

STEPHEN CRANE HOUSE FUND RAISING UPDATE

July, August, September 2014

The Stephen Crane House (SCH) application for registration as a state historic site was reviewed by SHPO on July 17th. The application was approved, but a few minor corrections are needed before sign off by the DEP Commissioner. The final approval is expected in September. It is expected to take an additional 3 months for approval to the National Register of Historic Places.

In anticipation of the purchase, which still must be approved by the full board, the historical society has set up an endowment fund for donations. On Sunday, August 10th, an open house fundraiser was held to raise both money and awareness about the impending sale of this property, believed to be the city's oldest house (built in 1878) to the Asbury Park Historical Society. It is estimated that between 75-100 people visited the house that afternoon.

"Purchasing the Crane House will give the Asbury Park Historical Society a permanent home, which is important for it to fulfill its mission," said Don Stine, the society's president. "We're very concerned about the cost of making the repairs." Frank D'Ales-



Don Stine, Rep. Frank Pallone and Susan Rosenberg at the Stephen Crane House

sandro, who bought the Crane House in 2001, turned it into a spot for monthly movie screenings, poetry readings, lectures and one-performer shows. He has offered it to the historical society for the price of \$1.00.

"From a maintenance standpoint, though, it's costly," Stine said. "The windows – some stretching from floor to ceiling – are original, they leak frigid air in winter," said Tom Chesek, a writer who rents an apartment in the house while he researches its history. "Hurricane Sandy blew out one of the windows and storms keep chipping away at the decorative shingles."

Stine and Chesek credit prior owners Tom and Regina Hayes with rescuing the house

when they bought the abandoned and dilapidated structure in the 1990s after learning of its history.

It's the house where Crane's mother, Mary Helen Peck Crane, eventually moved her family in 1883 after the death of her husband, a Methodist minister. By settling in Asbury Park, which had been founded only 12 years earlier, she could be close to the Methodist community already established in neighboring Ocean Grove. This was also the house where Stephen Crane, the future author, correspondent and poet spent much of his adolescence, and learned the craft of journalism from his brother, Townley, by working as a "stringer" for his Jersey Shore News Service.

"This is the last structure that remains associated with Stephen Crane," Stine said, noting the author's birthplace in Newark and a monument built on that site are gone now. "This is it for representing Stephen Crane in the United States."

Annual Art on the Boardwalk Show and Sale

The Asbury Park Historical Society is pleased to announce that our annual *Art on the Boardwalk* show and sale was a success, raising \$1165.00 for the society! The event was held on Sunday, 8/17/14 on the boardwalk between Sunset & 5th Aves., south of Convention Hall. The work of sixteen artists was represented. The weather cooperated, and a lovely summer day was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Teddy Chomko and his hard working committee!



Find your own *Endless Summer* on the Asbury Park boardwalk! (Photo Teddy Chomko)

Light of Day Update!

Charlie and Pam Horner are making great progress with the *Light of Day 2015* events, and are working with both *Heaven Art and Antiques* and Monmouth University to create exhibits featuring the music of Asbury Park's West Side. *Heaven Art and Antiques* will be the in-town exhibit venue. It will feature about 60 pieces of 2-D musical memorabilia. The exhibition will be on display from Sunday, January 11th through the 19th. The exhibit at Monmouth University will double as its Black History Month exhibit, and will run through the month of February. As this is a larger venue, three dimensional pieces, such as costumes, musical instruments and signage may also be on display. The Horners also proudly announced that Bobby Thomas' widow has presented them with much of the late singer's personal collection of musical memorabilia which includes many rare and original pieces. It is hoped that admission

from these exhibits will be used to restore the *Turf Club* sign.



Bobby Thomas' Orioles in 2000-Bobby Thomas far right, Johnny Reed, bassist and founding member of the original Orioles (1948), lower right (The Bobby Thomas Collection)

City Founder's Descendant Makes Important Donation

Ginny Berg, a descendant of Uriah White, one of the city's founders, had made a donation of many of his personal effects to APHS. These include chairs dating from 1885, letters, books and other documents. Mr. White is remembered for installing the city's first artesian well water system.



Ginny and some of her donations (Photo: Don Stine)

A Few Words about the Newsletter...

You may have noticed our Summer 2014 Newsletter was sent to you via e-mail, and not by regular post. In an effort to make better use of your membership fees and donations, the Asbury Park Historical Society will now be e-mailing its quarterly Newsletters to all who have shared their e-mail addresses with us. Those members without e-mails will still obtain their newsletters by mail. The Newsletters will also be posted on our website:

www.aphistoricalociety.org. If you are a member who still wishes to obtain a Newsletter by post, please send an e-mail to info@aphistoricalociety.org –be sure to include your current street address or P.O. Box number.

Meet us in the Grand Arcade!

APHS has had a table in the Grand Arcade outside of the *Asbury Galleria* during this summer's weekend afternoons and holidays. Kay Harris, the Galleria's proprietor and Susan Rosenberg (both APHS Trustees) are delighted that this table has brought in many memberships and donations, as well as answered the questions of city visitors. Come visit us!

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Please share your love of local history with others-new members are always welcome!

Asbury Park Historical Society Membership
P.O. Box 543 Asbury Park, New Jersey 07712
(732)869-HIST www.APHistoricalSociety.org

Name: _____ Occupation: _____

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Please join one of our committees by circling a category below. You will be contacted upon receipt of your membership application.

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Annual Dues (dues paid in Oct., Nov., Dec. are good for the following year)

Senior (age 65 and up) \$15.00

Individual \$25.00

Family \$35.00

Corporate \$150.00

Benefactor \$500.00

Renewal? Yes No

Donation only \$ _____ Thank you!

PayPal: antichay@g-mail.com

Please make checks payable to the "Asbury Park Historical Society"

Signature _____

Date _____