who were participating in the sanctuary movement. By preserving the physical materials contained in our archive, we hoped to elevate the narratives of those involved in the sanctuary movement, in their own voices and on their own terms.

To this end, we started a digital archive on Omeka with materials donated by Chavarria, Cumbico, and Sajuti, who were reprieved from the threat of deportation. In conversations with their lawyers and with professors at Yale Law School, we worked to collect materials and redact information in a way that would protect these three sanctuary cases from future harm. We also collected materials from activists involved in New Sanctuary CT, who were at the forefront of the sanctuary movement in Connecticut. They have rigorously documented cases of sanctuary asylum in their personal records and have generously shared materials such as press clippings, pamphlets, meeting notes, texts, and photos. We have been primarily focused on collecting materials that were born digital, and we have been taking materials in the formats that they were given to us.

### Next steps and a call for support

We were humbled to have our project accepted for presentation at the NEA Spring 2020 Meeting with the support of the Inclusion and Diversity Scholarship. While the coronavirus pandemic halted in-person presentations of our work, we still hope to draw upon the wisdom and guidance of those in the archival community. We plan on launching a beta version of our archive with the materials we have collected up to this point. Given our newness to this work, we want to ensure that we are both 1) following the conventions established by archivists like yourselves, who are experts in the field, and 2) doing this work with mindfulness and care. We would love any and all advice you might be able to offer, no matter how big or small. Contact us at <christina@pao.name> and <jordancozby@gmail.com>.

### Acknowledgements

None of this project would have been possible without the kindness, generosity, and resilience of Nury Chavarria, Nelly Cumbicos, and Sujitno Sajuti. We have received crucial guidance from more individuals than we can count on our hands, but we would like to give particular thanks to Rabbi Herbert Brockman, Kica Matos, Reverend Paul Fleck, Reverend Gini King, Nancy Burton, Pastor Vicki Flippin, Professor Michael Brenes, Jennifer Snow, Professor Paul Linden-Retek, Professor Jim Silk, Professor Melissa Barton, Gabby Redwine, and Reverend Steve Jungkeit.

### Footnotes

1. Amy Mitchell, “Five Topics Accounted for Two-thirds of Coverage in First 100 Days,” Pew Research Center, October 2, 2017, <<http://www.journalism.org/2017/10/02/five-topics-accounted-for-two-thirds-of-coverage-in-first-100-days>>.
2. Aaron Terrazas, “Salvadoran Immigrants in the United States,” January 5, 2010, <<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/salvadoran-immigrants-united-states>>.
3. Julian Borger, “Fleeing a Hell the US Helped Create: Why Central Americans Journey North,” *The Guardian*, December 19, 2018, <<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/dec/19/central-america-migrants-us-foreign-policy>>.
4. Stephen Macekura, “‘For Fear of Persecution’: Displaced Salvadorans and US Refugee Policy in the 1980s,” *Journal of Policy History* 23, no. 3 (July 2011): 357–80, <<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0898030611000145>>.

## ARCHIVAL INSIGHT

## Collaboration in Action: Reflections from the DH Hub

By Mahala Nyberg and Laura Johnson

In December 2018, two Northeastern University graduate students working in digital humanities were awarded a grant from the NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks, Northeastern's research center for digital humanities and computational social science, to create programming to connect with other graduate students doing digital humanities throughout Greater Boston. The goal of this program series was to foster connections, provide students with resources, and establish opportunities to share research. In the spring of 2019, this group launched its first event, a research potluck, followed by an informal working lunch to discuss the group's organization and resources. After these initial events, the series evolved into the DH Hub, a collaborative community for graduate students, early-career researchers, and digital humanities practitioners.

The DH Hub was established with the vision of creating a communication network across institutional and disciplinary boundaries dedicated to sharing research and methods, working together to build digital skill sets, exploring professional development opportunities, and discussing methods of digital pedagogy in an informal way. One of the primary goals of the organization is also to create environments that encourage collaboration between students and researchers who otherwise might not have had opportunities to engage with one another.

Due to its initial success, the DH Hub has continued to be supported by the NULab, in partnership with the Digital Scholarship Group (DSG)—an applied research group at Northeastern University. Over the course of the past academic year, we have hosted six events in addition to the two held during the DH Hub's inaugural semester. Highlights include a dinner conversation, where area graduate students came together to discuss their thoughts on open access, an “un-conference” that gave graduate students and early-career researchers an opportunity to informally share current projects and receive feedback, and a suffrage transcribe-a-thon that was held in partnership with the National Parks of Boston.

Besides creating a comfortable space for graduate students and others practicing digital humanities to share their research and ideas, a major outcome of these events has been to successfully foster collaboration among this community. During the events, digital humanists from multiple universities in Boston connected, provided one another with feedback, and made plans for collaboration. Our “un-conference” held last December is a prime example of this taking place. A group of researchers and digital humanities practitioners

came together to informally present a few ongoing projects and learn about what others were doing in the field. Those who presented were looking for an opportunity to gain experience sharing their work and also to hear specific feedback from audience members. Some had come to a roadblock in their research and sought advice on how to tackle it, while others had reached a new stage in their research process and wanted to ask the opinion of those in attendance on which direction to take. For audience members, this was an opportunity to hear about current digital humanities research that was in line with their own interests and subfields. After the presentations concluded, there was a Q&A and discussion session during which many exchanged contact information or shared resources that could be of benefit to those in the midst of research and projects.

The DH Hub has also provided graduate students and early-career researchers with opportunities to connect with Boston-area community members, an example being the suffrage transcribe-a-thon that was held this past January. This event was made possible through collaborative efforts with recent graduates of the digital humanities program at Northeastern now employed with the National Parks of Boston. Graduate students and faculty from area universities, staff from the National Parks of Boston, and community members came together to contribute to the transcription of suffrage papers at the Library of Congress. This event provided an avenue to share the transcription project with community members who otherwise may not have known of it and gave them an opportunity to learn about the work that goes into managing digital collections. Graduate students and community members worked together on transcriptions, sharing skills in using digital tools and reading the historical documents.



The National Parks of Boston and the DH Hub hosted a “*Suffrage Transcribe-a-thon*” in January. *Courtesy of National Parks of Boston, NPS/Pollock.*

In the future, we hope that this collaboration continues and that the DH Hub will host creative events that not only provide an informal space to practice digital humanities, but opportunities to work with others interested in the field. Although the DH Hub focuses its efforts on events geared toward graduate students and early-career researchers, our recent events demonstrated that we can also foster collaboration between graduate students and those practicing digital humanities outside of academia. There are so many exciting projects, ongoing educational initiatives, and community-based collaborations that we hope to connect to graduate students and beyond through events, networking, and informal communication routes.

The DH Hub is a growing and changing organization. It was originally started by Megan Barney, an alumna of the Northeastern public history master’s program and previous coordinator at the DSG, and Laura Johnson, a PhD student in the English department. For the 2019–2020 academic year, Laura Johnson continued to manage the DH Hub, along with Mahala Nyberg, a graduate student in public history and coordinator at the DSG. It will continue to be overseen by the future coordinators at the NULab and DSG, who will take on the role with each new academic year. As the group continues to develop, we look forward to continued collaborations across institutions in Boston!

If you are interested in discussing this initiative and opportunities for further networking, get in touch with the DH Hub at <bos.dh.hub@gmail.com>.



Transcribe-a-thon attendees deciphering a sentence from one of abolitionist Anna Dickinson’s letters. *Courtesy of National Parks of Boston, NPS/Pollock.*

For more information, explore the NULab at <<https://web.northeastern.edu/nulab>> and the Digital Scholarship Group at <<https://dsg.northeastern.edu>>.

---

**Mahala Nyberg** is the coordinator for the Digital Scholarship Group at the Northeastern University Libraries and recently completed her MA in public history with a certificate in digital humanities.

**Laura Johnson** is an English PhD student and research assistant in Northeastern University’s Digital Scholarship Group for the Women Writers Vector Toolkit and the Primary Source Cooperative. ■

---

From Page 19

5. Ari L. Goldman, “Churches Becoming Home to Central American Exiles,” *The New York Times*, April 1, 1984, <<https://www.nytimes.com/1984/04/01/weekinreview/churches-becoming-home-to-central-american-exiles.html>>.

6. John Gramlich, “How Border Apprehensions, ICE Arrests and Deportations Have Changed under Trump,” *Pew Research Center*, March 2, 2020, <<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/03/02/how-border-apprehensions-ice-arrests-and-deportations-have-changed-under-trump>>.

7. For more information, see <<https://ulanewhaven.org>>. ■

# NEA Roundtable Updates

## Preservica Roundtable Holds First Virtual Meeting Due to COVID-19

On April 16, the Preservica Roundtable held its first virtual meeting using video conference technology. The meeting provided roundtable members a chance to check in with one another, recap the two-day International Preservica User Group online meeting from the week before, and discuss remote projects using Preservica. Due to stay-at-home orders, some roundtable members shifted their work in March and April toward more digital projects, including focusing on digital backlogs and spending more time with the Preservica system. The virtual meeting served as a space to discuss these transitions and troubleshoot technical issues. The group plans to meet virtually again this summer to continue these conversations. The roundtable co-chairs are Sarah Hayes, digital archivist at the Trustees of Reservations, and Alejandra Dean, assistant digital archivist at the Massachusetts Archives.

## Teaching with Primary Sources Roundtable Responds to COVID-19

The coronavirus pandemic brought a number of changes for members of the Teaching with Primary Sources Roundtable, derailing some of the group's planned activities. Instead, we organized virtual kaffeeklatsches, then weekly Zoom calls to create a space for members to gather, share updates, and support one another as we made the transition to online teaching and learning and remote research support. In May, Molly Brown (Northeastern University) led a session to demonstrate her use of Padlet and Zoom breakout rooms. Other members, including Pam Hopkins (Tufts University) and Blake Spitz (University of Massachusetts Amherst), led general sessions this spring. To join the listserv, contact co-chairs Stephanie Call <steliza277@gmail.com> and Pam Hopkins <psmhopkins@gmail.com>.



The Preservica Roundtable held its first virtual meeting in April due to COVID-19. *Courtesy of Alejandra Dean.*

### Promote your photograph collections!

The *NEA Newsletter* is seeking submissions from repositories in New England for back cover pictorial features in This Season in New England History. Submissions should be in digital format at 300 dpi or better, along with a caption detailing the subject of the photograph. Please email submissions to <newsletter@newenglandarchivists.org>.

## Serving Clients Nationwide

### Conservation Treatment

For books, photographs, manuscripts, maps, parchment, and works of art on paper

### Imaging Services

Digitization of cultural heritage collections.  
Careful handling of fragile materials

### Audio Preservation

Digitization of audio media using traditional and optical-scanning technologies

### Preservation Services

Assessments, training, consultations, disaster assistance



100 Brickstone Square | Andover, MA 01810 | (978) 470-1010

[www.nedcc.org](http://www.nedcc.org)

Visit NEA online at:

[<www.newenglandarchivists.org>](http://www.newenglandarchivists.org)

From Page 17

listen more to move up into a speaking role, and those who speak a lot to move up to a listening role. I also appreciated the We Can't Be Articulate All of the Time agreement, which encourages us to speak up even if we have an intense fear of "messaging up." These guidelines set the tone for the day and created an expectation of inclusivity and heavy participation. I will be incorporating aspects of these into my everyday work.

Also before we met, we were asked to consider the prompt: What questions are your users asking that you can't currently answer? All of the prep work was well worth the effort and made the workshop very successful. At the start, there were typical group introductions, but the organizers allowed participants to help shape the day. In that vein, there was a crowdsourced list of participant learning objectives and a discussion of the prompt we were asked to think about. These exercises formed a full introduction before diving into the specific principles.

There are eleven *DACS* principles and each one was reviewed in detail, often with a participatory exercise. Opportunities for participation were many and varied, from participants volunteering to read the principle out loud to one-on-one partnerships to small group discussions with four to five people to a full-on debate team performance. As someone who is on the shy side and does not always relish speaking in public, I found it helped that we were given some warning that the workshop would be participatory, and I felt more comfortable sharing my expertise and questions with smaller groups or one partner, so I was able to participate more in that way.

The exercises and explanations of the principles emphasized transparency and empathy, and these were overarching themes for the workshop. Putting emphasis on understanding users, donors, and other archivists' expectations and points of view was a constant reminder that archivists create description for a variety of users. Exercises included looking at user personas, experiencing conversations with donors from the donor's perspective, and practicing active listening. The interpersonal aspects of being an archivist were put front and center during this workshop, and it was a refreshing take on the often solitary act of writing a resource record or finding aid.

I highly recommend this workshop to anyone who has

the chance to take it. I think it works well with a larger group because there is so much group work and discussion, and the debate at the end is better with more people involved. This workshop is so much more than just having the experts who wrote the revised *DACS* principles talk at you. It is truly an opportunity to engage with the creators on a level playing field, archivist to archivist. ■

## Archival Advocacy Award

The New England Archivists Nominating Committee is delighted to announce that the 2020 Archival Advocacy Award has been given to **Project STAND: Student Activism Now Documented**.

Established in 2002, the New England Archivists Archival Advocacy Award is given annually to an individual or institution that has provided extraordinary support—politically, financially, or through public advocacy—to archival programs and records in New England.

The Nominating Committee believes that Project STAND, an online portal that provides access to primary resources about student activism, with a focus on student groups that represent the concerns of historically marginalized communities, is highly deserving of this year's award. In a few short years, the project has motivated college and university archivists across the United States, including a significant number in New England, to share digital and analog records documenting historical and contemporary student activism, identify gaps in the historical record, and collaborate with student activists to document ongoing social justice campaigns around the United States.

To date, the following colleges and universities in New England have been active participants in Project STAND: Brandeis University, Brown University, Connecticut College, Harvard University, Middlebury College, Mount Holyoke College, University of Connecticut, University of Maine, and the University of Rhode Island. More institutions will undoubtedly follow.

Please join us in congratulating Project STAND on this well-deserved award.

New England Archivists Nominating Committee  
 Karen Adler Abramson (Chair), John F. Kennedy  
 Presidential Library and Museum  
 Prudence Doherty, University of Vermont  
 Ellen Doon, Yale University  
 Heather Moran, Maine State Archives

## THIS SEASON IN NEW ENGLAND HISTORY



Cuban teachers on board the *Sedgwick* travel over 2,300 miles from Cuba to Boston, Massachusetts, to participate in the Cuban Summer School at Harvard University. *Courtesy of the Harvard University Archives.*

In July 1900, more than 1,270 Cuban teachers arrived at Harvard to participate in the Cuban Summer School, a special six-week program created to instruct a large portion of Cuba's teachers in the latest American educational methods and American culture. Organized by the superintendent of public schools in Cuba, Alexander Everett Frye, the program was funded by Harvard and supported by the United States federal government.

Immense logistical planning was required to make the Cuban Summer School possible, including coordinating transportation, food, housing, translators, and chaperones. The program was widely reported on in local newspapers, and many events were held in the teachers' honor, such as receptions, dances, and social gatherings. Before returning to Cuba in August, the teachers made visits to New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC, where they met President William McKinley.