*Treasurer-Elect Candidate*

**Name:** Stephanie T. Gold

**Education:** Simmons Graduate School of Library Science, Masters of Science, Archives Management, 2008; Eastern Connecticut State University, Bachelor of Arts, History with American Studies, 2005

**Employment:** Assistant Archivist, Andrew Mellon Library, Choate Rosemary Hall. Present; Project Archivist, Special Collections & Archives, Wesleyan University; Archivist, Archdiocese of Hartford; Archives Fellow, National Archives & Records Administration, Northeast Region; Volunteer, Maine Historical Society; Intern, Robert D. Farber University Archives & Special Collections, Brandeis University; Intern, American Antiquarian Society; Intern, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution.

**Service to New England Archivists:** Member since 2008

**Service to Archives Profession:** consulting on community led projects such as newspaper digitization efforts at the Archdiocese of Hartford, and at Choate Rosemary Hall; Local public library friend’s group; and National History judge

**Candidate Statement: What do you consider to be one of the greatest challenges archivists in New England are facing at present, and what are potential paths NEA can take to address this issue?**

Archivists find themselves faced with the greatest issues we have ever faced in the last 100 years. We all know what the current pandemic has done to our own programs and budgets. Quite frankly, many of us are worn down from the past year: personally, mentally, physically, professionally. We did not learn in our college or graduate classes how to teach primary sources virtually to our students, but somehow last year, we figured it out. Or how to complete a digitization project when we cannot physically access our collections that are to be digitized before the end of a fiscal year, or risk losing that grant money. We broke the rules of “never let anything out of the archives” and gingerly took a collection home to scan or arrange and describe because we finally had the time to fully devote to it. In my eyes, this has to be the year that we share our own experiences, display the most case studies, discuss the most lessons learned. This should be the year that we lean on our NEA colleagues the most. We need to add the stories, examples, lessons, failures, you name it, from all corners of our members’ archives: federal, private, public, corporate, academic, independent schools, etc.

How do we do that in a COVID world? If I learned anything last year, it is that you can work from home as an archivist. Most of us now know how to attend virtual meetings with Zoom, Google Meet, etc. Let us use these tools in NEA to include those who cannot physically travel, or pay for travel due to reduced budgets, to allow access to these sessions. Many of us hosted a virtual meeting or successfully ran a remote class in the last year. This can widen the field for NEA to obtain additional session presenters for our meetings. Not that we are rushing at the chance to sign up for another session to be on our computers, but this can at least help to reduce costs for many of us, while still allowing for the flow of ideas, right from the comfort of our office, home, RV, or wherever we log in from these days!

Furthermore, budgets across every department are being cut or frozen, and archives’ budgets are not excluded. I fear that while faced with making cuts, our fellow archivists will question their professional memberships. We need to prove as a group that we are not worth cutting. Veteran archivist or not, we are all rookies here in the COVID (hopefully soon post-COVID) world. We need to rely on each other’s knowledge, best practices, and sometimes, shots in the dark that end up working out well, or not well. We need a large, diverse pool of colleagues to be able to do that. Luckily for us, we have this great group called the New England Archivists that is in our own backyard (or a little further) to turn to. We are in this together!