

**Come Explore the Joys of Summit at the Fall Meeting of the
League of Historical Societies of New Jersey**

By Alice W. Gibson, Northern Vice President

The fall meeting of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey will be held at the Calvary Episcopal Church, hosted by the Summit Historical Society on Saturday, November 4 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting will begin with welcoming remarks by Jane McNeil, president, LHSNJ; Patricia E. Meola, president, Summit Historical Society; and Summit Mayor Nora Radest, followed by a historical overview from Calvary Church Rector Matthew T.L. Corkern.

The church is known for its beautiful stained glass windows, including a magnificent rose window by Louis Comfort Tiffany. Its history dates back to 1854 when sixteen families began the congregation that grew to 1154 congregants by 2017. It houses an outstanding concert pipe organ, which will be played by organist Kevin Davis for a short concert.

The keynote speaker for the event is author and preservationist Janet W. Foster. In her talk, "This Happened Here...but it is hard to see now," she will point out how preservation can serve to raise awareness of local history and as a tool for local reinvestment and community planning. During the illustrated lecture, Ms. Foster will show examples of successful projects and those that were not so successful. A question and answer period will follow.

Ms. Foster is an adjunct professor in the Historic Preservation Program at Columbia University. She has published many articles and books focused on New Jersey architecture. She lives in Madison with her husband in a Queen Anne house they have restored.

Following lunch, the activities of the day include a self-guided tour of the Historic District of Summit, which is known for its outstanding shopping area of high-end stores. Other places available to visit are the 1741 Carter House, with its Victorian-style library and colonial kitchen with a bee-hive oven. Be sure to see the Reeves-Reed Arboretum, which is famous for its 255 rose bushes and wonderful collection of trees from all over the world. The Summit Playhouse will be open for participants to see and the famous Summit Diner with the nearby horse trough are on the tour.

Thanks go to Patricia Meola, Caroline Lindabury, Donald J. Peck and other members of the Summit Historical Society for their great work in bringing this event together.

Please see next two pages for information on reserving a place at this meeting.

The League of Historical Societies Fall Meeting

Hosted by Calvary Episcopal Church and the Summit Historical Society
31 Woodland Ave., Summit NJ 07901 (at Calvary Church)

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2017

www.summithistoricalsociety.org, 908-277-1747 (day of event: 908-334-8218)

AGENDA

9:00 a.m. – Meet in the church. Registration, continental breakfast, information table.

9:15 a.m. – Welcome from Jane McNeil, president, LHSNJ; greetings from Patricia E. Meola, president, Summit Historical Society; welcome from Summit Mayor Nora Radest; historical overview from Calvary Church Rector Matthew T. L. Corkern

9:45 a.m. – League business meeting

10:15 a.m. – Coffee break.

10:30 a.m. Return to seats in the church for an organ concert by Kevin Davis, organist & choirmaster at Calvary

11:00 a.m. – Keynote speaker Janet W. Foster, “This Happened Here...but it’s hard to see now.” History can live in documents, illustrations, artifacts and in oral traditions. It can even live in buildings, designed landscapes and urban spaces. But keeping the physical form of the building environment as both a useful, well-maintained thing AND as a repository for a history of people, places and things has proven to be a significant challenge. What are the barriers and the pitfalls in linking history and building preservation? Can preservation serve as a way to raise awareness of local history, as a way of engaging new audiences, and as a tool for local reinvestment and community planning? Examples of the successful use of historic preservation to promote local history as well as not-so-successful examples will be used in this illustrated lecture.

Janet Foster is an architectural historian and historic preservation consultant with over 30 years of experience with New Jersey’s buildings. She did graduate work at, and later worked for, Columbia University’s Graduate School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation as associate director for the Urban Planning & Historic Preservation Programs. She continues as an adjunct professor in the Historic Preservation Program. She has published numerous articles and books focused on New Jersey architecture, among them *Building By the Book: Pattern-book Architecture in New Jersey* and *The Queen Anne House: America’s Victorian Vernacular*. Foster lives in Madison with her husband in a Queen Anne-style house they restored.

12:15 p.m. – bag lunch in Parish Hall.

1:15 – 3:15 p.m. – Self-guided tours within Summit, featuring the 1741 Carter House (home of the Summit Historical Society), the Summit Playhouse, the Reeves-Reed Arboretum, the Summit Diner and nearby historic horse trough, and the city’s retail district, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. (Driving directions will be provided.)

Registration and payment may be done **by filling out the section below** and mailing it to the Summit Historical Society, PO Box 464, Summit NJ 07902-0464. Your check for \$25 may be made payable to the society. Please return sign-up forms before October 28.

Please select a sandwich choice for lunch:

Turkey, provolone, lettuce, tomato & honey mustard

Portobello, roasted pepper, shaved parmesan, greens & Caesar sauce

Cape Cod chicken salad (no nuts)

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

City State/Zip _____ Phone _____

Affiliation _____

Lunch choice _____

QUESTIONS?—Call the Summit Historical Society, 908-277-1747, ahead of time and on the morning of the event.

SUGGESTED HOTELS, both within walking distance of Calvary Church:
The Grand Summit Hotel, 570 Springfield Ave., 908-273-3000
The DeBary Inn, 265 Springfield Ave., 908-277-0005

DIRECTIONS TO Calvary Episcopal Church, 31 Woodland Avenue (at Calvary Church), Summit, NJ

FROM THE EAST, NORTHEAST, AND SOUTH

Use the New Jersey Turnpike or Garden State Parkway to I-78 West (local lanes). Take Exit 48/ Route 24 West. Proceed BEYOND initial Summit exits to **Exit 8/Summit Avenue**. Turn left at light and follow Summit Avenue approximately 1.1 miles through a residential area to the beginning of the business district. Turn right at the first light onto DeForest Avenue. Church campus is three blocks on the right at the 2nd light.



FROM THE WEST

Take 1-78 East (local lanes) to Exit 48/Route 24 West. Proceed BEYOND initial Summit exits to **Exit 8/Summit Avenue**. Turn left at light and follow Summit Avenue approximately 1.1 miles through a residential area to the beginning of the business district. Turn right at the first light onto DeForest Avenue. Church campus is three blocks on the right at the 2nd light.

FROM THE NORTH AND NORTHWEST

Use 1-287 South to Exit 37: Route 24 East. Proceed to **Exit 8/Summit Avenue**. Turn right at light and follow Summit Avenue approximately 1.1 miles through a residential area to the beginning of the business district. Turn right at the first light onto DeForest Avenue. Church campus is three blocks on the right at the 2nd light.

MURAL IN SEARS NEEDS A NEW HOME



For over fifty years, this mural has graced the wall of the Sears store in Watchung, New Jersey. Now Sears is about to be demolished, and the Watchung Historical Committee is searching for a new home for the painting by Garfield Hunter Jones. It depicts Lenape Chief One Feather, Dutch Capt. Michaelson, and Princess Wetumpka. One Feather didn't trust the captain, but the princess vouched for his character, so he was allowed to settle in the area.

The committee has launched a GoFundMe site, www.gofundme.com/removal-and-conservation-of-mural, in hopes of raising the \$40,000 needed to save the mural and move it to a new home in the borough. No taxpayer money

will be used to take the mural off the concrete wall in the store, repair and clean it, and mount it elsewhere. The developer, Seritage Growth Properties, has already pledged \$5000.

For many years in the early 20th century, "The Legend of Watchung" was reenacted in elaborate productions. Sheet music for the plays is preserved in the borough's Texier House Museum.