

NJS Presents**Teaching NJ History****In this Issue:*****New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance (NJSAA) Research Scholarship Announced*****By Melissa Ziobro with Gary D. Saretzky****DOI:**

NJS is pleased to help promote a new student research scholarship being offered by the NJSAA. This scholarship of \$300 is offered to support research on any aspect of New Jersey studies. It is open to high school and college students. For more information, to include requirements and application directions, click [here](#). Organized in 1992, the NJSAA promotes the teaching of New Jersey studies, collaboration on projects, and sharing of materials. Membership to the NJSAA is \$5.00 for one year, \$15.00 for three years. See more [here](#). What follows is a brief conversation between NJS editor Melissa Ziobro and recently retired Monmouth County archivist Gary D. Saretzky, who generously donated the seed money to begin this scholarship.

Ziobro: How long have you been involved with NJSAA?

Saretzky: I joined in 2000 and have served on various NJSAA committees. At the time I joined, NJSAA's main activities were to give awards that recognize achievement in teaching and writing on topics related to New Jersey history. Since then, NJSAA has expanded the types of awards and also now hosts lectures, free and open to the public, several times a year.

Ziobro: What do you like about the organization?

Saretzky: NJSAA is a non-profit organization and is all-volunteer. Members are enthusiastic about New Jersey history and I can't recall ever meeting anyone at an NJSAA

meeting that I didn't like personally. The topic seems to bring together a wonderful group of people several times a year who want to encourage scholarship in New Jersey studies. All the money collected in dues and donations is used for awards.

Ziobro: What would you say to someone who is considering joining?

Saretzky: Dues are \$5 per year and donations may qualify for a charitable deduction.

Ziobro: Tell me: who had the idea for this award and what inspired you to make this investment in the study of NJ history by students?

Saretzky: This award was originally proposed by Karl J. Niederer, formerly Executive Director of the Division of Archives and Records Management, State of New Jersey. Karl has been a leader in professional organizations and formerly served as NJSAA Secretary and on NJSAA's Development Committee. About 26 years ago, Karl recommended me as an archives consultant to the Monmouth County Clerk, then Jane Clayton. That led to my being hired by Jane as the Monmouth County Archivist and I had a wonderful experience there from 1994 until I retired in 2019. To honor Karl, I made a donation to NJSAA to get this new award off the ground.

Ziobro: I look forward to seeing the interesting scholarship that will benefit from this investment in the study of NJ history by a new generation of scholars!