

## **Ridgewood Public Library Proposal for History & Cultural Center of Bergen County Programming & Contributions**

The Ridgewood Public Library is excited to collaborate with the new History & Cultural Center of Bergen County to offer engaging, accessible, and enriching programming that brings local history to life for our community. With the Zabriskie-Schedler House as a unique setting, we're proposing a mix of monthly gatherings, hands-on workshops, and interactive experiences that connect the past to the present in meaningful ways.

### **Programs & Events**

#### **The Schedler Book Parlor**

Step into the parlor of the Zabriskie-Schedler House for a monthly book group dedicated to historical fiction. Together we'll read and discuss stories from the past while sitting inside a piece of history itself. Titles will range from sweeping historical epics to intimate period dramas, all selected to spark conversation around the eras they represent.

#### **History Pub Quiz: Revolutionary Edition**

A cozy, pub-style trivia night featuring questions on Revolutionary history, local Bergen County events, colonial music, food, and fashion. This is an easy-to-run, high-engagement event for all ages. Add-ons: Themed bookmarks, small prizes, or even colonial-themed mocktails can be offered.

#### **Porch/Lawn/Parlor Concert: Songs of Early America**

Invite a folk musician or small ensemble to perform songs from the late 1700s, with brief commentary on the lyrics, instruments, and cultural context. This can take place on the porch or in the parlor with windows open. Encourage the audience to join in for a sing-along or refrain or two. A perfect mix of education and entertainment.

#### **Taste of 1776**

Host a tasting event featuring small bites made from historic recipes—syllabub, johnnycakes, shrub drinks, and other colonial-era treats—accompanied by stories about the dishes' origins and their place in daily life. Possible partners: Local café, food historian.

#### **How to Research the History of Your House**

Offer a practical class teaching residents how to dig into the history of their home or property using deeds, maps, census records, and other resources. Include tools and tips from the Ridgewood Library's Heritage Center and Bergen County archives.

### **Digitizing Your Family History**

Host a hands-on workshop using Ridgewood Library's scanning and digitization equipment, paired with training on how to preserve and share family photos, documents, and stories. Promote access to the Heritage Catalog and encourage contributions to community archives.

### **Oral Histories Exhibit: Storytellers @ RPL**

Share voices from our community through a rotating exhibit of oral histories collected by the library. Stories can be accessed at the Cultural Center or virtually, adding a personal lens to local history. Could be paired with audio listening stations or QR codes on a map.

### **Digital Ridgewood Map / Virtual Tour**

Work with the Cultural Center to develop an interactive, digital map of Ridgewood with historical photos, stories, and walking tour points. This could live on both the Center's and the Library's websites and be offered as a virtual tour for schools, visitors, and lifelong learners.

### **Co-Sponsor 250th Anniversary Lectures**

The Library is happy to collaborate on the 250th anniversary of the United States with speaker suggestions, logistics support, or co-hosting lectures. If needed, we can offer additional space for events or exhibits.

### **Additional Contributions**

- Provide a high-resolution black-and-white print or digital copy of our historic Ridgewood panorama.
- Schedler can serve as a backup or overflow space for the Genealogical Society of Bergen County (GSBC) or other Bolger Heritage Center programs as needed.