



## 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

# Show Me the Money: Sustaining Archives and Archival Programs

Sara Mouch, University of Toledo, and Michelle Sweetser, Bowling Green State University, Educational Programming Committee Co-Chairs

**T**his May, the Society of Ohio Archivists Annual Meeting will be traveling to Toledo, Ohio! You are invited to join us on Thursday, May 15 (virtual) and Friday, May 16 (hybrid) at the University of Toledo. Day one (Thursday) consists entirely of virtual sessions, available to all registrants. Day two (Friday) is a full day (8:30 a.m. - 4:30

p.m.) of presentations, networking, and exciting featured speakers, with one session in each time block live-streamed for virtual attendees. This year's meeting theme is *Show Me the Money: Sustaining Archives and Archival Programs*. For the latest information about the meeting as it develops, visit the [conference page](#) on the SOA website.

### PLENARIES

We are excited to announce Patricia Hsue as our morning keynote speaker. Patricia is the program director for Public Knowledge at The Mellon Foundation. As the Foundation's program area that supports libraries and archives, Public Knowledge makes grants that strive to increase equitable access to—and activation of—recorded knowledge that helps to build an informed, heterogeneous, and civically engaged society. Previously, Patricia worked in the

libraries at Penn State University, where she co-founded the department of publishing and curation services (now the department of research informatics and publishing) and at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she was program manager for a set of grant initiatives funded by the Library of Congress and by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Originally a Russian literature scholar, Patricia



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## The President's Message



Dear SOA Members,

As I near the end of my term as SOA President I cannot help but think of how current political and social tensions have led to the work of archivists being perhaps both more challenging and more important than at any time in recent history.

As I reflect on these challenging times, I often center my thoughts and actions on the mottos of two Ohio institutions that are close to my heart. A little over twenty years ago I graduated from Bluffton University (then Bluffton College)

whose motto is "*The Truth Makes Free.*" This simple principle in part inspired me to pursue an archival career and has continued to guide my work throughout my professional journey. As archivists, we are responsible for preserving and providing access to records that document truth, materials that provide evidence, context, and clarity – all of which are essential for supporting an informed and just society.

The second motto that I often find myself thinking about is from my current employer, Ohio Northern University, whose motto is "*Ex diversitate vires*" – ("*Out of Diversity, Strength*"). This adds another layer to our work with preserving truth, as we must ensure that the historical record that we work with contains threads that reflect the full complexity of the human experience. To truly serve communities we must actively work to preserve and amplify diverse voices while also creating inclusive space where all feel welcome to make use of the materials entrusted in our care.

Fortunately, none of us face these challenges alone. SOA is a community of dedicated professionals who not only excel at their home institutions, but who also actively engage in our archival community in order to support the work of their fellow archivists. One of the best examples of this collaborative spirit is our annual conference, which this year will take place virtually and in person at the University of Toledo on May 15–16. This year's program focuses on strategies for sustaining archives and archival programs, including sessions on financial support, as well as sessions dedicated to critical conversations that will include support for guided conversations about current challenges faced by archivists.

Finally, as I step down from my role as President, I want to extend my sincere gratitude to everyone I have had the privilege of working with this past year. While I do not have the column space to thank every individual, I do want to recognize individuals who are rotating out of their current leadership positions, including Melissa Dalton (Past-President), Kristen Newby (At-Large Council Member), Jim McKinnon (Advocacy & Outreach co-chair), Helen Conger (Membership & Awards co-chair), Nicole Sutton (JEDIA co-chair), and Hannah Kemp-Severence (JEDAI co-chair). SOA thrives because of the dedication and passion of our volunteer leaders, and I am equally grateful for these individuals as well as those individuals who are stepping into new leadership roles.

Best wishes and united we stand.

**Matt Francis**

## SOA Mission

*Founded in 1968, the Society of Ohio Archivists' mission is to improve the state of archives in Ohio by promoting the archival profession and providing professional development and networking opportunities for Ohio's professional and aspiring archivists.*

holds a PhD from Yale University in Slavic languages and literatures. She also received an AB in Russian language and literature from Mount Holyoke College and an MS in library and information science from the University of Illinois. Patricia is currently a member of the board of trustees for the Metropolitan New York Library Council and sits in the advisory team for LibraryPAC.

Our midday keynote speakers are **Jordan Cravens** and **Sara Bushong**, who will describe a recent fundraising campaign that built support for the University Libraries at Bowling Green State University and discuss the power in building authentic relationships.



**Sara Bushong** is the Dean of the University Libraries and Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs at Bowling Green State University. She provides strategic leadership for the UL connected to the BGSU strategic plan FORWARD. Sara's responsibilities as Dean include development and fundraising, donor stewardship, strategic planning, budget management, facilities and program planning, and statewide consortial leadership in OhioLINK. Sara began her tenure at BGSU as Head Librarian for the Curriculum Resource Center

and then served as the Department Chair for Special Collection and Associate Dean before becoming Dean in 2011. Sara holds an undergraduate degree in music education and master's degree in education from BGSU along with a master's in library science from Kent State University.



**Jordan Cravens '09, '13** is a senior director of development at Bowling Green State University. She provides fundraising leadership to the colleges of Education and Human Development; Health and Human Services; Technology, Architecture and Applied Engineering; and the Division of Student Affairs. Jordan began her career in annual giving at BGSU with increasingly progressive roles in the organization. Prior to her work in advancement, she served on the BGSU volleyball

coaching staff. She is a two-time alumna of BGSU with degrees in journalism and a Master of Education, specializing in sport administration.

## SESSIONS

This year's meeting will feature a mix of presentations tied into the "Show Me the Money" theme. For our virtual-only sessions on Thursday, we have among our presenters, Virginia Dressler, Edith Serkownek, Eve Fenn, and Katie Gable discussing "Unveiling Pauline Trigere Through Grant-Funded Digitization"; Virginia Dressler, Jeff Regensburger, Betsy Hedler, Andy Verhoff, Tina Ratcliff, Amber Bales, and Bill Modrow, who will highlight Ohio grant opportunities for cultural heritage organizations; and SOA's Justice, Equity, Diversity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (JEDAI) committee, who will lead a discussion on ways to fund efforts to support their work in addressing ethics and inequalities in the archives and special collections profession.

Included in the Friday slate are Shelby Beatty on how to "Find the Grants and Endeavor to Write!"; Eric Harrelson, who will present "Sustaining the Collection: A Case for Funding Environmental needs through Persistence, Data, and Teamwork"; Judith Weiner, who will discuss "Developing Rapport: Working with Advancement Professionals to Support Special Collections"; Kristen Newby, who will talk about "Finding the Perfect Fit: Grant Selection Strategies for Archives and Libraries"; and Christopher Harter and Sophia McGuire, sharing "They Never Trained me for That: Tips for Navigating Grant Research, Submissions, Management, and Reporting." For a full list of sessions, as well as more details on each, check out the [conference page](#) on the SOA website.

## SILENT AUCTION

Each year SOA offers [four scholarships](#)—two to current students and two to recent graduates using funds from donors and proceeds from our silent auction. The scholarships consist of conference registration, a one-year membership to SOA, and a \$100 travel stipend. The funds raised from the silent auction are critical to SOA's support of students and new professionals. This year we are putting together a fun group of items. You will be able to bid on the silent auction baskets in person on Friday.

## HOTEL AND LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS

If you are coming from out of town and intend to stay either Thursday night or Friday night, we recommend the following hotels that fit a range of budgets and needs:

- [Hampton Inn & Suites Toledo/Westgate](#)  
3434 Secor Rd, Toledo, OH 43606 | 419-214-5555
- [Holiday Inn Express & Suites Toledo West, an IGH Hotel](#)  
3440 Secor Rd, Toledo, OH 43606 | 419-214-4700
- [Courtyard Toledo West](#)  
3536 Secor Rd, Toledo, OH 43606 | 419-724-0444
- [Residence Inn Toledo West](#)  
3554 Secor Rd, Toledo, OH 43606 | 419-724-2555
- [Quality Inn Alexis Road](#)  
445 E Alexis Rd, Toledo, OH 43612 | 419-476-0170
- [Delta Hotels Toledo](#)  
3100 Glendale Ave, Toledo, OH 43614 | 419-506-8006

For more things local, check out our [Local Arrangements Map](#). It includes hotels, lunch and dinner spots, local establishments of interest, and local attractions.

## PARKING

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Parking has been reserved at the University of Toledo in Lot 13 off Campus Road, which is accessed by Bancroft Street. See the [campus map](#) for more details. [The Lancelot Thompson Student Union](#) is directly east of the parking lot.

## REGISTRATION

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Be on the lookout for the latest updates, including registration details, on [SOA's annual conference page](#).

*The Educational Programming Committee members have been working hard to bring you an amazing conference. Thank you to our committee members:*

- **Meghan Crawford**, Capital University
- **Matt Francis**, Ohio Northern University (SOA President)
- **Betsy Hedler**, Ohio History Connection (SOA/OHC Liaison)
- **Jennifer Long Morehart**, Bowling Green State University (SOA Vice-President)
- **Riza Miklowski**, Akron-Summit County Public Library
- **William Modrow**, Miami University
- **Sara Mouch**, University of Toledo (EPC Co-chair)
- **Michelle Sweetser**, Bowling Green State University (EPC Co-chair)
- **Adam Wanter**, MidPointe Library System

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the EPC co-chairs [Sara Mouch](#) or [Michelle Sweetser](#). We can't wait to see you in May!

# Fall OHLA/SOA Meeting Recap: Truth and Consequences

**S**OA once again partnered with the Ohio Local History Alliance (OLHA) to offer an exciting slate of presentations at the 2024 OLHA Annual Meeting & Conference. Held at the Quest Conference Center in Westerville, Ohio on October 4 & 5, the SOA Track included *Find Digital Ohio – Advocating and Promoting Your Digital Collections*; *Crucial Conversations: Preserving Undertold Stories*; *Designing and Sustaining an Institutional Archives*; and a two session Intersectional DEI Mini-Workshop.

## Find Digital Ohio – Advocating and Promoting Your Digital Collections

Presented by **Jenni Salamon**, Manager, Digital Services Department, Ohio History Connection; **Cari Hillman**, Community Engagement Director, MidPointe Library System; **Adam Wanter**, Digital and Special Collections Archivist, MidPointe Library System; **Virginia Dressler**, Digital Projects Librarian, Kent State University; **Grace Freeman**, Librarian, Local History & Genealogy, Columbus Metropolitan Library

The presentation covered the ILEAD project Find Digital Ohio, the FREE marketing toolkit created through the project found at [FindDigitalOhio.org](http://FindDigitalOhio.org), and lessons learned.

## Crucial Conversations: Preserving Undertold Stories

Presented by **Janet Rhodes**, Toledo Lucas County Public Library; **Sam Meister**, Future Access for All; **Roger Riddle**, Roger Riddle Consulting Ltd; and **Jocelyn Robinson**, WYSO Radio

A panel of SOA Justice, Equity, Diversity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (JEDA) members discussing archiving audio media related to underrepresented people. Covered considerations to make and potential best practices.

## Designing and Sustaining an Institutional Archives

Presented by **Brianna Treleven**, Executive Director, and **Rachel Sykes**, Institutional Archives Intern, Shaker Historical Society

The presentation covered the value of establishing institutional collections, discussing the steps involved, including securing funding, appraisal practices, and sustainability.

## Intersectional DEI Mini-Workshop

Presented by **Michelle Ganz**, Director of Archives, Dominican Sisters of Peace

An introduction to Diversity and Inclusion through the lens of intersectionality. Included strategies for management, leadership, and staff on how to practically create diverse and inclusive spaces.

\*In 2025, OLHA is partnering with the American Association for State and Local History (ASSLH) for their Annual Meeting, *The American Experiment*, September 10-13, 2025, in Cincinnati, OH. This means there will not be an SOA slate of presentations at the next meeting. SOA looks forward to continuing their partnership with the return of the OLHA Annual Meeting and Conference in 2026.

# Archivist as Collector:

THE TENTH NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS



*Holy Hour for Men at Cleveland Municipal Stadium, part of the Seventh National Eucharistic Congress. Courtesy of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland Archives.*

## **Emily Ahlin, Director of Archives, Catholic Diocese of Cleveland**

One of my favorite collections in my archive is a small portion of the papers of the fifth Bishop of Cleveland, Joseph Schrembs, that pertains to the Seventh National Eucharistic Congress. This congress was held in Cleveland from September 23–26, 1935, and is probably the best documented event in Diocesan history in the archives. This collection houses numerous documents, photographs, film reels, and objects, including candles used during a candlelight Mass, that speak to the magnitude of this event.

I have thoroughly enjoyed looking through all the various records that pertain to this event and sharing them with the people of the Diocese of Cleveland through successful and engaging pop-up and digital exhibits, so when I heard that there was going to be another Eucharistic Congress, and that a delegation of people

from the Diocese of Cleveland would attend, the wheels began to spin and I began to think about how I would continue the legacy of great documentation that exists in the archives for Eucharistic Congresses. I ended up going to the Congress with our delegation from the Diocese of Cleveland, and, with my archivist hat on, took pictures and planned on bringing my “conference swag bag” back to the Archives to add to my collection. But, while we were there, it also occurred to me that there were many more people from our diocese there, who each experienced the Congress through their own eyes and perspective, and that the documentation of this event would be so much richer if we could capture some of the experience through their perspective. This inspired me to initiate and launch a collection campaign amongst the delegates, and while there are a few things that, if I did something similar again, I

might do differently, by and large I was pleased with the outcome.

## WHAT IS A EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS?

Eucharistic Congresses are celebrations, providing time for Catholics to renew their belief in Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist through hearing talks and sermons, as well as spending time in worship and prayer, and receiving the Sacraments. The first Eucharistic Congress was held in Lille, France, in 1881, thanks to the advocacy and effort of a French laywoman, Marie-Marthe-Baptistine Tamisier.<sup>1</sup> From there, the idea spread and eventually reached the United States, where a series of National Eucharistic Congresses were held in the early part of the 20th century. However, this practice fell by the wayside during World War II, and after the war ended, didn't see a huge resurgence. Previously, the last large-scale Eucharistic Congress held on US soil was an International Eucharistic Congress held in Philadelphia in 1976.

Recently, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, responding to Pew Research Study that showed that only one-third of Catholics believed Church doctrine that Jesus' Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity become really present in the bread and wine used for communion during Mass, decided to launch a multi-year Eucharistic Revival.<sup>2</sup> They invited Catholics across the United States to focus in a particular way on the Eucharist through various programs and initiatives on a local, regional, and national level. While the Revival is still ongoing and will be wrapping up this summer, last year, the Tenth National Eucharistic Congress was held in Indianapolis, IN from July 17–21, 2024. This was the event I attended with the rest of our diocesan delegation, and the event that I focused the collection campaign on.

## THE IDEA OF "ARCHIVIST AS COLLECTOR"

While it seems as though the idea of the "archivist as collector" is new, thanks to the increase in community and participatory archiving, the earliest appearance of the phrase that I could find in *The American Archivist* was in an essay title by Lester J. Cappon in 1976.<sup>3</sup> Cappon's essay was a response to one written by F. Gerald



A candle used at the Seventh National Eucharistic Congress in the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland Archives collection. Photo courtesy of Emily Ahlin

Ham the year previous, written when Ham served as President of the Society of American Archivists. Ham's essay, "The Archival Edge," argued that archivists needed to cooperate, instead of compete, with each other and work together to diversify collections.<sup>4</sup> Citing speakers such as Howard Zinn and Sam Bass Warner, Ham accused archivists of favoring the wealthy and powerful, distorting the historic record in the process.<sup>5</sup> He discussed how the relative ease of paper production was creating more records with less valuable information on them, and how that was diverting resources from taking in a wider variety of records.<sup>6</sup> He concluded the essay by quoting a minor character (Ed Finnerty) from Kurt Vonnegut's *Player Piano*, who stated that he would rather remain "...as close to the edge as I can without going over..." in order to see everything more clearly.<sup>7</sup>

Cappon, whose essay was titled "The Archivist as Collector," began by discussing Ham's *Player Piano* reference, and then proceeded to name

all the reasons why he disagreed with Ham's assessment of the archival profession.<sup>8</sup> Cappon contended that the histories of various marginalized groups (women, Black Americans, urban and various ethnic groups, etc.) were included in the materials that were already being preserved.<sup>9</sup> He argued that the kind of cooperation amongst various repositories that Ham was advocating for was impossible,<sup>10</sup> and concluded that Ham was dreaming too many big dreams and had essentially abandoned the profession's "fundamental historical principles."<sup>11</sup> The next time this topic would be brought to *The American Archivist* would be the 1990s, when Richard J. Cox reviewed the treatment of the topic in several recently published books, both inside and outside the archival discipline.<sup>12</sup>

Since then, the topic has cropped up in the literature every now and again, however, I believe this idea is starting to pick up steam more and more as the profession continues to work on making sure diverse voices are preserved in the historical record. And, as Ham suggests, we must remain "close to the edge"<sup>13</sup> in order to not simply preserve our own perspectives of various events,

<sup>1</sup> Russell Shaw, "Exploring the history and significance of Eucharistic congresses," *Our Sunday Visitor*, July 19, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Gregory A. Smith, "Just one-third of U.S. Catholics agree with their church that Eucharist is body, blood of Christ," *Pew Research Center* (Washington, D.C.), August 5, 2019.

<sup>3</sup> Lester J. Cappon, "The Archivist as Collector," *The American Archivist* 39, no. 4 (1976): 429 - 435.

<sup>4</sup> F. Gerald Ham, "The Archival Edge," *The American Archivist* 38, no. 1 (1975): 5-13.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, 5-6.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, 9.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, 13.

<sup>8</sup> Lester J. Cappon, "The Archivist as Collector," *The American Archivist* 39, no. 4 (1976): 429 - 435

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid*, 429.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid*, 433-434.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid*, 435.

<sup>12</sup> Richard J. Cox, "The Archivist and Collecting: A Review Essay," *The American Archivist* 59, no. 4 (1996): 496 - 512

<sup>13</sup> F. Gerald Ham, "The Archival Edge," *The American Archivist* 38, no. 1 (1975): 13.

but should seek to build relationships and solicit donations from others (especially those who are unlike ourselves) to achieve a balanced historical record.

## METHODS

At this point, you are probably wondering why I was prioritizing collecting material for this event when a previous event was, in my estimation, the most documented event in Diocesan history. The event was well-documented from an institutional perspective – when I say this, I mean everything I have, came from an official entity – whether it be our Diocesan newspaper, official correspondence sent by Bishop Schrembs, a souvenir book put together by Congress organizers – all from the official perspective. I have next to nothing that documents what it was like, or how it felt, to a participant.

While this is my charge as an institutional archivist, my job is also to document the Catholic Church in Northeast Ohio, which is much larger than just the corporate office building that houses our administrative offices. It is often said in Catholic circles that the



*Opening parade of the Seventh National Eucharistic Congress. Courtesy of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland Archives.*

Church is not the physical building, but the Body of Christ, made up of individuals. This means that the Body of Christ encompasses every person throughout our eight-county diocese, and so to be missing these perspectives is to have missing pieces of Diocesan History. This is why I wanted to prioritize gaining these perspectives, and this was one of the first, best opportunities to do this.

In many ways, this was made easier by the increase in digital technology. I could collect photographs from everyone because just about everyone had a device in hand that was taking them. I could solicit all of them via digital methods, which I did. I worked with the people who were doing all the heavy lifting for the logistics of the trip and had them send out a series of emails to everyone (250 persons total) who went on the trip with us, introducing myself (in many cases, reminding people who I was) and asking them to consider giving some of their photographs and videos to the Diocesan Archives to help tell the story of Catholics in Northeast Ohio. To receive these, I set up a donation site through

a service called [DropEvent](#), which creates a temporary repository for gathering photographs and videos from events. Once you pay the fee (I paid \$90 for both video and photo, if you do just photos the cost is less), you have forty-five days for everyone to upload their photos and videos. You can adjust the settings so that only you can see what persons are uploading, or so that everyone can see what other people have uploaded, and at the end, you are able to download and save everything on a local computer or network drive. DropEvent also allows the user to create captions and file names when uploading photos and video.

The big hurdle was figuring out how to get everyone to sign a deed of gift for the items that they were donating to us. With the help of our legal counsel, we adjusted our deed of gift and turned it into a Microsoft Form, and when I sent the email to solicit donations, I sent the link to the form and asked people to fill it out. The form was very simple; we asked people to provide their full name and email address, and to check a box stating that they agreed with the donation statement. The language in the statement was pretty much lifted from the language we use in our deed of gift, donating the materials to the Archives and acknowledging that the Archives would make them available for research and have full rights to determine their disposition. Microsoft Forms put all of this in a spreadsheet for me as people filled out the form. From there, I took the email addresses people gave as they filled out the form (using the blind copy feature if sent to multiple people at the same time) and sent them the link to the DropEvent page. From the DropEvent page, I cross-referenced the spreadsheet generated by Microsoft to ensure that all the donations I was receiving had a completed deed of gift.

When I asked for donations of photos and videos, I also asked people to consider donating other physical materials as well – drawstring bags, name tags, t-shirts, etc. For those donations, I asked people to reach out to me directly – this was first so I could ensure I didn't receive fifty drawstring bags in the mail, but also so that I could work individually with each donor to figure out the best way for them to get the material to me, whether it was via postal mail or drop off, and make sure they filled out an appropriate deed of gift for whatever they were sending.

## RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Numbers wise, the email that was sent was distributed to 250 people. Of those 250 people, I had 22 respondents, 19 of whom actually uploaded photos or videos. The 19 respondents uploaded 499 photos and videos, and after weeding out duplicates, I was left with 444 photos and videos to ingest into our collection.

Despite having a less than ten percent response rate, I am considering this campaign a modest success. I now have nearly 450 photos that I otherwise would not have had, from a diverse swath of people who attended the Congress with our delegation. In the initial email I sent, I had asked people to refrain from sending me just distance pictures of the stage and speakers, and to focus on pictures that they took of people attending the Congress, and as a result, more than half of the photos I got were of people from the Diocese who were on the trip, showing what was most important about the Congress to the people that attended, and capturing their reactions to the events that were occurring. My one disappointment was that not as many people as I'd hoped responded



to the request to generate unique captions and file titles for the images. I should be able to generate most of them myself as I continue to process and ingest materials, but this will extend the amount of time I spend on processing this new collection.

Another detail I would like to draw attention to is the types of respondents I got. Out of the 22 responses I got, exactly half of them either knew me personally or spoke to me at the Congress and knew that I would be conducting this campaign afterwards, so was genuinely interested in getting their pictures. It warrants further investigation, and I can't say I'm entirely surprised, but it seems as though developing a personal relationship with donors goes a long way in helping items make their way into archival institutions. While, in this instance, it might not have been possible for me to personally introduce myself and have a meaningful conversation with 250 people, I probably could have done more work to talk to a few more.

My campaign for physical material was less successful. All told, I managed to get an extra drawstring bag or two. This could be for some reasons I could not control, like people wanting to hold onto their materials. However, I know one thing I could have done better was responding to people who reached out to me (I believe I had about five or six responses in total for this query) more quickly than I did. I think by the time I responded to people, the thought was no longer in their head, the window they had allotted for drop off had passed, or they had already disposed of the material in some other fashion.

One other thing I would do differently next time is to figure out some way to automate the process of sending out the link after a person fills out the deed of gift online form. While I only ended up missing out on three responses, I can't help but feel like perhaps because there was a delay between filling out the form and me sending the link that I lost the window of opportunity where people had the time and desire to upload pictures and videos. There were definitely a few email exchanges where people expressed confusion as to where the link was after they filled out the form. I did think about including the link in the thank you message after the form was submitted, but I was worried that people would miss it, and I didn't want someone to fill out the form, check the box that disagreed with the deed of gift statement, then receive the link. The latter concern, however, could be solved by cross referencing the spreadsheet with donations, which is work I was already doing anyway.

## CONCLUSION

The idea of the archivist also serving as an active collector of archival collections, rather than simply the recipient of collections, is not a new concept. It would behoove us, especially those of us who are working in more institutional settings of any sort, to begin to think about what kinds of events (large or small) might be worth documenting from various perspectives, and using that opportunity to continue to work on methods of soliciting donations from persons who otherwise might not think about giving anything to an archival institution. In doing so, we continue to make sure that the archives represents a variety of diverse perspectives, therefore contributing to a more accurate historical record.



Examples of donations received by the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland Archives during the collection campaign. Courtesy of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland Archives.

# Archival Trauma

Michelle Ganz, Director of Archives, Dominican Sisters of Peace

**T**rauma is when we experience very stressful, frightening, or distressing events that are difficult to cope with or out of our control (mind.org.uk). Archival trauma is the trauma experienced by archival workers who are regularly exposed to traumatic archival records. Let's remind ourselves of what some of the signs of trauma looks like:

**Anger** is a natural response to traumatic events, but irrational anger is not. Lashing out at colleagues, family or friends, responding to minor issues with intense anger. Physical, vocal, and visual (facial expressions) changes. Anger manifests itself differently in different people.

**Numbness or difficulty feeling any strong emotions:** Repeated exposure to trauma can cause us to feel numb to strong emotions. This can manifest in a perceived lack of interest or concern for global, regional, or local events.

**Like you have lost your identity or a sense of who you are** because you are subsumed by trauma in a collection. When we are traumatized, we may not be conscious of it, but it manifests in things like losing interest in activities that were pleasurable prior to exposure.

**Scared or panicked:** After learning about my family's harrowing experience as Jewish people in WWII Poland, I became afraid that the Nazi's Holocaust would return (and 35 years later those fears are a bit more justified than they were in the early 1980's). I continue to be scared when I hear about the rise of white nationalism.

**Grief** is a natural response to trauma, and we go through the stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance to process that trauma; also known as the Kubler-Ross Model. It manifests as difficulty completing everyday/routine activities. It's important to note that as we process grief we may not go through the experience in an orderly fashion.

**Feeling worried** all the time is a normal

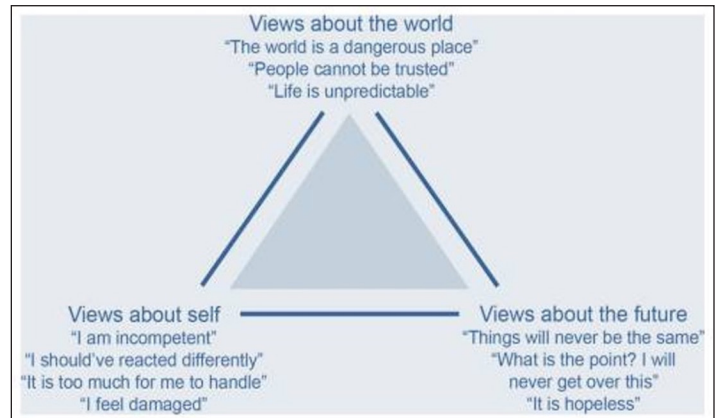
response to trauma. It often manifests in an unidentifiable sense of concern or doom that something bad is going to happen at any moment. Constant worry is very bad for us physically and mentally. If the brain is always at maximum threat mode any small thing that adds to that instantly triggers a fight or flight response. The chemicals that the brain dumps to respond to the threats becomes a self-feeding cycle of worry and heightened emotional states.

**Irritability, Confusion, and Restlessness** is the direct result of too many endorphins flowing through the system for too long. It is impossible to maintain a heightened sense of trauma-induced anxiety and do anything well.

Being **Unsure of what you need or want** is another symptom of brain-overload. If we cannot process what we are dealing with we cannot know what we need to do to move past the trauma. But this can also manifest in an inability to make basic choices like what to have for dinner or what to do to unwind after work.

**Hypervigilance - which is when you are very alert and aware of your surroundings because you feel something bad might happen** is another natural response to trauma. The brain cannot distinguish between perceived and actual threats. If we have been traumatized, we feel compelled to be hypervigilant to ensure further trauma does not happen.

**Shock or horror** are natural responses to learning about horrible events that we were unaware of before. Trauma is a response to events that the brain cannot comprehend. As we discussed earlier, trauma response follows the same stages as grief does. Shock and Horror are



often part of stage one, denial, and stage three, depression.

**Shame** is an often-overlooked symptom of trauma. It can manifest in thinking like, *I am ashamed because I did not have to suffer like the people in this collection had to, or I am part of the group that caused trauma to the people in this collection, therefore I share in the blame for what happened.* Neither of these responses is accurate or valid. The crimes of our ancestors are not ours to bear. We do not have to suffer because others do or did.

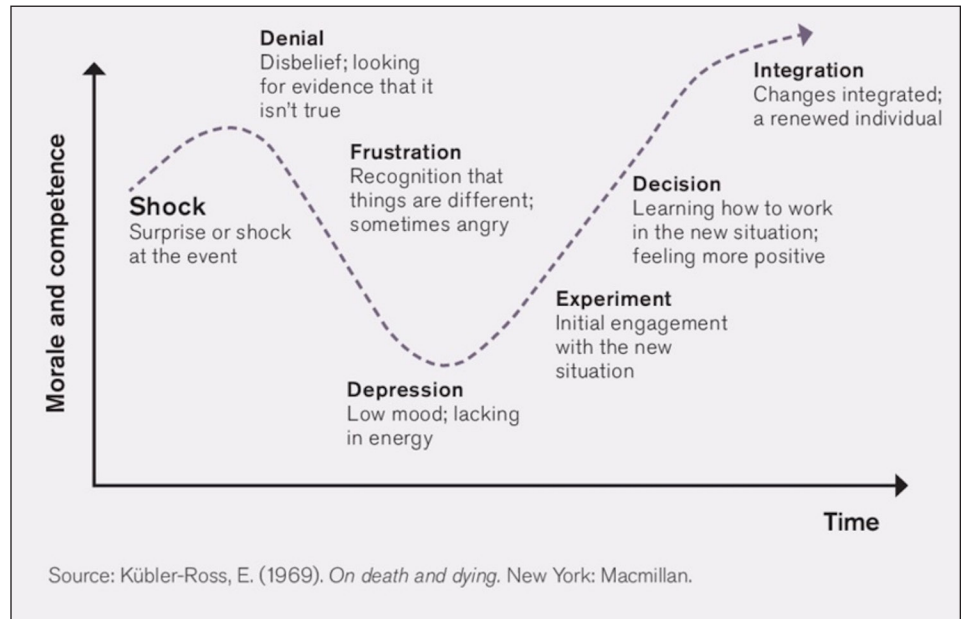
Trauma is intersectional. trauma is a spectrum. trauma is generational. *The role of archives in healing from trauma:* We need to think of archives as a healing space for those who have been disenfranchised, abused, and forgotten. This is often associated with the role of archives in racial healing. Racism affects all of us, whether we are aware of it or not. It affects our ability to know, relate to and value one another. Systemically, it is one of the biggest obstacles to solving the challenges we face in our communities. Balancing the right to be forgotten with the need to record and preserve. Balancing the need for processing with the well-being of archival workers. Trauma informed archival practice is archival practice.

All archival workers should have multiple projects they can work on; especially if they are working on a collection known to

contain traumatic materials. Remember, we can experience trauma cumulatively through regular exposure. Giving people the ability to switch from a traumatic collection to a comfortable collection or non-stressful tasks. Do not ask people to relive trauma through repeated, detailed explanations of the trauma suffered unless they are comfortable doing so. Reliving trauma causes more trauma and puts undue stress on the traumatized person and can create feelings of inadequacy and shame. Archivists have an ethical obligation to understand that respecting people's privacy and right to forget their own past means accepting that we will lose parts of the historical record that others may wish we had gone to great lengths to get.

Trauma negatively impacts people's ability to accomplish the things they set out to do. This can lead to important collections remaining unprocessed and inaccessible. It can lead to badly processed collections and finding aids. It can cause work slowdowns and missed deadlines. It creates an environment that pushes for a 'non-traumatized' approach to collections. Historically, this results in homogenized archives speaking from one voice and archives that are grossly incomplete leading to compounded trauma.

Archival trauma is a difficult topic to engage with on a professional and personal level,



but it is one that cannot be ignored. As we discussed in the introduction of this book, trauma has broad impacts on how we view and interact with the world. But what does that really mean for archives? Our collections are filled with triggers, from outdated and offensive language and nomenclature or gaps in the record and silenced voices. There are communities that deal with trauma in deeper ways, and it is important to understand what this means. Giving people agency in how they approach archives, creating archival safe spaces, trauma informed archival practices and

centering people in our archives should be a goal we all work towards.

As the world continues to create more trauma, archival institutions and repositories need to address trauma proactively rather than reactively. Getting ahead of trauma through identification of traumatic materials, trigger warnings, proactive support, and open communication and support, ensures that archival workers are prepared to handle the materials we collect today.

# Meet the 2025 Officer and Council Election Candidates

Elected candidates must be current SOA members in good standing by the beginning of their term and must be willing and able to attend monthly council meetings and business activities virtually or in person. More details about responsibilities and terms can be found in the SOA Constitution and Bylaws.

The election will be held during the SOA Annual Business Meeting, which will occur during the SOA Spring Meeting on May 15-16, 2025. Be on the lookout for your chance to vote online!

The following statements were given by the candidates seeking election as officers or council members to the Society of Ohio Archivists. Voting will take place at the annual meeting.

Candidates were asked to answer all questions in one essay of up to 1,000 words.

1. *What skills and experiences can you offer to SOA?*
2. *Tell us about your past experience that would make you a good fit for this position.*
3. *What issue or theme would you like to address during your term?*
4. *How would you address one of the charges of the JEDAI Committee?*

## CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS

### Vice President / President-Elect

## Kristen Newby

*Special Collections Manager, Columbus Metropolitan Library*



My journey to working in Ohio libraries and archives is somewhat unconventional. Like all of us, I've always loved history, but modern history never connected with me as a student. My heart was in the ancient past, which led to a history and classics double major with a focus on the Greco-Roman world.

This course provided general historical context and knowledge, and the language skills to read ancient authors in their own words. Shifting my focus to ancient art and material culture in graduate school added a new piece to the puzzle. After graduation, I found myself back in Columbus, deep in state and local history. I quickly discovered that I hadn't enjoyed modern history because it was never presented to me in a way that centered the human experience and inspired inward reflection. We, as an organization and GLAM professionals, are in a unique position to use our collections to foster empathy-building by elevating underrepresented voices; use the past as a lens to better understand ourselves; and share the stories of ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

SOA—through both archives education and relationship building opportunities—has been an important part of my professional development over the past nine years. This organization and its leadership have risen to the challenge when faced with difficult and uncertain times, particularly during the pandemic. I'm honored to be considered to help lead SOA in the coming years. As one of the original members of the Social Justice & Black Lives Matter Task Force, I helped the team develop the goals that led to the Taskforce becoming a permanent facet of SOA's leadership as a standing committee. For the past two years I have served as one of your at-large Council members. During my service on Council, I participated in the Bylaws Revision Taskforce that worked to better align our bylaws with our other foundational documents, foster efficient operations, and better enforce fair decision-making. My fellow at-large Council member and I worked with Council to establish the SOA Coffee Chat series, a virtual networking opportunity for SOA members to discuss challenges, share successes, and support each other as archives professionals and fellow humans. I hope this continues to build community among membership and is a place where we can share ideas with each other.

Over the next three years, much of my efforts will be dedicated to supporting our members through this uncertain and tumultuous time. Archives and libraries across the nation will be faced with

limited staff, financial resources, and public access to collections. This frightening and disheartening climate we currently live in will undoubtedly be a challenging time in many, many ways. Even though we're experiencing an unprecedented attack on access to information and the historical record, I believe in our resiliency and that together, as an organization and a field, we will find ways, however small they may seem, to give voices to those who came before us to better inform the future and teach us about the present. Our work has never been more important than it is in this moment, and SOA will continue to support its members, advocate for our institutions and collections, and foster collaboration. I would also like to work with Council to design a plan to conduct more outreach with colleges and universities across the state to increase awareness of SOA with undergraduate and graduate students with the hopes of increasing our student and young professional membership numbers. The JEDAI Committee will play an important role in this work, as we will need to consider how to reach underrepresented groups in the field and discuss how we can make being an SOA member more accessible to everyone.

JEDAI's involvement in developing a recruitment plan aligns with their charge to "identify and develop sustainable ways to incorporate JEDAI into the work of SOA Council and its committees." Over the next three years, I plan to continue to guide Council's efforts to ensure that justice, equity, diversity, accessibility, and inclusion are at the heart of our decision-making and future planning in a sustainable yet consistent way. As the JEDAI Committee continues to inform our work, its impact and guidance should be an ex-

pected and continued part of our annual meeting and a resource for members. My hope is that not only will our organizational operations improve, but the values the Committee represents will become a natural lens through which we view our work.

Thank you for your consideration!

#### **Previous Positions**

*Special Collections Supervisor, Columbus Metropolitan Library, 2022-2023*

*Digital Projects Coordinator, Ohio History Connection, 2019-2022*

*World War I Project Coordinator, Ohio History Connection, 2017-2019*

*Metadata Coordinator, Ohio History Connection, 2016-2017*

*Digitization Assistant for Online Coins of the Roman Empire (OCRE), American Numismatic Society, 2014-2015*

*Visual Resources Assistant, Digital Media Services, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, 2012-2014*

*Archival Assistant, Aphrodisias Excavations Archives, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, 2013-2014*

#### **Education**

*M.A., History of Art and Archaeology, New York University, 2014*

*B.A., History and Classics, The Ohio State University, 2012*

#### **Professional Associations**

*Society of Ohio Archivists, 2020-present; Social Justice and Black Lives Matter Task Force, 2020-2022; Council At-large member, 2023-2025*

*Ohio Digitization Interest Group, planning committee, 2019-2023*

*Library Leadership Ohio, 2021 cohort*

## Secretary

# Shelby Beatty

*Archivist & Records Manager, Sinclair Community College*



I'm happy to run for the Society of Ohio Archivists Secretary position for a second term. It's been a pleasure serving as SOA Secretary since 2023. I thoroughly enjoy working with the society to document vital Council discussions and advocate for archives and archivists statewide.

Presenting at the 2015 SOA Annual meeting and accepting

a student scholarship was my first experience with the society. I've been an archivist for nearly ten years and worked a variety of positions that have prepared me for the Secretary role. My early professional experiences as a contract archivist required intense attention to detail, organization and time-management skills, and being extremely conscious of member ideas and deadlines for successful project completion.

In my current role as Archivist & Records Manager of Sinclair Community College, I've developed and strengthened a variety

of skills. My work involves promoting sound record keeping in compliance with the Ohio Public Records Act, collecting and preserving institutional history, and promoting the archives through digitization and community outreach. I enjoy working with others to identify their records management needs and finding solutions to keep digital records effectively.

I would like to see SOA continue advocacy for archivists working in the public sector that are heavily affected by state and federal policy. Recently, state laws and federal cuts have greatly impacted the profession. I'm proud to be involved with an organization that researches relevant policy, recognizes potential repercussions, and brainstorms solutions. I want to help find solutions and support Ohio archivists during uncertain times.

In reviewing JEDAI goals, I most connect with the charge of continually developing ways to engage membership with the committee. As Secretary, I ensure all committee activities and goals are represented in Council meeting minutes. This is one way to engage membership with committees and keep them informed. JEDAI is involved with all SOA committees to encourage initiatives, strategies, and assure underrepresented voices are

heard. I'm committed to documenting JEDAI's work throughout the organization and helping the committee continue to engage with membership.

#### **Previous Positions**

*Reference Archivist, Archives & Library, Ohio History Connection, 2017-2020*

*Archives Intern, National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center, 2016-2017*

*Project Archivist, Bradford Ohio Railroad Museum, 2016-2017*

*Project Archivist, Southwestern Ohio Bluegrass Music Heritage Project, 2016-2017*

*Project Archivist, Victoria Theatre Association (Dayton Live), 2015-2016*

#### **Education**

*M.A., Public History, concentration in Archival Administration, Wright State University, 2016*

*B.A., Social Science Education, Wright State University, 2014*

#### **Professional Associations**

*Ohio Electronic Records Committee (OhioERC), 2023-present*

*Ohio Digitization Interest Group (OhioDIG), 2023-present*

*Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA), 2022-present*

*National Association of Government Archives & Records*

*Administrators (NAGARA), 2022-present*

*ARMA International 2020-present; Dayton Chapter Board Director, 2022-2024*

*Society of Ohio Archivists, 2015-present*

*Miami Valley Archives Roundtable (MVAR), 2014-present*

## SOA JEDAI Committee Co-Chair (1 year term)

### Hannah Kemp-Severence

*University Records Manager, University of Akron*



Working in the archival field for most of the past 20 years has provided me with different experiences that inform my perspective and outlook on the importance of archival work. Building processing skills and assisting with appraisals of various collections, along with learning the tenets of records management and the differences in application at private,

non-profit, and public entities has helped me to appreciate the diversity in the archival field on many levels. My experiences have brought forth the importance of public records law in preserving information for the public as well as unearthing stories of underrepresented groups and communities and the importance of preserving these stories that may be otherwise lacking in the historical record.

I was first introduced to the diversity in archival work as an intern with the manuscripts division of the Hayes Presidential Center. I experienced processing and digitization for the first time, and even preservation and conservation work along with exhibit preparation and grant planning. At my first processing position at the Western Reserve Historical Society, I had a wonderful mentor who taught me so much about archival work, and also the importance of documenting under-represented collection areas. She taught me how to think creatively and innovatively about accomplishing this work under the constraints of a bare bones budget and often-times the lack of upper level administration's support. My experiences at different types of institutions, from a non-profit regional historical society to the academic setting, with variances between public and private institutions exposed me to a range of collections, resource allocation strategies, and professional

development opportunities that will help me provide guidance to the JEDAI committee and its work.

My graduate studies in applied history and public humanities, especially the museums and archives coursework that focused on cultural competency, allowed me to delve into DEAI work being done in the library and archives profession. I was able to explore the many facets of this work nationally, statewide and locally, and the changes it was bringing to the field – both in terms of archival tenets and working conditions for members of the profession. Having experienced term employment in a variety of settings, I am especially cognizant of the efforts in the field to recognize the hardships these types of employment situations can place on individuals and grateful for the work being done to improve these situations, among many other improvements in areas like reparative description, relationships with community archives, and recognizing the lack of in diversity in the field.

Drawing on my experiences, along with my love of history and the importance of a frank and honest presentation of the historical record, I would like to address barriers to entering the profession and also the unwelcoming climate that may exist in certain institutions currently. I would like to work to ensure that everyone feels safe and welcome in SOA and

that their work is truly valued. I hope to forward these goals through the tenet of the JEDAI committee to identify and share resources to educate Council and membership on JEDAI – with an emphasis on applications to archival and information work. I am hopeful that as co-chair of the JEDAI committee, I could help steward a review of best practices throughout the field on how best to steward JEDAI focused collections, how to approach all archival work from a more culturally competent and accessible lens, and how to build relationships with underrepresented communities to build community archives and archival collections that fit the mission and needs of such communities.

These skills would also be applicable to building and maintaining a welcoming and safe environment in SOA where questions are welcomed and all types and levels of archival and information work are valued and deemed worthy, from students to community volunteers, newly graduated practitioners, to those with years and years of experience and multiple certifications in the field. One strategy may be to look to archival organizations across the country that have dealt with similar issues, how they are coping, and to build connections, so that we are not constrained by, but cognizant of, the effects of these issues upon our work.

I thank you for the opportunity to be considered for JEDAI committee co-chair and I hope to help create an ever more just, equitable, diverse, accessible, and inclusive organization for the betterment of the archives profession.

#### **Previous Positions**

*Library Assistant 5, Scholarly Resources and Special Collections, Kelvin Smith Library, Case Western Reserve University, 2018-2020*  
*Manuscripts Processing Supervisor, Cleveland History Center of the*

*Western Reserve Historical Society, 2009-2018*  
*Howard Metzenbaum Congressional Papers Processing Supervisor, Cleveland History Center of the Western Reserve Historical Society, 2008-2009*  
*LTV Steel Project Processor, Cleveland History Center of the Western Reserve Historical Society, 2004-2006*

#### **Education**

*M.A., Applied History and Public Humanities, The University of Akron, 2024*  
*Graduate Certificate of Public Humanities, The University of Akron, 2024*  
*B.A., Political Science, Bowling Green State University, 2003*

#### **Professional Associations**

*Society of Ohio Archivists, 2013-present; JEDAI committee co-chair, 2024-2025*  
*Cleveland Archival Roundtable, 2016-2024*  
*Society of American Archivists, 2015-2016; 2024*

## At-Large Council Member

### Darrell Blevins Jr.

*Student Assistant and Intern, Student Assistant at Wright State University Special Collections and Archives and Intern at The Heritage Center, Clark County Historical Society*



I have not even graduated from the Public History graduate program at Wright State University yet, and I still felt the need and desire to join the Society of Ohio Archivists and to become an At-Large Council Member. I have many skills and experiences I can offer the SOA. I am a non-traditional student in that I received my undergrad-

uate degree in Art History twenty-five years ago and only recently began the journey to earning my graduate degree in January of 2023. Following six knee surgeries and the death of my wife in 2022, I decided I did not like being disabled and so I made the decision to return to college and earn my master's degree. I believe I can bring my life experiences and my recently garnered education to the SOA. Having a fresh set of eyes that are also seasoned eyes that have seen and done a lot, can be valuable to the organization. I have found the best way to "get your feet wet," is to jump in the deep end right away. I have a lot less years than others to make my mark in the public history realm and I cannot wait to get started. I believe joining many organizations and running for office is a great way to start.

As I mentioned, I earned my Art History degree twenty-five years ago before joining the workforce, where I proceeded to work many jobs providing for my family. Life knowledge, regardless of what field it was earned in, can be valuable. I have real-world work experience in sales, customer service, retail management, advertising,

marketing, and warehouse manual labor and machine operating. In addition to the five semesters and 41 credit hours of graduate school I have earned, I have also worked in Wright State University's Special Collections and Archives for two years. I have also been blessed with the opportunity to intern at the Heritage Center, Clark County Historical Society, for a year. I began by cataloguing their vast art collection in its entirety before transitioning into my capstone project where I researched, rewrote, and revamped the museum's exhibit on the 135-year-old building and its architect.

One issue I would like to address in my term would be a stronger focus and emphasis on the architecture of archives. I have authored many papers around the topic of archiving blueprints and architectural drawings as well as the ideal architecture of the spaces where archives are kept. I consider myself to be an architectural historian more than an art historian and my passion has always been architecture. Even now approaching the end of my graduate school education, I have kept that passion and shifted it into a desire to influence and change how we store architectural drawings and how we can manipulate the spaces archives are kept creating better options for current and future archivists. I always would like to learn more about the process of saving architecture and getting buildings placed on the National Register.

I am disabled; therefore, I feel very strongly about Justice, Equity, Diversity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (JEDAI), especially considering the recent political minefield being created by the current administration. The one charge I would address is to, "identify and share resources to educate Council and membership on JEDAI – with an emphasis on applications to archival and information work." I have struggled in the pursuit of my degree and my part-time employ-

ment due to my disability. Classes are held in century-old buildings that are not ADA compliant. I have had seven knee surgeries and still need a left knee replacement. I have one class that I am required to walk up twelve steps just to get into the building. And God help me if I have to use the restroom during the two hour and forty-minute class because then I am forced to hike down seventeen steps and back up seventeen steps to do so. Then, once class is over, I have to walk down those same twelve steps I used to get to the classroom. This is but one example where anyone more disabled than me would not be able to enroll in one of the oldest and best Public History programs in the United States. I do not know the statistics, but I have eyes, and I only see white, American males and females in all my classes. I do not think my school purposely excludes other nationalities or ethnicities nor do I know how the college recruits its students. Every profession in the world could benefit from more diversity and inclusion, despite what the current government seems to believe. Everyone, from all levels of society, from all diverse backgrounds, and all unique upbringings can and should be allowed to bring their life experience to whatever field they choose with archives being one of those.

I do not know if I am experienced enough to warrant an appointment to the council, but I do believe I am capable, willing, and excited to serve if I am elected. Fresh eyes to any organization should be encouraged and I for one hope that the SOA can and will benefit from electing new, not necessarily young, archival professionals to elected positions within the Society. Thank you for your consideration.

#### **Previous Positions**

*Student Assistant, Wright State University Special Collections and Archives, 2023-2025*  
*Intern, The Heritage Center Clark County Historical Society, 2024-2025*

#### **Education**

*M.A., Public History, Wright State University, May 2025 B.A., Art History with Departmental Honors, University of Toledo, June 2000*

#### **Professional Associations**

*Society of Ohio Archivists, March 2025-present NAGARA, December 2024-present ARMA International, December 2024-present Society of American Archivists, April 2024-present*



The Archives of the Congregation of Sisters of St Joseph (Cleveland) is pleased to announce the recent appointment of **Jessica Novotny** as Assistant Director. They are excited to have her on the archives team and look forward to her contributions. The CSJ Archives, located in Cleveland, is the consolidated archives for the Congregation (established in 2007), as well its seven founding communities, which extend geographically from Crookston, MN to Baton Rouge, LA. The Archives measure approximately 2200 linear ft and date from the 1830s, documenting the history and charism of the Sisters' ministry of service to "the dear neighbor," in the areas of education, health care, social services, and peace and justice initiatives.



Civil rights activists march down S. Main St. in Akron during the Selma Sympathy March in 1965. Photograph from the Horace and Evelyn Stewart Collection, Archives and Special Collections of University Libraries.



Schauffler College

In 2021-2022 **Defiance College** was a recipient of a grant from the Council of Independent Colleges, which funded student research comparing immigration 100 years ago vs. today (see *Ohio Archivist*, Fall 2020). They drew on material Defiance curated for the former Schauffler College in Cleveland, which worked closely with immigrants in that city. Schauffler had moved from Cleveland in 1954 to Oberlin, and then when Oberlin closed its theological school in the 1960s, Defiance College received Schauffler's assets, including its extensive archives. Recently the CIC reached out about the availability of more money to previous grantees, and Defiance was able to secure a second grant to do further work with the Schauffler College archives. Professor Kate Davis is overseeing four student researchers, Allie Bevins, Braylin Shaner, Kirsten Vanisacker, and Rachael Beardsley. They are photographing and scanning paper documents, plus digitizing a collection of hundreds of glass lantern slides depicting Schauffler's work in Cleveland, and Schauffler graduates' work in other cities. When completed, the materials will be available in [Defiance College's section of the Ohio Memory Project](#).

The University of Akron Archives and Special Collections is thrilled to announce two significant grants received recently for collections digitization. This includes a "Digitizing Hidden Collections: Amplifying Unheard Voices" Grant in the amount of \$190,517 from the Council on Library & Information Resources (CLIR). The purpose of this two-year project is to digitize and make available online the photographs of Horace and Evelyn Stewart, a husband-and-wife team of professional Black photographers. The collection consists of over 46,000 black-and-white and color photographic prints and negatives that visually document the rich history of the Black community in Akron, northeast Ohio, and beyond, from 1897 to 1978. CLIR is an independent, nonprofit organization that forges strategies to enhance research, teaching, and learning environments in collaboration with libraries, cultural institutions, and communities of higher learning. To learn more, visit [CLIR](#) and follow on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

The second grant, which was funded in part by the Ohio & Erie Canalway Strategic Initiatives Program, was awarded in the amount of \$7,963.00. The funding will be used to digitize and make available online thousands of historic resources from the Canal Society of Ohio Collection that document the history and development of the Ohio & Erie Canal. This includes over 3,100 historic images including photographs, negatives, slides, and maps from approximately 1832 to 1993. Learn more about the [Ohio & Erie Canalway here](#). Learn more about [The University of Akron Archives and Special Collections here](#).

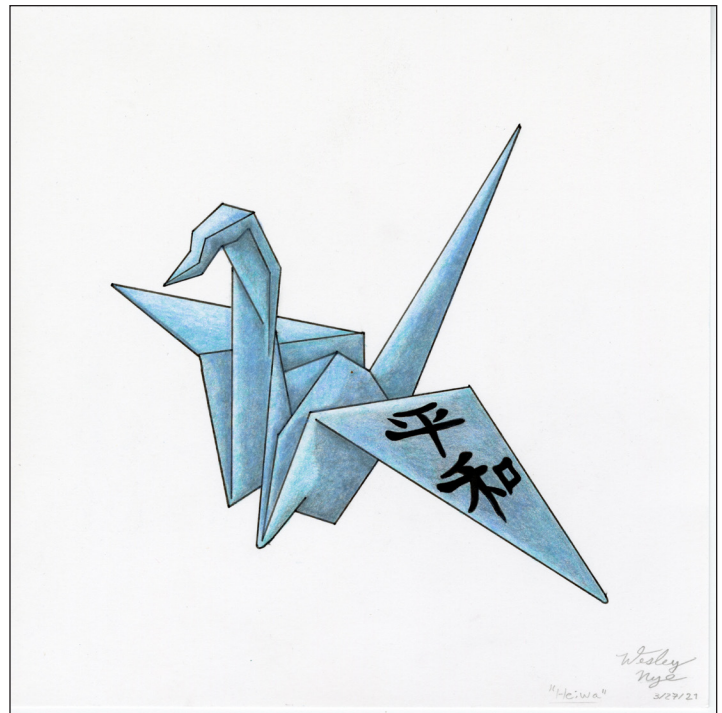
The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) awarded the **University of Cincinnati's Archives and Rare Books Library** a \$109,349 grant to support the archival processing of records of the Cincinnati Branch of the NAACP related to *Bronson v. Cincinnati Board of Education*, the city's most significant legal case in the fight for school desegregation. Filed in 1974, the *Bronson* case was not the first litigation to address segregation in the Cincinnati Public Schools, but it was the first to create some accountability for the Cincinnati School Board. The collection contains correspondence, court filings, background research on segregation in education in Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Ohio, and reports on the conditions of schools and curriculum, and it details how the Cincinnati Public Schools addressed the decree that was agreed upon as a result of the case. The project began October 2024 and will last through September 2025. [More information about the project can be found here.](#)

**The Wilmington College Peace Resource Center Barbara Reynolds Memorial Archives (PRC BRMA)** is recognizing its 50th anniversary in Fall 2025, through a series of events beginning August 6, 2025 and concluding December 5. The PRC BRMA is the only archives and academic center in the United States wholly devoted to the human experience of nuclear war vis-à-vis the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. The anniversary is entitled, "Witnessing the Atomic Past: 50 Years of History, Memory, and Art at the Wilmington College Peace Resource Center" and highlights the 80th commemoration of the atomic bombings.

Events will include:

- *80 Years After: Hibakusha Call Us to Remember* (August 6, 2025, 8:15 a.m.-8:15 p.m., Quaker Heritage Center and Harcum Galleries);
- *Peace Masks Project* (August 6, 2025, 1-5 p.m., Boyd Cultural Arts Center);
- *Memorializing the Hibakusha Experience* (August 6-December 5, 2025, with exhibition opening on August 8, 2025, from 6:00 p.m., Quaker Heritage Center and Harcum Galleries, Boyd Cultural Arts Center);
- *Atomic Bill and the Payment Due* (September 9, 2025, 7:30 p.m., Hugh Heiland Theater);
- *Practicing Art, Practicing Abolition: The Westheimer Peace Symposium* (September 29-30, 2025, Wilmington College);
- Radio Broadcast Play "Borrowed Landscape" (September 30, 2025, 7:00 p.m., Murphy Theatre, Wilmington, Ohio); and
- *Archives as Witness: Preserving History, Memory, and Art at the Peace Resource Center at Wilmington College* (September 30–October 1, 2025, Wilmington College).

[Further information may be found on the PRC website.](#) We hope you will join us!



Blue Peace Crane by Wesley Nye

WYSO/Center for Radio Preservation and Archives

Bringing the past back to life at WYSO – An interview with Elbert “Big Man” Howard, a founding member of the Black Panther Party. Gil Scott-Heron, Argentinian singer/songwriter Suni Paz, and the Irish band Clannad, on their first American tour, all performing live in the 1970s at Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio.

These and many more recordings produced by WYSO, a nonprofit public radio station in Yellow Springs, have been stored on open reel tapes for decades in WYSO’s [Center for Radio Preservation and Archives](#). To ensure that the recordings are preserved and accessible to the public, WYSO began digitizing its collection in 2010, with support from the [American Archive of Public Broadcasting \(AAPB\)](#). AAPB now houses about 300 hours of programming produced by WYSO since its founding in 1958.

That number is set to expand significantly this year, thanks to continued AAPB support—and a cadre of preservation-minded volunteers. Beginning last fall, station volunteers began processing the rest of WYSO’s locally produced collection, resulting in a shipment in February of 58 boxes containing almost 1,300 tapes, all bound for digitization and preservation.

AAPB is housing WYSO’s digitized files along with a vast library of media produced by other outlets. You can type “WYSO” in the search bar on the AAPB home page to access the files that have already been digitized. The new batch should be accessible through AAPB later this year.

For more information, [contact Jocelyn Robinson](#), director of WYSO’s Center for Radio Preservation and Archives.



Cora and box of tapes



Shernaz



Leah and Alice



Boxes ready for shipping



Tapes headed out the door

Editor’s Note

Thank you to everyone who helps make the *Ohio Archivist* possible.

For the most up-to-date information on SOA including ways to get involved, please visit the [website](#) and join us on the [SOA listserv](#).

Have a happy and healthy spring and summer, Ohio!

Connect with SOA



For the latest news about SOA and the archives profession in Ohio, please join us on these platforms:

- [SOA Website](#)
- [OHIOARCHIVISTS Listserv](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Facebook @ohioarchivists](#)
- [x@ohioarchivists](#)
- [Pinterest @ohioarchivists](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [Flickr](#)



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