



DHPS | NY *news*

DOCUMENTING DHPSNY ADVENTURES IN THE EMPIRE STATE

FALL 2024

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FOR THE RECORD: Highlights from the Past Year at DHPSNY

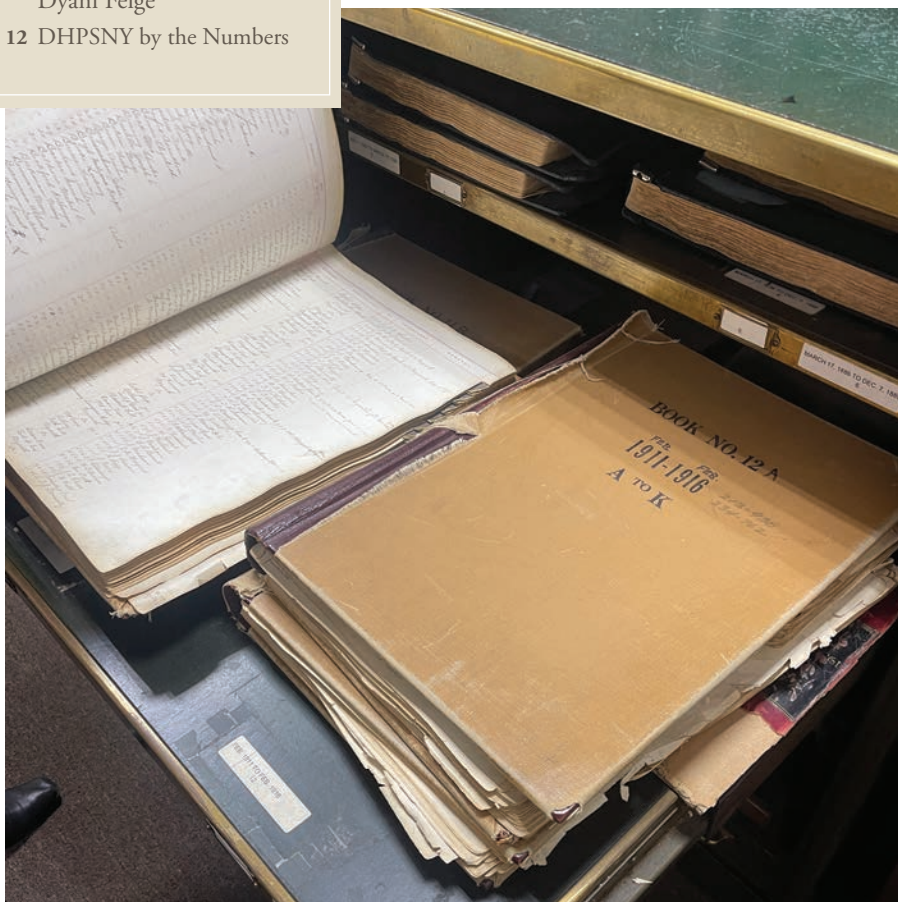
In the tucked-away corners of New York State's libraries, historical societies, and archives—where shelves bear the weight of local history and staff carefully handle brittle letters and

sepia-toned photographs—the quiet magic of preservation unfolds each day. **Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York (DHPSNY)**, a collaborative program of the **New York State Library** and **New York State Archives**, supports this crucial work by helping institutions across the state preserve their collections and ensure they remain accessible for future generations.

Over the past year, DHPSNY has had the privilege of partnering with dedicated stewards of archival and library research collections, from the bustling streets of Brooklyn to the rural heart of Essex County. Each partnership has offered the chance to address preservation challenges with customized solutions, rooted in the unique needs and strengths of each organization. Through free Planning & Assessment Services, educational programming, and statewide conferences, DHPSNY has listened, advised, and built connections that continue to strengthen New York's cultural heritage network.

As we reflect on 2024, we invite you to explore the year's highlights—a journey shaped by resilience, rediscovery, and a shared commitment to preserving New York State's cultural memory.

Frequently used books of burial records, The Evergreens Cemetery Preservation Foundation.



About us

A statewide program of the New York State Archives and New York State Library, **Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York (DHPSNY)** provides free planning and education services to support the vast network of repositories such as archives, libraries, historical societies, museums, and other institutions that safeguard and ensure access to New York's historical records and unique library research materials.

Connect with us

Visit dhpsny.org for more on our free programs and services and to sign up for our bi-monthly email newsletter, which features our recent activity and important updates on application deadlines and upcoming programs.

Contact DHPSNY staff for answers to archives- and preservation-related questions, help with applications, or to make suggestions for future programs at info@dhpsny.org or (215) 545-0613, ext. 337.

Our partners

Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York (DHPSNY) is a collaboration between two long-running New York State Education Department programs dedicated to service and support for archival and library research collections throughout the State: the New York State Archives Documentary Heritage Program and the New York State Library Conservation/Preservation Program. DHPSNY is a program of the New York State Education Department, with services provided by the **Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts (CCAHA)**.



New York State
Library



HIGHLIGHTS FORM THE PAST YEAR *(Continued from page 1)*

Site Visits

This year, the DHPSNY team traversed nearly every corner of the state to deliver Archival Needs Assessments, Preservation Surveys, Condition Surveys, Strategic Planning Assistance, and Foundational Planning Assistance. Each visit brought new insights and strengthened preservation practices, helping institutions of all sizes build meaningful connections between their collections and communities.



TAG executive director Mark Harrington addressed the XVII International AIDS Conference 2008 in Mexico City, August 6, 2008.

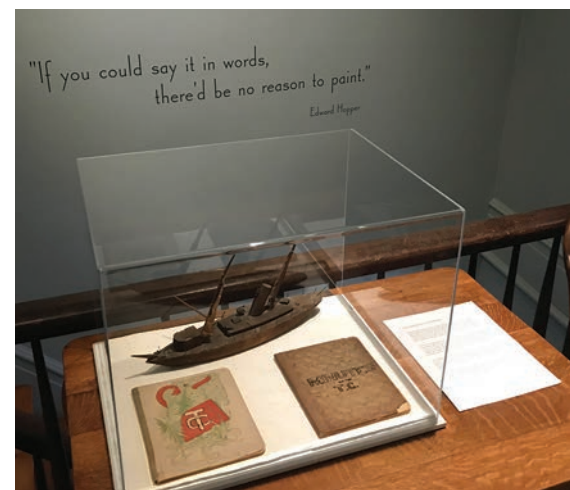
When the last issue of *DHPSNY News* went to press in late 2023, DHPSNY staff were already immersed in supporting two organizations preserving influential cultural histories. **Treatment Action Group (TAG)** in New York City (New York County), a pioneer in AIDS activism that documents pivotal advocacy for health equity and AIDS research, participated in an Archival Needs Assessment. Meanwhile, at **The Flow Chart Foundation** in Hudson (Columbia County)—which stewards the archives of renowned avant-garde poet John Ashbery and fosters literary experimentation—we delivered Strategic Planning Assistance, a service DHPSNY proudly provides in collaboration with the **New York Council of Nonprofits (NYCON)**.

At **Newburgh Free Library** in Newburgh (Orange County), a vital hub of community

history, DHPSNY closed the calendar year with an assessment, offering recommendations to strengthen the Local History Resource Center. Plans for expanded digitization and enhanced accessibility promise to deepen the public's connection with Newburgh's rich past, empowering future generations to explore the city's heritage.

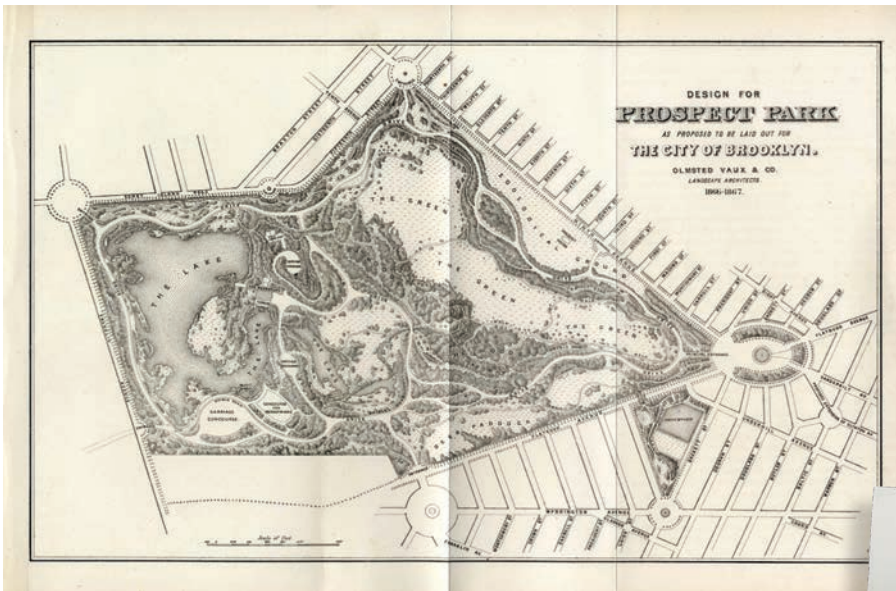
The new year opened with support for **Greater Astoria Historical Society** in Long Island City (Queens County). A January facilitation meeting with this community cornerstone aimed to set organizational goals, including the preservation of over 50,000 newspapers, maps, and documents, along with a vast photographic archive that illustrates the evolving urban landscape of Queens.

In March, we delivered virtual Foundational Planning Assistance to **Project Children** in Greenwood (Orange County), an organization that fosters peace and understanding between Northern Ireland and the United States, connecting Irish heritage with global narratives. This was followed by Strategic Planning for the **Edward Hopper House Museum & Study Center** in Nyack (Rockland County), supporting the museum's efforts to preserve and share the legacy of the iconic American artist.



Display of objects from Hopper's childhood, Edward Hopper House Museum & Study Center.

Spring saw a surge of activity with assessments for institutions across the state. Our visits included the **Cambridge Historical Society & Museum** (Cambridge,



Design for Prospect Park by landscape architects Vaux & Olmsted, 1868, Prospect Park Alliance.

Washington County); **Queens Historical Society** (Flushing, Queens County); and **Prospect Park Alliance** (Brooklyn, Kings County), which houses the world's most comprehensive collection of resources on the history, design, and community uses of Prospect Park. This season also featured a Preservation Survey at **Manitoga/The Russel Wright Design Center** (Garrison, Putnam County), the historic home, studio, and 75-acre landscape of visionary mid-century designer Russel Wright and his wife Mary. Manitoga's archival collections—including records of its 35-year development, personal documents, and rare design drawings—are essential to preserving the Wrights' legacy of innovative design and environmental stewardship, which continues to inspire contemporary practices in sustainable living and landscape architecture.

As summer approached, DHPSNY held Strategic Planning facilitation sessions with **SUNY Fredonia's Reed Library** (Chautauqua County), a regional institution known for its ties to music and the arts. Later, we conducted a Preservation Survey at the **Waterville Historical Society** (Oneida County), assessing care strategies for its historical collections that enrich the region's understanding of local history. (Learn more about their preservation journey in our interview with WHS volunteer Debbie Conway on page 8.)

In August, DHPSNY conducted Archival Needs Assessments for **Sagtikos Manor**



DHPSNY Archives Specialist Kate Philipson (third from left) with representatives from the Sagtikos Manor Historical Society.

Historical Society in Bay Shore (Suffolk County), which is comprised of volunteers who care for and interpret an estate reflecting Long Island's layered history; the **CUNY Haitian Studies Institute** in Brooklyn (Kings County), which documents and celebrates Haitians, Haiti, and its diaspora's rich cultural influence in the borough; and **Saint Bartholomew's Church** in Manhattan, which preserves Episcopal and congregational heritage in the heart of New York City.

As autumn unfolded, we provided Foundational Planning Assistance to the **Pan Am Museum Foundation** in Garden City (Nassau County), which preserves aviation history, while supporting the **Lake Placid Olympic Museum** in Lake Placid (Essex County) with Strategic Planning Assistance. The Museum is one of the only Olympic museums in the United States and Lake Placid, one of only three communities in the world to have hosted a Winter Olympics twice.



"Miracle on Ice," lithograph by Cecile Johnson; 1980 Winter Olympics gold medal; Lake Placid Olympic Museum.



In October, we capped a year of engagement with Preservation Surveys at notable institutions, including the **Woodstock Museum** in Saugerties (Ulster County), a symbol of cultural revolution; **Columbia-Greene Community College** in Hudson (Columbia County), which bridges local education with regional history; the **Cortland County Historical Society** in Cortland (Cortland County), whose collections anchor the area's heritage; and **The Evergreens Cemetery Preservation Foundation** in Brooklyn (Kings County), where burial records of over 560,000 individuals reveal powerful stories—waves of immigrants, longstanding families, and records of lives touched by events like the Titanic, the 1918 flu pandemic, and more recent global challenges. Each of these organizations stewards unique aspects of local history, demonstrating the power of preservation to keep the state's multi-faceted histories alive.

HIGHLIGHTS FORM THE PAST YEAR *(Continued from page 3)*

Education Programs

This year, DHPSNY celebrated a much-anticipated return to in-person workshops, alongside a range of virtual programs—webinars, dialogues, and online courses—all designed to address the needs of New York’s cultural heritage community.

In the spring, we launched **Basic Salvage Techniques for Paper Collections**, offering sessions at **SUNY Fredonia** in Fredonia (Chautauqua County); the **Corning Museum of Glass** in Corning (Steuben County); **Genesee Country Village & Museum** in Mumford (Monroe County); **Queens Public Library, Peninsula Branch** in Far Rockaway (Queens County); and **Fort Ticonderoga** in Ticonderoga (Essex County).

These workshops brought together a diverse group of participants, ranging from professionals and volunteers to students, who all benefited from the mix of experiences. The sessions sparked valuable discussions on disaster preparedness, with many participants sharing how their institutions have handled prior water emergencies and forming connections for future collaboration.



Workshop participant salvages wet paper items at the Genesee Country Village & Museum.

A standout feature of these sessions was the hands-on experience with water-damaged materials, where participants learned how fragile some items can become when wet, while others remain surprisingly resilient. This practical knowledge, coupled with practicing the various roles in an emergency scenario, is invaluable as heritage workers continue to plan for and respond to water emergencies.

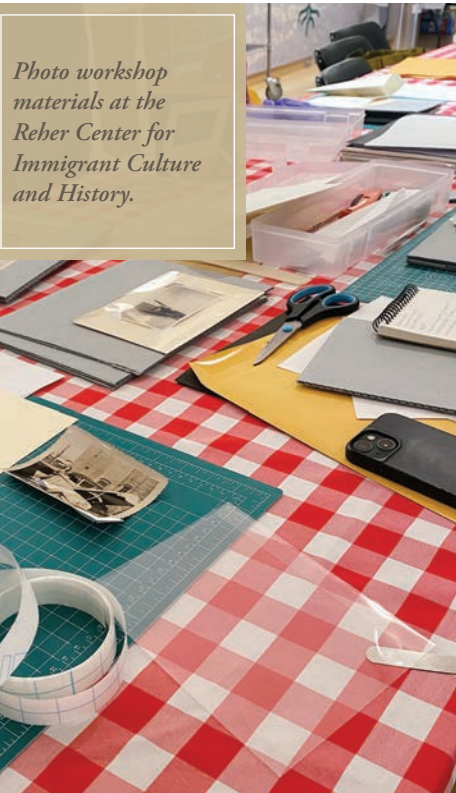


Photo workshop materials at the Reher Center for Immigrant Culture and History.

In the fall, we were back on the road for **Caring for Photograph Collections**, a workshop that focused on the unique challenges of preserving and managing photographic materials. Participants explored different types of photographs, learned how material composition influences preservation decisions, and took part in a hands-on housing activity.

We presented these workshops at the **Reher Center for Immigrant Culture and History** in Kingston (Ulster County); the **New York State Archives** in Albany (Albany County); the **Walt Whitman Birthplace Association** in Huntington Station (Suffolk County); the **George Eastman Museum** in Rochester (Monroe County); the **Richard F. Brush Art Gallery** in Canton (St.

Lawrence County); the **Central NY Library Resources Council** in Syracuse (Onondaga County); the **Howland Stone Store Museum** in Aurora (Cayuga County); **Yonkers Public Library** in Yonkers (Westchester County); the **Chautauqua Institution** in Chautauqua (Chautauqua County); and the **Niagara County Historical Society** in Lockport (Niagara County).

In addition to in-person workshops, DHPSNY delivered a robust selection of virtual content, including online courses, webinars, and interactive dialogues. Our online course **Processing Collections: Setting Priorities and Developing Plans** equipped participants with archival processing basics for collections arrangement, description, and housing, while DHPSNY webinars provided thoughtful instruction and innovative approaches to preservation, covering topics such as **Understanding Dew Point**, **Digital Preservation Planning**, and **Stories from the Field: Oral History Exhibition at the Reher**.



ONLINE COURSE
Processing Collections:
Setting Priorities and
Developing Plans
July 16 - 24, 2024



This year, we also deepened our anti-racism initiatives in the field, offering new programming that encourages open dialogues and thoughtful reflections on how our cultural institutions can better represent all communities. Our 2024 theme focused on statewide efforts to create inclusive programming for the nation’s upcoming 250th anniversary in 2026. These discussions provided framework and facilitation for developing intentional programming and included the titles **Pursuing Untold Stories of Everyday Experiences**; **Place-making and Place-Based Commemorations**; and **Intersectionality and the 250th**.

Conferences

DHPSNY attended several conferences this year, reconnecting in person and virtually with professionals across New York State, sharing ideas, and discovering new ways to support cultural heritage.



Solar screen to safely view the April eclipse at MANY 2024.

Our first stop was Albany in April, at the **Museum Association of New York (MANY) Annual Conference**, where the theme “Giving Voice to Value” resonated deeply. Over 100 presenters gathered to explore how museums can effectively articulate their value to funders, visitors, and the communities they serve. This event inspired fresh ideas for connecting with audiences and emphasized the importance of advocacy within the sector.

By June, we were back with the archival community, this time for the virtual **New York Archives Conference (NYAC)**, where professionals gathered online to discuss best practices and innovations in archival science. A highlight of the event for the DHPSNY team was attending one of the local watch parties, which were arranged across the state. This format allowed participants to connect and engage with peers in person, fostering active collaboration and dialogue about the virtual conference sessions.



Communications Specialist Marissa Halderman (left) and Archives Specialist Kate Philipson (right) pose with DHPSNY Dialogues facilitator Aria Camaione-Lind at GHHN 2024.

As the leaves began to change color in September, we attended the **Association of Public Historians of New York State (APHNYS) Conference**. Held in Port Jefferson, this event focused on helping public historians preserve local history while engaging communities through research and storytelling.

October took us to the **Greater Hudson Heritage Network (GHHN) Annual Conference**, where the theme “Embracing Innovation” encouraged us all to explore new solutions for collections care and public programming. Every presentation and discussion was a chance to reimagine

what’s possible for our field, and it inspired us to think creatively about how we engage with our own work and audiences.

Lastly, we wrapped up in November with the **New York Library Association (NYLA) Annual Conference** in Syracuse, where we joined librarians and cultural heritage professionals around the theme, “Leadership at Every Level: Fund-Protect-Empower.” This final stop was a fitting conclusion to our year of learning and sharing. We discussed ways to lead with purpose and resilience—equipping our institutions with strategies to protect collections and empower our communities.



AN UPDATE FROM THE NYS LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

Conservation/Preservation and Documentary Heritage Program Grant Recipients



Portrait of John Torrey and botanical drawings, New York Botanical Garden.

The New York State Library and New York State Archives are committed to preserving and providing access to the archival records, manuscript materials, and unique library research collections that document the history of New York State and its commitment to intellectual freedom. In addition to the training and on-site services offered by DHPSNY, the NYS Archives Documentary Heritage Program and the NYS Library Conservation/Preservation Program Discretionary Grants provide grant funding to improve preservation of and access to these collections in New York State. In 2024 these programs provided over \$270,000 to libraries, archives, museums, and not-for-profit organizations across the state.

The New York State Library awarded \$179,045 in Conservation/Preservation Program Discretionary Grants to six collecting institutions to preserve research materials. This year's grants include funds for conservation treatments of books, illustrations, manuscripts, architectural plans and drawings, protective enclosures, rehousing, and environmental monitoring equipment. The 2024-25 awardees are:

ORGANIZATION	PROJECT	CITY	COUNTY	AMOUNT
American Museum of Natural History	Search and Destroy, Supersize	New York	New York	\$44,380
Corning Museum of Glass	Conservation of Glass Design Working Drawings	Corning	Steuben	\$41,011
Maria College of Albany	Preservation of Marian Hall Architectural Plans and Drawings	Albany	Albany	\$15,832
Metropolitan Museum of Art	Valuable Books for Children and Youth: Early American Children's Books (ca. 1780-1880)	New York	New York	\$45,000
New York Botanical Garden	Preservation of the Personal Papers Collection from the LuEsther T. Mertz Library's Archives	Bronx	Bronx	\$22,640
NYC Department of Records and Information Services	Manhattan Building Plans, East Village, Lower East Side	New York	New York	\$10,182

2024-
2025



Millbrook Library sign and exterior; Collection items from the Bennett College Archives housed at Millbrook Library.



The Documentary Heritage Program awarded \$92,000 to projects that improve access to materials that document people and communities that are typically under-represented in the historical records. The 2024-25 awardees are:

ORGANIZATION	PROJECT	CITY	COUNTY	AMOUNT
Brooklyn Public Library	Digitize portions of the Brooklyn Arts Council's (BAC) Folk Arts Collection	Brooklyn	Kings	\$20,500
College of Staten Island	Acquire and process collections in the New York City Disability Rights Archives	Staten Island	Richmond	\$8,591
Correctional Association of New York	Plan for the identification and collection of records created or received by CANY between 1980 and 2010	Brooklyn	Kings	\$25,000
Millbrook Library	Arrange and describe Bennett College Archives	Millbrook	Dutchess	\$15,466
Rochester Public Library	Arrange and describe collections documenting LGBTQ history in Rochester	Rochester	Monroe	\$7,522
Syracuse University	Create an online community archives of Black vernacular photography	Syracuse	Onondaga	\$14,921

The New York State Library and New York State Archives are honored to support these projects and encourage organizations to apply for future funding.

For information about the NYS Library Conservation/Preservation Program Discretionary Grants use our online contact form <https://nyslibrary.libwizard.com/fl/cp>.

For information about NYS Archives Documentary Heritage Program email DHS@nysed.gov.

INTERVIEW:

Waterville Historical Society's Debbie Conway

For decades, the Waterville Historical Society (WHS) has been a cornerstone of the community, preserving and sharing local history through its library, archives, exhibits, and programs. In 2019, a DHPSNY Archival Needs Assessment led WHS to reassess its preservation practices. From the transformative changes sparked by that first assessment to the goals set for WHS's recent Preservation Survey, volunteer Debbie Conway reflects on the Society's archival journey, recent milestones, and how their all-volunteer team continues to achieve ambitious goals despite limited resources.

Can you start by telling us a little about the Waterville Historical Society?

The Waterville Historical Society was established in 1966 by a group of dedicated residents interested in preserving local history. The Society's offices and museum are located at 220 E. Main St. in downtown Waterville, NY. WHS collects materials that document the history of both the Village of Waterville and the Town of Sangerfield, preserving them for the community and future generations. The Society makes these materials accessible to the public through

its library and archives, exhibits, programs, and online resources. WHS also advocates for the preservation of the Village and Town's historic structures, helping educate the community on the value of historic preservation. Members can participate in all aspects of the Society's mission, shaping its collections, programs, and future growth.

In 2019, the Society received a DHPSNY Archival Needs Assessment. How has WHS implemented recommendations from the assessment, and what impact have these changes had on the institution's archival practices?

WHS has implemented several recommendations from the 2019 assessment. The collection is now stored in archival-quality boxes, and we continue to work on rehousing materials in safer, more suitable conditions. This past winter, we secured a grant to replace the shelving in the collection storage room. Although the grant amount was reduced from our initial request, we were able to successfully raise the remaining funds through membership donations. This allowed us to replace our erector-set-like shelving with professional-quality Spacesaver shelving. Since we needed to remove the collections for this project, we took the opportunity to paint the ceiling, walls, and floor, enhancing the brightness of the space. We also added built-in shelving in areas not covered by the Spacesaver project. I would say this project has been transformative for our collection storage.



A hand-painted bicentennial sign by local artist Dale Roberts, featuring hops—symbolic of Waterville's historic role. By the end of the 19th century, the region produced 80% of the country's hops.



New Spacesaver shelving units.



Spacesaver shelving units and worktable in the WHS archives storage room.

Additionally, we have purchased dataloggers and a light meter. We are also using PastPerfect software to accession and track our collections. With the help of another grant, we are in the process of transitioning to the web version of PastPerfect, allowing multiple users to access the system simultaneously.

What prompted WHS to seek a Preservation Survey this year, and what do you hope to achieve with its findings?

We felt that with the enhancements we made since our previous assessment, it would be a good time for a Preservation Survey. We hope to receive guidance on effectively using and tracking the dataloggers and light readings, aiming to elevate our preservation practices and care for the collection. We also anticipate that the findings from the survey will assist us with future grant applications.

Can you speak to how WHS has accomplished significant archives and preservation goals with a part-time, volunteer staff?

We are a 100% volunteer staff, and we have all committed to being at the Center on Wednesdays when we are open to the public.

While there are times when one of us can't be there, we generally see each other at least once a week, maintaining regular communication through email, text, or calls. This consistent interaction helps us stay on track, allowing us to share what needs to happen and keep our projects moving forward.

Is there a particular item or story from the archival collections that holds personal significance for you?

I stepped away from WHS for a few years due to my career, so I have been actively involved again for just the last year. This spring, we received a donation of a coverlet made by weaver Bartlett French for Rhoda Loomis. The Loomis Gang, known for their notable role in the region's history, is one of the primary stories we tell and garners significant attention. The Loomis Gang was a group of notorious thieves in the mid-1800s, led by Rhoda Loomis and her family, who gained a reputation for their clever heists and escapes from law enforcement. Receiving this coverlet was an incredible addition to our collection, and I am thrilled we were able to acquire it during my involvement.



A large quilt created by community members depicting many Waterville sites and scenes.

What advice or recommendations would you offer to similar institutions interested in improving their preservation and archival practices?

I would encourage institutions to take full advantage of the DHPSNY assessments and other available resources. These tools are incredibly helpful, and the professionals we have worked with have been outstanding in their support and expertise.



Planning, Survey, and Assessment Sites across New York State

AWARDED FALL 2023 THROUGH SUMMER 2024

Preservation Surveys

- **Columbia-Greene Community College** (Hudson, Columbia County)
- **Cortland County Historical Society** (Cortland, Cortland County)
- **The Evergreens Cemetery Preservation Foundation** (Brooklyn, Kings County)
- **Manitoga/The Russel Wright Design Center** (Garrison, Putnam County)
- **Waterville Historical Society** (Waterville, Oneida County)
- **Woodstock Museum** (Saugerties, Ulster County)

Condition Surveys

- **Howland Stone Store Museum** (Aurora, Cayuga County)

Archival Needs Assessments

- **Albany Diocesan Cemeteries** (Menands, Albany County)
- **Albany, Schenectady, Greene County Agricultural & Historical Societies, Inc.** (Altamont, Albany County)
- **Cambridge Historical Society and Museum** (Cambridge, Washington County)
- **CUNY Haitian Studies Institute** (Brooklyn, Kings County)
- **Dundee Library** (Dundee, Yates County)
- **Everson Museum of Art** (Syracuse, Onondaga County)
- **Hornell Public Library** (Hornell, Steuben County)
- **Jamestown Community College Foundation—Hultquist Library** (Jamestown, Chautauqua County)



Manitoga/The Russel Wright Design Center.

- **Jewish Center and Federation of the Twin Tiers** (Elmira, Chemung County)
- **The New York Landmarks Conservancy** (New York, New York County)
- **New York Studio School** (New York, New York County)
- **North Chatham Historical Society** (North Chatham, Columbia County)
- **Prospect Park Alliance** (Brooklyn, Kings County)
- **Queens Historical Society** (Flushing, Queens County)
- **Saint Bartholomew's Church in the City of New York** (New York, New York County)
- **Saratoga Performing Arts Center** (Saratoga Springs, Saratoga County)
- **Sagtikos Manor Historical Society** (Bay Shore, Suffolk County)
- **The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts** (New York, New York County)
- **Yonkers Public Library** (Yonkers, Westchester County)

Strategic Planning

- **Chemung County Historical Society** (Elmira, Chemung County)
- **Lake Placid Olympic Museum** (Lake Placid, Essex County)
- **New Castle Historical Society** (Chappaqua, Westchester County)
- **Ogdensburg History Museum** (Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence County)
- **Percy Grainger Society** (White Plains, Westchester County)
- **Schenectady County Historical Society** (Schenectady, Schenectady County)

Foundational Planning Assistance

- **Pan Am Museum Foundation** (Garden City, Nassau County)
- **Project Children** (Greenwood, Orange County)
- **Sri Gnanapurani Madhvanath Memorial Library** (Rush, Monroe County)

QUESTIONS FOR OUR TEAM

Dyani Feige

CCAHA DIRECTOR OF PRESERVATION SERVICES



Can you share a bit about your journey into preservation and your role at DHPSNY?

I grew up in libraries; my dad worked for many years in the university library in the college town where we lived in northeast Ohio. I studied a completely different topic for my undergraduate degree, but meanwhile had a work-study job in the library the entire time. I graduated from my music business program in 2002 into a landscape where the music industry had completely shifted, so fell back to what I knew, which was library science. I went to a very practical graduate program, where most of my instructors were working professionals in New York City, so I had hands-on experience actually working with archival materials and special collections. I became passionate about the underpinning and critical importance of preservation in working with collections and focused my graduate studies accordingly.

DHPSNY is part of the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts (CCAHA)'s Preservation Services Department. As the Director of the department, I oversee most of CCAHA's education and outreach initiatives, working directly with collecting organizations to identify their preservation needs and strengthen their capacity. So, I work with DHPSNY in an administrative role, and also contribute to its Planning and Assessment projects as well as its education programs.

What do you enjoy most about your work with DHPSNY and supporting cultural heritage institutions?

My favorite parts of the job are the site visits themselves. Getting to see and learn about such a wide variety of collections is fascinating! And directly related to that, I really appreciate the projects (most of them, to be honest!) where I am challenged to solve a very specific issue or question for that particular site. While there are aspects of collections care and management that are almost universal or at least common, no two organizations share the exact same circumstance of resources, restraints, and questions; it can be somewhat of a puzzle to take the information I know about archives and preservation and adapt it to be the most feasibly helpful for a given situation.

Can you tell us about a memorable DHPSNY site visit? What stood out to you and made it special?

In 2017, I worked with the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History in Jamestown, NY. The Institute stewards the legacy of naturalist, artist, and "citizen scientist ornithologist" Peterson. I can't say I ever *quite* got into birding, but I have always loved nature illustrations, of both the flora and fauna variety. The Institute holds not only many exquisite, original artworks, but a reference collection of actual birds—hundreds of bird study skins dating back to the 19th century, representing a great diversity of species from around the world and including common, rare, and extinct species. Part of what I found so fascinating in working with this organization is that the skins really push the boundary of what "archives" comprise. No, they are not even close to being documents on paper, but they are critically important objects for research, still in use for study and projects by local scientists.



Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History.

What has been one of the most rewarding challenges you've encountered in preservation?

Just about every single preservation challenge comes down to resources. What I find rewarding is when I can work closely with an organization to determine scalable solutions to their concerns. I find it incredibly gratifying when I know that an organization has successfully advocated for impactful change, secured grant funding to implement a recommendation from a DHPSNY report or education program, and/or felt empowered to use the resources they already have in-house in a way they maybe hadn't considered previously.

Do you have a favorite location in New York State?

The Queens Zoo is one of the only locations in the U.S. that hosts my favorite animal—pudu, the smallest deer species in the world. I don't believe DHPSNY has worked with their collections to date but I do love to give the pudu a visit. The newest fawn was born just about a week before my birthday this past June.



Pudu fawn at a rehabilitation center, Rodrigo Fernandez.



DHPS|NY

DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE
& PRESERVATION SERVICES
FOR NEW YORK

264 S. 23RD STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

DHPS|NY *by the Numbers*



With approximately 5,000 collecting institutions in New York State, DHPSNY's goal is simple: to reach every single one with free programs, services, and other important resources. Whether your institution is interested in DHPSNY Planning & Assessment Services or attends a free webinar or workshop, we want each repository in the state to know that through DHPSNY, the New York State Archives and Library are here to help.

275

institutions awarded free planning and assessment services (total all time)

92

free webinar recordings available at dhpsny.org/webinars

488

DHPSNY Community Facebook group members

15,000

unique website visitors (in past year)



+      = 1,330,240

Your interactions with DHPSNY—through our website and social media—helped us achieve over **1,330,240 unique impressions** this year, strengthening connections with the professionals and volunteers who safeguard New York State's archival collections.