



LEAGUE NEWS

The Newsletter of the
League of Historical Societies of New Jersey

Vol. 50 No. 2

www.lhsnj.org

April 2025

Mission Statement: To promote preservation of the historical heritage of New Jersey by stimulating among member organizations the development of programs, projects, and publications that celebrate this heritage.

League Statement of Inclusion

The League of Historical Societies welcomes all organizations and individuals with an interest in New Jersey's state and local history. Our members include historical societies, historic preservation organizations, libraries, state and local historic sites, friends of parks and historic sites, county cultural and heritage commissions, county parks, state parks, national heritage areas, archival and genealogical groups, a large variety of museums, canal societies, railroad groups, DAR chapters, lighthouse societies, history roundtables, and musical organizations, as well as interested individuals. Even if your organization does not fit one of these categories, you are welcome to join us.

Saturday, June 28, 2025
Tewksbury Historical Society,
Oldwick, Hunterdon County
Registration and directions, p. 19-20

IMPORTANT GRANT OPPORTUNITY, P. 5-6

LAFAYETTE RETURNS TO NEW JERSEY

Save the Date: Ball at Sansay House
July 13, 2025, 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Ball at Sansay House, 7 DeHart Street, Morristown, NJ 07960. Arrival: between 5 pm and 5:45 p.m.

In 1825 Monsieur Louis Sansay taught dance to the young people of Morristown. Upon Lafayette's return on his Farewell Tour, local citizens feted him with a banquet and dance demonstrations at the dance master's home. On July 13, 2025, we reenact this ball at the c. 1806 Sansay House. The ball will feature recipes from Mrs. Louise Macculloch's kitchen, who along with her daughter Mary Louisa, decorated the Sansay House with greens and flowers. There will be reenactors, the 13 Lafayette Farewell Tour toasts, and dancing. Hosts will send out invitations in the spring. Please email wendyyork2025@gmail.com with questions. There will be a parade ending at the Morristown Green with a series of events on the Green. Details to follow.

More New Jersey events are being planned. Most will be in mid-July to coincide with the time when Lafayette briefly visited NJ (July 9th for dinner in Jersey City, July 14-16 in multiple locations before leaving the state for the final time on July 16th from Bordentown). July 13-14 are big days in Morristown. See above.

(continued on page six)

SAVE THESE DATES FOR UPCOMING LEAGUE MEETINGS

June 28, 2025—Tewksbury Historical Society, Oldwick, Tewksbury Township, Hunterdon County
November 8, 2025—Historical Society of Chatham Township, Chatham Township, Morris County
April 18, 2026—Ocean County Cultural & Heritage, Cedar Bridge Tavern, Barnegat, Ocean County
Summer 2026—Proprietary House, Perth Amboy, Middlesex County
Fall 2026—Newark Landmarks Committee, Newark, Essex County
Spring 2027—Barnegat Light Historical Society, Barnegat Light, Ocean County
Summer 2027—

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 (2026)

Brian Armstrong
South River Historical and
Preservation Society

First Vice President (2026)

Bruce Tell
Canal Society of New Jersey

Vice President, Northern (2026)

Patricia Wells
Township of Chatham Historical
Society

Vice President, Central (2026)

Donna Rafano
South River Historical &
Preservation Society

Vice President, Southern (2026)

Timothy Hart
Ocean County Cultural & Heritage
Commission

Secretary (2026)

Hannah Kerwin
Jamesburg Historical Association

Treasurer (2026)

Pary Tell
Lighthouse Keepers of New Jersey

Trustee, Northern (2026)

Michelle Munn
Mount Tabor Historical Society

Trustee, Northern (2028)

Eve Morawski
Washington Association of NJ

Trustee, Central (2028)

Mary Swarbrick
Fellowship for Metlar House

Trustee, Central (2026)

Donald Peck
Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance

Trustee, Southern (2026)

R. Joseph Latshaw III
Ocean County Cultural & Heritage
Commission

Trustee, Southern (2028)

Ralph Cooper
Historical Preservation Society of
Upper Township

Trustee-at-Large (2028)

Jane McNeill
Victorian Society

Trustee-at-Large (2026)

Donald Katz, Esq.
Proprietary House Association

Historian (2026)

James Lewis
Morristown and Morris Township
Library

The following are valuable mem-
bers of our board, but are not elected
positions:

Executive Director

Linda J. Barth, 908-240-0488;
barthlinda123@aol.com

Membership Chairman

Jennifer Coultas
Boonton Historical Society

Publications Awards Committee

Chairman

J. B. Vogt
Fellowship for Metlar House

In this issue:

Lafayette Returns to New Jersey,
p. 1 and 6

Bayshore meeting report, p. 3
Conservation Center for Art and
Historic Artifacts, p. 4

GRANT OPPORTUNITY, P. 5-6

Spotlight on Our Members, p. 7-8
Strengthening Nonprofits, p. 9-10
Lafayette in Morristown, p. 11
The Forgotten History of Skee-Ball:
A New Documentary, p. 12
Job Marketplace, p. 13
Business Members, p. 14
Hale Publication Awards, p. 15
New Jersey Bookshelf, p. 16-18
Tewksbury Central Meeting,
p. 19-20

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Brian Armstrong

During the month of March this year, Women's History Month, I was reminded of the great influence women have had in US history when I presented lectures on Prohibition for the Mount Laurel Historical Society and Women's Suffrage for the Hunterdon 300th at the Hunterdon County Library. Both these lectures showed the key role women played in the abolition of slavery, which built the foundation for the women's movement. After organizing strong local and national groups, these united women helped pass the congressional legislation and assisted with the ratification of Prohibition (18th Amendment) and Women's Suffrage (19th Amendment), two issues very important to women.

Although Prohibition is often shown as a complete failure, the silver lining was that the voice of women dealing with broken households due to alcohol abuse was heard and the overall situation improved. Alcohol was more regulated after the Prohibition repeal (21st Amendment) than before the Prohibition amendment was originally passed. Although it would take another 60 years before the MADD mothers would make our highways safer and reduce alcohol on college campus when the drinking age was changed to 21, again women were the driving force concerning alcohol abuse.

The women's movement worked closely with the Prohibition movement to get both amendments passed before the 1920 election. Teaming up with Wayne Wheeler of the Prohibition movement added a skillful lobbyist and congressional insider to help the women's suffrage cause. Their unity made the mountain move.

The political involvement to get the amendments passed sparked interest for women to get more involved in the political process. After Jeannette Pickering Rankin was elected as America's first female representative to Congress in 1916, many other women have served as senators, representatives,

(continued at the bottom of page four)

DEADLINE: Submissions for the August issue of *League News* must be on the editor's desk no later than July 15, 2025. Please send all items to: Linda Barth, 214 North Bridge Street, 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.

League Southern Regional Meeting at the Bayshore Center at Bivalve



On Saturday, April 5, the Bayshore Center at Bivalve hosted the southern regional League meeting. We were warmly welcomed by Executive Director Jessica Yorke and Museum Director Rachel Dolhanczyk.

During the much-appreciated breakfast, Rachel asked the members to introduce themselves and share how long their drive was. Some were surprised that they had driven 2½ hours and were still in New Jersey!

The keynote of the morning program was a talk by Katie Lowe, Preservation Specialist at the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA) in Philadelphia. Katie had planned to be there in person, but just days before, she received an email from DOGE, telling her that CCAHA would not be getting federal funding. She discussed climate resiliency for cultural institutions in terms of emergency planning for increasingly dramatic weather patterns and higher annual rainfall, increasingly stressed environmental regulatory systems, and collections-related carbon emissions. Attendees had many questions, especially since many Garden State museums and historic buildings are in vulnerable locations.

Many were concerned about planning and recovery could be affected if FEMA and NOAA funding is cut. (See Katie's slides on page 4.)

We were treated to a tour of the *A. J. Meerwald*, a 1928 oyster schooner that is New Jersey's Official Tall Ship. This season the vessel will visit Trenton Jersey City (Liberty State Park), Cape May, Toms River, Atlantic Highlands, Philadelphia, Chesterton and St. Michaels, MD, and Norfolk for the Harborfest. To purchase tickets for these sails and for the many other events, visit www.bayshorecenter.org/.



Rachel Dolhanczyk and Barney Hollinger at the Bayshore Center at Bivalve.

After a delicious lunch of fish and oyster sandwiches and salad, we met Barney Hollinger, a fifth-generation Port Norris oysterman who serves on the NJ Shellfish Council and State Board of Agriculture. He reflected on the past year of the oyster industry on the Delaware Bay including farm-raised and wild-caught. Barney works closely with the NJDEP and with the Rutgers Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory, which is dedicated to research, education, and extension in support of sustainable shellfish and finfish resources and fisheries.

During the League business meeting, Isabel Kasdin, executive director of the New Jersey Cultural Trust, spoke about upcoming Cultural Trust Grant Opportunity for History and Humanities Organizations.”

Please see pages 5-6 for an important grant opportunity whose deadlines are fast approaching. This grant does not involve any federal money so funding will not be cut.

We urge you to become “qualified” and to apply for this grant. Again, see page six.

Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts

In a typical year:

- Preservation Services specialists complete over 50 survey projects.
- Approximately 60 CCAHA-sponsored workshops, conferences, webinars, and training sessions are presented.
- The Digital Imaging Services staff digitizes thousands of pages of fragile archival documents, books, and photographs.
- Conservators assess and treat more than 6,000 individual artifacts, from over 400 clients.
- Housing & Framing Services house approx. 75% of the artifacts treated (folder, sleeve, box, mat and frame, or sealed package).



Climate Resilience (Sustainability, Environmental Resilience, etc.)

“Climate resilience is the ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous events, trends, or disturbances related to climate. Improving climate resilience involves assessing how climate change will create new, or alter current, climate-related risks, and taking steps to better cope with these risks.”

-The Center for Climate and Energy Solutions



This Photo by Unknown author is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND.

GRANT OPPORTUNITY



Institutional and Financial Stabilization Grants
for History & Humanities Organizations



FY 2026



❖ Capacity-building grants for history and humanities organizations

❖ Up to \$40,000

❖ No match is required

Institutional and Financial Stabilization Grants for History & Humanities Organizations address the financial and institutional challenges that threaten nonprofit history and humanities organizations' stability and help them build greater operational capacity to manage and advance their work. Grants are recommended to the New Jersey Cultural Trust by the New Jersey Historical Commission.

FY26 IFS History & Humanities grants are available within the following categories:

- Establishing or growing a working capital fund/cash reserve
- Debt/deficit reduction
- Strategic planning/assessment
- Technology upgrade
- Capital equipment purchase
- Staff/board development
- New staff position

ELIGIBILITY

An eligible organization must:

- Be a nonprofit based in New Jersey (no colleges, universities, or units of government)
- Have a primary history or humanities mission
- Be designated a qualified organization by the New Jersey Cultural Trust

QUALIFICATION

Any history or humanities organization that that is not currently designated qualified by the Cultural Trust, or whose qualification status will expire in 2025, must submit an online qualification application in order to be eligible to apply for an FY26 IFS History/Humanities grant. This application is submitted through the Cultural Trust's website (not SAGE). **Applications for qualification must be submitted no later than June 11, 2025, at 3 p.m.**

To learn more about qualification and the grant program, scan this QR code or go to culturaltrust.nj.gov



IFS History & Humanities

Institutional and Financial Stabilization Grants
for History & Humanities Organizations

KEY DEADLINES

- **June 11, 2025:** Submit an online qualification application (if not already designated qualified)
- **June 11, 2025:** Submit a Declaration of Intent to Apply in SAGE
- **July 17, 2025:** Submit a full grant application in SAGE

HISTORIC PROPERTIES

For organizations with properties on the New Jersey and/or National Register of Historic Places: Projects that relate to or propose the alteration of the physical structure or property are NOT eligible. For details, please see Page 7 of the Grant Guidelines. If you are unsure whether your project would be considered to relate to the physical structure or property, please contact Cultural Trust staff to inquire about project eligibility using the contact information below.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

The Cultural Trust offers technical assistance in a variety of formats, including:



Live Zoom workshops providing information about the grant program



Drop-in Zoom office hours with Cultural Trust staff throughout the application period



Recorded mini-webinars and workshops on a range of topics related to the grant program

For dates, registration information, and recordings go to the Cultural Trust's website. For one-on-one assistance, please call or email Cultural Trust staff using the contact information below.

ABOUT THE CULTURAL TRUST

The New Jersey Cultural Trust, an authority in but not of the New Jersey Department of State, was created in July 2000 as a public/private partnership to help ensure a stable and healthy nonprofit cultural industry in New Jersey that is sustainable even in the toughest of economic times. The Trust provides grants to support capital projects, endowments, and institutional and financial stabilization of arts, history, and humanities organizations in New Jersey. Funding for the grants comes from interest earned on the Cultural Trust Fund, which is a permanent investment fund.



**LEARN
MORE**

Learn more about the
FY26 grant round on the
Cultural Trust website:
nj.gov/state/culturaltrust/

**GET IN
TOUCH**

Phone: 609-292-6403
Email: cultural.trust@sos.nj.gov
Facebook/X: @NJCulturalTrust





SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

East Amwell Historical Society

The East Amwell Historical Society: Guardians of Heritage

Nestled in Hunterdon County, New Jersey, the East Amwell Historical Society proudly preserves the historic Clawson House. Built in the late 18th century and home to three generations of the pioneering Clawson family, this center-hall colonial stands as a symbol of resilience. Entrusted to the township in 1990 after decades of vacancy, the house now thrives as a museum, gallery and cultural hub.

Lovingly restored and curated by the society's volunteers, the Clawson House reflects the 1780s–1800s, blending authentic period details with modern updates like running water and electricity to ensure preservation and accessibility. It also features a research room with books, papers, and photographs—including school records from the 1700s and 1800s—available to the public by appointment. Its adjoining park, once Clawson family land, is now a free community gathering space.



Bringing History to Life

In honor of the 250th anniversary of American independence, the society proudly presents engaging exhibits and events celebrating East Amwell's contributions to history:

- **April 12:** *Pioneers of Healing: Three Trailblazing Doctors Serving Amwell's Frontier* – Exploring the practices of Drs. Larison, Bowne, and Lever.
- **April 20:** *The Revolutionary World of an Amwell Free Black Man* – Contributions of a local free Black man during the Revolution.
- **May 2025:** *At the River I Stand* – A moving screencast on the Civil Rights Movement and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s leadership.
- **May 2025:** *Revolutionary Icons of East Amwell* – New exhibit featuring John Hart's daring escape from British forces and Lafayette's visit to the Landis House.
- **June 2025:** Cemetery tours honoring Revolutionary and Civil War heroes.
- **October 2025:** *Ringoes: Crossroads of Revolution* – The Sons of Liberty at Ringoes Tavern and groundbreaking suffrage efforts at local taverns.
- **December 21:** *A Hearth-Warmed Holiday* – Caroling and Christmas stories from the 1700s and 1800s by the fireplace.

Passion and Progress

With no external funding, the society relies on the dedication of its volunteers to deliver exceptional experiences. Visitors from New Jersey, New York City, and Pennsylvania marvel at how this small yet mighty organization keeps history alive through engaging programs, exhibits, and the beautifully preserved Clawson House.

Explore, celebrate, and preserve East Amwell's rich history. Open the 2nd and 4th weekends each month and located at 1053 Old York Road, Ringoes NJ. For event details, email: eastamwellhistoricalsociety1@gmail.com.

Green Brook Historical Society

The Green Brook Historical Society was formed in 2007 with a mission to preserve the history, architecture and cultural heritage of Green Brook Township for future generations.

For a small town, we have two major sites of historic interest for residents and visitors to enjoy: **the Dr. John**

Vermeule House and Washington Rock. The Dr. John Vermeule House, circa 1799, is situated on the remaining 2.2 acres of a farmstead originally comprised of 116 acres. It is on the National and NJ Historic Registers of Historic Places. The property was a working farm from its earliest days through the 1960s. The Federal-style home displays original artifacts, period pieces and clothing from various eras. Tours are currently given on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 10-noon and by special appointment. Visitors are free to explore the property and see old farm equipment. Special presentations and events are also held. In 2024, the group hosted two reenactors who demonstrated colonial wool spinning and clothes dyeing. Interesting archaeological work was done on the property,



led by professors and students from Monmouth University.

At **Washington Rock**, we participate in the annual *Somerset County Journey through the Past* event, where our members talk to visitors about the historic significance of what happened there during the Revolutionary War in 1777. General George Washington reenactor, Sam Davis, always provides the crowds with a stirring talk on an interesting topic. See photo left.



Washington Rock State Park also offers a beautiful view of the valley below and as far as the Atlantic Highlands, New York City to the east and New Brunswick to the west. The Green Brook Historical Society plans on hosting a special event in June of 2026, in celebration of the 250th anniversary of our Independence.

Many of our members have been with the group from the beginning. We enjoy researching and sharing our rich history, from the earliest days of the native Lenape Indians to the early settlers, Quakers and newer groups that populate the area. We also have lots of fun, with field trips and other activities. We always welcome visitors and appreciate new members who join us.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER (continued from page two)

and in state and local political positions. Women have not been able to win the top job of president, but three women have run for vice president. One woman served as vice president, the second most powerful position in the US government. There has been a women Speaker of the House and six female Supreme Court justices. We must also remember that several first ladies have had a big influence. One of the president's wives, Edith Wilson, was said to have run the country for a while after her husband had a stroke. Guess what, the US did not collapse and fall into the sea when she was presidential "steward." Mrs. Wilson lived long enough to attend JFK's inauguration in 1961.

In conclusion, as with the abolition of slavery, Prohibition, and women's suffrage, women have always provided America's moral backbone as the champion of the family. Thus, I feel every month should include some women's history.

Also, a big thank you to Linda Barth who makes sure the League trains run on time or should I say the canal boats.

Strengthening Nonprofits Through Effective Volunteer Engagement: Services from the Volunteer Center of South Jersey

Submitted by Michele Francesconi, VP Capacity Building Training & Strategic Initiatives

One of the most common challenges nonprofits face is finding and retaining dedicated volunteers. Organizations often ask, “**Where do we find good volunteers?**” However, the real question should be: “**How are we engaging volunteers to achieve our mission?**”

The Volunteer Center of South Jersey (VCSJ), a program of Jersey Cares, is committed to **helping nonprofits build their capacity** by improving volunteer recruitment, engagement, and management. Instead of simply filling roles with willing participants, VCSJ encourages organizations to view volunteerism as a strategic opportunity—one that, when done right, fosters long-term commitment, increases impact, and builds a stronger community.

Volunteer Recruitment & Management Support

At VCSJ, we understand that effective volunteerism is more than just signing people up for tasks. Volunteers want to feel valued, enjoy their experience, and see the tangible impact of their work. If the experience is meaningful, they will return—and even encourage others to get involved.

To help nonprofits enhance their volunteer engagement, VCSJ offers:

GetConnected: A Digital Volunteer Management Platform

Through our **GetConnected** platform (powered by Galaxy Digital), nonprofits gain access to over **8,000 volunteers** actively looking for ways to contribute in South Jersey. This **full-service volunteer management portal** allows organizations to:

- ☐ Post volunteer opportunities
- ☐ Track volunteer hours
- ☐ Set work schedules
- ☐ Manage communication with volunteers

Access to **GetConnected** is included in **Nonprofit Connect**, a comprehensive **capacity-building service package** designed to strengthen nonprofit organizations.

Training & Development for Nonprofit Leaders

Building a strong volunteer base starts with strong leadership. VCSJ offers specialized **training and coaching programs** to help nonprofit leaders, volunteer managers, and board members maximize their impact.

Volunteer Engagement Training Program

A **four-part training series** that provides **best practices** for engaging and managing volunteers in nonprofits, schools, government agencies, faith-based groups, and healthcare organizations.

Service Enterprise Certification Program

A **national change management program** that helps nonprofits leverage volunteer talent more effectively. Organizations that complete this **9- to 12-month certification** see a:

- ☐ 23% increase in volunteers
- ☐ \$63,000 average value in volunteer labor
- ☐ Higher adaptability and sustainability, operating at nearly **half the median budget** of organizations that do not fully engage volunteers

For every **\$1 invested in volunteer engagement**, nonprofits can expect up to **\$6 in return**—a clear indication of the power of a well-structured volunteer program.

help.

Lafayette (continued from page one)

This will likely be the showcase New Jersey events for this summer. Please see the poster on page seven)

In addition, Paterson, Caldwell, Hackensack, and Bordentown are all looking at events. More in the works.

Anticipate most will be scheduled by end of April or at least have the date, time and location worked out. Scheduling everything is actually more complicated this year as the list of NJ places mentioned is actually longer for 1825 than 1824 as many places were mentioned as very brief stop or just passing through. Impossibility to schedule all of the places mentioned so anticipate some Lafayette events will be before July and some even after. Everyone also has a very full plate with their 250 and other event planning as you well know.

Strengthening Nonprofits Through Effective Volunteer Engagement: Services from the Volunteer Center of South Jersey (continued from page five)

Board Development & Leadership Matching Get On Board: Nonprofit Board Training

Designed for individuals currently serving or interested in serving on a nonprofit board, this **four-session training program** prepares participants to be **responsible, engaged, and effective** board members.

BoardConnect: A Board Matching Tool

VCSJ recently launched **BoardConnect**, a platform that connects **nonprofits with passionate leaders** looking to serve on boards. Through a **specialized relevancy score**, BoardConnect identifies the best matches between organizations and candidates, allowing for seamless communication and **efficient board placement**.

Strengthen Your Nonprofit with VCSJ

The Volunteer Center of South Jersey is committed to empowering nonprofits by providing the tools, training, and support needed to **engage volunteers effectively and build strong leadership**. Whether your organization is looking to recruit volunteers, develop leaders, or implement best practices, VCSJ is here to

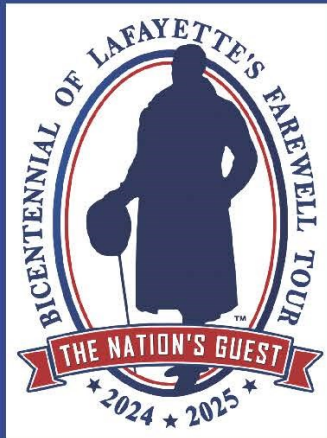
Strengthen Your Nonprofit with VCSJ

The Volunteer Center of South Jersey is committed to empowering nonprofits by providing the tools, training, and support needed to **engage volunteers effectively and build strong leadership**. Whether your organization is looking to recruit volunteers, develop leaders, or implement best practices, VCSJ is here to help.

☐ Ready to take your nonprofit to the next level?

Visit sjvolunteers.org or email michele@sjvolunteers.org to learn more about our services and how we can support your mission.





BE A PART OF THE CELEBRATION TO WELCOME LAFAYETTE BACK TO MORRISTOWN



Parade and Welcome Ceremony Reenactment

Sunday, July 13, 2025

Morristown Green @Park Place

Noon to 4 p.m.

Exhibitors

Parade steps off at 12:45 p.m.

Welcome Ceremony with toasts, cannon salutes and bells

Musical selections and Photo Ops with Lafayette

Ned Hector-black Revolutionary War soldier with Lafayette at Brandywine

Historic Flags Display and a Salute to Veterans of All Wars

Children's Activities

Food Trucks

Free Ice Cream

Symposium: Lafayette - Human Rights Champion

Monday, July 14, 2025

Morris County Library

30 E. Hanover Avenue, Whippany

10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Panelists include noted Lafayette experts, reenactors, and community members

Light Lunch

Seats limited and registration required through Lafayette200.org

All activities are free and open to the public

The Forgotten History of Skee-Ball: A New Documentary

By Thaddeus Cooper

How did a game, invented in Vineland, New Jersey in 1908, survive two world wars, recessions and depressions, industrial transformations, and technology revolutions to become the most beloved game in arcade history? The answer to that question can be found in the new historical documentary *And the Balls Roll On...: The Real Story of the Beautiful Game of Skee-Ball*. This unique film features long-lost photographs of early and prototype Skee-Ball alleys, photos of its inventor, Joseph Fourestier Simpson, and never-before-seen film clips from World War I,



featuring the Skee-Ball popularizer and combat pilot J.D. Este. More evidence alludes to a possible mob murder of the attorney who owned the game rights in the 1930s.

This brainchild of Thaddeus Cooper and Kevin Kreitman, who wrote and produced the film, started as a joke in 2011: “Let’s make a ten-minute YouTube video about the history of Skee-Ball. There has to be a book about Skee-Ball history. How hard could this be?” That turned into a thirteen-and-a-half-year journey of serious research and amazing discoveries to unravel the history of the game. As Cooper searched article after article, he found a few claiming that Skee-Ball had been invented in Vineland, New Jersey by Simpson, a little-known inventor. Simpson’s papers had been donated after his death to the Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society. When Cooper arrived there, he found two beer boxes full of those papers under a table in the workroom.

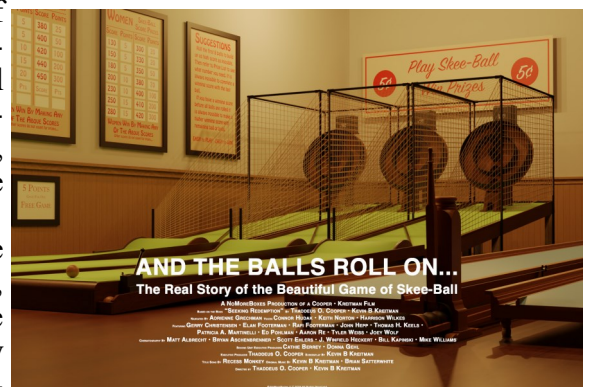
Cooper eventually scanned the entire collection and spent years transcribing handwritten letters, time-lining the saga, filling in with patent records, business filings, advertisements, and more.

The story of Simpson and his heart-rending struggles to bring the game to market in the new amusement park industry were compelling. So was the subsequent history, as a colorful array of characters bought the rights to Skee-Ball and propelled it through opportunities and obstacles to survive to the present day. A second archive of material filled in the story after 1928: the first National Skee-Ball Tournament in 1932 in Atlantic City, the Wurlitzer period that brought the art deco version of the game to bars and taverns, and the post-war years that brought the game to restaurants, arcades and family entertainment centers.

It took five and a half years to draw the fascinating story out of that mass of historical records. Cooper and Kreitman’s first book *Seeking Redemption* served as the basis for Kreitman’s screenplay *And the Balls Roll On*. COVID-19 shut down plans for filming for almost three years. And then it was a matter of bringing everything up to date with interviews and live footage of current tournament players, and rollers of all ages at the Jersey Shore.

The most fascinating aspect was the people they interviewed. The enthusiastic historians who told colorful and sometimes scandalous stories about the saga of the game and the history around it. The arcade game collector who owns a 60-plus year old Skee-Ball alley that’s still being played daily at the Jersey Shore. The Wildwood arcade owner who bought his first Skee-Ball alleys in 1976, and still runs the most exciting Skee-Ball tournament of the summer.

After all the editing was finished, there was still the music, co-composed and orchestrated by Brian Satterwhite, and the finishing work to prepare the film for release. The film has garnered film festival awards including the jury award for *Best Documentary Film* at the Golden Gate International Film Festival and *Best Feature Film* at the Chicago Feedback Film Festival. It was released in January of 2025 and is now available at selected theaters at the Jersey Shore, and streaming on Apple TV, Google Play, and Amazon Prime Video. And the balls roll on...



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Ellen Ayoub
Berkeley Township Historical Society
Rachel Ferrante
Pat Gamsby
Meta Janowitz
Friends of Long Pond Ironworks

Douglas McVarsih
Middletown Township Public Library
Sea Isle Historical Museum
Yvonne Stecher
Marilena von Rohr

**JOB
MARKETPLACE**

 **Employers:**
Post open job listings

Rachel Ferrante

 **Job Seekers:**
Review postings
OR
Post resume

VISIT TODAY!


THE LEAGUE OF HISTORICAL
SOCIETIES OF NEW JERSEY



Check out the Job Marketplace on our website! You'll find this great new program under the Newsletters and Resources section.

Members can post job opportunities **free of charge!**

We are working with New Jersey colleges and universities to spread the word about our latest initiative, so be sure to post today! **Job seekers can also post their resumes.**

OUR BUSINESS SUPPORTERS

PRESERVATION • REUSE

cicada

architecture • planning

WWW.CICADAARCHITECTURE.COM

(215) 247-1430 • PHILADELPHIA, PA

Dear League Members,

We hope that you will patronize our business supporters. Please consider inviting retail or commercial businesses to become Business Members of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey and support our mission of promoting the preservation of the historical heritage of New Jersey by stimulating among member organizations the development of programs, projects, and publications that celebrate this heritage.

ALLEN & STULTS CO., INC. INSURANCE

Since 1881

Business, Institution, Professional,
Home, Auto, Life,
Health-Individual and Group.

800-792-8660 609-448-0110

www.allenstults.com

Cappy Stults cstults@allenstults.com

106 N Main, Hightstown, NJ 08520

We protect historic properties and organizations

Allen & Stults Co.
INSURANCE

• Business • Personal • Farm & Equine • Life & Health •

***Protecting historic properties &
organizations since 1881.***

106 North Main St, PO Box 110, Hightstown, NJ 08520
(609) 448-0110, <https://allenstults.com>

Criteria for the 2025 Kevin M. Hale Newsletter

The Hale Publication Awards are open to all societies who are current members of LHSNJ. All entries must have been published during the calendar year 2025. Only one issue of the newsletter per organization should be submitted for consideration. **Five copies of each entry are due no later than January 31, 2026.** They should be mailed to JB Vogt, Chair, Publications Committee, 6 Forty Oaks Road, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889. Leave phone messages 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. The letter should state the frequency of publication and whether or not it is available online.

NEWSLETTER CRITERIA

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?

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.



973.540.0400

info@speedwellprinting.com

736 Speedwell Avenue
Morris Plains, NJ 07950

- DIGITAL PRINTING
Color and Black & White
- TRADITIONAL PRINTING
1 Color to 4 Color Process
- LARGE FORMAT POSTERS
- BINDERY OF ALL TYPES
- MAILING SERVICES

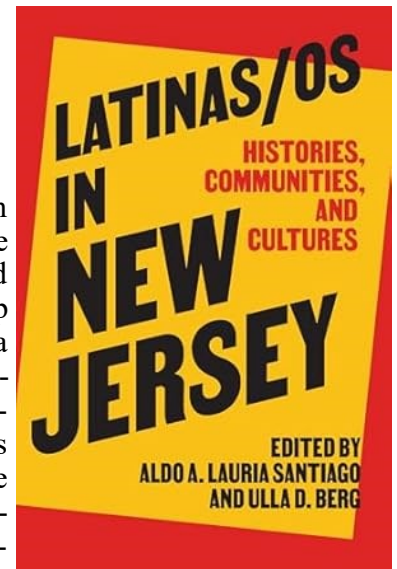
ONE STOP • ALL OF THE SERVICES
www.speedwellprinting.com

NEW JERSEY BOOKSHELF

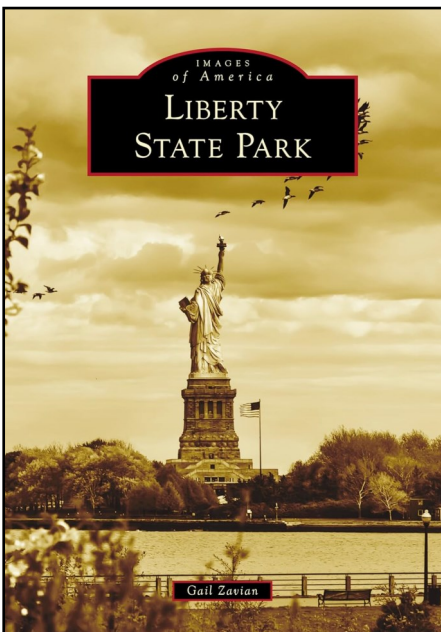
Latinas/os in New Jersey: Histories, Communities, and Cultures (CERES: Rutgers Studies in History) By Aldo A. Lauria Santiago (Editor, Contributor), & 22 more

Since the 1890s, New Jersey has attracted hundreds of thousands of Caribbean and Latin American migrants. The state's rich economic history, high-income suburbs, and strong public sector have all contributed to attracting, retaining, and setting the stage for Latin American and Caribbean immigrants and secondary-step migrants from New York City. Since the 1980s, however, Latinos have developed a more complex presence in the state's political landscape and institutions. The emergence of Latino-majority towns and cities and coalition politics facilitated the election of Latino mayors, council persons, and many social and community leaders, as well as the election of statewide officers. This collection brings together innovative and empirically grounded scholarship from different disciplines and interdisciplinary fields of study and addresses topics including the demographic history of Latinos in the state, Latino migration from gateway cities to suburban towns, Latino urban enclaves, Latino economic and social mobility, Latino students and education, the New Jersey Dream Act and in-state tuition act organizing, Latinos and criminal justice reform, Latino electoral politics and leadership, and undocumented communities.

Contributors: Yamil Avivi; Jennifer Ayala; Ulla D. Berg; Giovanni Burgos; Elsa Candelario; Laura Curran; Lilia Fernández; Ismael García Colón; Olga Jiménez de Wagenheim; Benjamin Lapidus; Aldo A. Lauria Santiago; Johana Londoño; Kathleen Lopez; Giancarlo Muschi; Melanie Z. Plasencia; Ana Y. Ramos-Zayas; Elena Sabogal; Raymond Sanchez Mayers; William Suárez Gómez; Alex F. Trillo; Daniela Valdez; Anil Venkatesh; Lyna L. Wiggins. From Rutgers University Press.



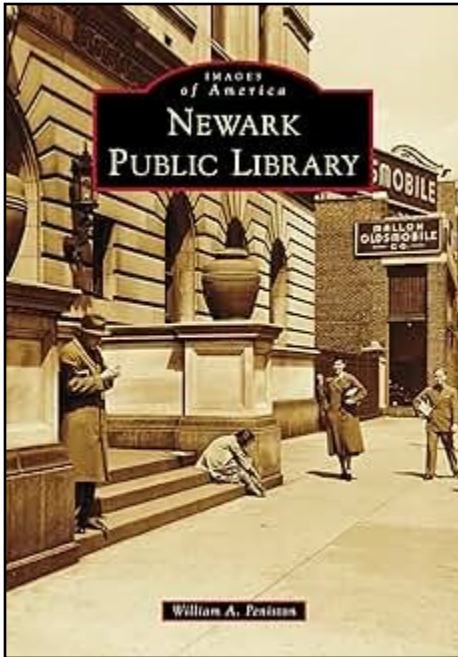
Liberty State Park By Gail Zavian



Liberty State Park has undergone massive changes over the past 200 years. Originally a tranquil salt marsh and cove, it was transformed into the greatest concentration of rail facilities in the Northeast. Subsequently abandoned, it was then developed through efforts of community advocates into New Jersey's premier urban state park. Located on the Upper New York Bay, Liberty State Park maintains a historic and ecological aesthetic. One of the few remaining viable ecosystems along the Hudson River, the park provides options for recreational pursuits and opportunities to learn about nature. The park offers waterfront access, acres of open fields, miles of pathways, growing lists of flora and fauna, two restaurants, a marina, the Nature Center, and the Liberty Science Center. It is the only location in New Jersey with ferry service to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty.

A lifelong Jersey City resident, Gail Zavian is a writer, illustrator, and photographer. A loyal park patron, former Friends of Liberty State Park board member, and staunch environmentalist, Zavian has and continues to photograph every aspect of the park. She selected images from her professional archive, dedicated environmentalists, and Liberty State Park's historical collections to document the history, challenges, and commitment behind LSP's creation. Zavian's hope is that this volume encourages others to protect and preserve the legacy that is Liberty State Park.

Newark Public Library By William A. Peniston



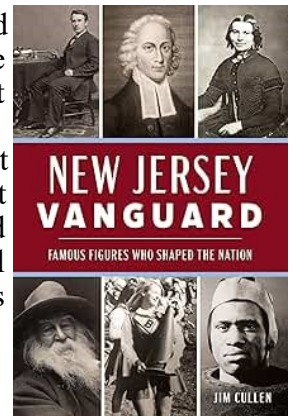
Ever since Rev. Abraham Pierson of Bradford, Connecticut, brought his collection of 400 books to Newark in 1666, the city has had libraries. First attached to churches and schools, these private libraries catered to audiences for specific purposes; they were not open to all. In 1887, the citizens of Newark voted to establish a free public library, the Newark Public Library, which became the seventh in the state of New Jersey. Since then, trustees, directors, and staff members have contributed to the overall success of the library through their dedication to its services and collections. They have done so at the main library on Washington Street, built in 1901, and at the various branches constructed across the city in the 1920s. A legacy, consisting of dedicated librarians and clerks who provide excellent services and inspiring programs based on unique collections, has been maintained with community support for over a century.

William A. Peniston was the librarian and archivist at the Newark Museum of Art for 25 years (from 1995 to 2021). He was also the archival consultant for the Librariana Collection (the institutional archives) at the Newark Public Library from 2013 to 2014. He is the author of *Images of America: Newark Museum of Art* (2023).

New Jersey Vanguard Famous Figures Who Shaped the Nation By Jim Cullen

Author Jim Cullen shares tales of the ruddy trailblazers who grappled and persevered during nation-shaping moments in the Garden State. New Jersey sits at the intersection of the most important developments in American history, from the fight for freedom to the rise of the United States as a global power.

At each critical moment, key figures came forward. These profiles of important Americans—some natives of the Garden State, some not—focus on key episodes that took place here but echoed broadly. From George Washington to Thomas Edison and Whitney Houston, these men and women crisscross politics, business, religion, social activism, science and entertainment, and their critical encounters took place in cities and towns across the state.



Boonton Opens Exhibit about Boontonware

Boonton Historical Society has opened its new exhibit of Boontonware. In 1946 the Boonton Molding Company began producing a line of plastic dishes and they named it after their town—Boontonware. Its success helped transform Boonton from an obscure 18th-century iron town to a common household name. Its popularity was due to its style, durability and inexpensive price.

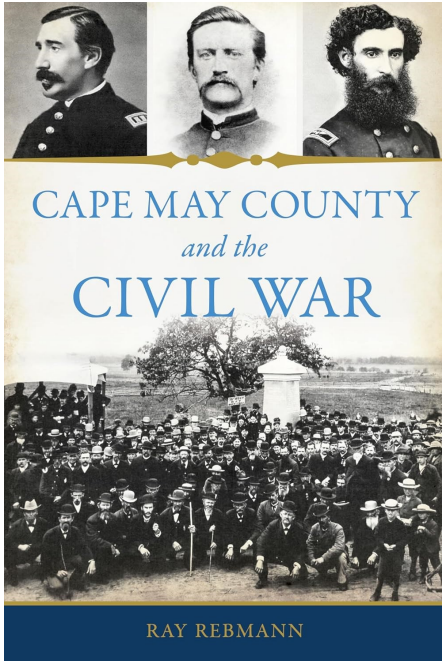


Boonton Historical Society's museum is open on the first and third Sunday of each month at 210 Main Street, Boonton.



Boonton Historical Society president Tammie Holloway greets League historian James Lewis at the new exhibit.

Cape May County and the Civil War: True Blue for Union By Ray Rebmann



In the middle of the nineteenth century, Cape May County was an isolated and lightly populated peninsula at the southernmost tip of New Jersey. Nevertheless, its citizens answered the call for the Union effort during the Civil War. The 7th U.S. Infantry regiment recruited substantially from the region, and the entire community came out to usher the gallant troops to war, departing from Cape Island.

On the homefront, supporting rallies were staged, food drives enacted and medical supplies shipped to the front. Railroad tycoons eyeing the underdeveloped beaches of Cape May began developing the county's resorts beyond Cape Island even before troops returned home. Author Ray Rebmann presents the valiant efforts and changing times of Cape May County in the Civil War era.

LETTERS, WE GET LETTERS!

The League runs the best event announcement in NJ! We are blessed to have the League.
— Connie

What a great service to the NJ history community! — Joe and Annie

Your newsletters are a wealth of information and ideas! In fact, I got the idea for a program from one another historical society had, which I saw in your newsletter. — Gail



FUNDRAISING IDEA!

At a nonprofit event the other day, the organizers had placed a donation jar on the table. A young man, who wasn't carrying cash, said, "If you put a QR code on the donation jar, I could make a donation using my phone!"

We were stopped in our tracks! How simple! But we had never thought of it. It's an idea we will use from now on! Perhaps your group thinks that this is a good idea, too.



**The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey Central
Regional Summer Meeting
Saturday, June 28, 2025
Tewksbury Historical Society
Zion Lutheran Christian Education Building
18 Miller Avenue Oldwick, NJ 08858; 908-832-6734 (society office)
Agenda**

9:00 - 9:30 Registration and continental breakfast

9:30 - 9:45 Welcome – Shaun C. Van Doren, President, Tewksbury Historical Society; Peter Melick, Mayor
Tewksbury Township; John Lanza, Director, Hunterdon County Board of County Commissioners

9:45 - 10:15 League business meeting

10:15 break

10:30 – 10:45 History of the Tewksbury Historical Society presented by Society President Shaun C. Van Doren

10:45 -11:15 “On the Threshold of Independence: Hunterdon County 1775-1776,” presented by Marcia Karrow.

There is no doubt that, during our war for freedom from British tyranny, New Jersey saw more battles and skirmishes than any other state in Colonial America. But did you know that Hunterdon County was the location of the most battles and skirmishes in New Jersey? Arguably the true crossroads of the American Revolution, Hunterdon County is planning 18 months of events, lectures, and tours which will highlight its important position in our country's fight for independence. Hear what's in the works.

11:15 -12:00 “History Mapping New Jersey,” presented by David Harding, Executive Director of the Hunterdon County Historical Society. A concise but encompassing overview of the history of your county using Google Earth as the interactive vehicle for conveying your county history from its beginnings. This tool is familiar and user-friendly to all ages, and the results could be linked to all of our other counties, making it the first-of-its-kind, statewide reference. All aboard!

12:15 – 1:00 Lunch

1:15 – 2:15 History of the Zion Lutheran Church, New Germantown/Oldwick presented by Harold F. Wrede, member of Zion Lutheran Church. Hear about the history of New Germantown, its people, businesses and growth, the change to Oldwick, and the founding of the Zion Lutheran Church and how it grew to be the focal point of the community and its contributions.

Local Accommodations: Lebanon – Oldwick is approx. 10-12 minutes east of Lebanon
Courtyard by Marriott Lebanon 300 Corporate Drive Lebanon, NJ 08833 (908) 236-8500
Bridgewater Marriott 700 Commons Way Bridgewater, NJ 08807 (908) 927-9300

To register, complete the form below and mail with your check for \$30.00 made payable to Tewksbury Historical Society and mail to Tewksbury Historical Society P.O. Box 457 Oldwick, NJ 08858. Please indicate any dietary restrictions _____ No _____

For questions on the morning of the meeting: contact Shaun C. Van Doren’s cell, 908-963-2304

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

City State/Zip _____ Phone _____

Affiliation _____

**The League of Historical Societies of New
Jersey Central Regional Summer Meeting
Saturday, June 28, 2025
Tewksbury Historical Society
Zion Lutheran Christian Education Building
18 Miller Avenue Oldwick, NJ 08858
tewksburynjhistory@gmail.com (908) 832-6734**

From North via Garden State Parkway:

Take Parkway South to Exit 142A to Interstate 78 West. Continue on I-78 West to Exit 24 Oldwick/Whitehouse (approx. 30 miles). Take Exit 24 and keep right. At the bottom of the ramp turn right onto County Route 523 North. In approx. 1 mile you will be at the intersection of County Routes 523 & 517 at a traffic light. Continue north on County Route 517, a.k.a. Old Turnpike Road. You will enter the village of Oldwick. Make the 3rd right onto Church Street (large white Church will be on corner). Go 1 block and Christian Education Building will be on your right. Sign on corner, entrance just past sign.

From North via New Jersey Turnpike:

Take New Jersey Turnpike South to exit 14 for I-78. Take I-78 West to Exit 24 Oldwick/Whitehouse (approx. 30 miles). Follow directions From North via Parkway.

From South via Garden State Parkway:

Take Parkway North to Exit 127 for Route 440/Interstate 287. Follow signs for I-287 North. Continue on I-287 North to Interstate 78 (approx. 20 miles). Take Exit 30 for I-78 West. Continue on I-78 West to Exit 24 (Oldwick/Whitehouse). Take Exit 24 and keep right. At the bottom of the ramp turn right onto County Route 523 North. In approx. 1 mile you will be at the intersection of County Routes 523 & 517 at a traffic light. Continue north on County Route 517, a.k.a. Old Turnpike Road. You will enter the village of Oldwick. Make the 3rd right onto Church Street (large white Church will be on corner). Go 1 block and Christian Education Building will be on your right. Sign on corner, entrance just past sign.

From South via New Jersey Turnpike:

Take New Jersey Turnpike North to exit 10 for I-287. Follow signs for I-287 North. Continue on I-287 North to Interstate 78 (approx. 20 miles). Take Exit 30 for I-78 West. Follow directions from South via Parkway.

From East via Route 80:

Take Interstate 80 West to Exit 25 for Route 206. Take Route 206 South to County Route 523/ Lamington Road in Bedminster (approx. 30 miles). Turn right onto County Route 523/Lamington Road heading west until you reach the end at a traffic light. Turn right onto County Route 517 a.k.a. Old Turnpike Road. You will enter the village of Oldwick. Make the 3rd right onto Church Street (large white Church will be on corner). Go 1 block and Christian Education Building will be on your right. Sign on corner, entrance just past sign.

