



# LEAGUE NEWS

The Newsletter of the  
League of Historical Societies of New Jersey

Vol. 49 No. 2    [www.lhsnj.org](http://www.lhsnj.org)

April 2024

**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, 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 15, 2024**  
**Summer Meeting**  
**Acacia Youth Center**  
**Woodbridge Twp, Middlesex**  
**County**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Registration for and directions**  
**on p. 19-20**

## NJ Historical Commission's Grant Boosts Learning Opportunities for League Members

As we announced last fall, the League is the proud recipient of a co-sponsored project grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission (NJHC). This grant award has allowed us to launch new initiatives, support popular existing programs, and continue to grow the NJ history field. Cristen Piatnochka, our new Director of Strategic Initiatives, has launched a series of webinars entitled "**Learning with the League.**" These have included "Museums for All," a cooperative initiative between the Association of Children's Museums and the Institute of Museum and Library Services; a chance to network with New Jersey History Day judges; learning about the grant programs from the NJHC; Jonathan Mercantini speaking on the initiatives for the nation's 250th anniversary; and our most recent "Makerspace Workshop," teaching members how to create hands-on, participatory programming for youth, using their own collections.

As a result of Cristen's work with the Makerspace project, we were happily surprised to receive this note from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities:

The New Jersey Council for the Humanities is honored to sponsor the Makerspace Workshop at Ocean County Library in Toms River on May 2, 2024. We know this workshop will reach many historical societies and libraries and help them better engage their audiences with New Jersey public history through hands-on activities and creative endeavors.

(continued at the bottom of page eight)

## SAVE THESE DATES FOR UPCOMING LEAGUE MEETINGS

**April 13, 2024 — Naval Air Station Wildwood Aviation Museum, Cape May, Cape May County**  
**June 15, 2024—Historical Association of Woodbridge Township, Woodbridge Township, Middlesex County**  
**November 9, 2024—American Labor Museum/Botto House, Haledon, Passaic County**  
**Spring 2025—The Bayshore Center at Bivalve, Port Norris, Cumberland County**  
**June 28, 2025—Tewksbury Historical Society, Oldwick, Tewksbury Township, Hunterdon County**  
**November 8, 2025—Historical Society of Chatham Township, Chatham Township, Morris County**  
**Spring 2026—**  
**Summer 2026—Proprietary House, Perth Amboy, Middlesex County**  
**Fall 2026—**

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](mailto: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 (2024)

Brian Armstrong  
South River Historical and  
Preservation Society

## First Vice President (2024)

Bruce Tell  
Canal Society of New Jersey

## Vice President, Northern (2024)

Jane McNeill  
Victorian Society

## Vice President, Central (2024)

Mary Swarbrick  
Fellowship for Metlar House

## Vice President, Southern (2024)

Timothy Hart  
Ocean County Cultural & Heritage  
Commission

## Secretary (2024)

Hannah Kerwin  
Somerset County Library System

## Treasurer (2024)

Pary Tell  
Lighthouse Keepers of New Jersey

## Trustee, Northern (2026)

Michelle Munn  
Mount Tabor Historical Society

## Trustee, Northern (2024)

Eve Morawski  
Durand-Hedden House & Garden

## Trustee, Central (2024)

Jeffrey McVey  
Lambertville Historical Society

## Trustee, Central (2026)

Donald Peck  
Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance

## Trustee, Southern (2026)

## Trustee, Southern (2024)

Ralph Cooper  
Historical Preservation Society of  
Upper Township

## Trustee-at-Large (2024)

Patricia Wells  
Township of Chatham Historical  
Society

## Trustee-at-Large (2026)

Donald Katz, Esq.  
Proprietary House Association

## Historian (2024)

James Lewis  
Morristown and Morris Township  
Library

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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](mailto:barthlinda123@aol.com)

## Membership Chairman

Jennifer Coultas  
Boonton Historical Society

## Publications Awards Committee

### Chairman

J. B. Vogt  
Fellowship for Metlar House

## Trustees Emeriti

Bernard Bush  
Kate Malcolm

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## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I recently released a book about my late 20th-century childhood and teenage life in Hunterdon County where I grew up. I was very pleased with the positive reception from those who read the book. I tried hard to include those important local stories, pictures, and lost landmarks that brought back memories for friends and classmates. Many of us in the historical community of New Jersey often think of our state history as focused on the Revolutionary War and other important national stories. These topics are great, but all NJ history is interesting. Stories about more recent history connect us personally, which brings a deeper link to the story.

Many historical society websites and Facebook pages recently have attracted great interest when they include photos and stories about the last 60 to 70 years. Features on businesses and lost meeting places like movie theaters are valued. Even things like local banks that were gobbled up by large national banks are fondly remembered for their local character. Stories and photos of high school sports heroes, parades, agricultural fairs, firemen's fairs, dive bars, local swimming holes, teenage hangouts, teachers, local business owners, and religious leaders are treasured. Many of these late 20th-century communities were the last gasp of multi-generational family connections to the town that no longer has that same feeling of community.

One positive thing that has resulted from my book release has been the motivation for friends from the area to record their memories and share their pictures. One friend has posted 4 or 5 postings of memories and photos. Websites and Facebook pages are the best places for these types of postings since they are easy to share.

We sometimes think these stories and photos are unimportant since we were part of them. The problem is that when we are all gone, this world we loved will be forgotten unless we make sure it is preserved right next to the picture of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Remember there is someone who is not born yet that might find your memory or photo interesting and valuable someday.

Brian Armstrong

**DEADLINE:** Submissions for the August issue of *League News* must be on the editor's desk no later than July 15, 2024. Please send all items to: Linda Barth, 214 North Bridge Street, Somerville, New Jersey 08876; [barthlinda123@aol.com](mailto: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 offers PastPerfect discount in April

League partners with PastPerfect Software to offer 30% discount on desktop products

**The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey has partnered with PastPerfect Software to again provide member organizations with a 30% discount on all desktop software purchases over \$100!**



PastPerfect Software is the trusted software source for over 275 museums and cultural institutions in New Jersey and over 11,000 organizations around the world. This is an exclusive offer **for League members in good standing, with 2024 dues paid.** The offer is a 30% discount on standard pricing for all PastPerfect desktop software products when your purchase is over \$100. Whether you need the entire PastPerfect system, a PastPerfect 5.0 Upgrade, or a way to share you collections online, April will be a great time to save.

This offer is valid for orders placed between **April 1 and 30, 2024**. To take advantage of this discount, call 1-800-562-6080 and mention the LHSNJ bulk discount. Even though PastPerfect is considering this a “bulk order,” they will ship the software directly to your organization.

**The League is excited to offer this opportunity and urges you to take advantage the PastPerfect discount this April.**



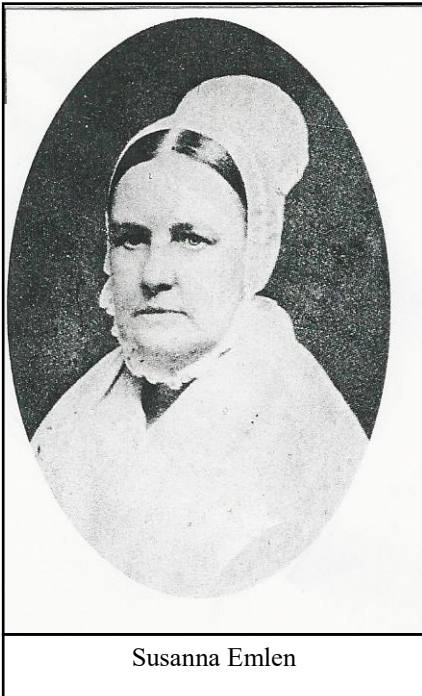


## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

### West Hill Manor

In 1797, just two years after the marriage of Susanna and Samuel Emlen, the yellow fever broke out in Philadelphia. The Emlens decided it was a good time to build their “country cottage.” They moved into West Hill, a 13-room brick manor house, in July of 1799. All went well until 1813, when Susanna discovered a lump in her breast. Her brother-in-law, Dr. Philip Syng Physick, Head of Surgery at University of Pennsylvania Hospital, convinced her to have surgery in 1814, which was performed in West Hill. The operation was successful, and she lived until 1819, making her one of the earliest breast cancer surgery survivors in the US. What also makes this special is that Susanna had written letters to her father in London, detailing what she was experiencing, giving us information on the ordeal from

a women’s point of view.



Susanna Emlen

West Hill was also the home of another important woman in American history—Eliza K. Gurney. Eliza was a Quaker minister who married Englishman Joseph John Gurney. They traveled throughout Europe, meeting with heads of state and working for social reform of prisons, work houses, and schools. In America, they also established Earlham College in Indiana. After Joseph’s death, Eliza returned home and purchased West Hill. In 1862, she and three others from the Burlington Quaker Meeting House visited President Abraham Lincoln in Washington. Eliza prayed with him and promised that however God guided him to end slavery, the Quakers would support him. A few months later, he sent a letter to her at West Hill, requesting that they correspond, which they did throughout his presidency. When he was shot, her first letter to him was still in his jacket pocket, “worn and treasured up” according to the newspaper.

West Hill was put on the National Historic Register in 2013, mainly for its architecture. It is an example of a Federal-style home. Many of its features are original and the footprint has changed very little since 1799. Lately, West Hill has become popular as a place for paranormal investigations.

The home is open on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, from 1:00 – 4:00, or by appointment. There will be a 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on July 27, 2024, All are welcome.

### The Van Harlingen Historical Society and the Dirck Gulick House

“The Van Harlingen Historical Society of Montgomery Township was born on a hot rainy night in mid-summer 1965 at the home of Marian Palmer where nine residents of Montgomery Township gathered to discuss the future of the wealth of colonial history in this township. A constitution was prepared, chartered with the State of New Jersey, and we became a functioning organization...” – so said Joseph Pierson, a founding member of the society.

Almost 60 years later, the society is still going strong despite the township’s population quadrupling, multitudes of developments being built, and dramatic demographic changes. The society recently acquired ownership of the



Dirck Gulick House, through a generous donation from current quarry owner Constructural Dynamics, after leasing it for many, many years. We own and maintain the 1853 Bedensville Schoolhouse, which was moved to public school property as Montgomery's project to become a Bicentennial Community in 1976. The society also operates a farm museum in a township-owned barn.

The mysteries of the Gulick House and family are fascinating. Although Dirck purchased almost 900 acres in 1727, he did not build this house until 1752 when he was 50 years old. There is no trace of where he lived before that, even though his brother lived right across the 'street.' He was last mentioned in public records in the 1760s but his death date and place of interment has never been determined. The house remained in the family until the 1860s at which time it changed hands several times until about 1916 when the Davis family purchased it and lived there for more than



The Dirck Gulick House built in 1752 and restored by the Van Harlingen Historical Society.



This chimney is cantilevered (angled and supported on only one end) so that it exits at the peak of the roof as was the typical of many houses in this area that were built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The chimney between the ceiling and the roof has evidently been deteriorating for years, unbeknownst to us. There is not much left to support the structure and it is in imminent danger of collapsing.

60 years. Then the society began leasing the house.

The Dirck Gulick House is the society's headquarters and location of its library/archives/museum. The house had been 'updated' over the years and the society has spent years and years undoing those 'improvements' in order to restore it to its original condition. The house was added to the State and National Registers of Historic Places in 2003.

This past December, the society discovered a water leak that necessitated opening the second-floor ceiling. Much to our horror, we discovered that the cantilevered (that part was nice) chimney between the ceiling and the roof was in imminent danger of imploding (that part wasn't so nice). ( See photos.)

The society has run an annual fundraiser called May in Montgomery for more than 40 years. This

year, a bus tour is planned for May 11 and the theme is "A Step Back in Time." This year's event features the three society buildings, in addition to an 18th-century farmstead and a sumptuous luncheon, serenaded by a jazz ensemble, in a newly restored 19th-century barn. Please check [www.vanharlingen.org](http://www.vanharlingen.org) frequently or email [library@vanharlingen.org](mailto:library@vanharlingen.org) for additional information and to reserve your tickets.

## Roebbling Museum Receives \$25,000 Grant to Preserve the History of NJ Steelworkers

*A National Endowment for the Humanities grant will help turn a 1905 row house into an exhibit on immigrants' lives in a company-owned steel town.*

In the early 20th century, immigrants from Europe poured into New Jersey, making a new life for themselves by building their new country into a world power. Their labor created the American industrial age, including the building of its iconic suspension bridges.

To help tell that story, Roebbling Museum has been chosen to receive a highly competitive \$25,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) aimed at enabling small museums to fully explore their community history. The grant will kick off a multi-year project to open an immigrant worker's house museum in the company town that made the cables of the Golden Gate Bridge.

The museum, which documents the history of the bridge-building John A. Roebbling's Sons Company and its workers, is one of only 28 institutions nationwide selected for the NEH's new Public Impact Projects at Smaller Organizations grant program.

"This funding will help preserve and expand access to community histories, strengthen the ability of small museums and archives to serve the public, and provide resources and educational opportunities for students to engage with history, literature, languages, and cultures," said NEH Chair Shelley C. Lowe.

The NEH grant, announced in January, will allow Roebbling Museum to create a comprehensive plan to reimagine the 1905 workers row house, acquired by the museum in 2020, as part of its interpretation of the company town and as an addition to the museum's existing exhibits in the former gatehouse of the Roebbling steel and wire mill.

"Receiving this grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities underscores the national significance of Roebbling's history and the importance of our work," said Dr. Lynne Calamia, Roebbling Museum Executive Director. "The history of Roebbling, New Jersey is deeply intertwined with the industrial achievements of its majority-immigrant workforce. Workers living in the former company town played a pivotal role in making the wire and wire rope used in iconic suspension bridges including the Golden Gate Bridge and George Washington Bridge. Roebbling's legacy continues to resonate far beyond New Jersey, even long after the closing of the Roebbling mill in 1974."

Roebbling Museum will embark on an exciting new chapter through this grant project. The museum will work with experienced consultants, local historians, residents, and volunteers to create a comprehensive plan that ties together the museum exhibit space, the worker's house, its outdoor collection of industrial artifacts, and the company town itself into a cohesive and immersive visitor experience.

"We will explore how to tell stories that haven't been told before, and how to ensure that the museum's programs resonate with our audiences," Calamia said. "For many of our visitors, learning about Roebbling as a working-class melting pot echoes the history of their own families."



An example of a worker's row homes in the company town of Roebbling.



# SCOUT MAKES HISTORY COME TO LIFE THROUGH A SMARTPHONE

*Discover Historic Mount Tabor — A Digitally Enhanced Self-Guided Walking Tour*



Scout Eashan Iyer and Michelle LaConto Munn, President of the Mount Tabor Historical Society, check out stop #17 on the self-guided walking tour at the gateway arch entrance to Mount Tabor.

The Mount Tabor Historical Society is pleased to announce a new way of touring our historic neighborhood community. Mount Tabor is a former Methodist church camp and a thriving present-day neighborhood known for its picturesque Victorian gingerbread cottages standing shoulder-to-shoulder on narrow streets. Visitors are drawn to the historic community and now, using a smartphone, they can scan a unique QR code on each of 20 signs throughout the historic district. Each sign links to a corresponding webpage describing the history of the site and unlocks a map and historic photos correlating to the exact location where the visitor is standing. Many photos, from the Mount Tabor Historical Society archives, have rarely been seen by the public.

This extraordinary project, connecting the past with present-day technology, is the Eagle Scout project of 16-year-old Eashan Iyer of Scout Troop 173 in Parsippany, NJ. In 2022, Eashan reached out to the Mount Tabor Historical Society

seeking a project for his Eagle Rank. Michelle LaConto Munn, president of the society, provided the Scout with a wish list of projects to choose from. His affinity for digital technology led him to make an unconventional choice to help the society increase the public's access to the rich, but hidden, historical archives through a digitally enhanced walking tour. Eashan observed, "Over the past few years, I have seen QR codes gain popularity as we enter an increasingly touchless society. I thought this trend would lend itself well to a walking tour, allowing people access to the rich historical archives of Mount Tabor at their fingertips."

According to Ms. LaConto Munn, "The society had a general idea for a walking tour, but without Eashan, this project would not have become reality. This project stands out from the more typical construction-oriented projects and is the first using modern technology to help the society actively increase awareness of our history and potentially reach new audiences."

Over the last year Eashan worked with the society to develop a route of 20 designated stops in the neighborhood to spotlight historic sites and significant buildings. Acting as project manager, he created a proposal, raised over \$600 to fund the project, and knit all parts of the project together with a team of eager volunteers. The Scout's tasks ranged from the technical—melding smartphone technology with the website of the Mount Tabor Historical Society and creating separate website pages for each featured site—to the traditional—employing good old-fashioned footwork to select signpost locations and working hands-on to produce and install the signage. Eashan notes, "I crafted this project to leverage my skills in many disciplines and provide genuine value to our community. Opening a QR code, you will see web pages I developed working with volunteers. Looking at the signposts, you will see brackets that connect the sign plates to the post. I custom-designed these brackets to place the signs at an angle, making them easier to read and scan."

His efforts provide a long-term benefit to the neighborhood, and the community at large, raising the awareness of historic Mount Tabor,

Twenty sign posts are strategically located throughout the historic district. Each sign offers a brief description and a QR code link to access historic photos, narratives about that location, and a map to guide your way.



which is tucked on a hill off Route 53 between Morris Plains, NJ, and Denville. The recently completed Explore Historic Mount Tabor Walking Tour expands everyone's knowledge and appreciation of this charming 'city in the forest.'

The tour includes neighborhood highlights such as the "Golden Stairs," the site of the old Arlington Hotel, streetscapes that juxtapose yesterday's perspectives with today's views, and iconic buildings including the Tabernacle, library, and firehouse, all in use today.

The digital walking tour is free and can be taken any time of year. Follow the signs sequentially or begin anywhere inspiration strikes. If you are unable to visit Mount Tabor personally, the tour is also available online at

<https://mounttabornj.org/history/welcome-2/>

Once you've experienced the unique charm of this neighborhood, you are invited to take a closer look with access inside over 15 historic homes and buildings during the annual Mount Tabor Historic House & Garden Tour, Saturday, September 28, 2024, 11-4.



The historic 1885 Tabernacle auditorium is stop #2 on the self-guided walking tour "Discover Historic Mount Tabor." Scout Eashan Iyer demonstrates how easy using the QR code to access the tour is with a smartphone.

## ABOUT THE MOUNT TABOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

The Mount Tabor Historical Society is a 501c3 nonprofit organization whose purpose is to preserve and restore the Victorian heritage of Mount Tabor, NJ, to increase community awareness and participation in planning for the future, in harmony with its past. Formed in 1990, the all-volunteer organization is active in the community hosting educational activities, speakers and programs for the public. The MTHS is a proud steward of the Richardson History House, a camp meeting cottage museum that is open to the public by appointment. Funding for the restoration of the Richardson History House has been received from the Morris County Historic Preservation Fund, an operating expenses grant has been provided by the Morris County Heritage Commission, proceeds from MTHS fundraisers such as our annual historic house tour and many individual donors.

For more information, visit the Historical Society's website at [www.MountTaborNJ.org](http://www.MountTaborNJ.org).

### Continued from page one

NJCH is committed to exploring, cultivating, and championing the public humanities in order to strengthen New Jersey's diverse community, and we could not succeed in this mission without the partnership of organizations like the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey.

While we are not able to fully fund this event, we are proud to support the workshop with a sponsorship of \$1500. Thank you for offering us the chance to support this important effort, and we look forward to future opportunities to serve the community together.

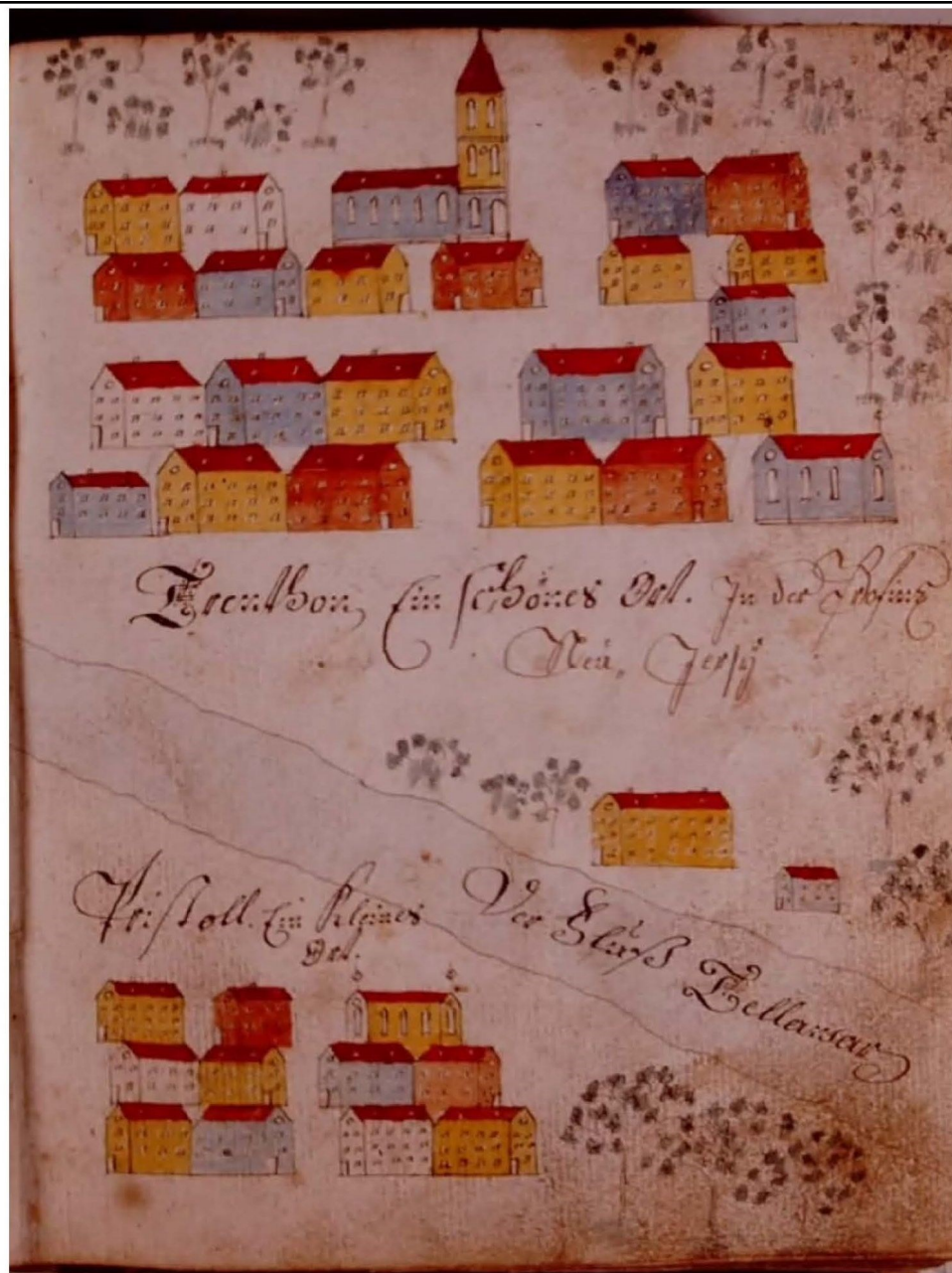
All the best wishes,

Carin Berkowitz, Executive Director, New Jersey Council for the Humanities

Cristen brings a wealth of experience, having worked with history organizations across the state for the past ten years. She has worked as a grant writer and independent consultant for Tuckerton Seaport, the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission, New Jersey Council for the Humanities, and the New Jersey Historical Commission.



## Trent House issues a series of cards highlighting Trenton residents during the Revolution



*On September 1st we departed again 12 miles to Trenton, a beautiful village in a very flat plain situated on a river full of ships called Delaware; we set up our camp very close to the river not far from the city.*

Georg Daniel Flohr, *Reisen Beschreibung von America welche das Hochlöbliche Regiment von Zweybrücken hat gemacht zu Wasser und zu Land vom Jahr 1780 bis 84.* Fonds Patrimoniaux MS 15. Courtesy Médiathèque André Malraux, Strasbourg, France.

The collectible series of first-person narratives written by William (Larry) Kidder highlights the lives of a wide range of people who lived in Trenton during the Revolution. The list of about 40 individuals includes enslaved and free people of African descent as well as those of European descent, men and women, wealthy and influential as well as working class residents, Patriots and Loyalists and those who were just trying to keep their lives and property safe during the uncertain years of war.

The inaugural card, which will be available while supplies last, has an image of Trenton on each side. One side is a drawing of Trenton by Georg Daniel Flohr, a German soldier who was with Rochambeau's army during the march to Yorktown in 1781. It was included in a travel journal Flohr published and his comment on Trenton was that it was "a beautiful village." (The full image, text, and source document are on the bottom of the image.) The other side of the inaugural card is part of a map by Louis-Alexandre Berthier, a cartographer with Rochambeau who documented the entire route and encampments including the one in Trenton, used with permission from the Princeton Library Special Collections.

The Trent House will have cards of at least 15 first-person narratives to give out at the 2024

reenactment of the 1781 encampment of the Continental and French armies in Trenton. The reenactment will be held in late August 2024 on the Trent House grounds.

## Historical Society of Florham Park celebrates 2024 By Peter Nicolas

Dr. Robert Newhouse and his wife Michele attended the annual New Year's party of the Florham Park Historical Society on January 7, 2024, little realizing that it would also be a "*Dr. Bob Newhouse—This is Your Life*" celebration! Bob is known for his many years of contributions to the Florham Park Fire Department, as Florham Park's first recreation director, and for starting up (and playing in) sports leagues and teams in town. For example, in 1955, Fred Stobeaus, John Miller, and Bob Newhouse (as president) launched the New Community Softball League.

Bob will turn **100 years young** this June and is appreciated by so many for his years as an educator in Florham Park, Madison, Kean University, Fairleigh Dickinson University, and the College of Saint Elizabeth, from which he retired in 1989. He earned his doctorate in 1974 at Lehigh University.

During World War II, he fought in the Battle of the Bulge, for which he earned a Bronze Star and received the Purple Heart for injuries suffered. Indeed, in her research for the holiday party, Historical Society member Nancy Lack found 130 articles about Bob just in the years between 1946 through 1987. Dr. Bob Newhouse and his wife Michele became members of the Historical Society of Florham Park when they joined at a re-opening of the Little Red Schoolhouse in 1980. They have been longtime members of the League, attending almost every regional meeting.



Earlier this year, several members of the Historical Society of Florham Park met for their Annual New Year's Party and to honor Dr. Robert Newhouse for his 78 years of community involvement. Society members at 2024 New Year Party at home of Nancy Lack are:

front row - Chet Lloyd, Janet Johannessen, Michele Newhouse, Bob Newhouse, Richard Davidson, Carol Baumgartner, Janet Wollmann, Peter Nicolas and Barry Lack  
second row - Charlie Germershausen, Peter VanSeggern and Phyliss Botticelli  
back row - Dave Setzer, Tom Guthrie, Pat Chase, Paul chase, Nancy Lack and Sherry Guthrie

The **Historical Society of Florham Park** is an all-volunteer organization that performs three major functions.

- Gathers, files, and preserves data, traditions, and objects pertaining to the history of Florham Park. Virtually all the artifacts at the Little Red Schoolhouse were donated by local residents and businesses to the historical society for display in the museum since its founding.
- Provides tours of the current displays at the Little Red Schoolhouse, including the Hancock family broom-making machine, a quilt designed by Ridgedale Middle School students, antique quilts, and items of the first mayor of Florham Park, Jesse Keyes, and local millionaire and benefactor Lloyd Smith. A short "class" reviews what it was like for students in a one-room schoolhouse at the turn of the last century.
- Offers frequent presentations at the Florham Park Library on a variety of topics, scheduled by the historical society and offered free to the public.

In the meantime, the museum itself has been getting a facelift, with new floors, lighting and more, thanks to a Morris County Historic Preservation Trust Fund grant. Good news is that the refurbishment (new floors, lighting, etc) of the Little Red Schoolhouse is going well and is eagerly anticipated to be completed soon. The Historical Society of Florham Park has offered to team with the Historic Preservation Commission to plan for and announce a grand re-opening of the museum for the public. That would be in tandem with the 125th anniversary celebrations of Florham Park, planned for later this year. Stay tuned!



## **Cumberland County Historical Society's Swedish Granary**

**By Joseph Mathews**

**The Swedish Granary, formerly attributed to the Swedes of the New Sweden Colony of the 17th century, was built in 1783, not ca. 1650, says the Tree Ring Project.**

The Swedish Granary is a 14' x 30' log building that once stood on the Fralinger farm in the Dutch Neck area of Lower Hopewell Township. In 1973, the architectural historians G.E. Brumbaugh and A.F. Ruthrauff pronounced the building to be of Swedish provenance, related to the New Sweden colony of the 17th century. In 1975, it was moved to its present site behind the Gibbon House (960 Ye Greate Street, Greenwich, NJ), where it has been a popular exhibit evocative of the colonial period when Swedes and Finns first settled southern New Jersey.

Faced with the building's preservation issues, the Cumberland County Historical Society decided to try to determine its age using tree ring science or dendrochronology. Two successive project grants were awarded by the New Jersey Historical



Commission in 2014 and 2016. These grants enabled a sustained research project conducted by dendrochronologists Prof. Ed Cook and Bill Callahan. Having ascertained that the Granary was made of Atlantic white cedar logs, both men—using special boring tools—extracted many core samples from a wide variety of house timbers, logs, and living trees, all of Atlantic white cedar wood. These samples were then processed: tree rings were measured and cross-dated both within and between timbers, logs, and living trees, thus rendering the calendar-year dated master tree-ring chronology needed to exactly date the Granary. Over time—more than 2 years of time, in fact—several master chronologies were created, which by December 2016 were sufficient to date the Granary. That date is not from the 17th century as Brumbaugh and others had speculated, but rather 1783-84.

What does this mean for our beloved Granary that presumably now belongs to the Federal period? It means that CCHS will now undertake a thorough reinterpretation of the building, using a variety of approaches: title searches, archaeology, close analysis of construction details, and so on. This effort has already begun.

Some might question whether the society has lost something in having the 1650 date overturned. I don't believe so. In fact, much has been gained in the process of carrying out the project. We have learned much about Atlantic White Cedar and its uses in our region; about the many buildings visited and explored, both log and timber-framed; about the people who own such buildings; and about the unique physical environments where the cedar trees live. From my point of view, the project has been a long process of discovery, one that I intend to describe in the near future. For now, we may have lost a legend, but gained a fact that may turn out to be a better foundation for a new legend.

Some may think that the new date has compromised CCHS's connection to the New Sweden colony. That is debatable, since log construction will always be associated with colonial-era Swedes and Finns. Furthermore, southern New Jersey along with the entire Delaware Valley will always have its New Sweden history. In fact, the project shows that CCHS takes that history seriously. In tying together log buildings throughout the region, the project has improved the quality of information about the New Sweden period.

So, whichever direction CCHS is led in in its research for a new interpretation, there is the feeling of a new beginning in the quest to pierce this building's abiding mystery.

In 2017, one half of our dendrochronological team, Bill Callahan, presented a seminar on the Swedish Granary Tree Ring Project and on the "Dendrochronology Report" that he co-wrote with his partner, Dr. Ed Cook.

**The Dendrochronology Progress Report, January 2017 can be found at**  
**<https://cchistsoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/AWC-Granary-project-end-report.pdf>**

## Green Sergeant's Covered Bridge Has Been Repaired

Have you ever crossed New Jersey's only 19th-century covered bridge?

The Green Sergeant's Covered Bridge on Rosemont-Ringoes Road in Delaware Township, Hunterdon County, has been repaired and reopened.

"Preservation of this important piece of our history is something that means a great deal to not only my colleagues and me, but also to local residents, historians, and our county department of public works and engineering that were instrumental in helping to complete this project," Hunterdon County Commissioner Director Jeff Kuhl said at the reopening ceremony in March.

The project included removal and replacement of the existing red oak timber stringers and decking. The new timber stringers are pressure-treated southern yellow pine and the new decking is white oak.

The county had never custom-ordered white oak that was felled, cut, and air dried for any project, so it was both challenging and rewarding to do so for the covered bridge. A plan to use locally salvaged historic lumber to replace the cover bridge siding and batten boards couldn't be done because no locally salvaged boards could be found that met the required size for the siding. Instead, rough cut boards were used for the siding, and batten boards were installed that match the previously replaced wood from a 2003 rehabilitation. Contractors had been waiting for the oak timbers purchased 18 months ago to dry to be used for construction. The wood has now sufficiently dried,

The existing timber curbs and railings were replaced with new timbers. The bridge was cleaned and painted, including the structural steel superstructure and timber railings, trusses, and siding.

A new red cedar hand-split shake roof replaced the existing shake roof. Additional repairs included replacing sections of damaged and deteriorated timber siding, repointing of the stone masonry throughout the substructure, and other structural steel repairs.

The bridge dates to 1872, when the first known covered bridge was erected at the site. One of the local businesses that was believed to have a stake in the bridge's caretaking was the nearby Sergeant's Mill owned and operated by Charlie Sergeant and later by his son, Richard Green Sergeant. The covered bridge takes the westbound lanes of Rosemont-Ringoes Road (County Route 604) across Wickecheoke Creek. The eastbound lanes use a separate, more modern bridge.



### Letters, we get letters...

Just a thank you for doing all the League does to save N.J. history and spread appreciation for all the amazing and interesting weird places and happenings in our quirky little state! I was looking through the latest offering of December happenings, and realized that the League is the only group I know of who is doing any such mission in the state. — Doug McCray

We love being part of the League! Best, Robin Storms, Manager, Farmstead Arts Center

Love LHSNJ!!

Susan Allen, Chatham Historical Society





## Unique Partnership Celebrates US Coast Guard & Includes a Floating Museum!

### Cape May Airport, Lower Township, NJ -

Naval Air Station Wildwood (NASW) Aviation Museum announces a partnership with the Cape May Maritime Museum (CMMM), 673 Route 9, Cape May, NJ. The focus of the partnership is the display of a fully restored USCG-36' series motor lifeboat. These boats were in service between 1940 and the 1970's and built in Curtis Bay, MD. This addition to the collection enhances NASW's display of several USCG air, maritime and land assets. The lifeboat highlights NASW's commitment to preserving the rich history of the USCG and provides an educational immersive experience. NASW will be the "on-land home" for the USCG-36538 from September to May, commencing in 2024. The lifeboat will operate as a floating museum in the Cape May County waters between May and September.

The late Master Chief Petty Officer Boatswain Mate Wayne Adams (1940-2022) of Cape May, NJ was the last officer in charge of the CG-36538 while stationed in Great Egg CG, NJ station until 1972. These lifeboats were replaced by the 44' and presently the 47' Steel Hull Motor Lifeboat. The 36' class is remembered for daring rescues, piloted entirely from an open cockpit where crewmembers were exposed to the elements. The two-ton keel in the 20,000-pound craft enabled the boat to self-right itself in five to seven seconds and still operate. The most memorable rescue performed using a 36' lifeboat was that of crewmembers of the USCG-36500 of the stricken SS Pendleton. The 2016 feature film, "The Finest Hours," is based on this rescue in 1952. There are many Cape May connections to this rescue. The CMMM's plan is to provide guided tours by the retired military, Coast Guard Auxiliary, and self-guided tours via mobile phone devices. There will be opportunities to board the boat.

NASW is committed to strengthening its current USCG exhibition. The display now includes dynamic exhibitions of a 41' utility boat, helicopter, scout aircraft and a USCG Humvee vehicle used in Afghanistan. Additionally, there is an interactive video kiosk-display of the USCG role in water evacuations during the 9/11/2001 terrorist attack in New York, as well as USCG models and rare posters by renowned craftsmen and artists.

While this is a costly and lengthy restoration project on behalf of CMMM, the long-term goal is to be included on the New Jersey and National Registry of Landmark locations. Ed Melega, president of the CMMM noted; "Out of respect for those who have gone before us, and as a guide for those who follow, the Cape May area deserves the best effort from the CMMM. After all, Cape May City is home to the only recruit training center in the Country and Cape May County is listed a designated "USCG Community." This partnership, including the unique on-water floating museum, will provide accessibility to the public twelve months of the year. This will increase the exposure from land to sea!" Tours of the local USCG-36538 restoration site are available upon request.

Email: [info@cmmaritime.org](mailto:info@cmmaritime.org)



*Naval Air Station Wildwood Aviation Museum is located inside historic Hangar #1 at the Cape May Airport. The site was formerly Naval Air Station Wildwood, which served as a World War II dive-bomber training center. The museum is dedicated to the 42 aviators who perished while training at Naval Air Station Wildwood between 1943 and 1945. The museum is open from 10am-4pm Monday through Friday. For more information, visit [www.usnasw.org](http://www.usnasw.org) or call (609) 886-8787.*

**The Naval Air Station Wildwood will host the League's Spring Membership Meeting on April 13. See page 19-20 for more details.**

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

**Amateur Astronomers, Inc.**  
**Vincent Arrisi**  
**Margaret Carlsen**  
**Michael C. Gabriele**  
**Peter Lubrecht**  
**Lauree McArdle**

**Milltown Historical Society**  
**Friends of the Oak Ridge/Ash Brook**  
**Historic Sites**  
**Kathryn Saxton-Granato**  
**Pamela Tyson**  
**Cultural Arts Commission of Woodbridge**

# JOB MARKETPLACE



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

**Job seekers can also post their resumes.**

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!



## OUR BUSINESS SUPPORTERS

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.

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Daniel offers portrait sessions at his studio in Hamilton, NJ by appointment, and is also available to travel to special events with his mobile setup to provide services to the historical community.

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By *D. Leocadi*

 THECOLLODION  
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# FREE WORKSHOPS



## *League Workshops for Members*

The League is now offering workshops **virtually** for its members. These workshops are designed to strengthen your organization and make it a sustainable society for the future. Workshops are free to any member organization or individual.

You may request a private workshop for your organization or attend a League workshop, which are offered periodically. Any upcoming workshops will be advertised online, in emails sent by the League and in the League newsletter. **You can register for any of the League workshops by following the registration directions for that workshop or by contacting Pary Tell at [parytell@gmail.com](mailto:parytell@gmail.com).**

The following workshops are available:

Your Mission, Vision and Long Range Plan Your mission is the heart of your organization. Is it clear and concise? Do your Board and your members know exactly what you are all about? Do you know where you are headed? This workshop will cover these basic documents that are critical for the success of any organization.

Preparing a Good Budget Do you want your members to know that you are being responsible with their donations? Do you want to attract financial supporters? Are you applying for grants? Your financial information must be in “good order.” This workshop will cover preparing your annual budget, budgeting for special events and unforeseen calamities, as well as the financial reports that you are required to file with the IRS and State.

Bad Boards, Bad Boards, Whatcha Gonna Do? The success or failure of your organization depends on having the right board and good people in leadership roles. Many of your board members will come from the ranks of volunteers. This workshop will cover how to insure you have a dedicated and effective board, including board roles and responsibilities, and how to recruit volunteers and develop them into board candidates.



THE LEAGUE OF HISTORICAL  
SOCIETIES OF NEW JERSEY



## Criteria for the Kevin M. Hale Newsletter Awards

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 2024. Only one issue of the newsletter per organization should be submitted for consideration. **Five copies of each entry are due no later than February 5, 2025.** 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](mailto: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](http://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 [barth-linda123@aol.com](mailto:barth-linda123@aol.com) or 908-240-0488, and she will mail a form to you.

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## NEW JERSEY BOOKSHELF

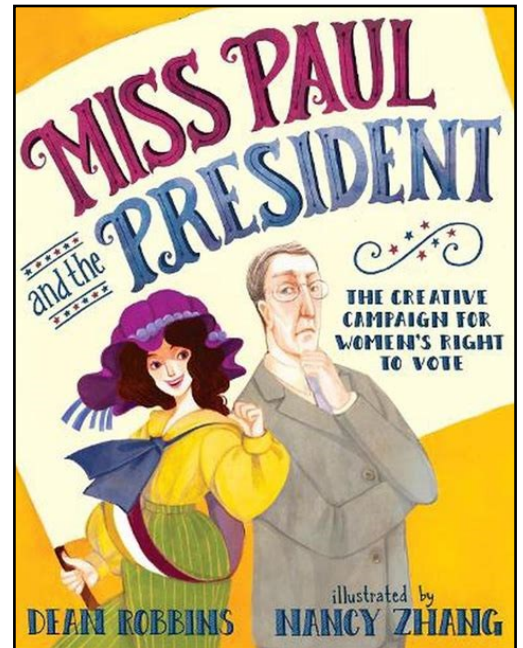
*Miss Paul and the President:*  
*The Creative Campaign for Women's Right to Vote*  
By Dean Robbins (author) and Nancy Zhang (illustrator)

Cast your vote for Alice Paul! The story of a tireless suffragette and the president she convinced to change everything.

When Alice Paul was a child, she saw her father go off to vote while her mother had to stay home. But why should that be? So Alice studied the Constitution and knew that the laws needed to change. But who would change them?

She would! In her signature purple hat, Alice organized parades and wrote letters and protested outside the White House. She even met with President Woodrow Wilson, who told her there were more important issues to worry about than women voting. But nothing was more important to Alice. So she kept at it, and eventually President Wilson was persuaded.

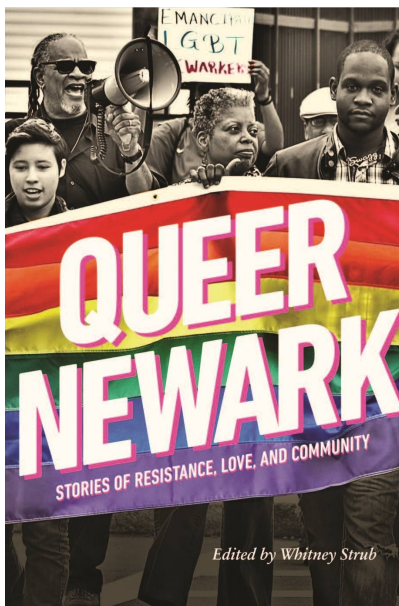
Dean Robbins and illustrator Nancy Zhang bring the unsung hero to vivid life and show young voters-to-be how important it is to never back down from a cause you believe in!



## Queer Newark: Stories of Resistance, Love, and Community

by Whitney Strub (Editor, Contributor), Zenzele Isoke, Yamil Avivi, Jason Chernesky, LeiLani Dowell, Anna Lvovsky, Queer Newark Oral History Project, Mary Rizzo, Christina Strasburger, Dominique Rocker, Peter Savastano, Timothy Stewart-Winter, Kristyn Scorsone, Danielle M. Shields, and Carse Ramos

Histories of gay and lesbian urban life typically focus on major metropolitan areas like San Francisco and New York, opportunity-filled destinations for LGBTQ migrants from across the country. Yet there are many other queer communities in economically depressed cities with majority Black and Hispanic populations that receive far less attention. Though just a few miles from New York, Newark is one of these cities, and its queer histories have been neglected—until now.



*Queer Newark* charts a history in which working-class people of color are the central actors and in which violence, poverty, and homophobia could never suppress joy, resistance, love, and desire. Drawing from rare archives that range from oral histories to vice squad reports, this collection's authors uncover the sites and people of Newark's queer past in bars, discos, ballrooms, and churches. Exploring the intersections of class, race, gender, and sexuality, they offer fresh perspectives on the HIV/AIDS epidemic, community relations with police, Latinx immigration, and gentrification, while considering how to best tell the rich and complex stories of queer urban life. *Queer Newark* reveals a new side of New Jersey's largest city while rewriting the history of LGBTQ life in America.

Published by Rutgers University Press.



**The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey 2024 Summer Meeting**  
**Saturday, June 15, 2024**  
**Historical Association of Woodbridge Township**  
**Meeting at the Acacia Youth Center**  
**95 Port Reading Avenue, Woodbridge, NJ 07095**

**AGENDA**

9:00-9:30 a.m.: Registration and continental breakfast

9:30 a.m.: Welcome from Daniel D'Arcy, president of the Historical Association of Woodbridge Township. Greetings from the mayor of Woodbridge Township, John E. McCormac and remarks from the Woodbridge Township Preservation Commission Chair, Dolores Gioffre

9:45-10:15 League business meeting and the **presentation of the Kevin Hale Publication Awards.**

10:15 a.m. Coffee break

10:30-11:45 a.m.: A new documentary, ***The Wreck of The Broker***, based on Gordon Bond's book, ***Man Failure***, a compelling look at the 1951 deadliest railroad accident in New Jersey. Created by HFX Studios for the *Part-time Explorer* YouTube channel—Presented by Gordon Bond

Noon: Lunch in the Acacia Youth Center

1:00 p.m.: **WALKING TOURS**, including Trinity Church (view of historic Johnathan Dunham House, circa 1713 in churchyard); the Old White Church, circa 1802-1979 and Burying Grounds where 75 Continental Army officers and soldiers are interred; Barron Arts Center, circa 1877.

**DRIVE BY:** Site of NJ's first tidal-powered grist mill, 1670; the Towne House, circa 1687; the Parker Press (replica NJ's first printing press, circa 1755); Quaker Burying grounds, circa 1713; Cross keys Tavern, circa 1740.

**Local Accommodations:** Spring Hill Suites By Marriot, 1010 US 9 North, Woodbridge 07095  
Delta Hotels by Marriot, 515 US-1 South, Iselin, NJ 08830

**For questions** Contact Daniel D'Arcy 732-634-1669, [hawt1669@gmail.com](mailto:hawt1669@gmail.com). **Questions on the morning of the meeting, please call 908-599-3958.**

To register, please complete the form below and mail it with your check for \$30.00 (payable to: HAWT) and mail it to Howard Weber, HAWT Treasurer, P. O. Box 83, Woodbridge, NJ 07095.

**Please register by May 30, 2024**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

**The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey 2024 Summer Meeting**  
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**Directions** to the Acacia Youth Center, 95 Port Reading Avenue, Woodbridge, NJ 07095

**Turnpike Exit 11. GSP;US 9;Route 9 North**

Exit Green Street. Follow Green Street through traffic light at Route 35 Amboy Ave. Next traffic light at Rahway Ave. Left. Right at next traffic light Port Reading Ave. Arcadia on left side.

**FROM THE GARDEN STATE PARKWAY**

Parkway N or S to Exit 132.

Turn left onto Route 27. (This highway runs parallel to the railroad tracks)

Turn right onto Green Street and go under railroad tracks.

Go past one light and turn left onto Chain O Hills Road (just before Iselin Library on right).

Travel across Route 35 and Route 1 to end.

Turn right onto Rahway Avenue.

Turn left onto Port Reading Avenue (Old White Church is on left).

Travel Port Reading Avenue about ¼ mile.

Acacia is on left with parking lot.

