Here are the winners for the 2017 Kevin M. Hale Annual Publications Awards

**Historic Tours**

1st place: “A Weekend in Old Monmouth First Weekend in May” produced by the Monmouth County Historical Commission.


**Newsletters**


2nd place: “Ocean’s Heritage” produced by the Township of Ocean Historical Museum.

3rd place: “South River Historical & Preservation News” produced by the South River Historical & Preservation Society, Inc.

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**SAVE THESE DATES FOR UPCOMING LEAGUE MEETINGS**

**Sunday, October 28, 2018**

Fall Meeting
Jewish Historical Society of Metrowest, Whippany, Morris County

Article, registration form, and directions, p. 19-20

Historic Tours
1st place: “A Weekend in Old Monmouth First Weekend in May” produced by the Monmouth County Historical Commission.


Newsletters

2nd place: “Ocean’s Heritage” produced by the Township of Ocean Historical Museum.

3rd place: “South River Historical & Preservation News” produced by the South River Historical & Preservation Society, Inc.

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We encourage your society to host a future League meeting. If you would like this opportunity to showcase your site, just contact Linda Barth, 908-240-0488, barthlinda123@aol.com, and she will put you in touch with the regional vice-president for your area. We look forward to visiting YOUR town some day soon.
The Officers and Directors of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey

President (2018) Jane McNeill
Victorian Society
First Vice President (2018) Mary Swarbrick
Fellowship for Metlar-Bodine
Vice President, Northern (2018) Alice Gibson
Victorian Society
Vice President, Central (2018) Brian Armstrong
South River Historical and Preservation Society
Vice President, Southern (2018) Timothy Hart
Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission
Secretary (2018) Christine Retz
Meadows Foundation
Treasurer (2018) Pary Tell

Trustee, Northern (2018) Jennifer Coulta
Boonton Historical Society
Trustee, Northern (2020) Kate Malcolm
Morristown Historical Society
Trustee, Central (2022) Donald Peck
Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance
Trustee, Southern (2018) Ronald Janesko
Ocean County Historical Society

Trustee, Southern (2020) Bruce Tell
Stone Harbor Museum
Trustee-at-Large (2020) Eve Morawski
Durand-Hedden House
Trustee-at-Large (2018) Laura Poll
Archivist, Trenton Free Public Library
Historian (2018) James Lewis
Morristown and Morris Township Library

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

Executive Director Linda J. Barth, 1108-240-0488;
barthlinda123@aol.com
Membership Chairman Jennifer Coulta
Publications Awards Committee Chairman J. B. Vogt
Fellowship for Metlar House
Trustee Emeriti Bernard Bush and Dorothy Pietrowski

THE EDITOR’S CORNER

The League was so pleased to be able to work with PastPerfect and offer a 30% discount during the month of April.

Member organizations that took advantage of this offer are:
Bay Head Historical Society
Cranford Historical Society
Historical Society of Florham Park
Madison Historical Society
Morris County Historical Society
Roxbury Historic Trust, Inc.
Sparta Historical Society
Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms
Sussex County Historical Society

Slate of Candidates for LHSNJ 2018 Election

President: Tim Hart 2020
First VP: Mary Swarbrick 2020*
Northern Region VP: Alice Gibson *
Central Region VP: Brian Armstrong*
Southern Region VP: Bruce Tell 2020
Treasurer: Pary Tell 2020
Secretary: Christine Retz 2020
Historian: James Lewis 2020
Northern Region Trustee: Jane McNeill 2020
Central Region Trustee: Donald Peck 2022
Southern Region Trustee: open 2022
Southern Region Trustee: open At Large Trustee: open

There are three open positions. Those indicated with an * cannot serve another term beyond this one.

If you are a member of the League or if your society is a member, you may want to consider applying to fill one of the vacant board positions.

DEADLINE: Submissions for the January issue of League News must be on the editor’s desk no later than December 15, 2018. Please send all items to: Linda Barth, 214 North Bridge St, Somerville, New Jersey 08876; barthlinda123@aol.com.

Material submitted electronically should be in WORD format. Photographs will be scanned and returned. Digital photographs should be submitted in .jpeg or .tif.
West Hill Manor, in Burlington Twp., was built by Susanna and Samuel Emlen between 1797 and 1799, as an escape from the yellow fever that was ravaging Philadelphia. The house was put on the National Historic Register for its architecture, most of which is original; it is significant as an outstanding local example of the Federal Style. West Hill has been a continuously operating farm from 1799, and its occupants have made a significant contribution to American history.

Samuel Emlen, Jr. (1766-1837) was a successful Quaker merchant from Philadelphia. Upon this death, he established a trust of $20,000 for an agricultural school, The Emlen Institute for the Benefit of Children of African and Indian Decent, located in Carthagena, Ohio. This institute eventually vested into the Colored Normal School at Cheney, PA. (now Cheney State University).

Susanna Dillwyn Emlen (1769-1819) developed breast cancer in 1813. In 1814, the surgery was performed in a second floor chamber at West Hill. Attending were: Dr. Philip Syng Physick, Chair of Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania; Dr. Casper Wistar, Chair of Anatomy; Dr. John Syng Dorsey, who had just written the first American textbook on anatomy; Dr. Joseph Parrish; and Dr. A. B. Tucker. Despite no anesthesia and no antibiotics, the operation was successful, which makes Susanna one of the earliest breast cancer surgery survivors in the United States.

Eliza P. Kirkbride Gurney (1801-1881), widow of English social reformer Joseph John Gurney, purchased West Hill in 1851. In 1862, Eliza and three other Friends met with President Lincoln to assure him that he had the support of the Quakers during the war. Her sincerity and prayer touched his heart and the President asked her to write to him. Their correspondence continued until his death. Her first letter to him was found in his jacket pocket, worn and “treasured up” on the day he was shot.

West Hill is located at 1114 Oxmead Road, Burlington Twp. It is open for tours on the third Sunday of every month, from 1 to 4 pm. It is also available as a rental for groups to host private parties and functions. Website: westhillnj.org email: West-Hill@comcast.net

Civil War reenactment at West Hill
NEW JERSEY HISTORY DAY

For the first time, the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey sent judges to the state finals of New Jersey History Day at William Paterson University.

Our judges examined the standing exhibits, viewed the documentaries, and enjoyed the live performances created by our state’s middle school and high school students. These entries had already been chosen during the three regional competitions earlier in the year.

What Is History Day?

For more than twenty-five years the National History Day (NHD) program has promoted systemic educational reform related to the teaching and learning of history in America’s schools. The combination of creativity and scholarship built into the NHD program anticipated current educational reforms, making National History Day a leading model of performance-based learning. National History Day reinforces classroom teaching by rewarding students of all abilities for their scholarship, individual initiative and cooperative learning. A national evaluation of the National History Day program found that participants:

- Outperform their peers on standardized tests;
- Are better writers and are able to use evidence to support their point of view;
- Become critical thinkers who can analyze and evaluate information; and
- Learn 21st-century college and career skills.

This year’s theme, “Conflict and Compromise,” allowed students to choose from many topics worldwide. We examined only the New Jersey topics and chose as our award-winners:

**Performance:** Paterson Silk Strikes: The Long Road to Laborers’ Rights; Amol Bhingarde, Diya Nair, and Reva Amritkar; Woodrow Wilson Middle School, Edison. Teacher: Wendy Hurwitz

**Exhibit:** Alice Paul: Protester, Suffragist, and Activist; Sameera Gupte; Auten Road Intermediate School, Hillsborough. Teacher: Patricia Sellar

**Documentary:** New Jersey Governor and Conflicted Son: William Franklin and the Tragic Failure to Compromise During the American Revolution; Andrew Hau; Tenafly High School. Teacher: Melissa Diaz.

On May 17th, executive director Linda Barth visited the winners in Edison and Hillsborough. (The award to Andrew Hau was mailed to him at Tenafly High School.)

Left to right: Amol Bhingarde, Reva Amritkar, and Diya Nair, of Woodrow Wilson Middle School, Edison, with teacher Wendy Hurwitz.

Sameera Gupte with teachers Patricia Sellar (left) and Nancy Patrick.
The 2018 Pathways of History Tour of Historic Places
A celebration of local history, community pride and volunteerism

Saturday, September 22 from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM; Sunday, September 23 from Noon – 4:00 PM

Museums and historical sites are too often stigmatized as being boring or even unnecessary. The Pathways of History Tour, conceived nine years ago to prove this is not the case, spotlights a collection of Morris County’s small, volunteer-run and always admission-free (during Pathways) museum treasures. This year’s family-friendly event will feature 16 historic groups offering 17 sites with unique personalities, presentations and local histories! The communities represented are Boonton Township, Butler, Denville, Dover, Florham Park, Harding Township, Kinnelon, Lincoln Park, Parsippany, Pequannock Township, Randolph, Roxbury Township and Washington Township. All locations will be open simultaneously to offer guests the unprecedented opportunity to visit multiple venues over a two-day event.

“What’s old is new again” perfectly describes the theme of this year’s tour. Those who have travelled the Pathways route before should plan to revisit museums they have previously explored. All of the history groups have promised a fresh, revitalized experience for event-goers. In addition, there are three new venues to discover. At a number of sites there will be memorial tributes to the Centennial of WWI—the war that changed the world.

Knowledgeable docents, some in period dress, will provide a warm welcome at each tour stop. Make this a family day – bring the kiddies and grandparents, too! Promising something to interest everyone are special activities for children, archival material, genealogical information, digitized historical photographs, old newspapers and even high school yearbooks to peruse at select locations. There are wonderful vignettes depicting 19th and early 20th century schoolrooms, a prominent woman doctor’s early 20th century “examining room,” an iron mine facsimile and examples of 18th century fireplaces with hearthside cooking utensils. The Bowlsby-DeGelleke House in Parsippany will introduce an exhibit dedicated to the Lenape, New Jersey’s original people. Music and light refreshments will be offered at many sites. Sure to please are wonderful shops offering gifts, books and fun souvenirs.

More details about this exceptional heritage tour can be found on our website: www.PathwaysofHistoryNJ.net.
June League Meeting at the Heritage Trail Association a Great Success

At the June 9th League meeting in Bridgewater, members of the Heritage Trail Association greeted the delegates in period dress, appropriate to the colonial era of the Van Horne House.

After a welcome from League president Jane McNeill, we were greeted by Somerset County Freeholder Brian Gallagher, Bridgewater mayor Dan Hayes, and Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker.

Marguerite Chandler, founder of the Heritage Trail, gave an inspiring talk (see p. 10-13) about overcoming problems, not giving up, and trying a variety of approaches to reach one’s goal. Her words apply to many of our organizations.

HTA treasurer Eric Blumenkrantz gave an overview of other activities that the association has sponsored, including themed bus tours, a lecture series, the annual Five Generals Tour, and a spectacular night of colonial intrigue for the Atlantic League Baseball All-Star post-game celebration.

David Lang, in the persona of Lazarus Turner, presented an eyewitness account of the April 13, 1777 Battle of Bound Brook. He detailed the movements of the British and Hessians as they marched along the Raritan River to surprise the Continentals at the Queens Bridge. General Lincoln, headquartered at the Van Horne House, fled to the hills, allowing Mr. Van Horne to welcome Gen. Cornwallis for dinner.

To the surprise of all, lunch was served on the Staffordshire Liberty Bell china (photo above), collected by David and Heather Lang (photo left). They even provided a tea service following the meal.

After lunch, delegates were invited to visit area sites, many of which are in the National and State Registers of Historic Places. The sites included the Abraham Staats House in South Bound Brook, the Wallace House and Old Dutch Parsonage State Historic Sites, the Somerville Fire Museum, and the Van Veghten House in Bridgewater.

(Editor’s note: The NPS has changed the wording to say that sites are “in” and not “on” the National Register of Historic Sites.)

Welcome new members

Hanover Twp Landmark Commission Patricia Reilly
Octagon Houses in Boonton
By Jennifer Coultas

Octagon structures became extremely popular in the mid-19th century. The Octagon House Inventory documents some forty-six octagon houses and octagon school houses in New Jersey. Fifteen houses and one schoolhouse, the museum of the Egg Harbor Historical Society, are reported as still standing.

Boonton boasts two octagon structures, both of them on Cornelia Street. The house at 224 Cornelia is the rectory of St. John’s Episcopal Church (photo left), while the house at 211 Cornelia Street (photo below) is a private residence. Both residences were built in 1855 by Nathaniel A. Meyers and Garret Van S. Rickards. A highlight of one of our summer walking tours, these houses have particular interest both for their shape, method of construction and their popularity as “do it yourself” projects prior to the Civil War.

Published in 1848, a book by Orson Squire Fowler (1809-1887) A Home For All or the Gravel Wall and Octagon Mode of Building was the catalyst for the popularity of octagons in North America. Mr. Fowler could not claim to be the first to introduce the octagon style of building with concrete walls, but the popularity of his book certainly established his lasting association with this architectural style. He believed that his octagon homes were cheaper to build, healthier to live in and could be adapted for people of various financial circumstances.

Hundreds of these houses were built prior to the Civil War.

Although only coming in one shape, octagons were many different sizes (from one to five stories) and had multiple uses besides those built as personal residences. These eight-sided structures have been used as barns, churches, schoolhouses, carriage houses, greenhouses, smokehouses, and even privies.

Octagons can still be found, or documented, in almost every state and in Canada. The main features included a central core that housed the stairway and pipes and provided for illumination of the stairwell by a glassed in cupola. Typical construction involved the casting of tubular holes in the concrete walls for speaking tubes, and rectangular holes for ventilators and chimneys. Fowler also advocated other “modern” amenities, such as dumbwaiters, speaking tubes, central heating and water closets.

Fowler also pointed out in his book that the octagon shape, as compared to a standard “square” layout, provided more space. He provides several examples including a square layout with a circumference of 128 feet, which encloses 1,024 square feet. An octagon with sixteen feet sides and the same 128 feet circumference would provide 1,217 square feet.

There are paired sawn brackets on the cornice and a cupola on the roof of the two story house at 211 Cornelia Street which was built by Garret V. Rickards. A porch extends across three front walls. The porch...
pillars are also octagonal in shape. This house is in the National Register of Historic Places.

If these walls could talk they would recall some of the residents of this home. A rental property for many years it was home to several families. Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth (Nellie) Simms rented and then purchased the house. With various fundraising activities and sleepovers, Nellie loaned her tireless support to promoting the Rainbow Girls. Her Lady Baltimore cakes and snowball cookies with freshly shaved cocoanut, were not only a popular fundraiser, but were also sold at the Adams Bake Shoppe on William Street.

Prior to the Simms family owning the house, it was rented by Mr. John Franks and his family in the 1930s. Mr. Franks, an electrical engineering graduate of the University of Illinois, was involved in the early development of television.

The Nathaniel Myers home at 224 Cornelia is very similar to the one across the street. Notable exceptions are the open porch and the addition of vinyl siding. The Parish of St. John’s Church acquired the property in 1960 following a building inspection which declared the property sound and suitable for refurbishing as a rectory.

At the time of the sale to the church, the home was occupied by Mrs. Henry Myers, the daughter-in-law of Nathaniel A. Myers, the builder of the house.

Rickards and Meyers developed an interest in octagon houses while they were living in Troy, New York, following the 1852 closure of the Iron Works in Boonton where they had both been employed as nailmakers. Observing various Octagon homes in their travels to and from Boonton, they obtained a copy of Fowler’s book and each determined to build a home in Boonton when the Iron Works reopened in 1854. Wasting no time, they purchased lots from Fuller and Lord, owners of the Iron Works on January 24, 1854 and with the detailed step-by-step instructions contained in Fowler’s book, proceeded to build their homes on Cornelia Street. Fowler outlined every stage of construction, giving the proportions of sand, lime, stone, gravel and water for the concrete.

He also showed how wood forms could be reused over and over again as the height of the walls progressed in stages. Rickards and Meyers used slag from the Boonton Iron Works in place of the recommended gravel. This substitution is thought to have contributed to the longevity of the Boonton structures.

Fowler was a man of many interests. The son of Horace and Martha Fowler, he was born in Cohocton, New York, studied at Amherst College and graduated in the class of 1834. He was a phrenologist and lecturer and along with his partner Samuel R. Wells he ran an institute devoted to the study of phrenology in New York City. Orson edited and published the American Phrenological Journal, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from 1838 to 1842. He was a partner with Fowler & Wells, publishers, New York, from 1846 to 1854, residing in Fishkill, New York and Elizabeth, New Jersey. He believed in the equality of women (he was married 3 times), sexual education, and hydrotherapy. He died in Sharon, New York, on August 18, 1887.

Boonton is not alone in being proud of its octagon houses. Mount Tabor also has two octagon structures in addition to the Tabernacle, which is an elongated octagon.

The Ebenezer Pavilion (1873) was originally constructed as an open-sided pavilion in 1873; it was enclosed in 1901. The building has served as the community library continuously since 1901 and is now a branch of the Parsippany-Troy Hills Library.

(continued on the next page)
The Bethel (1873) was also constructed as an open-sided pavilion for religious services and was enclosed in 1886. The shed roof vestibule was added to the front entrance in 1938 at which time a lower level was constructed with a kitchen, restrooms, and a heating system to make the building usable year-round for community events.

The Tabernacle (1885) is an elongated octagon with corresponding cupola and hip roof. The interior space was meant to accommodate up to 1200 persons for services and entertainment. The lower level of the building was designed for four commercial spaces and in the summer of 1885 was occupied by the post office, a barber shop, a fancy goods bazaar and a drug store.

In 2015, The Octagon House Inventory listed 1,198 octagons throughout the United States and Canada. Only 513 are reported still standing. So, we can be justifiably proud that our local octagon homes have been cared for over the years and still stand as fine examples of an architectural style popularized in another century.

Sources
Fowler, Alex D. Splinters From The Past: Discovering History in Old Houses. Morristown, New Jersey. 1984. Print
Kline, Robert. The Octagon House Inventory. Web. 15 Dec. 2015
Mount Tabor Historical Society, Mount Tabor, NJ
Puerzer, Ellen L. The Octagon House Inventory. Eight Square Publishing. 2011. Print

LETTERS, WE GET LETTERS...

Thanks very much for the chat this morning and the back-up information that you provided to me. I was successful in getting my PastPerfect order in for the society. I anticipate that the society will greatly benefit from all of the new software.
— Wayne McCabe, Sussex County Historian
The Beginnings of the Heritage Trail  
(presented at the League of Historical Societies meeting on June 9, 2018)

Editor’s note: We have included this talk by Marguerite Chandler, founder of the Heritage Trail Association, because it may be an inspiration to you and your societies to never give up when you have a goal.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak—and to remember! A lot happened in a very short time, so I’ve attached a Chronology for your reference. The “beginnings” of The Heritage Trail is a curious matter, for where does something begin? And once an idea takes root, what conditions cause it to grow and flourish? Maybe my biggest contribution to the beginnings of the Heritage Trail is my love of a good story. During a trip West in 1991, my husband Richmond Shreve and I took a Chamber of Commerce tour of Butte, Montana. One of the highlights was a huge, toxic lake created by the mining waste of the defunct Anaconda Copper mine. Looking at this polluted pit, I thought, “If this is Butte’s defining feature, I wonder what Somerset County would showcase?”

At that time, I was President of Edmar Corporation, one of the owners of Central Jersey Industrial Park—a place I later renamed MiddleBrook Crossroads after the Middlebrook Encampment. I was also a board member of the Somerset County Chamber of Commerce. I came home from Montana, still curious about what a tour of Somerset County might look like. Richmond and I had purchased a second home in Cape May, NJ, and had been delighted with the trolley tours that brought tourists to town and kept them coming back. I could picture Somerset County purchasing a trolley and doing tours on a regular basis.

I started talking with people at the Somerset County Chamber, the Somerset Business Alliance, and the County Freeholders about trolley tours of Somerset County. One-by-one, interested people joined a committee that met regularly in my office conference room, including some of Somerset County’s longtime historians. We explored what features and sites might be incorporated into a possible tour. I hired one of them to do some initial research, followed by months of extensive drafts—and intense discussions—among the committee members. My ignorance of local history allowed me to stay focused on the goal and not get bogged down in the historical controversies while my organizational skills kept us on track. I also became interested in what creates a sense of place and how this tour could help our Somerset County residents identify with the whole county, not just their part of it.

Getting historians to agree on what is true, what’s not, and what’s most important, turned out to be a harder job than I’d envisioned. For a non-historian like me, the fascinating mix of stories to choose from was an ongoing surprise: Revolutionary War encampments; corporate headquarters like Union Carbide, Johns Manville, AT&T and Johnson & Johnson; two Frank Lloyd Wright houses; the Bicycle Hall of Fame; Victorian architecture; famous (and infamous) people—all suddenly visible! After the sites were identified and selected, the next challenge was driving and mapping the back roads of the county to locate them. (Remember, we didn’t have GPS then, so we were using paper maps, addresses, and word-of-mouth). We coined the term “The Heritage Trail.”

We did our first tour on Thanksgiving weekend in 1993, using Girl Scouts as narrators. Scripts—and maps—in hand, we arranged for a bus, publicized it through feature articles in local papers and networked with local groups—then waited to see who would sign up to reserve a seat. Our first tour, Sixty Miles of Legend and Lore was an amazing success! We had two bus-loads for this 3-hour tour—no bathrooms—but we’d demonstrated that there was a big story to tell—and that people were interested. A dozen supporters and local historians put their reputations on the line with mine, and in March, 1994, we formed the first board and incorporated the Heritage Trail Association.

Noreen Dunn became the first part-time Executive Director (ED) of The Heritage Trail, followed by Joanne Dennison. Lisa Grech was the first full-time ED, followed by Monique Rubens Krohn, who was our ED for seven years (2001-2008). Basking Ridge producer and actor Jaye Barre professionalized our tours with period costumes and re-enactors. Historians and storytellers collaborated to create subsequent tours: Lovers and Murders and Post World War II Housing (Monique Rubens Krohn), Second Story Somerville (Bill Lawton), The Halls Mill Murder Trial (Jessie Havens), and Visions and Inventions (Linda Barth)—to name just a few. Gradu-
ally we expanded to do two bus tours and two walking tours a year!

Then a crisis emerged. The historic Van Horne House in Bridgewater overlooked a traffic rotary on Route 28 where it bisected the American Cyanamid properties. Many years before American Cyanamid had significantly renovated the Van Horne House for their executives’ use, but as Cyanamid shut down its manufacturing facilities, the house, no longer needed, fell into disrepair. Then a perfect storm of development emerged as Cyanamid looked at selling the remainder of the land that was not involved with their Super Fund site.

Facing the Van Horne House, on the south side of Route 28 near the railroad tracks, Steve Kalafer and the county Park Commission were exploring the idea of creating a minor league ballpark. Behind the Van Horne House on the north side of Route 28, a shopping center was being built. Cyanamid had previously deeded the Van Horne House to Bridgewater Township which was considering it as a possible location for an auxiliary police station. As development of the ballpark continued, in 1998 Bridgewater deeded the Van Horne House to Somerset County as part of an plan to remove the rotary, straighten and widen the roadway to four lanes, and create more usable land. This would have allowed additional parking for train commuters and overflow parking for the ballpark but would have destroyed the site for the house (which had not yet been recognized as having historic significance). If implemented, the entire front lawn of the Van Horne House would have been sheared off with its front door opening onto a yawning 17-foot drop from the top of a retaining wall.

Local historians pleaded with the county to reconfigure the road improvements to save the house but were told it was the only alternative that was safe under current NJ DOT standards. Jessie Havens, long time history columnist for the Somerset Messenger Gazette and famous for championing many historic preservation causes, approached me about the plight of the Van Horne House. I was unaware of its historic importance and busy with other matters. Jessie persisted. I eventually agreed to meet with then-County Engineer Michael Amorosa to explore alternatives, but I was told there were none that would meet current design standards. Many knowledgeable, influential, and visionary people wanted this major site development to proceed including NJ Senator Ray Bateman, County Park Commissioner Ray Brown, and minor league ball stadium enthusiast and Park Commission Board President Frank Torpey—and these road improvements were seen as key to enhancing the redevelopment of this long unused site.

Assuming there’s always more than one way of doing things, I reached out to local engineers only to find that none would touch this political hot potato. Someone finally put me in touch with an engineer outside of Somerset County, Bob Cunningham from Boonton. I hired Bob, and he was able to draw plans to show that the road could be widened, the traffic calmed, and the house preserved—all while meeting the federal and NJ DOT criteria—by creating a graceful curve around the Van Horne House property at the base of the hill on which the Van Horne House now stands.

At a Freeholders meeting in Jan., 2000, the Freeholders considered two proposals for the Van Horne House. One was as a teen drop-in center for Middle Earth. The other, The Heritage Trail plan (presented by HTA Board President Ann Torpey and supported by the Somerset Business Alliance) was to restore and preserve the house. We also presented the alternative road plan with significant support—with the general public clamoring to save the house. By June, 2000 the Freeholders had accepted The Heritage Trail use and the modified road plan. In September, the Freeholders agreed to transfer the Van Horne House to The Heritage Trail Association, with the closing postponed (at our request) until March, 2001. The rotary was replaced with the new design. Once the Somerset County Freeholders deeded us the Van Horne House, we immediately had our next crisis: we discovered the extent of this major preservation project—and the 225th Anniversary of the Battle of Bound Brook was coming up fast.

Meanwhile, after years of careful planning, the Somerset Patriots Ballpark opened in June, 1999. The “Patriots” name refers to the Middlebrook Encampment between the Watchung Mountain ranges where the first official flag of the United States was unfurled, after Congress passed a law to adopt a national flag on June 14, 1777. (Now, by special order of Congress, a 13-star flag is flown 24 hours a day at the Washington Campground, part of the former Middlebrook Encampment, in Bridgewater Township.) The Somerset Patriots just celebrated their 20th anniversary and are still the most successful minor league club in the Mid Atlan-
tic League!

As The Heritage Trail was developing and the number of tours grew, I met Helen Fenske, former NJ Assistant DEP Commissioner, who was championing the idea of linking NJ’s Revolutionary War sites and creating a federal National Heritage Area (NHA)—New Jersey’s first. (In 2006, with bipartisan support from Republican Congressman Rodney Frelinghysen and Democrat Congressman Rush Holt, we achieved National Heritage Area status as The Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area—but that’s another story!)

We desperately needed the guidance of professional preservationists, and Helen was able to introduce me to Michael Calafati—and later Mark Hewitt—both historic architects and Dennis Bertland, an architectural historian. Their experience and skill allowed us to understand what we had gotten ourselves into: an impossibly expensive undertaking with a timeline that was unthinkable.

I hired Karen Carroll, a friend between jobs who has awesome organizing talent, to oversee the preservation reconstruction work and keep the job moving. At that point we had decided we wanted the building open for the reenactment of the 225th anniversary of the Battle of Bound Brook on April 13, 2002—one year and one month to complete the restoration, create the exhibits, obtain the Certificate of Occupancy, and move in. As only fools will do in the face of all the nay-sayers and can’t-be-doners, we decided to go for it!

I called in every chit I had from our Middlebrook Crossroads contractors: Becker Plumbing, Hockenbury Electric, boiler mechanic Russ Richards, engineers Ed Seliga and Jens Efsen, and contractor Charlie Schwall (who later moved his business office into the Van Horne House). All worked miracles. Fortified by ample quantities of coffee and donuts and many informal conversations, Karen encouraged the contractors to work together efficiently and cooperatively, and the restoration of the Van Horne House became their project and a source of pride for everyone.

As the banner on the current Heritage Trail website says, “History is who we are and why we are the way we are.” Much has been achieved since those first stressful days over 25 years ago (as the next speaker today will recount), but here are some of the lessons we learned from the beginnings of The Heritage Trail Association:

Start with passion for your subject and a vision (kudos to all historians—professionals and amateurs alike—who hold onto what would otherwise be lost until the rest of us awaken to its value)

Cherish and preserve what creates your community’s distinctive sense of place

Don’t wait to take the first steps till you have all the answers (or all the money)—miracles happen when you step out on the wings of faith. The first step leads you to the next step. Have a plan, but be open to course corrections.

Engage the experts—and the amateurs. The experts sometimes think too narrowly; we amateurs sometimes think too broadly; but together we are a genius!

When it’s not clear what to do next or to address competing points of view, come back to your big vision again and again. Every point of view contributes either what to do—or what needs to be done within the big picture. (e.g., When President Kennedy declared that the United States was going to put a man on the moon within 10 years, those who said it couldn’t be done made clear the challenges that had to be addressed.)

No one has all wisdom. No one is an expert in everything. Information needs to flow freely, and new ideas need to be given serious consideration in order to find the best path forward. Different times needs different leadership styles—and right timing is a happy marriage between good ideas and good luck!

Collaborate whenever you can. Let everyone take ownership and pride in the results. Nothing happens without the contributions of many. Share the turf.

(I’m told that when The Heritage Trail Association was first created, other historic groups in the county were concerned that they’d be put out of business. Now it’s clear that everyone’s niche has actually expanded. There’s enough work for all contributions to be appreciated and valued.)

Value your mistakes. Acknowledge them quickly. See what you can learn from them.

There’s more than one way to do things. Be creative—find a way. (e.g., The estimates that Karen Carroll got for demolition were outrageous, so she hired day laborers to do a lot of the work like stripping wall paper and removing debris and non-load bearing walls)
Value those who helped you along the way, and be unstoppable. (We received our Certificate of Occupancy from our allies at Bridgewater Township the day before hundreds of re-enactors arrived for the 225th Anniversary of the Battle of Bound Brook.)

Show donors the work first-hand. Share your vision in powerful and compelling ways by sharing your best stories.

Use your relationships. It’s all about people connecting with others they know and respect. (The historians knew I was not trustworthy about knowing historic details, but they could collaborate with each other—and I could contribute my business experience and resources and remind them that, at the end of the day, we needed to tell a good story to bring history alive.)

The story continues. When Richmond and I moved full time to Cape May and sold Middlebrook Crossing Business Park, The Heritage Trail was no longer able to maintain the costs of the house. In 2004, the now-restored Van Horne House was deeded back to Somerset County. What we accomplished together would never have been possible without the support of my business, the business community generally, and many other donors large and small, as well as collaboration with Bridgewater Township and the ongoing support of Somerset County. According to county planner and historian Tom D’Amico, in 2001, a Somerset County Historic Preservation grant of $80,000+ made possible the National Register nomination, a complete exterior restoration (preparation and painting of the siding, restoration of the masonry, and reconstruction of the chimney stacks, shutters, and porches). Another $108,000+ grant in 2003 allowed the roof and chimney to be restored. This year (2018) Somerset County will start a multi-year project to repair and replace the exterior of the house, beginning with the replacement of the roof’s center section and siding replacement of the front façade.

Who could have imagined when we began with that first Sixty Miles of Legends and Lore tour in 1993 that in 2016, the Freeholders would gather at the Van Horne House to celebrate the installation of the permanent historic marker that now stands out front—and that the Van Horne House would become famous statewide as part of the annual Five Generals-Middlebrook Encampment Tour that includes the Van Horne House, Staats House, Van Veghten House, Vanderveer House and the Wallace House).

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**Chronology of The Heritage Trail and the Van Horne House (VHH) restoration**

Nov., 1993 The Heritage Trail launched its first tour

March, 1994 The Heritage Trail is incorporated as a 501c3 nonprofit

Dec., 1998 Bridgewater Township deeds the Van Horne House to Somerset County

June, 1999 Somerset Patriots ballpark opens

Jan., 2000 Somerset County Freeholders consider two proposals for use of the Van Horne House (Middle Earth plan for a teen drop-in center or the Somerset Business Alliance/Heritage Trail Association plan to restoration/preservation plan)

June, 2000 Somerset County Freeholders accept restoration/preservation plan

Sept., 2000 Somerset County Freeholders agree to transfer the Van Horne House to The Heritage Trail Association

March, 2001 The Heritage Trail Association accepts the deed for the Van Horne House

March, 2001 The Promenade Shopping Center opens

2001 Somerset County Historic Preservation grant for VHH - $80,280

Dec., 2001 The concept of the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area (NHA) is proposed

July, 2002 U.S. Dept. of Interior tells Congress that The Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area has met all the National Heritage Area criteria

2002 The Crossroads of the American Revolution is incorporated as a nonprofit

2003 Somerset County Historic Preservation grant for VHH - $108,150

Nov., 2004 The Heritage Trail Association transfers ownership of The Van Horne House back to Somerset County

2006 The Crossroads of the American Revolution NHA legislation is approved by the United States Congress.
“Organization Essentials” Workshop

BOOK A WORKSHOP FOR YOUR GROUP AND THOSE IN YOUR AREA. LEARN THE BASICS NEEDED FOR BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE ORGANIZATION.

Agenda:
9:30  
Registration and continental breakfast

10:00—12:00  
**Your Mission Statement, Vision Statement and Developing Your Long Range Plan**  
Your mission statement is the heart of your organization. Is it clear and concise? Do your Board and your members know exactly what you are all about? What does the future hold for your organization? Does your mission statement attract interested donors? Do you know where you are headed? This workshop will cover these basic documents that are critical for the success of any organization and are an important part of any grant application.

12:00—1:00  
Buffet lunch (included in registration)

1:00—3:00  
**The Budget and Financial Reports**  
Are you applying for or considering applying for grants? Do you want to attract large supporters? It’s not enough to say how much you want; you have to say why you want it. And your financial information must be in "good order." This workshop will cover preparing your annual budget and required financial reports as well as the various financial form required for grants or support requests. To stay on firm footing, you need an annual budget developed by your Financial Committee and approved by your Board. How do you plan for income and expenses? What are the state and federal filing requirements: What do you need to do to attract donors, supports and grant funding? This workshop will cover getting your financial house in good order.

**Who should attend:** Board Members, Directors, Grant Writers

Workshop presenter Pary Tell is the retired head of the Division of Culture & Heritage for Cape May County where she oversaw their arts and history grants program, conducts workshops for local non-profit cultural organizations, and offers assistance to arts and history organizations in organization fundamentals. The workshops are designed especially for smaller organizations that are striving to address their concerns on organization stability and growth. The workshops are small and informal with plenty of time for questions and group interaction.

**PLAN A WORKSHOP WITH OTHER SOCIETIES NEAR YOU.** **YOU CAN CHOOSE BOTH WORKSHOPS FOR A FULL DAY OR EITHER ONE FOR A HALF DAY SESSION. THEN CALL PARY TO CHOOSE A DATE.**

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Registration

Registration fee is $25 per person. Please make check payable to LHSNJ and mail to LHSNJ, c/o Pary Tell, 397 Corson Lane, Cape May NJ 08204.

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Organization ______________________________________________________

Address ______________________________________ City, State, Zip __________

Phone __________________________ Email __________________________

If you are registering more than one person from your organization, please fill out a registration form for each person.
Criteria for the Kevin M. Hale Publication Awards

The Hale Publication Awards are open to all societies who are current members of LHSNJ. Works by individual members are not eligible to be considered. All entries must have been published during the calendar year 2018. Entries must have been authored or published by the society. Republications will not be accepted. In the case of newsletters, only one issue per organization should be submitted for consideration. Five copies of each entry are due no later than January 31, 2019. They should be mailed to JB Vogt, Chair, Publications Committee, 6 Forty Oaks Road, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889. Leave a phone message at 908-534-4600 or email jnvgt6@gmail.com with questions. A cover letter must accompany all submissions. The letter will include a contact email. In the case of newsletters only, the letter should state the frequency of publication and whether or not it is available online.

NEWSLETTERS
Front Page:
- Frequency of publication?
Front/back pages
- Is it eye-catching?
- Does it clearly identify the name of the group, the site, the date, the location?
- Is there a web address given?
Contents:
- Does it contain articles that add to our historic knowledge or understanding of a topic?
- Does it encourage participation in the organization’s activities? Does it encourage membership?
- Does it contain articles about events that are current (or were at the time it was published)?
- Does it review previous activities and successes?
- Does it promote other heritage tourism? Does it promote other sites? Does the group partner with other sites?
- Can it be viewed online?
Pictures:
- Do they have historic or cultural value?
- Are they clearly labeled and credited to the photographer?
- Graphic quality—are they eye-catching?
Contact Info:
- Is it easy to contact the group or editor for more information? Is there an address, phone number, and/or email to contact?

BOOKLETS
Significance of research (how much time/effort went into the research)
Quality of sources, primary or secondary
- Is it clearly presented?
Quality of illustrations
- Is it organized and well-edited?

HISTORIC TOURS
Is there a user-friendly map? Does it indicate rest rooms, parking and accessibility?
- Do they make visitors want to go?
- Does it include history about each site to be visited?
- Is the pamphlet one that visitors will want to keep for future visits?
- Are there adequate contacts for more info?
- Graphics—are there pictures and a good layout?

It’s easy to become a member of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey!

Simply visit us at www.lhsnj.org and click on “Join the League.” On the drop-down menu, choose your membership type and complete the form. Choose your method of payment and click “Submit.”

If you would prefer a printed form, just contact Linda Barth at barthlinda123@aol.com or 908-240-0488, and she will mail a form to you.
The Creation of American Law: John Jay, Oliver Ellsworth and the 1790s Supreme Court  
By Dr. Jude Pfister

With the Constitutional Convention in 1787, America was set on a course to develop a unique system of law with roots in the English common law tradition. This new system, which had its foundations in Article III of the Constitution, called for a national judiciary headed by a supreme court—which first met in 1790.

This book serves as a history of America's national law with a look at those—such as John Jay (the first Chief), James Iredell, Bushrod Washington and James Wilson—who set in motion not only the new Supreme Court, but also the new federal judiciary. These Founders displayed great dexterity in maneuvering through the fraught political landscape of the 1790s.

The Cape May Navy: Delaware Bay Privateers in the American Revolution  
By J.P. Hand & Daniel P. Stites

The Delaware Bay during the Revolutionary War was vital for trade and home to a host of armed conflicts between British vessels and American privateers. Cape May County captains in their light, fast vessels captured dozens of British merchant ships off the Atlantic coast.

At the Battle of Delaware Bay, Lieutenant Joshua Barney aboard the Hyder Ally overcame massive odds and defeated the British warship General Monk. Colonel Elijah Hand, local hero of the skirmish at Quinton’s Bridge, took his military talents to the seas, where he dueled with Tory privateers. Still in his twenties, Yelverton Taylor captured the Triton with hundreds of Hessian soldiers on board.

Authors James P. Hand and Daniel P. Stites chart the exciting history of the Cape May Navy in the War for Independence.

New Jersey Originals: Technological Marvels, Odd Inventions, Trailblazing Characters & More  
By Linda J. Barth

New Jersey’s institutional research accolades are renowned—medical inventions at Johnson & Johnson, the genius of Edison Labs and fourteen Nobel Prizes to Bell Labs scientists. But beyond those behemoths of innovation lie many more breakthroughs and firsts.
In 1869, Rutgers and Princeton played the first college football game. Famed inventor Abram Spanel developed the Apollo space suit at his home, Drumthwacket, now the official residence of governors. The American Can Company and Krueger Brewing Company teamed up to create the first beer can. Author Linda J. Barth reveals these and many more stories of the state’s diverse tradition of original ideas and trailblazing personas.

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 volume, *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 book, 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.

**Revolutionary New Jersey**

By Robert Mayers

Bob Mayers, a New Jersey author and historian, met Herb Patullo, a prominent Bound Brook community leader and history buff, when Bob had lost his way, stumbling through the thick woods atop the first Watchung ridge above Route 22 at Bridgewater at the forgotten site of Washington’s 1777 Revolutionary War Middlebrook Campground. Mayers was exploring sites to depict in his new book, *Revolutionary New Jersey: Forgotten Towns and Crossroads of the American Revolution*. During his research, he had discovered a 1785 British account that described a rocky lookout used by General George Washington at Middlebrook, now in Martinsville. Mayers then came across another description of this rock outcrop, written 45 years later in 1830, by Abraham Messier, pastor of the nearby First Church of Raritan.

Other than a few vague references to a lookout site somewhere along the ridge near Chimney Rock that were written about over the past 150 years Mayers found no other mention of a Washington Rock at the Middlebrook Encampment. This critical New Jersey historic location was lost in history. Digging deeper in the archives, the persistent Mayers finally came across an old journal written by American historian Benson Lossing that provided a mother lode of information.

When Lossing visited New Jersey in 1851, he asked to be taken to Washington Rock. At the time the local people took him from Bound Brook, up Vosseller Avenue to the top of the ridge. There he found the lookout rock where the Continental Army camped from May 28, 1777, to July 2, 1777. Amazingly, Lossing then described this location in detail and even drew a sketch of the rocky ledge.
Historic Gardens of Mount Holly: A Legacy of the Landscape
By Alicia McShulkis

For ages, the Mount from which Mount Holly takes its name remained a primeval place, covered by virgin forest and a few Indian trails and untouched by the axe of the white settler. As it passed through the greedy hands of men in the nineteenth century, however, the Mount lost much of its leafy tapestry and surrounding acreage.

In *Historic Gardens*, Alicia McShulkis brings the landscape to life as she takes you on a tour of Mount Holly's historic homes and gardens, many of which have vanished over time. Read about Ashurst's secret tunnels used by slaves escaping on the underground railroad, the summerhouse where Washington and Lafayette held councils of war, and the ghost that haunts Langstaff's third-floor staircase. From the neatly sculpted Georgian hedgerows to the curved and meandering lines of Capability Brown, the history of Mount Holly is written in the landscape.

Alicia McShulkis is a professional volunteer at the Burlington County Lyceum of History and Natural Sciences and president of its board of trustees. She attended the Southern New Hampshire University.
League of Historical Societies 2018 Fall Meeting  
Hosted by the Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey at the Alex Aidekman Family Jewish Community Center,  
901 Route 10, Whippany NJ 07981; jhs-nj.org – 973-929-2994  
Sunday October 28, 2018

**Agenda**

8:30-9:00 – Registration, continental breakfast and view exhibit in atrium of the building
9:00 – Welcome: Jane McNeill, President, LHSNJ. Welcoming speakers: Robert G. Rose, President of the Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey and Mayor of Hanover Township, Ronald F. Francioli
9:30 – League Business Meeting – Jane McNeill presiding
10:15 – Coffee Break — Visit exhibit area in the atrium
10:45 – Lynn Magnusson, ASA AAA, speaks on the value of having historic artifacts appraised by a qualified appraiser. She is a board member of the American Society of Appraisers and president of the Magnusson Group.
11:15 – Keynote speaker: JHS Executive Director Linda Forgosh, author of *Louis Bamberger: Department Store Innovator and Philanthropist*, will speak about “The Remarkable Legacy of Louis Bamberger. Included in her talk will be rare photographs and video clips that tell Bamberger’s story.
12:00 – Lunch
1:00 – 4:00 – Visit area museums

Acorn Hall: 68 Lafayette Avenue, Morristown  
Tours Sunday 1 – 4 pm

Maculloch Hall: 45 Macculloch Avenue, Morristown  
Tours Sunday 1-4

Tours Sunday 12-5

Schuyler-Hamilton House Museum: 5 Olyphant Place,  
Morristown. Tours Sunday 2-4

Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farm: 2352 Route 10 West, Morris Plains.  
Tours Sunday 10-3

Old Burying Ground, Whippany; use J & R Tobacco Co. parking lot,  
Route 10 East, Whippany

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**Places to stay:**

Fairbridge Hotel: 130 NJ-10, East Hanover, 973-386-5622  
Rate: average price $80

Courtyard Parsippany: 3769 Route 46 East, Parsippany, 844-257-1639  
Rate: average price $96

Embassy Suites: 909 Parsippany Blvd., Parsippany, 973-334-1440  
Rate: average price $165

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**Questions before October 28th?** Please call Linda Forgosh at 973-929-2994 or email: LForgosh@jfedgmw.org.

**On the morning of October 28,** please call Jill Hershorin at 845-417-3164.

**Registration:** Please return by October 19th, 2018. Send the form below with your check in the amount of $30, payable to the Jewish Historical Society of NJ and mail to the Jewish Historical Society, 901 Route 10, Whippany, NJ 07981. If you wish to pay by credit card, please call Irene Segal at 973-929-2703.

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**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name ____________________________________________

Email ____________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________

City State/Zip ____________________________ Phone ____________________________

Affiliation ____________________________________________
DIRECTIONS TO
The Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey, at the Alex Aidekman Jewish Community Campus, 901 Route 10 East, Whippany, N.J 07981

Directions:
If you are taking I-80, I-95 or I-287:
From 287 North or South, take Exit 39 (Northbound) or 39A (Southbound) to Route 10 Eastbound. Pass through the first light (Jefferson Road) and stay in the right hand lane. The MetroWest Road comes up pretty quick once you pass the light. You will pass a bicycle store. Then there is a sign that says “MetroWest Road – Next Right,” then 3 houses. Just past the third house take a right onto MetroWest Road - it’s right BEFORE Nikko Japanese restaurant. Once on Metrowest Drive, you will see an unattended security booth. Please follow the road to the left and park in LOT B, which is the first lot on your RIGHT (the closest lot to the building) The entrance to the building is under the covered walkway.

If you are driving Westbound on Route 10:
You will need to drive toward Jefferson Road in Whippany. Stay in the right hand lane and before the light, you will need to take the jughandle and turn left onto N. Jefferson Road. There you will need to get into the left hand lane so you can turn left and travel Eastbound on Route 10. You will then follow the directions above.