



LEAGUE NEWS

The Newsletter of the
League of Historical Societies of New Jersey

Vol. 35 No. 3

www.lhsnj.org

August 2009

**Fall Meeting
Montrose Park
Historic District,
South Orange,
Essex County
October 3, 2009**

Article and
registration form
on page 9, 11-12.

LEAGUE OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES OF NEW JERSEY 2008 PUBLICATION AWARDS

The following awards for works published in 2008 were presented at the League meeting on June 13, 2009, at the Youth Temple in Ocean Grove.

Books:

1st Place: *Greetings from Hoboken – A Postcard History*
Hoboken Historical Museum & Cultural Center

2nd Place: *Lake Hopatcong, Then & Now 2008*
Lake Hopatcong Historical Museum

Journals:

1st Place: *Township of Union Bicentennial Magazine, 1808-2008*
Union Township Historical Society

3rd Place: *Bayonne Historical Society Memorial
Ceremony for the CNJ Drawbridge Victims*
Bayonne Historical Society

Poster or Display Item:

1st Place: *Greetings from Hoboken: A Postcard History*
Hoboken Historical Museum & Cultural
Center

2nd Place: *Heaven, Hell or Hoboken*
Hoboken Historical Museum & Cultural Center

3rd Place: *Dollhouses, Dioramas & Roomboxes*
Historical Society of Ocean Grove

Calendars:

1st Place: *Greetings from Hoboken—*
Hoboken Historical Museum & Cultural Center

2nd Place: *Hoboken Kids with Cameras*
Hoboken Historical Museum & Cultural Center

3rd Place: *Longport, New Jersey 2009 Historical Calendar*
Longport Historical Society

3rd Place: *South River Historical & Preservation Society, Inc*
South River Historical & Preservation Society, Inc.

Newsletters:

1st Place: *Tuckerton Seaport Newsletter*
Tuckerton Seaport

1st Place: *Hoboken Historical Museum Newsletter*
Hoboken Historical Museum & Cultural Center

2nd Place: *The Beam*
The New Jersey Lighthouse Society, Inc.

3rd Place: *The Society Scroll*
Ocean County Historical Society

Pamphlets:

1st Place: *Ocean City Historical Museum*
Ocean City Historical Museum

2nd Place: *The Fruit Truck*
Hoboken Historical Museum & Cultural Center

3rd Place: *Ocean Grove 40th Annual House Tour*
Historical Society of Ocean Grove

DVDs:

1st Place: *Ocean Grove Victorian Architecture*
Historical Society of Ocean Grove

2nd Place: *Perth Amboy Neighborhoods, The Danish Cycle,
1860-1935—Danish Archive Northeast (DANE)*

T
I
E

T
I
E

The Slate of Officers and Directors of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey

Listed below are your officers and trustees:

President (2010)

J.B. Vogt
Fellowship for Metlar House

First Vice President (2009)

Robert J. Hunter
Haddon Heights Historical Society

Vice-President, Northern (2010)

Catherine Sullivan
Victorian Society

Vice-President, Central (2009)

Mary Swarbrick
Fellowship for Metlar House

Vice-President, Southern (2010)

June Sheridan
Atlantic County Historical Society

Secretary (2010)

Kevin M. Hale
Metuchen-Edison Historical Society

Treasurer (2010)

Dorothy M. Andrew
Gloucester County Historical Society

Trustee, Northern (2010)

Dorothy E. Johnson
Oakeside-Bloomfield Cultural Center

Trustee, Northern (2010)

Betty Hardy
Madison Historical Society

Trustee, Central (2010)

Jeffrey McVey
Lambertville Historical Society

Trustee, Central (2010)

Donald Peck
Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance

Trustee, Southern (2010)

Sonia L. Forry
Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township

Trustee, Southern (2008)

Jean C. Lacey
Toms River Seaport Society

Trustee-at-Large (2010)

Timothy Hart
Barnegat Bay Decoy & Baymen's Museum

Trustee-at-Large (2010)

Robert R. Longcore
Andover Historical Society

Historian (2010)

Sylvia Mogerman
Phil Kearny Civil War Round Table

The following are valuable members of our board, but they are not elected positions:

Executive Director

Linda J. Barth, 214 North Bridge Street, Somerville, NJ 08876; 908-722-7428; barths@att.net

Membership Chairman

Dorothy Pietrowski
Madison Historical Society

Trustees Emeriti

Bernard Bush
Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society
Ruth Kane Fern
Passaic County Historical Society

INSIDE:

November ballot issue and publication awards, p. 3

Visit South Orange. p. 4

Boardwall Hall organ tours and Letters to the Editor, p. 6

Calendar of Events, p. 7-8

Spotlight on Members, p. 10

Information, October meeting, p. 11-12

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

What a terrific day we had at Ocean Grove! It was good to see some friends from the past and to make new ones. It's what makes our meetings so special for me.

One of the benefits of getting together with you at meetings is that you continue to give us good ideas about how we can improve. Sometimes finances or manpower prevent us from implementing them even though we wish we could. At this meeting we received a wonderful suggestion from Betty Wagner (of Cranbury) and we are excited to share it with you. Betty observed that it wasn't possible to know which people in the room were board members. She explained that it would be helpful to be able to identify the trustees and vice-president from her region, as well as to know the secretary, treasurer and membership chair who are usually visible.

As a board, we hadn't considered this before. What a good idea and how easy to do! At the October meeting in South Orange, as we come to the podium, we will take greater care to introduce ourselves to you. We'll recognize all the board members who are present by having them stand for you to see. Between now and then, we'll be thinking about how we can best distinguish them by region. We'd like you to know and freely communicate with your regional representatives. You'll find that they're the first line of help when regional meetings are being arranged. And, we hope that, at some time, you will each host a meeting.

As always, we welcome your feedback and participation. The League is your organization; it is here to serve YOU!

JB Vogt, President

DEADLINE: Submissions for the January issue of *League News* must be on the editor's desk no later than December 15, 2009. Please send all items to: Linda Barth, 214 North Bridge Street, Somerville, New Jersey 08876; barths@att.net.

Material submitted electronically should be in WORD format. Photographs will be scanned and returned. Digital photographs should be submitted in .jpeg or .tiff.



HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOKS WANTED

Ron Bogdan of Princeton buys various high school yearbooks. If you or your organization receive donations of such books from any sources in your town, please consider turning them into cash donations from him. Ron can be reached at ronb124@yahoo.com or 866-444-1656.



VOTERS TO DECIDE IN NOVEMBER: WILL NJ HISTORIC TRUST GRANTS AND OPEN SPACE AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION CONTINUE?

On June 25, the State Legislature voted with strong bipartisan support in the Senate (26 Yes, 7 No) and Assembly (66 Yes, 9 No, 3 Abstain) to let the New Jersey voters decide in November whether to continue the state's investments in open space. The 129-organization coalition, the New Jersey – Keep It Green Campaign, with Preservation New Jersey as a leading member of the group, applauded this overwhelming support.

The timing was crucial, with the Garden State Preservation Trust essentially empty and no longer able to fund NJ Historic Trust restoration grants or undertake new land preservation vital to New Jersey's water supply, health, and prosperity. The GSPT has been pivotal in supporting statewide and local efforts to provide for open space, parks, farmland preservation, and historic preservation.

Twelve senators and thirty-seven assembly members sponsored or co-sponsored the legislation. "Our elected officials have put their faith in voters to make the call on the future of New Jersey's open space," said Thomas Gilmore, Chairman of the NJ-Keep It Green coalition that favors the \$400 million bond issue. "Every time New Jersey voters have been given that choice in a statewide ballot, they have voted in favor of open space investments because of the immediate and future value we experience for ourselves, our children, and our grandchildren." Voters have approved all twelve of the statewide open space ballot issues since 1961.

The NJ-Keep It Green coalition highlighted the leadership of prime sponsors Senator Bob Smith and Assemblyman John F. McKeon and the leadership of Senators Stephen M. Sweeney, Robert M. Gordon, James Beach, and Thomas H. Kean, Jr. and Assembly members Celeste M. Riley, Jon M. Bramnick, Louis D. Greenwald, Joan M. Quigley, L. Harvey Smith, and Joseph R. Malone.

LEAGUE ELECTION

During the October meeting at Montrose Park, we will conduct the election for the 2009-2010 year. On the ballot are Catherine Sullivan, Victorian Society, for the position of First Vice President and Mary Swarbrick, Fellowship for Metlar House, as Vice-President, Central Region.

ANNUAL PUBLICATION AWARDS PROGRAM FOR 2009

The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey announces its **ANNUAL PUBLICATION AWARDS PROGRAM** and invites its member organizations to submit entries. Awards will be given for works published in the year 2009, in the following categories:

**BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, NEWSLETTERS, JOURNALS, CALENDARS,
POSTERS, and OTHER MEDIA (AUDIO CASSETTES/CDs,
VIDEO CASSETTES/DVDS)**

For works published in 2009, awards will be presented at the league meeting in **June 2010**. The deadline for submission of entries is **JANUARY 31, 2010**. Please send your entries to: **Publication Awards Committee, League of Historical Societies of NJ, c/o New Jersey Historical Society, 52 Park Place, Newark, NJ 07102**.

There is no entry form. Simply include a brief note describing the items you are submitting. For further information, contact Linda Barth, Executive Director, LHSNJ, at 908-722-7428, barths@att.net, 214 North Bridge Street, Somerville, New Jersey 08876. Please **DO NOT** send entries to this address.

VISIT SOUTH ORANGE, NEW JERSEY

On Saturday, October 3, 2009, the Montrose Park Historic District Association (MPHDA) in South Orange Village will host the Fall Meeting of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey at St. Andrew's and Holy Communion Church. We hope you will join us for an informative and fun day. In addition to the meeting, attendees will have an opportunity to learn about the history of our village and participate in two self-guided tours: St. Andrew & Holy Communion's sanctuary with its renowned Tiffany stained glass windows, and two fabulous homes in the Montrose Park Historic District. Naoma Welk, author of the bestselling Arcadia press publications, *Images of America South Orange* and *Images of America South Orange Revisited*, will present a lecture and slideshow overview of the history of South Orange Village.

MPHDA was established in 1994 as a part of a grassroots preservation effort initiated by several Montrose Park residents. Fundraising and publicity efforts, including the *Montrose in May Historic House Tour*, as well as extensive research, resulted in the 1997 designation of Montrose Park on both the State and National Historic Registers. Today, the formalized association of that grassroots effort is MPHDA, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, whose mission is to promote, preserve, and document the history of Montrose Park and South Orange.



Through the mid-19th century, much of South Orange Village and the surrounding area was open farmland. A map from 1860, when South Orange was part of Orange, shows only a few streets with several houses clustered along South Orange Avenue. Circa 1860, John Gorham Vose, a lawyer and businessman from New York, began spending summers in the Orange Valley (an area adjacent to present-day South Orange) and was taken with its natural beauty. He soon bought farmland, eventually owning over 175 acres, and developed a garden suburb he called Montrose Park. When Vose sold off parcels of his property, the deeds restricted building to large houses, "suitable for a gentleman's country residence," on sizeable lots. He further banned commercial enterprises and public buildings, excepting churches. Later developers, including Thomas S. Kingman, expanded Montrose Park and adopted similar restrictions. The deed restrictions initiated by Vose and Kingman have clearly helped to maintain the character of the area.

Today, Montrose Park exists as the elegant suburban development envisioned by Vose. Primarily a residential neighborhood, it is characterized by elegant, large-scale homes, dating from the last quarter of the nineteenth century through the late 1930s. These architecturally-significant houses are set on large, landscaped lots, outlined by bluestone sidewalks and curbs, framed by mature trees and shrubbery, and lit by Victorian gaslight. Historic Preservation Consultant Ulana Zakalak reported that "with over 500 contributing properties, Montrose Park is one of the largest historic districts in the State of New Jersey." Montrose homes represent a variety of architectural styles from the Victorian period including: Queen Anne, Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, Italian Renaissance Revival, Shingle Style, Stick Style, and Arts & Crafts Influence.

We hope you will visit South Orange and learn more about MPHDA at the Fall Meeting of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey on October 3, 2009. Use the form on page 11 to sign up and join us for a fabulous fall day in South Orange!

MPHDA, P.O. Box 953, South Orange, NJ 07079; 973-763-1880; www.MontroseParkSONJ.org



RIVERTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS WIN AWARD

Congratulations to Betty Hahle and John McCormick, of the Riverton Historical Society, who received a historic preservation award from the Burlington County Board of Freeholders.

Betty and John were recognized for their restoration of the 1926 film, *"The Romance of Riverton,"* with a redux version of the film, thereby making it more accessible to a modern audience.

NAVAL AIR STATION WILDWOOD AVIATION MUSEUM RECEIVES V.F.W. EDUCATION GRANT

Brigantine V.F.W. Post 6964 awarded NAS Wildwood Aviation Museum a grant for \$2,000 to help expand the education curriculum at historic Hangar #1. V.F.W. Quartermaster Bob Ferris toured the museum and personally informed museum director Dr. Joseph Salvatore of the grant award. The funds will help the museum's educational outreach program continue efforts to educate school groups and the general public about those who served our country.

NAS Wildwood Aviation Museum boasts over twenty-six aircraft displays as well as exhibits of military memorabilia, engines, photographs, and interactive exhibits that allow visitors to discover the science of flight and more. Museum admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for children aged 3 -12, under age 3 free. Hours of operation are 9:00 to 5:00, Monday through Sunday rain or shine. Don't forget to bring your camera!

Naval Air Station Wildwood Aviation Museum is located in Historic Hangar No. 1 at the Cape May Airport, which was formerly Naval Air Station Wildwood, a World War II dive-bomber training center. The museum is dedicated to the forty-two airmen who perished while training at Naval Air Station Wildwood between 1943 and 1945.

For more information, contact Bruce Fournier at 609-886-8787 by email at bruce-nasw@comcast.net or visit the hangar's website, www.usnasw.org.

BUSINESSES AROUND OUR STATE:

Please say thanks to our advertisers by patronizing their businesses throughout the state. Invite businesses in your area to advertise in the League News for publicity around the Garden State. Remind them that over **55,000 members** will see their ad. Business owners may contact Linda Barth at 908-722-7428 or barths@att.net. Our advertising schedule:

- ◆ **Business card size ad, \$100 each; \$85 each for three issues.**
- ◆ **1/4 page ad, \$125 each; \$100 each for three issues.**

Museum Consulting Services:

Grantwriting:

Will help identify funding sources and prepare grant applications for your organization.

Collections Consulting:

Surveys, Storage Plans, Costume & Textile Conservation

To discuss any upcoming project, please contact Rebecca S. Chen

(732) 339-1272

rchen08904@verizon.net



**CICCONE ARCHIVAL
CONSULTING, LLC**

archives & records management services - oral histories -
surveys & assessments - workshops & presentations

*serving all of New Jersey, New York City
and eastern Pennsylvania*

Joseph M. Ciccone, J.D., C.A., owner
732-568-1441 / jciccone@cicconearchives.com

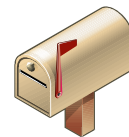
www.cicconearchives.com

WHAT IS THE C.A.P.E.S. PROGRAM AND HOW CAN IT HELP YOUR SOCIETY?

C.A.P.E.S. is the Caucus Archival Projects Evaluation Service which provides a professional assessment of the of historical collections (paper items) held by New Jersey archives, libraries, historical societies, and other agencies. The evaluation is conducted by consultants of the New Jersey Caucus of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference

Your society may apply for a CAPES grant through the New Jersey Historical Commission. There is no deadline; at your convenience, just submit the form, which is available on the commission's website www.state.nj.us/state/divisions/historical/grants/. You may contact the CAPES Coordinator, Elizabeth Shepard, at 973-744-0191 or capescoordinator@gmail.com.

LETTERS, WE GET LETTERS....



My initial inquiry to one member has magically produced many emails regarding restoration of our founding father's portraits! They are still coming in. I thanked each member, but I needed to let you know how much we appreciate the League's help!

Marge Disch, Secretary, Merchantville Historical Society

Richard Dreyfus said it well when he commented that “Americans need to know America again.”

At a recent meeting of the Harmony Township Historical Society, we captured some of his meaning by showing the NJN film, “Ten Crucial Days—The Road to Liberty.” The story is told of General Washington’s Continental Army, after its long retreat across New Jersey, undertaking the perilous crossing of the Delaware River several times under very trying conditions to defeat the British and Hessians at the battles of Trenton and Princeton. The ten days portrayed in this turning point of America’s struggle for independence and the birth of the democracy we now enjoy is a must for all our citizens to revisit in order to appreciate what we have and what our forebears went through to get it for us.

I believe that two dramatic steps need to be taken to help Americans to “know America again.” First, every school curriculum needs to spend more time educating its students as to what our past heroes have gone through to bring us our freedom. Second, to better educate all of our citizens, I believe that our national government needs to combine the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Washington Crossing state parks into one gigantic national historic park, depicting those striking “Ten Crucial Days” with a visitor center as dramatic as the one that recently opened at Gettysburg National Military Park.

Henry F. Skirbst, President, Harmony Township Historical Society; life member American Legion and NJEA

Editor’s note: We encourage Mr. Skirbst and the Harmony Township Historical Society to contact the National Park Service and the New Jersey Department of Education with these suggestions.

SAVE THE DATE!

The 2010 Spirit of the Jerseys State History Fair is set for Saturday, May 1st at Washington Crossing State Park, Titusville, NJ from 11am - 5pm. Please visit the website, www.njhistoryfair.org for updates and general information. Inquiries can also be made to Historyfair@dep.state.nj.us.

Beverly A. Weaver, Supervisor, Office of Historic Sites, 609-777-0238

BOARDWALK HALL ORGAN TOURS

The Atlantic City Convention Hall Organ Society now has an arrangement with the hall management to provide tours of the two historic organs located in Boardwalk Hall: the Kimball in the Ballroom and the Midmer Losh in the Arena. The Midmer Losh is the world’s largest pipe organ, and Boardwalk Hall is a National Historic Landmark.

Both organs have been recognized by the Organ Historical Society as historic and significant instruments, and both are being restored and are a Save Americas Treasures project. Visitors see not only the organs but the hall as well. The tours take 2 – 2.5 hours and are offered on the first and third Tuesday of the month. Reservations are required and may be made by sending your request to acchostour@gmail.com or by calling 609-884-6472. The society’s website is www.acchos.org.



Harry Bellangy, Greater Cape May Historical Society and the Atlantic City Convention Hall Organ Society

HISTORY EVENTS AND EXHIBITS — 2009

Through October 2009: New Exhibit—American Quilts: Our Cranbury Collection. Immerse yourself in a sampling of quilts culled from the collection of the **Cranbury Historical & Preservation Society** and its members. Spanning a period of over 160 years, the exhibit features a variety of quilt patterns, colors, designs and materials. Cranbury Museum, 4 Park Place East, Cranbury 08512; 609-655-2611. Open Sundays, 1 to 4, or by appointment.

Saturday, September 5—Hear ye! Hear ye! **Ocean County Historical Society** invites you to participate in the 23rd **Olde Time Antiques and Collectibles Faire** in the Ocean County parking garage and adjacent lot between Hooper and Madison avenues in downtown Toms River 08753. 9:00-4:00. For more information, call 732-341-1880 or email bduas@aol.com.

Saturday, September 5—Tewksbury Flea Market, 8 am to 2 pm, Route 517, ½ mile north of the village of Oldwick. (Rain date, Sunday September 6.) Vendor cost: \$30 per space. General public: free admission and free parking. Food available for purchase. **Tewksbury Historical Society**, P.O. Box 457, Oldwick, NJ 08858; 908-832-6734; www.tewksburyhistory.net.

September 12, 14 to 17—Exhibit of a *Revolutionary War Document* –The Orderly Book carried by a soldier fighting for our liberty. \$1/person. **Van Riper-Hopper House Museum**, www.WayneTownship.com and click on History. 973-694-7192.

Wednesday, September 16—“The Jewish Newport on the Jersey Shore” - Jean Klerman, Director of the Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County, presents a slide show on the subject. Senior Center at the Atlantic Highlands Marina at the foot of First Ave, 7:30 pm. **Atlantic Highlands Historical Society**. www.atlantichighlandshistory.org; 732-291-1861.

Thursday, September 17—Revolutionary War Soldier. Eric Olsen of National Park Service portrays a Continental soldier. \$3/person. 7 pm. **Van Riper-Hopper House Museum**, 07470; 973-694-7192.

Saturday and Sunday, September 19th and 20th—Old-time Farmstead Festival and Craft Show at the **Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead Museum**. Flax-processing, quilt-making, weaving, basket-making, rug-hooking, doll-making, pottery-making, blacksmithing, beekeeping, petting zoo, colonial outdoor cooking, wool-spinning, “wild garden” products, barrel-making and chicks hatching. Herb society garden will be open. Old-time games for children, 1-3 each day; Lenape artifacts display; story hour. Draft horse field exhibition, 12-4 both days, weather permitting. 1605 Daniel Bray (Rte 29) Lambertville, NJ 08530 (by the Rte 202 Delaware River Bridge north of Lambertville). 10-5, rain or shine. Donation, 5, for adults; children 6-12, \$3.00; children 5 and under, free.

Monday, September 21—Victorian Architecture, presented by Mark Cooper Hewitt. **Victorian Society in America, NNJ Chapter**, Montclair Women's Club, 82 Union Street Montclair, 8 pm. For info, call Catherine at 973-762-6453.

Sunday, September 27 - Boonton Day Celebration. Don't forget to visit the **Boonton Historical Society** booth on Main Street where costumed hosts will dispense goodies, and provide information concerning the museum and upcoming programs. For details, contact the **Boonton Historical Society** at 973-402-8840 or boontonhistory@yahoo.com; www.boonton.org.

Saturday, October 3—Tour of Greenwood Cemetery, featuring “Soup to Die For.” Join us for our annual cemetery tour, this year featuring noteworthy townfolk resting in Greenwood Cemetery. Why not start the tour at the Museum, 210 Main Street, with some warm home made soup served in Boontonware bowls. Price of the soup includes the bowl! For details, contact the **Boonton Historical Society** at 973-402-8840 or boontonhistory@yahoo.com; www.boonton.org.

Saturday, October 3—Bottle Hill Day, downtown Madison. **Madison Historical Society, Museum of Early Trades and Crafts**, and many other community groups. Children's activities, car show, food, vendors, sidewalk sales. Go back in time with the New Jersey Frontier Guard and learn about life during the French and Indian Wars (1754 - 1765). Free! Waverly Place, off Main Street (Route 124), Madison; 11-4. For more information, visit www.rosenet.org.

Tuesday-Saturday, October 6-10—20th annual **Tewksbury Art Show & Sale**. Tuesday October 6th 6-8 pm Open Night Preview & Reception. Tickets, \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Show open to public, Wednesday, Oct 7, 10 am to 6 pm; Thursday, Oct. 8, 10 am to 8 pm; Friday Oct. 9, 10 am to 6 pm; Saturday, Oct. 10, 9 am to 4 pm. **Tewksbury Historical Society**, P.O. Box 457, Oldwick, N.J. 08858; 908-832-6734; www.tewksburyhistory.net.

Saturday, October 10—Old Mine Road Folklife Festival. Events include bus tour with stops at Van Campen Inn and Peters Valley, bike tour, exhibitor booths, live music. 11:00-4:00. Downtown Newton. 973-383-0027; 973-383-1554.

Wednesday, October 14—Halloween in the United States. Halloween is a distinctive cultural celebration in the US. Karen Sue Hybertsen, Pastor, Ridgeview Community Church, looks at the history of Halloween, the holiday's traditions and how we use it in schools, churches and our communities. An NJCH Program. Boonton Senior Center, 126 North Main Street. 7:00 pm. **Boonton Historical Society** at 973-402-8840 or boontonhistory@yahoo.com; www.boonton.org.

Sunday, October 18—2009 Annual House Tour. Lambertville Historical Society's 27th Annual House Tour features visits to historic homes and sites of interest in Lambertville. 11 am to 5 pm. Tickets are \$15 before the event and \$20 on October 18. Meet at 60 Bridge Street. Information at lambertvillehistoricalsociety.org or 609-397-0770.

Sunday, October 18—"Collecting Old Toys and Tools." Former Tewksbury resident Ken Vliet will speak at the Fairmount Covered Dish Supper, Fairmount Presbyterian Church Community Center, Route 517, Admission: Free; just bring a covered dish to share. 5 pm. **Tewksbury Historical Society**, P.O. Box 457, Oldwick, N.J. 08858; www.tewksburyhistory.net. 908-832-6734.

Monday, October 19—Victorian Architecture, presented by Maureen O'Brien. **Victorian Society in America, NNJ Chapter**, Montclair Women's Club, 82 Union Street Montclair, 8 pm. For info call Catherine at 973-762-6453.

Saturday & Sunday, October 24 & 25—Paint-a-Pumpkin - \$5/ pumpkin and paint (reduced price). **Van Riper-Hopper House Museum**, www.WayneTownship.com and click on History. 973-694-7192.

Saturday, November 7—Historical NJ Dutch Cooking Class; \$7/person. **Van Riper-Hopper House Museum**, www.WayneTownship.com and click on History. 973-694-7192.

Monday, November 16—The Architecture of Stanford White, presented by Sam White, grandson of Stanford White. **Victorian Society in America, NNJ Chapter**, Montclair Women's Club, 82 Union Street Montclair, 8 pm. For info call Catherine at 973-762-6453; cicisull@msn.com.

Wednesday, November 18—Boonton At Its Best. A collage of photographs featuring walking tours of our town and our House Tours. A brief membership meeting precedes this presentation. 7 pm. Boonton Senior Center, 126 North Main Street. 7:00 pm. For details, contact the **Boonton Historical Society** at 973-402-8840 or boontonhistory@yahoo.com; www.boonton.org.

November 20, 2009 through January 3, 2010—What better place to get into the true spirit of Christmas than Victorian Cape May? This seaside town is transformed into a Dickens village for the holidays with garlands of fragrant greens and twinkling gaslights. An endless variety of fun and tasty events. From trolley rides to wine tastings, house tours to themed dinners, we offer something for everyone. 800-275-4278; mac4arts@capemaymac.org.

Friday-Sunday, December 4, 5 and 6— Historical NJ Dutch Holidays. \$4/adult; \$1/child. **Van Riper-Hopper House Museum**, www.WayneTownship.com and click on History. 973-694-7192.

Friday, December 11—Holiday Open House. Celebrate the holiday season at the museum. Refreshments and entertainment. **Boonton Historical Society Museum**, 210 Main St. 7:00 pm. 973-402-8840; boontonhistory@yahoo.com; boonton.org.

OUR MEMBERS' WONDERFUL MUSEUMS

by Linda J. Barth

Wow! So many of our members have outstanding museums, and I have determined to visit them. If you would like to see these unique sites, too, let me help you. I am creating a list of members' museums. By October it should be done, and I would be happy to send it to the membership.

Over the years I have had the pleasure of visiting many wonderful historic sites in the Garden State. This summer my husband and I are continuing that tour, in an effort to see the museums of the members of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey.

Our first venture was to the southwestern region of our state. We stopped first at the Millville Army Air Field Museum at the Millville Airport. A wealth of exhibits and a video explained the training there of the pilots of P-47 Thunderbolts. I especially enjoyed the display about the Wright brothers and the museum's cute, friendly cat.

From there we headed for Salem and the Hancock House, site of a massacre of colonists by the British in 1778. En route home we stopped at the Peter Mott House in Lawnside. Although the home is not usually open on Sundays, Lawnside Historical Society president, Linda Shockley, graciously offered to open the doors for us. She explained how the house had been saved from destruction and its importance in the Underground Railroad.

The following week we went north to Hudson and Bergen counties and stopped first at the Hoboken Museum & Cultural Center. Society president Bob Foster showed us the new exhibit, "Up and Down the River," commemorating Henry Hudson's "visit" 400 years ago, and gave us a tour of the neighborhood.

From there we headed north to the Meadowlands Museum in Rutherford. Curator Jackie Bunker-Lohrenz

(continued on page nine)

showed us this gold mine of local and New Jersey information, including minerals, an early 1900s kitchen, and a display about local authors. But the highlight is the gearing for an Otis elevator that raised and lowered horses at a local stable.

Our final stop was the Hermitage in Ho-Ho-Kus, the home of the Prevost and Rosencrantz families. Our guide, Barbara Connolly, conducted us through this beautiful home, telling the fascinating story of its many residents.

During our Elderhostel in Cape May, we had the privilege of meeting Dr. Joe Salvatore, co-founder of Naval Air Station Wildwood, whose aircraft and other displays in Hangar #1 commemorate the Navy airmen who died while training her during World War II. On a tour of Historic Cold Spring Village I met Ann Salvatore, co-founder with Joe, of this wonderful collection of historic structures from around Cape May County. Additionally, at a concert sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, I met Director Michael Zuckerman.

In early August my travels took me to Morris County to visit the Butler and Morris Plains museums. At Butler, Peggy Spranzani gave me a tour of her site, which occupies the old NY Susquehanna & Western Railroad Station. I was impressed by the variety of items, and by the exhibit on the Statue of Liberty. Visit and find out why it's there.

Mary Palmer showed me around the Morris Plains Museum, pointing out the exhibit on the local artist, Homer Davenport and one on two sisters who were famous fashion models in the mid-20th century. I really enjoyed the extensive collection of maps and photographs.

I look forward to visiting more local museums in the coming months.

DIRECTIONS (continued from page twelve)

traffic light. Go past the church to the next street. (Church St.) and make a right; then make a left into the NJ Transit parking lot.

From Route 280 East: Take Route 280 East to Exit 8A, Prospect Avenue, West Orange. Stay on Prospect Ave (past the Essex Green Shopping Center) to the end. Go through 2 traffic lights and past the golf course (on your right after the second light). Prospect Avenue ends at Northfield Avenue (at the third traffic light). Make a left onto Northfield Ave and stay to the right. Go down the hill to the next traffic light and make a right onto Gregory Ave; stay on Gregory (it becomes Wyoming Ave). Go all the way to the end of the avenue to a "T" intersection (approx. 2.1 miles); turn left onto South Orange Ave. Stay to the right and go down the hill to the next light (Ridgewood Rd). The church is on your right just past the next traffic light. Go past the church to the next street (Church St.) and turn right; then turn left into the NJ Transit parking lot.

From Route 24 East and Route 78 East (local exits): Take Route 24 East to Exit 49B, Millburn/Maplewood. This is Springfield Avenue. Cross over Route 24 and stay to the left past Home Depot to Vauxhall Rd (at an intersection with 3 gas stations). Turn left onto Vauxhall Rd. Just before the next traffic light is a sign marked 'Seton Hall, 3 miles', and just beyond that sign is a right traffic feeder that takes you onto Valley St. Make that right and continue on Valley St. to South Orange Ave. (7 traffic lights). Turn left onto South Orange Ave. Go down the hill, and under the railroad overpass. Go through the next traffic light (which is an entry to the New Jersey Transit parking lot) and make the first left you can onto Church St (which is just before the next traffic light at Ridgewood Rd). Free parking is available in the NJ Transit parking lot.

PARKING: There is very limited parking available in the church lot, so please park in the NJ Transit parking lot (**FREE PARKING ON WEEKENDS**) located across from the church on Church St. Enter from Church St. If the NJ Transit lot is full, there is parking at the South Orange Middle School half a block north on North Ridgewood Rd.

UPCOMING LEAGUE MEETINGS

October 3, 2009	Montrose Park Historic District Association, South Orange, Essex County
March 27, 2010	Cumberland County Historical Society, Greenwich, Cumberland County
June 12, 2010	Museums of Perth Amboy, Middlesex County

We encourage your society to host a future League meeting. If you would like this opportunity to showcase your site, just contact Linda Barth, 908-722-7428, barths@att.net, and she will put you in touch with the regional vice-president for your area. **We look forward to visiting YOUR town some day soon.**

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS



With our members spread across the state, many of us are not familiar with the organizations in regions far from our own. This column will spotlight our members, so that others may learn of their mission and accomplishments.

The league has many member organizations that were formed to honor or remember a specific group of people. This is Part VI of a series highlighting those societies.

Historic Cold Spring Village is an Early American, open-air, living history museum. The village brings to life the day-to-day activities of people living in South Jersey during the “age of homespun” (1790-1840). Visitors can make a personal connection between the past and present through the interactive, educational, and hands-on family activities. Take a stroll along the twenty-two acres of shaded lanes; enjoy the gardens; observe the farm where heritage crops are grown; visit twenty-six restored antique buildings housing historically-clothed interpreters, who educate and entertain visitors about the lifestyles, issues, trades, and crafts of yesteryear. Children enjoy playing at the activity area where they take part in a variety of projects such as trying on costumes, participating in hands-on crafts, and playing games. The Friends of Historic Cold Spring Village is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support the preservation of Historic Cold Spring Village. Events include a quilt show, farm days, culture fest, railroad days, an antique show, seafarers’ weekend, and encampments of Civil War and Revolutionary War soldiers. You may contact the village or the friends at 720 Route 9, Cape May, NJ 08204; 609-898-1919; www.hcsv.org.

The mission of the **Museum of Early Trades & Crafts** is to enhance the understanding and appreciation of America's past by presenting and interpreting the history, culture, and lives of ordinary people through educational programs, through preservation and stewardship of its collection, and through exhibition and demonstration of the trades and crafts practiced in New Jersey from its earliest settlement. Exhibits feature the activities of New Jersey farming families, highlighting the diverse facets of agricultural life in the early 1800s; a selection from the extensive collection of woodworkers’ planes; how tradesmen in small towns worked together to develop a bustling economy; the working lives of four circa 1850 local tradesmen; and the tools that a distiller, a cooper, a shoemaker, and a cabinetmaker would have used to craft their wares. A new, permanent exhibit, *The Essential Trade: Blacksmithing in America*, explores the important work of blacksmiths in American history and traces the history and processes of blacksmithing from its origins about 3000 years ago. You may contact the museum at 9 Main Street, Madison, NJ 07940; 973-377-2982; www.metc.org; info@metc.org.

The **Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead Museum**, which hosted the League in 2008, is dedicated to the preservation of Hunterdon County's agricultural heritage from the 18th into the 20th century. The museum is housed in the restored three-story bank barn that was built into the hillside to make both floors accessible from ground level. Livestock were kept on the lower level, crops above. In bad weather, the farmer could feed the animals without going outdoors. Today, some of the exhibits arranged in the barn feature the tools and equipment used by the farmer to raise and harvest the crops that provided fodder for livestock and commodities to sell. Other displays cover the domestic chores of the farmer's wife in the preparation and preservation of food and the making of clothing. Early examples of now common implements and appliances give the visitor a sense of passing time. The museum property was once part of John Holcombe's "Plantation," according to his will of 1742. In 1968, the farmstead was donated to the Hunterdon County Historical Society by Milo and Rachel Jimison, who retained life rights. With Milo Jimison's death, over 250 years of agricultural activity on the site ended. In 1984, the property was deeded to the Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead, Inc. Using a combination of grants from small foundations, individual donations and a substantial gift from Colonel James Horn, the museum's volunteers and trustees have restored the property and added outbuildings for the post office, blacksmith shop, carriage shed, and print shop. You may contact the museum at 1605 Daniel Bray Highway (Route 29), Lambertville, NJ 08530; 609-397-2752; www.holcombe-jimison.org.

**THE LEAGUE OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES FALL MEETING HOSTED BY THE MONTROSE
PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT ASSOCIATION, SOUTH ORANGE, ESSEX COUNTY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2009**

The meeting will take place at St. Andrew & Holy Communion Church, www.sahcchurch.org, 160 West South Orange Avenue, South Orange. Self-guided tours will follow the luncheon.

- 9:15 am Registration & coffee/pastries
- 9:45 am Welcome by Village President Douglas Newman and MPHDA President Jim Ankner
- 10:00 am League Business Meeting, including a presentation on cemeteries by Mark Nonestied
- 11:00 am Break
- 11:15 am Presentation by Naoma Welk author of *Images of America South Orange* and *Images of America South Orange Revisited*. Welk will speak about the history of South Orange and provide a slide presentation. Following the presentation, a brief slide show depicting various architectural styles represented in the Montrose Park Historic District will be presented.
- 12:15pm Buffet luncheon catered by Reservoir Restaurant.
- 1:15pm MPHDA product sales; book signing by Naoma Welk; historic information and products will also be available from the South Orange Historical and Preservation Society.

Two concurrent tour options are also available after lunch – choose one or BOTH options:

Open from 1:15 to 3pm: The sanctuary of St. Andrew’s and Holy Communion Church will be open. The church is renowned for its Tiffany stained glass windows. A self-guided brochure is available as you tour the church windows.

Open from 1:30 to 4:30pm: Two fabulous Montrose Park residences will be open to tour. Map and directions to the homes will be provided on the day of the tour. Members will need to drive to the homes, carpooling suggested.

PLEASE NOTE: The church will close at 3 pm. Please bring all of your belongings with you when you depart for the afternoon tours. MPHDA Docents will be available in tour homes.

Accommodations near South Orange and directions to the church are available at www.MontroseParkSONJ.org. Members without internet access may call Linda Barth (908-722-7428) and she will mail the list of lodging choices.

Parking is available in the NJ Transit parking lot adjacent to the church. Entrance to the lot is via South Orange Avenue or Church Street. Parking is FREE on Saturdays. Overflow parking is also available at the South Orange Middle School which is located just north of the Church on North Ridgewood Ave. Driving directions are located on page twelve and nine.

Questions before October 3: Questions prior to October 3rd can be directed to info@MontroseParkSONJ.org or by phone to MPHDA 973-763-1880 or Amy Dahn (cell 201-739-2247).

Questions on October 3rd can be directed to Amy Dahn 201-739-2247.

REGISTRATION FORM – PLEASE RETURN BY September 25, 2009

Registration Form- Registration is \$25 per person and includes a buffet lunch

Please include check for \$25, payable to MPHDA (Montrose Park Historic District Association). Mail to P.O. Box 953, South Orange, NJ 07079. Registration deadline is September 25, 2009. Driving directions are located on page 12 and 9.

Name(s) _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State, Zip _____ Phone _____

Affiliation: _____

DIRECTIONS TO THE LEAGUE MEETING AT THE MONTROSE PARK, OCTOBER 3, 2009

Map of the Montrose Park Historic District and downtown South Orange. Rectangle indicates location of St. Andrew & Holy Communion Church and NJ Transit parking lot. Oval indicates overflow parking at South Orange Middle School.

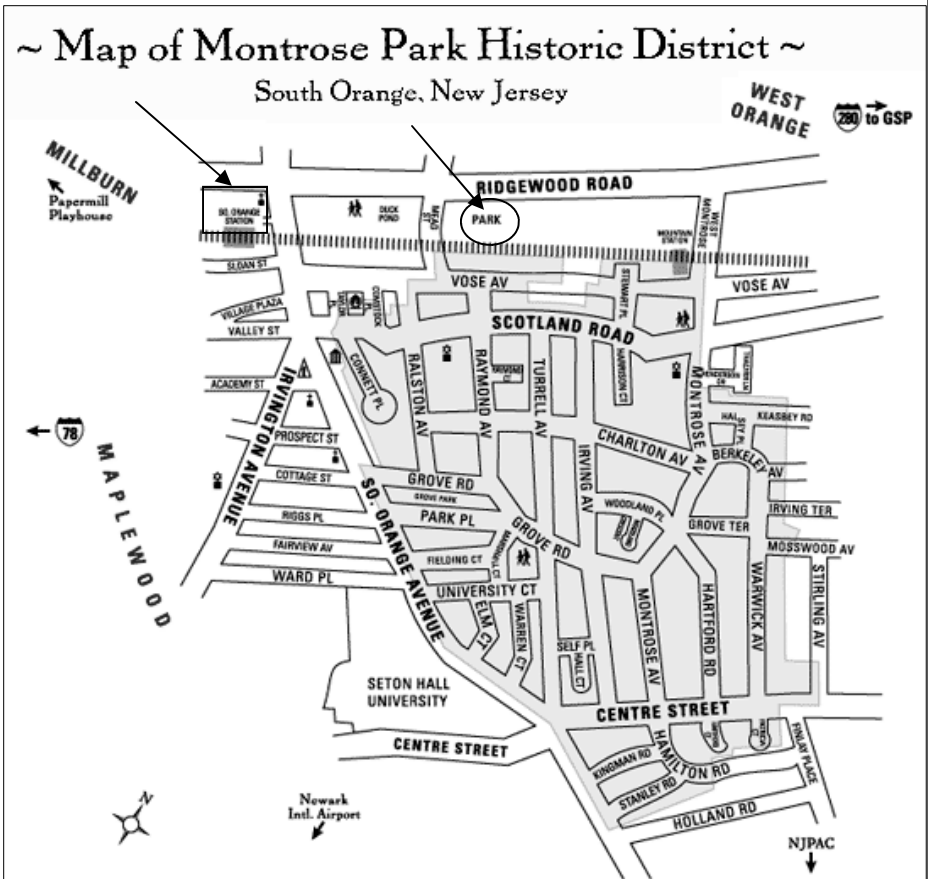
Directions to the Church of St. Andrew & Holy Communion, 160 West South Orange Avenue (at Ridgewood Rd.), South Orange, NJ 07079

BY TRAIN: NJ Transit Morristown Line or the Gladstone Branch, Morris & Essex line, to the South Orange station Exit the station onto Sloan St. Walk to the corner of Sloan St. and South Orange Ave. Turn left; walk under the railroad overpass; continue past one traffic light and a gas station. Turn left onto Church St. The church is on the corner of South Orange Ave. and Church St.

From the Garden State Parkway: Take the Garden State Parkway to Exit 145 (Route 280 West); then follow directions from Rte 280 W.

From Route 280 West: Take Route 280 West to Exit 10 The exit is marked W. Orange, S. Orange, Montclair – this is also Northfield Ave.; stay to the left. At the top of the ramp turn left onto Northfield Ave. Go to the third light and turn left onto Gregory Ave; stay on Gregory (it becomes Wyoming Ave). Go all the way to the end of the avenue to a “T” intersection (approx. 2.1 miles) to South Orange Ave and turn left. Stay to the right and go down the hill to the next light (this is Ridgewood Rd.). The church is on your right just past the next

(DIRECTIONS CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)



UPCOMING MEETINGS:
 October 3, 2009—Montrose Park Historic District Association, South Orange, Essex County
 March 27, 2010—Cumberland County Historical Society, Greenwich, Cumberland County
 June 12, 2010—Museums of Perth Amboy, Middlesex County
 March 2011—Ocean City, Cape May County

The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey
 P.O. Box 909
 Madison, New Jersey 07940

