

SPEAKERS BUREAU

A LIST OF SPEAKERS WHO HAVE BEEN RECOMMENDED BY MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES OF NEW JERSEY

Regional Listings

HRLC (Highlands Regional Library Cooperative) Adult Programs List -

http://www.hrlc.org/public_relations/adult_programs-2008.pdf - This list was compiled by the HRLC Public Relations Committee last fall and the information is current. This list also can be found on the Highlands Regional Library Cooperative Homepage from the Public Relations Committee link. Speakers' names, contact information and a brief description of each are included. For "History" programs, go to page 2.

Horizon Speakers Bureau provides lecturers in humanities areas as wide-ranging as ethnic and cultural studies, history, literature, interpretation of the arts, and public policy. These programs, available to New Jersey nonprofit organizations, are free and open to the public and include time for audience discussion. More than 170 topics by over 100 speakers are available for selection. During 2008, over 300 programs will be hosted by organizations from Sussex to Atlantic County.

www.njch.org/speakers.html

General Topics

"Celebrate New Jersey" – a PowerPoint program celebrating the famous and not-so-famous people, places, and events of our great little state. Explore our diverse geography: mountains, highlands, rivers, lakes, and seashore. Visit the South, the North, the Central, and little-known places in between.

Linda J. Barth, 214 North Bridge Street, Somerville, New Jersey 08876; 908-722-7428; 908-240-0488; barthlinda123@aol.com

"The Fabulous Fifties: Popular Culture of the 1950s" - From "I Like Ike," the golden age of TV and the birth of Rock 'n' Roll to Sputnik, the Davy Crockett Craze and 3-D movies, the 1950's are culturally explored as a decade that reflected the social and political changes that swept the nation.

[Bill Chemerka](mailto:Bill.Chemerka@WRCHEMERKA@aol.com), WRCHEMERKA@aol.com; (cell) 973-727-1230

New Jersey Trivia – This New Jersey Trivia slide lecture is an entertaining and informative program that deals with New Jersey's history, standards, symbols, and natural history. The presenter asks "simple" questions to the audience; then the answer is revealed along with some factual information.

William Dunscombe, Jr.; 908-709-7570; dunscombe@ucc.edu

Welcome to the Past

Immerse yourself in this entertaining and informative evening of tales, songs, poetry, and ghost stories about our history. This timeless, multimedia presentation celebrates the layers of history in our landscapes, especially the local history of Somerset/Morris/Hunterdon Counties including the Lenape, the NJ Encampment at Jockey Hollow during the Revolutionary War, farming, industry, and the "landed gentry." In brilliant detail, Mr. Ward both entertains and illustrates the signatures we leave behind us and celebrates the geographies of our lives.

Gordon Thomas Ward, P.O. Box 226, Pottersville, NJ 07979; www.gordonthomasward.com;

gordonthomasward@gmail.com; 908-295-2391.

Seven Stories—Seven Songs

Everyone loves good stories, and when they're reinforced with music and song, they get even better! That's why audiences adore this captivating, live performance of seven, stirring tales, told through music and spoken word that capture their attention and imagination. The stories Gordon tells complement the acoustic folk songs he sings using haunting melodies, a multi-instrumental accompaniment, and detailed lyrics. Listeners embark upon a 90-minute, captivating journey to find themselves in the company of a Revolutionary War ghost, a railroad engineer, Robert Frost, or transported to the coast of Maine, the historic Trail of Tears, and other places! This presentation has been described by adults as "spellbinding," and, as one high school student remarked, "The people and events seem real, so I can relate to them." It's safe to say that groups will find this program to be a real treat! "Seven Stories—Seven Songs" is absolutely perfect for libraries, historical and community groups, or for an extraordinary house concert in your home with a group of your friends! Gordon Thomas Ward, P.O. Box 226, Pottersville, NJ 07979; www.gordonthomasward.com; gordonthomasward@gmail.com; 908-295-2391.

"New Jersey 350 Years of Innovation & Diversity," presented by David Veasey, a lifelong New Jersey resident and career writer. Veasey has authored three books on various aspects of the state's history and can present an illustrated talk to your history group on the following topics:

- New Jersey's Colonial Architecture
- New Jersey 350 Years of Innovation & Diversity
- New Jersey's Lighthouses & Life-Saving Stations

Veasey lives in Morris Plains, NJ. He has a BA from Drew University, Madison, and a Master's Degree from New York University. His books on New Jersey are: *New Jersey's Colonial Architecture Told in 100 Buildings*; *New Jersey Then & Now*; and *Guarding New Jersey's Shore: Lighthouses and Life-Saving Stations*.

David Veasey, 973-538-0723; veaseyd@verizon.net

Morristown Toastmasters, Morristown, NJ. See the website: www.morristowntoastmasters.org. For a list of all New Jersey chapters, see the website: www.toastmasters.org.

"Education Through Philately" - For thirty-five years I have been using postage stamps to teach about America's history. Seventeen years ago I started "Education Thru Philately, Inc." I go into schools, libraries, and service organizations to talk about stamp collecting and how it relates to America's history. I have written 16 books using stamps to illustrate my books. They range from Columbus to WWII. My latest book is in about the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth and the 100th anniversary of the founding to the NAACP.

Peter Cerrato, 47 Old Post Road, Edison, NJ 08817; 732-985-1071;
stampongs@verizon.net

The Liberty Hall Museum website features a list of all the speaker programs that they do. There is no charge for any of them, but if the organization would like to make a donation to the museum, it is welcome. <http://www.kean.edu/libertyhall/index.html>

Bill Schroh, Jr., Liberty Hall Museum at Kean University

"Thirty Seconds Over Totowa" - I am retired from the NJDEP Green Acres Program in which it had been my job to make sure that the State didn't buy hazardous waste sites - don't laugh, I put NJ's newest Superfund site: "The Raritan Bay Slag site" on the map, after it had been offered to us

for purchase by a Middlesex County municipality!

Anyway, I spent a good part of 21 years researching the history of the well over 2000 properties Green Acres purchased during my watch, in part by examining historic aerial photography under a stereo-microscope. I scanned a lot of that photography and have produced several programs that I have taken to audiences around the state. In the presentations, which I narrate, scenes from across NJ are shown as they were in the 1920s, 30s or 40s contrasted with more recent imagery.

In "***Thirty Seconds over Totowa***," I take the viewer on a flight through time to the 1920s, 30s and 40s above the lost landscapes of a much different New Jersey. Flight legs include "No Plate Like Home for the Waterways," depicting the rise of minor league ball parks in Atlantic City, Bridgewater, Camden, Newark and Trenton; "We Are Not Amused," the decline of amusement parks at Atlantic Highlands, Burlington Island, Cliffside Park, Lake Hopatcong and Pattenburg; and "Jersey Firsts" featuring such things as the first drive-in movie theater, the first US-licensed commercial distillery in Scobeyville, "the only elephant in the world you can go through and *come out alive*"; and the first airplane *engine* to fly cross the Atlantic!

In "***...there used to be a railroad***" the viewer is back in flight across the Garden State and its once extensive network of railroads from the first - the Camden and Amboy with its State-sanctioned monopoly, to the last mainline built in New Jersey - the Delaware Lackawanna and Western's 'Delaware Cutoff,' across which *Phoebe Snow* once whisked travelers to Buffalo. "***...there used to be a railroad***" captures steam engines en route to Morris County's Mount Hope iron mines; hauling coal and freight on the Central of New Jersey and Lehigh Valley Lines; the railroad whose route was sanctioned by President Lincoln to the chagrin of the U.S. Army, and the tracks laid overnight to bring a dying President Garfield to the one-time summer capital, Long Branch, NJ! From the New York Susquehanna & Western's crossing of the Delaware from Pahaquarry Township, Warren County to Experiment Mills, PA, to the Pennsylvania Railroad's terminus at Cape May Point's Northwest Magnesite Plant, there used to be a railroad.

The programs run about two hours and I don't charge for them – which is not to say you couldn't as a fundraiser. Let me know if you'd be interested. Thanks!

Michael McCann, 215-297-5032; oldbenkenobi@hushmail.com

Adventures

Kara Richardson Whitely presents "**Moving Mountains: How to Change the World one Step at a Time.**" Kara Richardson Whitely is a plus-size adventurer who has hiked Mt. Kilimanjaro three times to stay on a healthy path and raise money for charity. She has a wealth of stories from her journeys, and the audience was definitely inspired and entertained. She is extremely pleasant and truly an inspiration to anyone who hears her story. I highly recommend her for a program at any library! I have included her contact information below.

Kara Richardson Whitely, 973-452-7620; kara@fatwomanonthemountain.com; www.fatwomanonthemountain.com; Facebook: www.facebook.com/people/Kara-Richardson-Whitely/1386186425; Twitter: @fatwmnonthemtn

American Historical Theatre: Lewis and Clark: The Corps of Discovery

William Clark regales audiences with stories of calm bravery in the face of danger, determination in the face of overwhelming odds, and good, old-fashioned adventure. The Corps of Discovery Expedition, which he led with fellow explorer Meriwether Lewis, and was commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson, was intended for commercial and scientific discoveries. Though the commercial goal of finding a passage by water across the continent from Asia was not successful, this duo of distinctly different personalities made the first transcontinental voyage and some tremendous scientific discoveries in biology and geography. www.AHTheatre.org

American Historical Theatre's Aviator Series: Bessie Coleman, Amelia Earhart and Charles Lindbergh in 1st person interpretation or "one man play" formats. www.AHTheatre.org

Architecture

“Living the Dream at Craftsman Farms: Gustav Stickley’s “Garden of Eden” in New Jersey” - In 1910, at the height of his career, Gustav Stickley, designer and visionary leader of the American Arts and Crafts Movement, moved with his family to Craftsman Farms in Morris Plains, New Jersey. For Stickley, this picturesque, fully-functioning, 650-acre farm represented the culmination of his artistic and philosophical vision. He described The Farms as his “Garden of Eden” and the realization of dreams he’d had since childhood. Sadly, Stickley’s time at The Farms was limited to seven years, but happily, his vision for the site remains in evidence today. In her lecture, Vonda Givens, the director of education at The Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms, speaks about Gustav Stickley’s life and work, and how Craftsman Farms, now a National Historic Landmark and one of the most significant sites of the American Arts and Crafts Movement, came to be the embodiment of Stickley’s ideas. She talks about the past, present and future of Craftsman Farms, discussing how this beautiful setting moved from idealized residence, to unrecognized treasure, to beloved historic site in its 100-year history.

Heather E. Stivison, Executive Director, The Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms, 2352 Rt. 10-West, Morris Plains, NJ 07950; 973-540-0311; www.stickleymuseum.org

“Castles of New Jersey” – Although not as numerous or grand as their European counterparts, a surprisingly large number of castles were built in New Jersey a century or more ago. This slide program includes well-known castles, such as Lambert Castle and Kip’s Castle, as well as lesser known ones throughout the state. Many still exist, some have been disguised over the years, and others have vanished.

Phil Jaeger, 9 Bradford Way, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009; 973-746-7453;
philjaeger@optonline.net

“New Jersey’s Colonial Architecture,” presented by David Veasey, a lifelong New Jersey resident and career writer. Veasey has authored three books on various aspects of the state’s history and can present an illustrated talk to your history group on the following topics:

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Veasey lives in Morris Plains, NJ. He has a BA from Drew University, Madison, and a Master’s Degree from New York University.

His books on New Jersey are: *New Jersey’s Colonial Architecture Told in 100 Buildings*; *New Jersey Then & Now*; and *Guarding New Jersey’s Shore: Lighthouses and Life-Saving Stations*.

David Veasey, 973-538-0723; veaseyd@verizon.net

Black History

“Oh Freedom! Slavery in New Jersey During the American Revolution” – This talk addresses the topic of slavery during the American Revolution.

Frederic Lawrence Minus, member of the Camp Olden Round Table and founding member of the 6th Regiment United States Colored Troops

Slaves of NJ - Stephanie Stevens has been the Hunterdon County Historian for over twenty years and is a prolific writer and lecturer, from slaves to mills to famous county people and people who passed through Hunterdon County.

Stephanie Stevens; 908-534-4395

Thomas Mundy Peterson, from Perth Amboy, first black voter in the United States. On March 31, 1870, the man we know as Thomas Mundy Peterson of Perth Amboy, New Jersey, became the first African-American to vote under the auspices of the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. If you've heard of Thomas Mundy Peterson before, this is probably the extent of what you know about him. Certainly it was all I knew when I first encountered him. But, being the unabashed historygeek I am - particularly New Jersey history - I wanted to know more.

What I discovered was how it took a truly remarkable convergence of circumstances to make that moment possible. I also learned how, as much as this was the story of one man, it was also the story of a community who took a small, imperfect but historic step in the evolution of how we deal with race in this country. I also discovered I wasn't the only "Peterson scholar."

In my new presentation, "To Cast a Freedman's Vote: How a handyman from Perth Amboy made Civil Rights history," I summarize the research done to date about Peterson and his historic vote. I debuted it, appropriately enough, at the Perth Amboy Ferry Slip Museum, within walking distance of where Peterson lived and where he cast his vote. It was very well-received and in recognition of Black History Month, I am announcing that I am available to give this presentation for history and civic organizations.

For more information, please email me at gordon@gardenstatelegacy.com.

American Historical Theatre Presents Sojourner Truth: "Ain't I a Woman?"

Isabella Baumfree changed her name to Sojourner Truth and walked through Long Island and Connecticut, preaching "God's truth and plan for salvation." After months of travel, she arrived in Northampton, Massachusetts, and joined "The Northampton Association of Education and Industry", a utopian community where she met and worked with abolitionists such as William Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglass. www.AHTheatre.org Also available through the New Jersey Council for the Humanities

American Historical Theatre Presents Hercules: Culinary Artist – Free at Last

Flamboyant, and larger than life, Hercules was George Washington's talented chef in Mount Vernon, New York and in Philadelphia. As gifted as any chef in the colonies, Hercules was a popular and prominent figure inside and outside of the Washington household. Because of his special talents, this slave was afforded many privileges: keeping the profits from the sale of left-over food, being able to walk around freely with his gold-handled cane, and the opportunity to dress extravagantly for his station. Hercules worked the system, and succeeding in living life as much on his own terms as possible. One day, he left the Washington's, never to be found; once master of the kitchen, now master of his own destiny! www.AHTheatre.org

American Historical Theatre Presents Oney Judge: Runaway Slave

A dower slave owned by the estate of Martha Washington's first husband, Oney Judge, worked for President and Lady Washington, first in the New York City capital, and later in Philadelphia. Though Pennsylvania Law gave slaves the legal power to free themselves after six months in residence, Washington's position was that Pennsylvania was only temporarily the capital, so the law was not applicable to his household. When Oney learned that Martha Washington intended to offer her as a wedding present to her granddaughter, and that her transfer back to the south was imminent, Oney made a plan of escape. She traveled north to New Hampshire and lived as a fugitive for 52 years. This strong, capable woman never regretted her actions, and is quoted as saying, "No, I am free and have, I trust, been made a child of God by the means."

Harriet Tubman: The Road to Freedom

Born Araminta Ross, Harriet Tubman lived as a slave on a Maryland plantation. Frequently threatened, beaten, whipped, and starved, Ms. Tubman's indomitable spirit could not be broken. Receiving an accidental head wound during an overseer's fit of wrath; Harriet Tubman suffered from seizures for the rest of her life. But even this daunting physical obstacle could not keep her from her freeing herself and freeing others from slavery. A Union spy during the Civil War as well as a nurse, Ms. Tubman directed her considerable energies towards humanitarian causes that included women's suffrage after the war.

Business

"Turn Your Plate Over and Have A Good Read: Dating and Understanding Transferware" An illustrated lecture on the development of domestic china from the Chinese to the present focused on the development of transfer printing in the Staffordshire region of England in the 18th and 19th century. Illustrations are china pieces from the period which demonstrate major techniques, marks, and technological changes from my personal collection.

David Cowell, 973-226-1733; dcowell@drew.edu

American Historical Theatre: Dynamic Keynote and motivational speeches designed to fit your theme by great figures from History. Learn from the Experiences of George Washington for insight into Leadership, Get insights on tried and true philosophies about innovation and "thinking outside the box" by Benjamin Franklin or Thomas Edison. Or take some tips on team building by the Charismatic Thomas Jefferson. These are just a few ways in which modern business can benefit from the words of those long since past. American Historical Theatre: www.AHTheatre.org

Cemeteries

"Stranger Stop and Cast an Eye: Four Centuries of NJ Cemeteries and Gravemarkers"

An illustrated look at our state's historic burial grounds from the 1600s to the present day. The author of "Digging New Jersey's Past: Historical Archaeology in the Garden State" and co-author of "New Jersey Cemeteries and Tombstones: History in the Landscape" examines Native American and colonial grave markers, the rise of the cemetery, Victorian commemorative practices and other memorial traditions. Unusual and even humorous grave markers found in modern cemeteries will also be included in this fascinating presentation.

Dr. Richard Veit, historical archaeologist and Associate Professor of Anthropology at Monmouth University; rveit@monmouth.edu

American Historical Theatre: Bring your event to life by having Edgar Allan Poe or Walt Whitman share stories and their works with visitors at your historic cemetery. www.AHTheatre.org

Colonial America - Home and Family Life

Take the time to greet Poor Palatine Patriot Christopher. George Philhower-Apgar shall portray a Jersey German Valley 18th-century patriot farmer from the village of Fairmount, Hunterdon County in 1715. George will provide a timeline on how these Palatines (aka Germans) emigrated from the Old

World Rhine River area to the colony of New Jersey, first arriving at Port Nutten Island, County of New York.

George N. Apgar, Jr., 218 Kempsey Drive, North Brunswick, NJ 08902; 732-297-6686

Exploration

Rediscovery & Inspiration along the Lewis & Clark Trail

This engaging program draws from the author's book, *Life on the Shoulder*, and details his entire 1,800-mile journey by canoe and bicycle along the Missouri, Clearwater, Snake, and Columbia rivers and by foot over the Bitterroot Mountains. Described as "like hitting the trail with Lewis and Clark" by the Mystic Seaport Museum, this presentation includes stunning, projected photographs and Gordon Ward's personal anecdotes, which allow attendees to travel back through time, revisiting the places explored by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark and recorded in their journals and the pages of history as they searched for the Northwest Passage. One also embarks on a journey through the diverse environments of the current American West. Aside from the historical aspects of the topic, the presentation compares and contrasts the differences between a modern retracing and the original expedition two hundred years ago. In addition, audience members will also hear how the original journey was also very much a story about the strength and guidance of women and investigate the two journeys from psychological and philosophical perspectives.

Gordon Thomas Ward, P.O. Box 226, Pottersville, NJ 07979;
gordonthomasward@gmail.com; 908-295-2391.

Fashion

The Monmouth County Historical Association is offering a new 18th-century fashion show to clubs, organizations, and senior citizen groups whose members would like to learn more about the history of dress from 1750 to 1810. Volunteers from the museum present the history of men's and women's clothing, with commentary on how the styles came about and what created the changes over the six decade period.

The show features a variety of traditional and formal clothing pieces from the 18th century along with information on the history of the design, material and style. The women's dresses are worn during the fashion show by the volunteers who also created and made them. This hour-long program costs \$125 to reserve. To find out more or to book a program for your group, please call the association at 732-462-1466.

Monmouth County Historical Association, 732-462-1466

Foods

Judith Krall-Russo presents numerous programs on New Jersey foods and on the history of tea. Among her topics are ***The New Jersey Cranberry, Blueberries - New Jersey's Wonder Fruit, The Jersey Tomato - From Cherry to Beefsteak, New Jersey Swine - Bringing Home the Bacon, Apples - Dumplings, Cider and Jack, The Harvest Season, Early American Beverages, Root Cellars and Ice Houses, Remedies from the Kitchen, Favorite Foods and Libations of Presidential Families, The Expressive Apron, Foods of the Bible, Colonial and Victorian Christmas Customs, Winter Holidays, and The African Influence in Foods.*** Among her many tea programs are ***History of English Tea, Tea Traditions from Around the World, Tea and the Reading of Tea Leaves, Tea and the Mad Hatter, Tea Knowledge – A Basic Tea***

Primer, and The Asian Tea Experience and Valentine's Day - Tea and the Language of Flowers and Fans.

Judith Krall-Russo, P.O. Box 515, Fords, New Jersey 08863; 732-985-2486;
judith@teafoodhistory.com; www.teafoodhistory.com

Government/Law/Politics

New Jersey State Bar Foundation Speakers Bureau, New Jersey Law Center, 1 Constitution Square, New Brunswick, NJ 08901; 732-249-5000. Call to find out more about the speakers who are available. This service is designed to educate citizens about how laws affect their lives and how the judicial system operates.

Tales of the Presidents -- Sid Frank, author of *The Presidents: Tidbits & Trivia*, will chat about the fascinating and little-known tales of our nation's leaders. Learn the interesting facts NOT found in our history books. Speakers' Bureau, 1003 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey 07083; 908-527-0400; Liberty-Hall@kean.edu; Liberty Hall has witnessed two hundred years of history and has lots of stories to tell. If you have a particular interest, we would gladly tailor a talk for you.

“The Presidency of the United States as a Startup Business”

You become the President of a government that has no existence, which has no financing, which has no potential of financing, which has no employees, of a country that doesn't want a standing army, no navy and you are going to compete with disparate entities (the states) for control of the country. Now what? What were the credentials of George Washington that enabled him to “startup” the United States?

Rich Rosenthal, one of the founders of the North Jersey American Revolution Table with the pre-eminent historian the late John T. Cunningham brings history alive.
3 Cambridge Morris Plains, NJ 07950; 973-267-9075; NJAmerRevRT@aol.com or NJCivilWarRT@aol.com

American Historical Theatre: Celebrate Law Day, or constitution day, or other civic event with Abraham Lincoln, George Washington or one of the many other great legal minds and founders of American history. Debate programs between founders (Jefferson, Hamilton and Adams) available. www.AHTheatre.org

United States Constitution -- US Constitution: behind the scenes. The four-month Constitutional Convention was a wild bitter debate (in secret but later largely divulged) that resulted in a document hammered out with a series of compromises. Go behind the scenes to learn what we know about the roles Washington, Franklin, Madison, Sherman, Hamilton, and many others played in a true drama much more interesting than Hollywood could produce. Nolan Asch graduated Columbia in 1971 with a minor in History. He has been a lifelong student of History and one of only seven national Advocates per the Alexander Hamilton Awareness Society. Nolan Asch is also a member of the NJ American Revolution Round Table.

908-522-3212 nolan.asch@verizon.net

History – New Jersey

"Envisioning New Jersey: A New (Visual) History of the Garden State"

by Dr. Richard Veit

The Garden state, the Crossroads of the Revolution, the Traitor State, the Suburban State, The Sopranos State, the Sandy State, the home of the Toxic Avenger: what is New Jersey? In this illustrated presentation, Richard Veit will speak about his new book, which he co-authored with historian Maxine Lurie, *Envisioning New Jersey*. In a world where attention spans are sometimes as brief as Instagram photos and Twitter tweets, what role is there for authors and books interested in expanding our understanding of the past?

This presentation discusses the inspiration behind *Envisioning New Jersey*, and uses a series of carefully selected case studies to illustrate how studying the state's history remains relevant and indeed critical for modern residents and neighbors. It also discusses the process of moving from author to curator as we worked to select images: paintings, drawings, maps, portraits, and artifacts that revealed the state's history in new and intriguing ways. We conclude, as historian John Cunningham did decades ago, that New Jersey is indeed a microcosm for America, although we see this somewhat differently than he did.

Richard Veit, rveit@monmouth.edu; 732-263-5699

Bridge Builder in Petticoats: Emily Warren Roebling and the Brooklyn Bridge -- Many books and films have featured the Brooklyn Bridge and millions of people have crossed it. Built between 1869 and 1883, without modern machines or even electric light, it was the one of the most amazing technological achievements of its time. Yet few people know that a woman helped supervise much of its construction. After her husband became bedridden, Emily Roebling became his liaison to the project – eventually communicating with the engineers and suppliers so well that it was rumored that she had become the Chief Engineer herself! Later she helped design the family mansion in Trenton, studied law, organized relief for returning troops from the Spanish American War, attended the coronation of the Tsar of Russia and even took tea with Queen Victoria. At her death, she was called “the most famous woman in New Jersey” and “one of the most noted women in the country,” yet today almost no one knows her name!

Carol Simon Levin, bridgebuilderinpetticoats.com; cslevin59@gmail.com.

A W.A.S.P. Takes Wing: The Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II -- During World War II, more than one thousand women volunteers completed the WASP military pilot training program. They endured terrible Texas weather, snakes, spiders and scorpions, as well as the hostility of some male instructors. Graduating WASPs piloted every kind of military aircraft, tested new and overhauled airplanes (some with defective parts or dangerous reputations), delivered more than 12,000 planes, and flew over 60,000,000 miles (sometimes towing targets that soldiers shot at with live ammunition!) Thirty-eight of them died serving their country. Then they were told that men needed their jobs and they were dismissed and forgotten.

Carol Simon Levin tells the story of the amazing WASPs through the eyes of Ann Baumgartner Carl, the Jersey girl who trained as a WASP, became the only American woman to test-fly experimental planes during the war, and the first woman in the world to fly a jet airplane!

Carol Simon Levin, tellingherstories.com; cslevin59@gmail.com

Crossing under the Hudson -- The Lincoln and Holland Tunnels are key links in the transportation infrastructure of New York and New Jersey. What comes to mind when we think of these tunnels? Traffic. Honk. Beep. Beep. Exhaust. Moving beyond that view, Gillespie takes a fresh look at their planning and construction. With a lively and entertaining approach, Gillespie explores these two monumental works of civil engineering and the public that embraced them. He describes and analyzes the building of the tunnels, introduces listeners to the people who worked there—then and now—and places the structures into a meaningful cultural context with the music, art, literature, and motion pictures that these tunnels, engineering marvels of their day, have inspired over the years.

Angus Kress Gillespie, Ph.D.

Professor of American Studies, Rutgers University

Speaker requests that a microphone be made available. Program only available in Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Somerset, and Union counties

<http://njch.org/>

Historical Figures

The American Historical Theatre – AHT offers hundreds of well-known historical characters, stock and custom written scripts, plays and programs. AHT also presents professional training sessions for actors and docents alike. AHT brings historical theatre to the world; art centers and colleges, historic sites and museums, special events, celebrations and promotions. Schools and other educational and cultural institutions also benefit from AHT's singular dedication to the fine art of historical interpretation. <http://ahtheatre.org/>

“Abraham Lincoln” – Robert Costello appears as our 16th president. He has appeared before groups of all sizes ranging as high as 500, including Civil War roundtables, schools, and civic organizations. Mr. Lincoln [addresses](#) the audience [late on the afternoon of Friday, April 14, 1865 in the White House](#). Mr. Costello has been a re-enactor for 18 years and has portrayed everything from private to lieutenant. He is the chaplain of 3rd NJ Regiment and has portrayed Lincoln for over five years.

Robert Costello, 908-239-9110; 732-463-0219; nj_lincoln@hotmail.com

“President WHO?!!!”

For most of us celebrating Presidents' Day, we think of Washington, Lincoln, Roosevelt and Jefferson, the greats, but how about the ones we just can't describe, Benjamin Harrison, *the hole in the doughnut*, the president in the middle of the term of Grover Cleveland, *His Accidency*, John Tyler, the first president not be elected as the president, Chester A. Arthur, who never even knew he was nominated for vice-president until they told him, and, of course, the ever popular Millard Fillmore - *Who?* Some additional *Who?* are presented.

Rich Rosenthal, one of the founders of the North Jersey American Revolution Table with the pre-eminent historian the late John T. Cunningham, the president of the North Jersey Civil War Round Table brings history alive.

3 Cambridge Morris Plains, NJ 07950; 973-267-9075; NJAmerRevRT@aol.com

“The Precedents of the *Prefident – George Washington

There can only be one Number One – and George Washington was the first president to define the Executive office, from the presidential oath, to the creation of the Coast Guard, defining “advice and consent” of treaties, the financial structure of the United States, appointment of all of the justices of the Supreme Court, the creation of the Executive Cabinet, the two term presidency, etc.

*1789 printing – the “f” also read as an “s”.

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3 Cambridge Morris Plains, NJ 07950; 973-267-9075; NJAmerRevRT@aol.com

“An Obama-Era Perspective on the Lincoln-Douglas Debates” - This lecture seeks to explore similarities and differences between the McCain/Obama debates; 15-25 minutes;

I seek to make effective use of Lincoln’s own words as a centerpiece of each presentation.

Richard Schwartz, 113 Early Street, Morristown, NJ 07960; 973-539-3986;

Richardschwartz14@verizon.net

“From Racial Conservative to Racial Progressive: Abraham Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation” - This lecture traces the progression of President Lincoln’s views on emancipation and citizenship for African Americans; 15-25 minutes; I seek to make effective use of Lincoln’s own words as a centerpiece of each presentation.

Richard Schwartz, 113 Early Street, Morristown, NJ 07960; 973-539-3986;

Richard Schwartz, 113 Early Street, Morristown, NJ 07960; 973-539-3986;

Richardschwartz14@verizon.net

“Lincoln and His Generals” - This lecture traces Lincoln’s evolution as a civilian head of the nation’s armed forces; 15-25 minutes; I seek to make effective use of Lincoln’s own words as a centerpiece of each presentation.

Richard Schwartz, 113 Early Street, Morristown, NJ 07960; 973-539-3986;

Richardschwartz14@verizon.net

“Lincoln and the Larger Meaning of the Civil War” - This lecture centers on Lincoln’s understanding on the issues at stake in the Civil War, with special attention given the Gettysburg Address and the Second Inaugural Address; 15-25 minutes; I seek to make effective use of Lincoln’s own words as a centerpiece of each presentation.

Richard Schwartz, 113 Early Street, Morristown, NJ 07960; 973-539-3986;

Richardschwartz14@verizon.net

Mary Todd Lincoln and Elmer Elsworth Hager – Civil War history comes alive! Take a trip into the past, to the year 1865, when the country was celebrating the end of a four-year battle of the Civil War. Learn about the life of Mary Todd Lincoln, her courtship with Abraham Lincoln, their marriage, children, life in the Executive Mansion in Washington City, and their last day together.

Hear the music of the Civil War, tunes of war, of suffrage or love, of hopes and dreams and of loss. Mr. Elmer Elsworth Hager, relative of the first casualty of the war, plays a Martin acoustic guitar, an instrument true to this period of history.

Judi Cox & Paul Serge, 732-672-7751; judimarie819@yahoo.com

Bridge Builder in Petticoats: Emily Warren Roebling and the Brooklyn Bridge -- Many books and films have featured the Brooklyn Bridge and millions of people have crossed it. Built between 1869 and 1883, without modern machines or even electric light, it was the one of the most amazing technological achievements of its time. Yet few people know that a woman helped supervise much of its construction. After her husband became bedridden, Emily Roebling became his liaison to the project – eventually communicating with the engineers and suppliers so well that it was rumored that she had become the Chief Engineer herself! Later she helped design the family mansion in Trenton, studied law, organized relief for returning troops from the Spanish American War, attended the coronation of the Tsar of Russia and even took tea with Queen Victoria. At her death, she was called “the most famous woman in New Jersey” and “one of the most noted women in the country,” yet today almost no one knows her name!

Carol Simon Levin, bridgebuilderinpetticoats.com; cslevin59@gmail.com.

A W.A.S.P. Takes Wing: The Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II -- During World War II, more than one thousand women volunteers completed the WASP military pilot training program. They endured terrible Texas weather, snakes, spiders and scorpions, as well as the hostility of some male instructors. Graduating WASPs piloted every kind of military aircraft, tested new and overhauled airplanes (some with defective parts or dangerous reputations), delivered more than 12,000 planes, and flew over 60,000,000 miles (sometimes towing targets that soldiers shot at with live ammunition!) Thirty-eight of them died serving their country. Then they were told that men needed their jobs and they were dismissed and forgotten.

Carol Simon Levin tells the story of the amazing WASPs through the eyes of Ann Baumgartner Carl, the Jersey girl who trained as a WASP, became the only American woman to test-fly experimental planes during the war, and the first woman in the world to fly a jet airplane!

Carol Simon Levin, tellingherstories.com; cslevin59@gmail.com

The Lindbergh Kidnapping – The Real Story - The “Crime of the Century” hits rural Hopewell NJ. The body of the infant son of Charles Lindbergh is discovered in the Sourland Mountains. A national manhunt begins. Was this an “Inside” job? How was the perpetrator apprehended? Why did it take so long? What effect did the media blitz have on the trial? Was the evidence manufactured? Did the right man die in the electric chair? Was the lone participant caught the only guilty party? Would modern forensic techniques have made a difference? Come explore the many theories and get the facts about the trial that gripped the nation.

Glenn LeBoeuf; glennwleboeuf@msn.com; 908-938-5518; Tom Ainsworth; Tainsw1863@aol.com; 201-866-6167; www.lethistorylive.net

“James Parker on the Eve of the Revolution” - Gordon Bond discusses the life of James Parker, the first printer in New Jersey.

Gordon Bond, 908-352-0313; 908-477-6908; cbhistorians@yahoo.com

“Strong African-American Women in the Civil War Era.” Lorraine Stone is an actor, dancer, poet, and creator of historical characters of African-American heritage. Her hour-long, first-person interpretations feature a compelling “visit” by Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman or Mary Bowser. Stone wears clothing they would have worn and speaks in character. "I think of myself as a storyteller," she says. Stone has worked closely with the Playwrights-on-the-Rise Series at the Strand Theater in Lakewood. She has long been associated with Monmouth County-based Dunbar Repertory Company and is also a part of M'Zume, the Afro-Caribbean Percussion and Dance Company. Fee \$175.00.

Lorraine Stone, stonelorraine1@gmail.com, 732 492-2199

Residents of Liberty Hall -- Beginning with William Livingston, New Jersey's first elected governor, and ending with its last resident, Mary Alice Barney Kean, museum educators will describe the fascinating history of Liberty Hall as told through the lives of its occupants. *Slides are available.* Speakers' Bureau, 1003 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey 07083; 908-527-0400; liberty-hall@juno.com; www.libertyhallnj.org. *Liberty Hall has witnessed two hundred years of history and has lots of stories to tell. If you have a particular interest, we would gladly tailor a talk for you.*

Photographs and reading from **Josephine: from Washington Working Girl to Fisherman's Wife. A Memoir 1917-1959.** This memoir is based on the diaries and letters of a professional woman

ahead of her time. In 1918, Josephine left a job on the county daily in Michigan to go to Washington, DC to work for the War Department – they were called Government Girls back then. When the war ended, she got a job as a secretary and then editor to Frank G. Carpenter, the country's first travel writer and author of books about his world travels. Her diaries and the photos I show paint a picture of Washington, DC at war, almost 100 years ago.

In the 1920s Josephine went to work for Lowell Thomas as a researcher and ghostwriter, traveling throughout Europe in the late 1920s. During this period, she had a harrowing first airplane flight across the English Channel and just before the stock market crashed in 1929, cruised the Caribbean on an outrageously extravagant trip aboard Count Felix Von Luckner's four-masted windjammer. She wrote it all down. Photos and readings from the explored diary and letters chronicle early 20th-century optimism and the emerging professional woman. That is Part 1. Josephine married in 1931 and attempted to combine work with motherhood. Part 2 brings the couple to New Jersey in 1933 where they settle on sparsely populated Long Beach Island, Jo's husband's former summer place. His family import/export business on Wall St. failed in the Great Depression, and she tried to make a living by writing. This part documents finding happiness in a simple life at home, life at the shore during the 1930s, through two hurricanes and World War II, Jo's renewed interest in writing when a new weekly newspaper begins, and her death from cancer in 1959. www.margaretbuchholz.com

“The Strong Southern Woman: Facing the Challenges of War in her own Back Yard” --

Southern women rise again to speak to modern audiences during this Power Point presentation about the lives of Southern women during the War Between the States. Enter the world of Confederate nurses and spies. Learn how Southern women expressed their patriotism while coping with food shortages and living in constant physical danger.

Smile with an Alabama housewife as she remembers the constant labor of making clothing for the soldiers. Listen to the desperate pleas of a Virginia farm wife begging for food for her children. Grieve with a Confederate nurse at the death of a very young soldier.

This presentation features the wartime experiences of twenty-two Southern women and includes photographs or portraits of thirteen of those women. Sketches from Harper's Weekly and other photographs reveal life as it was for Southern women during the War Between the States. In period attire, Living Historian Rhonda Florian has performed this program for museums, libraries, historical societies, heritage societies, Civil War Round Tables, and other organizations across New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania.

Florian received her B.A. in English at Welch College in Nashville, TN and her M.F.A. in Acting at Rutgers University. She is a former high school English teacher and a former Certified Shorthand Court Reporter in the State of New Jersey. She is also the former Co-founder and Managing Director of Carolinian Shakespeare Festival in New Bern, NC.

Rhonda Florian, 732-563-4807, floriangel3@me.com

The American Historical Theatre (AHT) offers close to an hundred historical characters from all different eras, stock and custom written scripts, as well as plays and 1 and 2 interpreter programs. AHT brings history to life at conventions and corporate gatherings, historic sites and museums, special events, celebrations and promotions. Schools and other educational and cultural institutions also benefit from AHT's singular dedication to the fine art of creating accurate and entertaining historical interpretations. We have fun and factual sword fighting shows, Arms and Armory and crafting demonstrations, military musters and more: www.ahtheatre.org

Holidays

Join Interpreters Stacy Roth and Dave Emerson as they conjure the ghosts of Christmases past to present the **“Legends and Lore of the Winter Holidays.”** Hear the traditional songs and stories, learn of archaic customs and carols and discover how the Victorians in general -- and three authors in particular -- revitalized and reinvented our favorite holiday. A veritable cornucopia of holiday treats certain to delight the entire family.

Roth is an interpreter, museum educator, historian, and information specialist who has performed and presented for museums, libraries, schools, civic organizations, and festivals throughout the area. Emerson has worked at living history museums for over 25 years as an independent storyteller, teaching history through the eyes of a "person of the past." He is a veteran of Colonial Williamsburg, Plimoth Plantation, Morristown National Historical Park, and the Old Barracks Museum. They will appear in period costumes.

History on the Hoof, Stacy F. Roth / B. David Emerson, P.O. Box 421, Burlington, NJ 08016; 609-239-2706 voicemail; historyonthehoof@verizon.net.

19th-Century Life

“Dining in the 19th Century” - An illustrated lecture on the social and cultural aspects of dining during the late 18th century and the 19th century, including place settings, china and crystal, lighting and invitations, costume and servants. All pieces are from my personal collections.

David Cowell, 973-226-1733; dcowell@drew.edu

“Light Up Your Life: The Development of Lighting in the 19th Century” - An illustrated lecture about the development of lighting devices and the development of the technologies that were used up to and through the Civil War focused on how science and technological development created modern society. All lighting devices are from my private collection. A subgroup is focused on known lighting devices used during the war period by both Confederate and Union leaders.

David Cowell, 973-226-1733; dcowell@drew.edu

American Historical Theatre: Colonial crafters and tradesmen for demonstration programs or for hands-on: Bobbin Lace, Quilling, Weaving, White-smithy, Candle-making and more.

www.AHTheatre.org

Horticulture

Gardens of Liberty Hall -- Liberty Hall Museum's 23 beautifully landscaped acres, which were designed so that plants are blooming from April to first frost, are evidence of a more than 200-year-old tradition of the Livingston/Kean family that began with Governor Livingston. This speech, which includes a video presentation, interweaves the history of the gardens with the life and times of the remarkable people who lived at Liberty Hall. Speakers' Bureau, 1003 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey 07083; 908-527-0400; liberty-hall@juno.com; www.libertyhallnj.org. Liberty Hall has witnessed two hundred years of history and has lots of stories to tell. If you have a particular interest, we would gladly tailor a talk for you.

Immigration

Mark Simmons

13 Oak Lane, Verona, NJ 07044; 973-857-2081 (home); 973-941- 1316 (cell);
tms1117@comcast.net.

Industry and Labor

Anarchists with Little Round BOMBS!!!-The Haymarket Tragedy - May 4th 1886 - We take the 8 hour work day for granted. This is the story of men who paid for it with their lives. Why did a peaceful meeting of “McCormick Reaper” strikers turn into a Police Riot? Learn how American labor fought back, or did they? How did the fear of an idea cause the execution of four innocent men? How close was the country to a workers revolution? How did American justice deal with those who counseled resistance to Capital? What is an anarchist anyway?

Glenn LeBoeuf; glennwleboeuf@msn.com; 908-938-5518; Tom Ainsworth;
Tainsw1863@aol.com; 201-866-6167; www.lethistorylive.net

"Edison and the Rise of Innovation"

Thomas Edison (1847-1931) was more than history's most prolific inventor. He combined scientific knowledge, well-equipped laboratories, talented collaborators, investment capital and a bit of showmanship to change the way we develop new technologies. *Edison and the Rise of Innovation* chronicles Edison's life and work, making lively and lavish use of rarely-seen historic photographs, lab notebooks and advertising material. Published by Sterling Signature in October 2013, it was produced in association with the Edison Innovation Foundation, the Charles Edison Fund and the National Park Service. Another famous innovator – Bill Gates – has written the foreword to this fresh look at Thomas Edison.

Edison and the Rise of Innovation introduces the inventor who did more than just invent the phonograph, incandescent electric light and motion picture camera, he translated ideas into commercial products, creating dozens of companies to manufacture and market his inventions. The book reminds us that Edison still matters because he faced the same questions modern innovators confront today: which ideas should I develop? How do I raise money to support research? How do I motivate my team? What's the best way to manufacture and sell my products?

Thomas Edison National Historical Park Archivist Leonard DeGraaf,
leonard_degraaf@nps.gov

The IWW in the Great Paterson Silk Strike – A major chapter in the history of organized labor was written in Paterson in 1916. What was the four loom system? Why Paterson? How and why did the Industrial Workers of the World become involved? Would the tactics used successfully in the mines and lumber camps work in the mills? Could a polyglot collection of Unions put aside their individual goals for a collective one? Would workers in New York support their fellowmen in New Jersey? What methods were used to break the strike? Could the solidarity of a multinational workforce overcome the power of capital? What were the effects on the city-then and now? Was this a victory or a defeat of organized labor?

Glenn LeBoeuf; glennwleboeuf@msn.com; 908-938-5518; Tom Ainsworth;
Tainsw1863@aol.com; 201-866-6167; www.lethistorylive.net

“The Garden State: Where Ideas Grow” – Based on her book, *A History of Inventing in New Jersey: From Thomas Edison to the Ice Cream Cone*, this program by Linda J. Barth explores groundbreaking, useful, fun, and even silly inventions and their New Jersey roots.

Many people are familiar with Edison's "invention factory" in Menlo Park, where he patented the phonograph, the light bulb, and many more innovations. Yet many other ideas have grown in the Garden State, too—New Jerseyans brought sound and music to movies and built the very first drive-in theater. In addition to the first cultivated blueberry, tasty treats like ice cream cones and M&M's® are also Jersey natives. Iconic aspects of American life, like Bubble Wrap®, the boardwalk, the Band-Aid®, and even professional baseball itself started in New Jersey. Life would be a lot harder without the vacuum cleaner, plastic, and air-conditioning, and many other important advances in medicine and surgery were developed here.

Linda J. Barth, 214 North Bridge Street, Somerville, New Jersey 08876; 908-240-0488;
barthlinda123@aol.com

New Jersey Originals: Technological Marvels, Odd Inventions, Trailblazing Characters, and More

What makes New Jersey so special? In addition to culture, wonderful suburban towns, a high standard of living, strong public schools, a mild climate, mountains and beaches, we must add one more: **innovation**.

In addition to the creations of Bell Labs and Thomas Edison, New Jersey has innovators and inventors galore. In the first inventions program, based on *A History of Inventing in New Jersey: From Thomas Edison to the Ice Cream Cone*, we detailed our state's many inventions in science, communications, food, medicine, sports, and transportation.

In this **new program**, you can learn about more of the inventions of Bell Labs and Edison, in addition to other valuable, brilliant, and quirky creations. The work of our soldiers at Fort Monmouth and Camp Evans—including radar and night vision goggles—helped the United States win World War II. Cook College at Rutgers has produced important, often disease-resistant, vegetables and flowers. Among the edible inventions are pork roll, M&M's, and the famous Campbell's green bean casserole. Quirky firsts include Lucy the Elephant and the Francis life car. And just for fun, I've added some famous and not-so-famous New Jerseyans.

So kick off your shoes, pour a cup of tea, and join us on a Jersey journey of innovation.

Linda J. Barth, 214 North Bridge Street, Somerville, New Jersey 08876; 908-240-0488;
barthlinda123@aol.com

The Triangle Tragedy, March 25, 1911 - The Triangle Shirtwaist Company, occupying the top three floors of a ten-story building in New York City, was consumed by fire. One hundred and forty-seven people, mostly women and young girls working in sweatshop conditions, lost their lives. Approximately 50 died as they leapt from windows to the street; the others were burned or trampled to death as they desperately attempted to escape through stairway exits locked as a precaution against "the interruption of work". On 11 April the company's owners were indicted for manslaughter. Would justice prevail? As photos of the dead girls smashed on the pavement hit FrontPages across the nation...The public outcry became enormous. This disaster led to sweeping safety laws and regulations enforced today. Find out what simple precautions could have prevented this debacle. Learn what other organizations and events were rooted in this travesty.

Glenn LeBoeuf; glennwleboeuf@msn.com; 908-938-5518; Tom Ainsworth;
Tainsw1863@aol.com; 201-866-6167; www.lethistorylive.net

"New Jersey's Mills: Whatever Happened to Them?" – In the 1800s, more than a thousand water-powered mills existed in New Jersey. In those years, grist, saw, cotton, and woolen mills provided food, shelter, and clothing. Over the decades, some of those mills were converted to other uses, many fell to ruin, and others simply vanished. Surprisingly, a few still function today. This PowerPoint program examines the current state of many of those mills built in centuries past.

Phil Jaeger, 9 Bradford Way, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009; 973-746-7453;
philjaeger@optonline.net

Lenape

Lenape Lifeways, John Kraft. Books and Educational Programs about the Lenape or Delaware Indians. 1) *Lenape Lifeways Family and Village Life* (grades 1 to 8): Fun and age-appropriate! Details traditional Lenape life in the Eastern Woodlands homeland by focusing on everyday village activities and the roles of men, women and children within the family and community. Drawings and photographs show how the Lenape dressed, built shelters, grew crops, fished, hunted, cooked, made tools and weapons, treated disease, grew up and more. 2) *The Lenape-Delaware Indian Heritage*: This engaging and substantive slide-illustrated program is an attempt to reconstruct the life of the Lenape-Delaware people who once populated New Jersey and the surrounding area. This program will examine Lenape daily life, their legends, art, religious beliefs, customs, traditions, and system of government. John T. Kraft, Director of *Lenape Lifeways, Inc*, is an archaeologist/educator who has presented thousands of programs on the Lenape or Delaware Indians of New Jersey. He has helped discover and excavate Lenape villages and artifacts, and has added much new information about their family life, dwellings, diet, spiritual beliefs and technology. He has published *The Indians of Lenapehoking*, an educational unit on the Indians of New Jersey and the surrounding region, and has illustrated *The Lenape or Delaware Indians* and other books.

John Kraft, 973-691-2316, lenapelifeways@nac.net; www.lenapelifeways.org

Lenape Life and Culture - Mike Ossino. 45-minute program about local Indians. With two colleagues in authentic dress, Mike displays many items, most of which he has constructed himself, i.e. headdresses, implements, drums, etc.

Mike Ossino, 732-292-3085; 732-239-7215

Literature

American Historical Theatre Presents Ichabod Crane, Washington Irving, and The Legend of Sleepy Hollow: An all-new adaptation of this horror story written by Washington Irving. The interactive one-man interpretation of the story of the headless horseman draws the audience into the schoolmaster's world in sleepy Tarry Town. The program, followed by discussion about this 19th century author who also wrote Rip Van Winkle, ends with a dramatic reading of the story's postscript. www.AHTheatre.org. Also available through the New Jersey Council for the Humanities

American Historical Theatre Literary Series: Bring charm and culture to any event by hosting a visit from one of our Literary Figures: Walt Whitman, Edgar Allan Poe, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Louisa May Alcott, Elizabeth Graeme Fergusson, or Langston Hughes: www.AHTheatre.org.

Local History

"Patriots, Tories, Inebriates, and Hussies: Unearthing the History of the Abraham Staats House" - This lecture will uncover details of the Staats' family history through the Revolutionary War, the arrival of turnpike roads, the construction of the D&R Canal, and the emancipation of slaves.

Dr. Richard Veit, Associate Professor of Anthropology at Monmouth University;
rveit@monmouth.edu.

“Millionaires’ Mile” - David Siegfried, from the Millburn Historical Society, gives a presentation on the mansions along Madison Avenue (the area between Madison and Morristown).

David Siegfried, 973-467-3064; dandssieg@aol.com

“Hunterdon County: December 17, 1775” - Spencer Peck presents a talk titled, “Hunterdon County: December 17, 1776,” which depicts life in Hunterdon during that fateful period leading up to the Battle of Trenton and the role Hunterdon County played. He speaks of the immigrants and commerce of the rural area and describes the troop movement and displays his collection of old currency.

Spencer Peck; 732-236-6434

American Historical Theatre: Governor Livingston, I Presume

Born in New York (1723) Livingston, a graduate of Yale, went into law, but after years in New York politics, he and his family moved to Elizabethtown where they built an estate (Liberty Hall). Returned to politics by the Revolutionary War, he was a member of the first and second Continental Congresses. In 1776, he left Congress to command the New Jersey militia, and later that year he was elected the first governor of our state. Livingston spurred New Jersey’s rapid ratification of the Constitution, conducted agricultural experiments, and was also active in the anti-slavery movement. www.AHTheatre.org. Also available through the New Jersey Council for the Humanities

American Historical Theatre’s Literary Series: Walt Whitman, Edgar Allen Poe, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Louisa May Alcott in 1st person interpretation or one man shows such as Sherlock Holmes and the Speckled Band www.AHTheatre.org

“Founding Family: The Lewis Morrises of Monmouth County” – A presentation featuring newly discovered letters, drawings, and maps outlining the vast influence of the Morris Family in New Jersey from 1675 through 1800. Entrepreneurs, politicians, Lords Manor, farmers, soldiers, religious leaders, attorneys, Loyalists and Patriots – the Morris Family were all these and more in the colonial and early national times of New Jersey and the Middle Atlantic States.

Rick Geffken, Shrewsbury Historical Society, rickg0817@yahoo.com and website: <http://livinghistorynj.com/>

“First Voyage of Discovery – The 1663 English Purchase of Monmouth County Lands from the Lenape” - Often overlooked, this English settlers’ journey from Gravesende (Brooklyn) to the Rensselaer’s Pier (today’s Highlands) led directly to the famous Monmouth Patent. This PowerPoint will outline their hazardous route, negotiations with the Indians, and confrontations with the ruling Dutch.

Rick Geffken, Shrewsbury Historical Society, rickg0817@yahoo.com and website: <http://livinghistorynj.com/>

“The Quaker Migration to Monmouth County in the 17th Century” – a discussion and visual presentation describing how a small number of adherents to an emerging religion affected colonial New Jersey society. Established in Shrewsbury, New Jersey, more than 350 years, the Society of Friends continues to thrive there today.

Rick Geffken, Shrewsbury Historical Society, rickg0817@yahoo.com and website: <http://livinghistorynj.com/>

Maritime/Jersey Shore

“Celebrating the Jersey Shore” - PowerPoint slideshow and readings from Shore Chronicles: Diaries and Traveler's Tales from the Jersey Shore 1764-1955 and Island Album: Photographs and Memories of Long Beach Island. Travel with me “down the shore” as I illustrate the shore experience over the decades. Here are stories and pictures of sailing and fishing, of treks by horse, stagecoach, train and car, of beach camping, lifeguards and coastal rescue, of bathing beauties in rented woolen suits and flappers, of violent storms and the endless struggle to resist a hungry sea. Writing by such well-known figures as John J. Audubon, Walt Whitman, Robert Louis Stevenson, Stephen Crane and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is included. But, perhaps most interesting are the selections from private journals, letters, and diaries from unknowns vacationing or visiting the shore.

Margaret Buchholz, 8102 Bay Terrace, Harvey Cedars NJ 08008; lbipooch@comcast.net.
609-494-1263 or 609-709-4279

“New Jersey Shipwrecks” - A slide show and reading from the dramatic *New Jersey Shipwrecks: 350 Years in the Graveyard of the Atlantic* takes us on a gripping voyage through the “Graveyard of the Atlantic” -- a name bestowed upon the state’s treacherous shoals and inlets. Before this coastline became a summer playground of second homes and resort beaches, it was a wild frontier of uninhabited and shifting sandbars. From the days of sail to steam and oil, ships (and even submarines) have been drawn to this coast. And for thousands of vessels, it became their final resting place. I explore this history, along with the development of the U.S. Coast Guard from its 1848 origin as the Lifesaving Service, through illustrations, photographs, and readings from the harrowing memories of survivors and observers. I bring my audience into the storm-tossed surf. We are caught in the swirling wreck-filled waters, and fires of maritime disasters like the Morro Castle, and come away with a sense of shared survival as well as respect for the brave heroes and lost souls of this book.

Margaret Buchholz, 8102 Bay Terrace, Harvey Cedars NJ 08008; lbipooch@comcast.net;
609-494-1263 or 609-709-4279

“Great Storms of the Jersey Shore” - A dramatic history of the major coastal storms that have hit the Jersey Shore throughout recorded history. This slide show is adapted from the book, which is illustrated with nearly 200 photographs, engravings, and maps. I have chosen an exciting selection to fit in the one-hour format, and have added photographs gathered in the years since the book was first published in 1993. This presentation is an opportunity to appreciate the horror and beauty of nature at its most powerful. It covers the whole shoreline, but can be altered to emphasize the northern or southern shore.

Margaret
Buchholz, 8102 Bay Terrace, Harvey Cedars NJ 08008; lbipooch@comcast.net; 609-494-1263
or 609-709-4279

“New Jersey’s Lighthouses & Life-Saving Stations,” presented by David Veasey, a lifelong New Jersey resident and career writer. Veasey has authored three books on various aspects of the state’s history and can present an illustrated talk to your history group on the following topics:

- New Jersey’s Colonial Architecture
- New Jersey 350 Years of Innovation & Diversity
- New Jersey’s Lighthouses & Life-Saving Stations

Veasey lives in Morris Plains, NJ. He has a BA from Drew University, Madison, and a Master’s Degree from New York University. His books on New Jersey are: *New Jersey’s Colonial Architecture Told in 100 Buildings*; *New Jersey Then & Now*; and *Guarding New Jersey’s Shore: Lighthouses and Life-Saving Stations*.

The NJ Light House Society has a speakers bureau as part of its educational outreach program. The bureau provides presentations to historical, senior, fraternal, boating, scouting and primary school groups on subjects such as lighthouse history, lenses, structure styles, colors, and a few short stories on courageous women who tended the lights. We display a diorama of NJ with lighthouse miniatures, enlarged photos, and a short slide presentation. We do not require a fee, but do accept donations for educational and preservation purposes.

Bob Gleason, RGleason233@comcast.net; 732-238-7066

“Shadow Divers” - Richie Kohler and John Chatterton, the authors of "Shadow Divers," discovered a long lost German U-Boat off the New Jersey coast. An exciting book, and Richie narrates a program on that event. He held a large crowd spell-bound at a recent presentation. Good for all ages.

Richie Kohler, RAKOHLER@aol.com

Shipwreck Programs - Dan Lieb, of the New Jersey Historical Divers Association, speaks with authority on relics brought up from sunken vessels, where vessels sank, under what conditions, etc. The historical divers association museum is located in the Camp Evans complex in Wall Township.

Dan Lieb; 732-776-6261; NJHDA@aol.com

Boardwalk Hall Organ Tour - 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. Boardwalk Hall is a National Historic Landmark. Both organs have been recognized by the Organ Historical Society as historic and significant instruments. Both organs are being restored and are a Save Americas Treasures project. Visitors see not only the organs but the hall. The tour takes 2 – 2.5 hours. Tours are offered on the first and third Tuesday of the month. Reservations are required and made by sending the request to acchostour@gmail.com. The Societies website is www.acchos.org.

Harry Bellangy, Greater Cape May Historical Society and The Atlantic City Convention Hall Organ Society; 609 433 1474; acchostour@gmail.com

SOS Morro Castle - What NOT to do with a fire at sea. What caused this catastrophe? Why were only 85 people saved in the boats? Why she wasn't beached. Was the radio operator a heroic "Sparks"? Or another kind of "Sparks"? How did this disaster cause safer cruising today? Learn the answers to this 72 year old enigma? Learn about the mysteries and lessons learned from this haunting maritime disaster just off the beach of Asbury Park.

Glenn LeBoeuf; glennwleboeuf@msn.com; 908-938-5518; Tom Ainsworth; Tainsw1863@aol.com; 201-866-6167; www.lethistorylive.net

Maritime – not New Jersey

Titanic – Charles Haas, retired teacher & *Titanic* expert gives a chronological presentation on the Titanic, including current information and issues. He is an excellent and dynamic speaker; no charge, but he does sell copies of his books. Charles Haas; 973 584-5930, titanicteach@yahoo.com

Medical

Doctors Speaking Bureau, 11 Pine Street, Morristown, NJ 07960; 973 539 3444;
Dr. Johnathon M. Taylor, Chiropractor. Doctors from many disciplines are available to speak to groups on a variety of medically-related topics. Usually no fees.

Military – Civil War

“The Thirty-third New Jersey Civil War Regiment” – The Thirty-third New Jersey Civil War regiment was formed in Newark in the summer of 1863 and lost 25% of its men to desertion before leaving New Jersey. Sent to Tennessee, the regiment effectively walked to Washington, D.C. by way of Atlanta and Savannah. The talk will focus on the story of the regiment's founding and its service in the crucial Atlanta campaign. A typical program is a half-hour talk followed by questions and discussions.

John Zinn, 84 Hillside Avenue, Verona, New Jersey 07044; 973-857-1028;
www.zinnbooks.com; zjinn84@comcast.net

“Daniel Morgan: Unsung Hero of the American Revolution” - During the American Revolution, New Jersey-born Daniel Morgan rose from the ranks to become a brigadier general. Morgan commanded riflemen during the invasion of Quebec; played an important role in the Saratoga Campaign, the turning point of the war; and won a brilliant victory at Cowpens. Dressed as one of Morgan's famous Virginia rifleman, Bill Chemerka, traces the life of this remarkable American hero.

[Bill Chemerka](mailto:Bill.Chemerka@WRCHEMERKA@aol.com), WRCHEMERKA@aol.com; (cell) 973-727-1230

“Remember the Alamo! New Jersey and the Texas Revolution” - In 1836, a small band of Texians and Tejanos defended the Alamo against Gen. Santa Anna's Mexican army during the Texas Revolution. Believe it or not, New Jerseyans played a small but important role in Texas' struggle for independence. Bill Chemerka, founder of The Alamo Society, will help us "Remember the Alamo!"

[Bill Chemerka](mailto:Bill.Chemerka@WRCHEMERKA@aol.com), WRCHEMERKA@aol.com; (cell) 973-727-1230

“The Fighting 33rd: The Rebellious New Jersey Civil War Regiment” - Dozens of New Jersey regiments battled their Confederate counterparts during the Civil War. But the 33rd Volunteer Infantry developed a wild and unruly reputation against fellow Union troops even before they left for the South in 1863. Uniformed as one of the 33rds' Zouave soldiers, Bill Chemerka describes the story of the unit's ultimate redemption in the battlefield.

[Bill Chemerka](mailto:Bill.Chemerka@WRCHEMERKA@aol.com), WRCHEMERKA@aol.com; (cell) 973-727-1230

“The Story of the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee (Nov. 30, 1864)” – The story is interwoven with The Widow of the South, a NY Times best-selling novel about that battle and its aftermath, featuring Carrie McGavock and the cemetery she founded at her home, where almost 1500 Confederate soldiers are buried. While a novel, it is based on actual events, I am a descendant of the heroine and active in the museum which was then our family home. This presentation (with computerized slides) lasts about 30 - 40 minutes, plus questions. I would need a

projector to hook up to a computer. This talk is tailored to the audience; e.g. more military for Civil War Roundtables.

Hanes Heller, hpheller@optonline.net; 3 Lenape Dr., Montville, NJ 07045; 973-263-1072

“The Story of the 18th Georgia” - [This is the story of one regiment and one ordinary soldier in it. The 18th Georgia was at the heart of action in much of the Eastern battlefields, from Gaines Mill until Appomattox. The talk lasts about 20 minutes, plus questions; no slides.](#)

Hanes Heller, hpheller@optonline.net; 3 Lenape Dr., Montville, NJ 07045; 973-263-1072

Many Civil War topics, including **10 Moral Moments in the Life of Abraham Lincoln: His Lifelong Quest for the "Better Angels" of His Nature; The Lincoln Family In The White House: 1861-1865; Abraham & Mary Todd Lincoln: A House Divided; The Rise of Lincoln: 1831-1860; Billy Yank & Johnny Reb; From Battlefield to Boardroom: Leadership Lessons From the Battle of Gettysburg 1863; Failure at Gettysburg: 15 Decisions That Doomed the Confederacy; Clash of Titans: Grant vs. Lee 1864-1865; Hidden Valour: Female Soldiers in the American Civil War; 5 Presidents and the Civil War Battles That Made Them; Drill, Drill and More Drill Daily life of the Civil War Soldier; and John Brown-The Abolitionist's Bloody Hand**

Glenn LeBoeuf; glennwleboeuf@msn.com; 908-938-5518; Tom Ainsworth; Tainsw1863@aol.com; 201-866-6167; www.lethistorylive.net

“What the Boys Wore and Carried.” Mr. Arthur Green is a well-known living history interpreter. He is very knowledgeable about the Civil War and has done many programs throughout the years; he is an extensive collector of Civil War artifacts. He also does programs on Revolutionary War and World War II.

Mr. Green's wife, Michelle, also gives programs on Civil War era apparel. She brings a wonderful assortment of authentic period attire.

You can contact the Greens at 732-222-1207 or atdegren2@yahoo.com.

“Ere the Shadows Fade: New Jersey's Civil War Era Photographers.” Gary

Saretzky, Monmouth County Archivist and photographer, lectures regularly on topics related to the history of photography and preserving photographs. This talk features several notable examples of New Jersey's Civil War-era photographers and describes how the war boosted the photographic trade as more and more soldiers and families sought images of loved ones.

Gary Saretzky, gsaretzk@co.monmouth.nj.us

American Historical Theatre: Ulysses S. Grant, Clara Barton Civil War Nurse, Dorothea Dix, CW nurse and mental health Advocate, John Singleton Mosby, R. E. Lee for programs with questions and answers or meet and greet. www.AHTheatre.org

“New Jersey's Own Civil War Characters: The Men, the Women, the Good Guys and the Bad.”

To many the focus of the Civil War is the battles and that become the turn-off, but the people themselves have a great story to tell and they should be known. Cornelia Hancock rejected as a nurse because she was too *pretty*, goes to the Gettysburg battlefield at her own expense with her own medical supplies and tends to the wounded and continues to serve throughout the war, Charles Hopkins, a driver on the underground railroad enters service, is awarded a Congressional Medal of honor and is a prisoner in Andersonville, Willie McGee awarded a Medal of Honor based upon his totally fabricated story. The program also features characters from the areas in which the talk is presented.

Rich Rosenthal, is the president of the North Jersey Civil War Round Table, the largest round table in New Jersey, also served on the New Jersey Civil War 150 Committee. .

3 Cambridge Morris Plains, NJ 07950; 973-267-9075; NJCivilWarRT@aol.com

Unsung Heroines – The Role of Women in the American Civil War

(\$ 75 fee) This program covers the role of women as journalists, nurses, spies, administrators, and combatants. Their awesome accomplishments, shown in this program, never received proper historical notice.

Martin Mosho, civilwar44@verizon.net; 609 490-1136 or 908 618-1188.

Hallowed Ground – Putting the Civil War Dead to Rest

(no charge) 750,000 men died in the Civil War but the tragedy was magnified by disrespectful burial practices. This program shows how Federal and State governments, plus civilian women, rectified this matter. The controversial issue of statues and monuments is also covered..

Martin Mosho, civilwar44@verizon.net; 609 490-1136 or 908 618-1188.

Military – Revolutionary War

“Middlebrook: A Comprehensive Look” - This lecture provides an overview and provocative look at the cantonment of the American Army in 1778-1779.

Jim Kurzenberger, retired manager of the Wallace House and Old Dutch Parsonage New Jersey State Historic Sites, Somerville; 908-725-1015

“Eyewitness Images of the American Revolution” -

Arthur S. Lefkowitz, author of *George Washington's Indispensable Men* and *The Long Retreat*;

“Oh Freedom! Slavery in New Jersey During the American Revolution” – This talk addresses the topic of slavery during the American Revolution.

Frederic Lawrence Minus, member of the Camp Olden Round Table and founding member of the 6th Regiment United States Colored Troops

The Military Career of George Washington

Glenn LeBoeuf; glennwleboeuf@msn.com; 908-938-5518; Tom Ainsworth; Tainsw1863@aol.com; 201-866-6167; www.lethistorylive.net

Bloody Footprints in the Snow: The Christmas Miracle at Trenton, 1776 - How close to capitulation was Washington's Army? His depleted "army" was down to 4,000 half starved, unpaid citizen soldiers (from the 24,000 only six months ago). Washington's desperately bold plan to attack the professional Hessian regulars must succeed or; the new democracy called "The United States of America" would collapse in weeks. Following a night river crossing of the ice flowed Delaware, this army advanced on Trenton. Many lacked bayonets, shoes and even dry powder. How could they succeed against these "Elite" mercenaries from Europe? Who were these Hessians anyway? Why were they in Trenton? How did a staving, beaten rabble rout these professional soldiers? Who were Glover, Ewing, and Cadwalader? What were the results of this seemingly insignificant conflict along the Delaware? This is real story of the "Best American Christmas" ever ... 1776.

Glenn LeBoeuf; glennwleboeuf@msn.com; 908-938-5518; www.lethistorylive.net; 888-244-7131 (work); Tom Ainsworth; Tainsw1863@aol.com; 201-866-6167; www.lethistorylive.net

The War Man – Author Bob Mayers is available to speak and sign books. He has slide presentation that can be customized to focus on local events in the war that occurred in the immediate area of the League member. He has had several N.J. appearances, including the NJ American Revolution Round table in Morristown where he had a very enthusiastic audience of about one hundred.

Bob Mayers, bobmayers@msn.com; 908 757 0038

"September 11, 1776" -- "Most Americans are aware that since September 11, 2001, their lives have never been the same. The same can be said for September 11, 1776, the date of the only face-to-face official meeting of the British and the Americans during the entire American Revolutionary War. **"September 11, 1776"** provides a fresh analysis of the event that took place, along with an explanation of the personalities involved in it. You are invited to take an in-depth tour of Central New Jersey's most important Revolutionary War sites in my new book *A SPIRITED WAR- George Washington and the Ghosts of the Revolution in Central New Jersey.*" Donald J. Peck, residence 732-738-1165, office 732-738-1165 email clausenco@aol.com.

"Washington in Bergen County: A Week That Changed the Nation" -- William "Pat" Schuber, formerly Bergen County Executive and currently affiliated with Fairleigh Dickinson University discusses the importance of Washington's stay in Bergen County.

William Schuber, wpschuber@optonline.net

American Historical Theatre: A Day in the Life of a Soldier: a program detailing the day to day life of the rank and file, throughout the various battles. Audiences get to see first hand 18th Century reproduction items which would make up a soldier's kit and weapons. www.AHTheatre.org

Gateway to History

Celebrated authors and presenters Dr. Jude M. Pfister and Gordon Thomas Ward will present different perspectives on the era of the American Revolution as it relates to the Morristown area. First, Dr. Jude M. Pfister (author of *The Jacob Ford Jr. Mansion* and *The Fords of New Jersey*) will discuss the Ford family of Morris County, New Jersey, along with their mansion in Morristown. Both the Ford Family and their home participated in and witnessed some of the most trying times of the first century of the American pageant. The multi-layered family history is tangibly represented in the multi-floored and memory-laden mansion, which stands to this day as a testament to the passage of time and the enduring power of place. Following this, Gordon Thomas Ward (author of local history books *A Bit of Earth* and *Ghosts of Central Jersey*) will discuss the 1779-1780 encampment of the New Jersey Brigade in Jockey Hollow and their encampment site, which was discovered in the 1960s. He will also entertain you with several, seldom-told ghost stories connected with local historic sites from the time of the American Revolution. Projected photos will complement the entire presentation.

Gordon Thomas Ward, P.O. Box 226, Pottersville, NJ 07979; gordonthomasward@gmail.com; 908-295-2391.

World War I

Pickets & Patriotism, War Service & Women's Suffrage
American Women's Fight to Win the Vote

Looking for a program to commemorate the 100th anniversary of America's entry in World War I? Living History Presenter Carol Simon Levin portrays Jeannette Rankin, America's first female member of Congress, and tells the intertwined stories of women's participation in the war effort, the peace movement, and their fight to finally achieve the vote.

Visit <https://tellingherstories.com/performances/> to see upcoming performances.

Military – World War II

New Jersey's Admiral: "Bull" Halsey

Glenn LeBoeuf; glennwleboeuf@msn.com; 908-938-5518; Tom Ainsworth;
Tainsw1863@aol.com; 201-866-6167; www.lethistorylive.net

William "Pat" Schuber, formerly Bergen County Executive, will discuss the research he did in preparing a chapter for the book A New Look at Nagasaki - 1946. He also has a presentation in which he shares his research regarding the Battle of the Bulge in a talk entitled "Bastogne and the Band of Brothers."

William Schuber, wpschuber@optonline.net

A W.A.S.P. Takes Wing: The Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II -- During World War II, more than one thousand women volunteers completed the WASP military pilot training program. They endured terrible Texas weather, snakes, spiders and scorpions, as well as the hostility of some male instructors. Graduating WASPs piloted every kind of military aircraft, tested new and overhauled airplanes (some with defective parts or dangerous reputations), delivered more than 12,000 planes, and flew over 60,000,000 miles (sometimes towing targets that soldiers shot at with live ammunition!) Thirty-eight of them died serving their country. Then they were told that men needed their jobs and they were dismissed and forgotten.

Carol Simon Levin tells the story of the amazing WASPs through the eyes of Ann Baumgartner Carl, the Jersey girl who trained as a WASP, became the only American woman to test-fly experimental planes during the war, and the first woman in the world to fly a jet airplane!

Carol Simon Levin, tellingherstories.com; cslevin59@gmail.com

Military – Other topics

90+ year history of Fort Monmouth, 20-21st century American military history topics, women in the U.S. military, oral history, and archives, records, and collections management.

Melissa Ziobro is an instructor of history at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, NJ. She serves on the executive council of Brookdale Community College's Center for World War II Studies and Conflict Resolution in Lincroft, NJ, and as the Books Reviews editor for the forthcoming New Jersey Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal. She served as a command historian at the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Life Cycle Management Command, Fort Monmouth, New Jersey from 2004-2011. She is available to deliver presentations on a variety of topics, including the 90+ year history of Fort Monmouth, 20-21st century American military history topics, women in the U.S. military, oral history, and archives, records, and collections management. For more specifics, please contact Melissa Ziobro: mziobro@monmouth.edu/732-232-4819/400 Cedar Avenue, West Long Branch, NJ.

Melissa Ziobro, Instructor of History, Department of History and Anthropology, Monmouth University; Office: Howard Hall, Phone: (732) 232-4819 Find us on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/MUHistoryAndAnthropology>

Follow us on Twitter! <https://twitter.com/MUHistAndAnthro>

Military – Other wars

"[Remember the Alamo! New Jersey and the Texas Revolution](#)" - In 1836, a small band of Texians and Tejanos defended the Alamo against Gen. Santa Anna's Mexican army during the Texas

Revolution. Believe it or not, New Jerseyans played a small but important role in Texas' struggle for independence. Bill Chemerka, founder of The Alamo Society, will help us "Remember the Alamo!"

[Bill Chemerka, WRCHEMERKA@aol.com](mailto:Bill.Chemerka@WRCHEMERKA@aol.com); (cell) 973-727-1230

Music

Story-Songs of History

Audiences adore this evocative presentation of original songs and their inspiring stories celebrating the rich histories and secreted tales of our shared past. Many of the songs Gordon performs are from his CD *Welcome to the Past*. Presented in brilliant detail, Mr. Ward uses a "behind the music" format combining enchanting anecdotes, vocals, and a multi-instrumental accompaniment to transport listeners on a captivating journey through various time periods and historic events including the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, railroads in NJ, Trail of Tears, the Lenape, Robert Frost, and more!

Gordon Thomas Ward, P.O. Box 226, Pottersville, NJ 07979; www.gordonthomasward.com; gordonthomasward@gmail.com; 908-295-2391.

Boardwalk Hall Organ Tour - 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. Boardwalk Hall is a National Historic Landmark. Both organs have been recognized by the Organ Historical Society as historic and significant instruments. Both organs are being restored and are a Save Americas Treasures project. Visitors see not only the organs but the hall. The tour takes 2 – 2.5 hours. Tours are offered on the first and third Tuesday of the month. Reservations are required and made by sending the request to acchostour@gmail.com. The Societies website is www.acchos.org.

Harry Bellangy, Greater Cape May Historical Society and the Atlantic City Convention Hall Organ Society; 609 433 1474; acchostour@gmail.com

Rhythm & Blues Vocal Harmony and Doo Wop Music are among the least documented, least respected and least understood of all the American musical art forms. Over the past 40 years we've had the pleasure of interviewing literally hundreds of vocal group singers. Many became our close friends. Tragically, many of those singers are no longer with us. The task of preserving their legacy has fallen on the select few serious researchers who had the foresight to document these artists' stories over the past several decades. Our presentations are meant to educate as well as entertain. We help our audiences learn the stories behind the songs they grew up with as well as the singers who sang those songs.

Classic Urban Harmony, LLC, 210 Sherwood Court, Somerset, NJ 08873; 973-214-4350; www.ClassicUrbanHarmony.net

Paranormal

Evidence from the Afterlife

What happens to us when our bodies die? Does our consciousness survive? If so, where does it go? Are there angels, beings from a non-physical realm, who guide us on this Earth? Are ghosts and angels more closely allied than we might think? What can they teach us? These questions and more will be addressed in this thought-provoking presentation and discussion that examines paranormal encounters with both "angels" and "ghosts" mixed with forensic evidence that supports the premise that we never really die. If you've ever wondered what's next for us after we complete our purposes in this physical life, this blending of the paranormal with the spiritual invites you to ponder the notion that death is nothing more or less than our graduation portal to a dazzling eternity.

Gordon Thomas Ward, P.O. Box 226, Pottersville, NJ 07979; www.gordonthomasward.com; gordonthomasward@gmail.com; 908-295-2391.

Ghosts I've Come to Know

Did you ever wonder what's on the other side? As a well-respected investigator of ghosts and hauntings for forty years and an author on the topic, Mr. Ward has developed a distinctive approach and body of evidence to support the belief in the survival of the human consciousness after death. This program includes new photos, audio recordings, developing theories, and information collected from his favorite, historic, investigation sites. This presentation will leave you with a fresh perspective on what happens us all after the transition we call death.

Gordon Thomas Ward, P.O. Box 226, Pottersville, NJ 07979; gordonthomasward@gmail.com; 908-295-2391.

Historic Haunts of Central Jersey

What ghosts roam within the historic sites and buildings of central New Jersey? How accurate are the traditional stories? From the shadowed woods of the Somerset Hills to the dappled banks of the Delaware River, Historic Haunts delivers a rich mix of factual history and the sound investigation of ghostly phenomena. This presentation also mixes in numerous PowerPoint Photos of investigation sites and audio clips of unexplained voices. The combination of an open-minded enthusiasm and a level-headed approach underscores this collection of reports that will inform, entertain, and lead audience members to places where the past is considered to be very much alive and entwined with the present.

Gordon Thomas Ward, P.O. Box 226, Pottersville, NJ 07979; gordonthomasward@gmail.com; 908-295-2391.

Ghosts: What They Are and How to Investigate Them

What's the real scoop is on ghosts? The answer is not found in gothic novels or Hollywood. The descriptions of what ghosts are and what they are not has come a long way. The word "ghost" is really an umbrella term that defines many types of paranormal phenomena. Survival of the human personality has become a popular topic and one that has mounting evidence to support its claims. Combining many years of involvement in the level-headed investigation of haunted locations with a unique, spiritual perspective on the topic, audio clips, and photographs, Gordon Ward will share his experiences and evidence, explain his views on ghosts, and teach attendees how to conduct their own, sound investigations without costly equipment.

Gordon Thomas Ward, P.O. Box 226, Pottersville, NJ 07979; gordonthomasward@gmail.com; 908-295-2391.

Pine Barrens

Pinelands Speakers Organization, c/o NJ Pinelands Commission, 15 Springfield Road, New Lisbon, NJ 08064; 609-894-7300; list of volunteers who give talks about various Pinelands-related topics. A-V programs also available. Some speakers require a fee. Sponsored by the New Jersey Pinelands Commission. Speakers Directory (updated annually) is available at www.burlco.lib.nj.us/pinelands/speakers.shtml.

Religious Topics

Jewish Historical Society of Metrowest Speakers Bureau. To book a speaker or a bus tour, please contact Dr. Edward Shapiro, 973-736-5169; edshapiro07052@yahoo.com or Linda Forgosh, Executive Director, 973-929-2994; lforgosh@jhsmw.org.

Churches of Hunterdon County (& other counties as well) – Frank Greenagel is an author who has written about many churches of all denominations across NJ. He has written several books on churches of specific counties and one on the churches of NJ. He is a photographer by hobby, which got him started on documenting the churches through photojournalism.

Frank Greenagel; flg@guidedlearning.com

Jews in New Jersey -- What do Philip Roth, Benjamin Bernanke and Jerry Lewis have in common? They all share the same Jewish heritage and all are native New Jerseyans. Museum Educator Sid Frank will discuss the contributions of Jewish New Jerseyans in such diverse areas as sports, politics, law, science, literature and entertainment. Speakers' Bureau, 1003 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey 07083; 908-527-0400; liberty-hall@juno.com; www.libertyhallnj.org. Liberty Hall has witnessed two hundred years of history and has lots of stories to tell. If you have a particular interest, we would gladly tailor a talk for you.

Rivers

“The Passaic River: 81 Miles of History” – This program follows the Passaic River through seven counties, from its source in Mendham to its end at Newark Bay, with an emphasis on historic activities and structures along the river in past centuries. The focus is on topics such as early mills, Glacial Lake Passaic, the first successful test of a submarine, extant Native American art and constructions, the country's first industrial city, and the heroic exploits of the “great descender,” Sam Patch.

Phil Jaeger, 9 Bradford Way, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009; 973-746-7453;
philjaeger@optonline.net

Spiritual

In the Midst of Angels

Do angels exist? Do they interact with and intervene in our lives? Is there an unseen force that accompanies us in our daily lives? This presentation addresses these questions and takes you on a journey to uncover the signs and experiences in life that can teach us about them. Gordon will share captivating experiences, instructional metaphors, and stories of angelic encounters from meadows, mountains, coastlines, open rangeland, and our own backyards to lead listeners to some fascinating and thought-provoking conclusions.

Gordon Thomas Ward, P.O. Box 226, Pottersville, NJ 07979; www.gordonthomasward.com;
gordonthomasward@gmail.com; 908-295-2391.

Sports

“Baseball in New Jersey, 1855-1870” - New Jersey base ball (two words in those days) clubs played an important part in the early days of the national pastime (1855-1870). The talk will focus on the game's beginnings in New Jersey, prominent players and clubs, and the differences from today's game such as playing the field without gloves. A typical program is a half-hour talk followed by questions and discussions.

John Zinn, 84 Hillside Avenue, Verona, New Jersey 07044; 973-857-1028;
www.zinnbooks.com; jzinn84@comcast.net

Transportation

“In Search of the Morris Canal” – Separate projects and screens compare scenes on New Jersey's mountain-climbing Morris Canal. The program follows the route of the canal, which carried Pennsylvania coal and many other products, across the Highlands from the Delaware River at Phillipsburg to the Hudson River in Jersey City. The Morris Canal overcame more elevation change than any canal in the world.

Phil Jaeger, 9 Bradford Way, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009; 973-746-7453;
philjaeger@optonline.net

The Delaware and Raritan Canal” - Did you know that for more than 170 years, the Delaware and Raritan Canal has meandered across the narrow waist of New Jersey? Did you know that the D&R was one of our nation's most successful towpath canals, carrying more tonnage in 1866 than the more famous Erie Canal? Did you know that Johnson & Johnson, Roebling, and Fleischmann's Distillery all had their start along the D&R? And did you know that the canal provides the people of central New Jersey with both a water supply and a premier recreational facility? Canal author and historian Linda J. Barth will introduce you to the people, the bridges, the locks, and the aqueducts that made the canal work. This waterway, now the centerpiece of a popular state park, transported men and supplies between New York and Philadelphia during three wars. Inventor John Holland used the canal to deliver his *Holland VI* submarine to Washington for its Navy trials, and luxury yachts, like J .P. Morgan's *Tarantula*, cruised the waterway. Come learn more about this gem of central New Jersey.

Linda J. Barth, 214 North Bridge Street, Somerville, New Jersey 08876; 908-722-7428; 908-240-0488; barthlinda123@aol.com.

“The Big Road: The Development of the Big Road (Bloomfield Avenue)” - A lecture on the rise of capitalism and the development of turnpikes are engines for development with a focus on the Bloomfield Turnpike from Newark to Pine Brook and to Pompton and its effects on life in Essex County in the 19th century.

David Cowell, 973-226-1733; dcowell@drew.edu

The Caldwell Railway – This railway began operation in 1891 and eventually ran from Great Notch to Essex Fells. The tracks were removed in 1979.

Phil Jaeger, 9 Bradford Way, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009; 973-746-7453;
philjaeger@optonline.net

Along Yesterday's Bloomfield Avenue – Travel along Bloomfield Avenue from Newark into Morris County with photos from centuries past.

Phil Jaeger, 9 Bradford Way, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009; 973-746-7453;

philjaeger@optonline.net

Carts to Cars

This informative talk will look at the transition from horse to mechanized power. For much of our history, horses were our partners in building our farms and cities. Tricia Haertlein asks and answers questions like: What was it like in the late 1800s and early 1900s as we switched from horsepower to horse-powered engines? What did horses do for us in the city and on the farm? Why did switching seem like a good idea? If engines were better, why were horses still delivering milk through World War II?

A resident of Hunterdon County since 1985, Tricia has worked for Janssen Pharmaceutical for over 20 years. She is a history buff and developed her talk for a local museum's transportation day and has been expanding it as her research reveals to cover more information. She is a member of local, regional, state and national horse and driving organizations and has served on the board of many of these groups. Currently, she is the president of both the Hunterdon County Horse & Pony Association and the Gladstone Equestrian Association. She also is a member of the NJ Horse Council, Carriage Association of America, and American Driving Society. For the ADS, she edited a book, Carriage Driving Games, a collection of games from around the country.

Tricia Haertlein, TriciaH@embarqmail.com

Women in History

Bridge Builder in Petticoats: Emily Warren Roebling and the Brooklyn Bridge -- Many books and films have featured the Brooklyn Bridge and millions of people have crossed it. Built between 1869 and 1883, without modern machines or even electric light, it was the one of the most amazing technological achievements of its time. Yet few people know that a woman helped supervise much of its construction. After her husband became bedridden, Emily Roebling became his liaison to the project – eventually communicating with the engineers and suppliers so well that it was rumored that she had become the Chief Engineer herself! Later she helped design the family mansion in Trenton, studied law, organized relief for returning troops from the Spanish American War, attended the coronation of the Tsar of Russia and even took tea with Queen Victoria. At her death, she was called “the most famous woman in New Jersey” and “one of the most noted women in the country,” yet today almost no one knows her name!

Carol Simon Levin, bridgebuilderinpetticoats.com; cslevin59@gmail.com.

Nobody Owns the Sky: Fascinating Stories of Forgotten Female Aviators -- Long before Amelia Earhart's famous exploits, female flyers had already proved that aviatrixes were every bit as brave and daring as their male counterparts. Flying in flimsy wood and canvas aeroplanes, Raymonde de Laroche, Hélène Dutrieu, Marie Marvingt, Harriet Quimby, Katherine Stinson, Ruth Law, Bessie Coleman and Elinor Smith awed and thrilled people on the ground — executing audacious acrobatic aerial maneuvers, soloing across the English channel, setting records, barnstorming and buzzing beneath New York's bridges. Undaunted by male skepticism, they were determined to show that anything that men could do, they could do better!

Carol Simon Levin, nobodyownsthesky.wordpress.com; cslevin59@gmail.com

A W.A.S.P. Takes Wing: The Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II -- During World War II, more than one thousand women volunteers completed the WASP military pilot training program. They endured terrible Texas weather, snakes, spiders and scorpions, as well as the hostility of some male instructors. Graduating WASPs piloted every kind of military aircraft, tested new and overhauled airplanes (some with defective parts or dangerous reputations), delivered more than 12,000 planes, and flew over 60,000,000 miles (sometimes towing targets that soldiers shot at with live ammunition!) Thirty-eight of them died serving their country. Then they were told that men needed their jobs and they were dismissed and forgotten.

Carol Simon Levin tells the story of the amazing WASPs through the eyes of Ann Baumgartner Carl, the Jersey girl who trained as a WASP, became the only American woman to test-fly experimental planes during the war, and the first woman in the world to fly a jet airplane!

Carol Simon Levin, tellingherstories.com; cslevin59@gmail.com

Alice Paul Institute - We have a couple of new presentations that we have developed or updated this year. Our standard presentation, *Alice Paul: New Jersey's Heroine for Equality*, has been updated this year. We also have a new presentation for girls (8 to 18 yrs) called, *Alice Paul: Through the Lens of Leadership*. A new presentation on our girls' leadership programs and some DVD/Video borrowing options are also available. Our full menu of presentations can be found at <http://www.alicepaul.org/speakersbureau.htm>. Kris Myers, 856-231-1885 or kmyers@alicepaul.org.

Eleanor Roosevelt: A Woman Triumphant - Born a shy, insecure and unassertive girl "imprisoned" by rigid social, racial, gender and political restraints, Eleanor discovered and developed her natural abilities and strengths. Through personal loss, a difficult marriage and stifling family and political obligations, Eleanor grew to become one of the world's champions of international peace, racial equality and women's rights.

Glenn LeBoeuf; glennwleboeuf@msn.com; 908-938-5518; Tom Ainsworth; Tainsw1863@aol.com; 201-866-6167; www.lethistorylive.net

Ladies of Liberty Hall -- From Susan Livingston, daughter of Governor Livingston, whose daring exploits saved Liberty Hall from the British during the Revolutionary War, to Mary Alice Kean who worked tirelessly for the preservation of our historic structures, Livingston and Kean women have played an important role in the history of our community. This lively talk describes two hundred years of contributions by the Ladies of Liberty Hall. Speakers' Bureau, 1003 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey 07083; 908-527-0400; liberty-hall@juno.com; www.libertyhall.org. Liberty Hall has witnessed two hundred years of history and has lots of stories to tell. If you have a particular interest, we would gladly tailor a talk for you.

American Historical Theatre Alice Paul, Eleanor Roosevelt, Lucretia Mott, Annie Oakley, Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony, Abigail Adams, Dolley Madison and more: passionate and intelligent 1st person interpretations which celebrate the influential roles of women in the shaping of the nation. www.AHTheatre.org

“The Evolving Social Status and Legal Rights of Women during New Jersey’s 350 Years.”

During the 17th and 18th centuries most women worked at home raising children and performed their domestic duties, if she lived on a farm then she shared in farm work in addition to domestic duties. The roles in the home were sharply defined between the husband and wife. Upon marriage a wife forfeited all property to the husband, if she earned wages; these too belonged to the husband. Fathers had the custody of the children. A wife could not enter a contract or buy or sell property. And then there were the cruel penalties of adultery with fines and whippings. The talk will continue through the contributions of women in the home wars of the American Revolution and Civil War and then through women in the workplace and with discussion of today’s business leaders and women in the professions. And, of course, the fight for the right for women to vote and suffrage movement. The audience will participate in the discussion when they relate the changes that have occurred and have affected them during their lifetimes.

Rich Rosenthal, has lectured on numerous historical subjects and is the president of the North Jersey Civil War Round Table and one of the founding members with pre-eminent NJ historian the late, John T. Cunningham, of the NJ American Revolution Round Table.

3 Cambridge Morris Plains, NJ 07950; 973-267-9075; HROSENTH@aol.com

TALES WELL TOLD, by writers of America’s Gilded Age, are vibrant living-history lessons. They connect us with our past through compelling characters whose dilemmas and insights, passion and humor, are, after all, our own. Presenter **Michèle LaRue**’s commentary explains that past and further illuminates our commonalities. Among her offerings:

Someone Must Wash the Dishes: This satiric monologue was written by pro-suffragist **Marie Jenney Howe** and published by the NAWSA in 1913. In the early 1900s, many women fought against Suffrage, but none with more charm, prettier clothes—and less logic—than Howe’s fictional speaker, who employs every argument in the Antis’ arsenal, to maintain the status quo. LaRue’s post-performance lecture describes the perceived realities of the time, to explain the Antis’ contradictory, seemingly irrational and ignorant arguments.

Gettysburg: One Woman’s War: Three stories from **Elsie Singmaster**’s classic *Gettysburg: Stories of the Red Harvest and the Aftermath* compellingly explore the physical and emotional terrain of the battle and ground that became national icons. With townswoman Mary Bowman, we live the war and its legacy—from the cannons’ first roar to its echoes a half century on. Published in 1913, on the eve of another fateful cataclysm: World War I.

The Bedquilt: Old Aunt Mehetabel is taken for granted by her New England family—until she conceives a quilt “beyond which no pattern could go.” This suspenseful tale was written by **Dorothy Canfield Fisher**, in 1906. It starkly and poignantly reveals a spinster’s journey to self-respect, universal admiration, and the realization of her ideal. Introduced by **Mary E. Wilkins Freeman**’s sprightly “A Quilting Bee in Our Village” and concluded by excerpts from Canfield Fisher’s memoir.

Eve’s Diary: **Mark Twain** often wrote of the Garden of Eden, imagining the very first couple’s exploration of Earth from the changing perspectives of his own maturation. This witty and poignant theatre piece ingeniously incorporates several Twain stories and essays—setting them “a long time ago, in Heaven.” Dramatized by NJ actress-playwright **Gayle Stahlhuth**.

Women Breaking Loose: A century ago, **Kate Chopin**’s “A Pair of Silk Stockings” (1894) and **Edna Ferber**’s “Representing T. A. Buck” (1913) tackled two dilemmas women still face daily: Who comes first—my family or me? Where do I belong—at home or at work?”

Other authors—famous or undeservedly forgotten—in LaRue’s repertoire include **Alice Brown, H. C. Bunner, Bret Harte, O. Henry, Sarah Orne Jewett, Edith Wharton, and Edith Wyatt.**

Michèle LaRue is a professional actress and history enthusiast who tours nationally with a repertoire of 30 performances from America’s Gilded Age. Recommendations and reviews on request. Visit <http://michelelarue.com>, call 201-863-6436, or write ruedelarue@aol.com.

Professional Memberships : AEA, SAG-AFTRA

Literary Societies: SSAWW, SSASS, Charlotte Perkins Gilman Society, Century 19, Kate Chopin Intern'l Societ