

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ASBURY PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**JOIN UP OR
RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP!**
See Page 4 for Details!

*Where the Past
Meets the Future*

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Here's One for the Locals!

A Send-Off to Summer...and a Special Thank You to Our Friends!

APHS AT OYSTERFEST, AND MORE

Look for the Asbury Park Historical Society in **Bradley Park** on September 7 and 8, when we pitch our tent once more to take part in the annual **Oysterfest** event presented by the **Asbury Park Chamber of Commerce**! Our volunteers will be present at our information and merchandise booth for the duration of the event, going on Saturday 11 am to 10 pm, and Sunday 11 am to 6 pm. Then make a date to stop by our info booth on Saturday, September 14, when we'll be taking part in the annual **Spirit of the Jerseys History Fair** at **Monmouth Battlefield State Park** in Manalapan — and on Sunday, October 13, during **Archives Day** at the **Monmouth County Library** headquarters, also in Manalapan.

APHS AWARDS DINNER, OCTOBER 10

Whether they've manned our table at an outdoor event, purchased a raffle ticket, assisted with our archiving efforts, or gifted us with a generous donation, our volunteers and supporters are greatly appreciated — and on Thursday, October 10, the Historical Society pays tribute to some of our most dedicated friends, with a special **Awards Dinner** hosted at local-favorite landmark **Jimmy's Italian Restaurant** on Asbury Avenue! Scheduled to be honored that evening are Stephen Crane House founders **Tom and Regina Hayes**; music historians **Charlie and**

Pam Horner of Classic Urban Harmony LLC; **Don McLain** of the city's Department of Public Works, and Asbury Park Public Library director **Robert Stewart**. Also on tap for the 6 pm event will be a gift auction featuring items and services from many of the area's leading merchants — and there's still time to be a part of this special feature

of what we hope will become a highly anticipated annual happening! Tickets (\$75 per person) can be reserved online at aphistoricalociety.org, or purchased at **Heaven Art & Antiques**, 721 Cookman Avenue (between Main and Bond Streets) in downtown Asbury Park.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS TOUR, DECEMBER 8

On December 8, the **New York City Holiday Christmas Lights Tour** embarks once more from Fireman's Park in Ocean Grove, with the annual "fun"raiser (a co-presentation of the APHS and the **Historical Society of Ocean Grove**) offering a busload of participants a tour of several Manhattan sites in their full seasonal glory. Included will be a multi-course lunch in Little Italy, shopping in Bryant Park, storefront displays, St. Patrick's Ca-

thedral, and, of course, "The Tree" at Rockefeller Center. A professional guide will enhance the sight-seeing, so sign up now for this great afternoon and evening of trekking the lights fantastic! Full details are still to be announced, but early registrations can be made by calling 848-667-3432.



Tickets On Sale NOW for Our Annual 50/50 Drawing!

You have to be in it to win it! The Asbury Park Historical Society has begun its annual 50/50 raffle, to be drawn at our meeting on November 21, 2019. We are looking to ramp up ticket sales this year, so if you can help sell tickets (or know someone who can), please contact Susan at susanrosenberg10@gmail.com.

You can also buy your own tickets through the mail! Tickets are \$5 each, or a book of five for \$20. Just send a check made out to the APHS for the number of tickets you want to purchase, and we will mail the entry stubs to you. Mail check to: **APHS/Stephen Crane House, 508 Fourth Ave., Asbury Park, NJ**

07712. Please be sure to include your name, address and telephone number — and ask your friends, relatives, or business associates if they would like to participate. We can always use the support!

Thank you and Good Luck!!!

Visit Our Website at www.aphistoricalsociety.org

Renovations, Recognitions, and Revisiting the Past...



During the annual **Weekend in Old Monmouth** schedule of historic house tours in early May, the public got its first look at the revamped and renovated upstairs library at the Stephen Crane House...a project (more than a year in the making) that involved the skills and contributions of numerous tradespeople, Historical Society members, and collectors of rare and vintage books...in addition to the complete re-plastering, re-wiring, and flooring work, the room now boasts an impressive collection of 19th century volumes by many of young Mr. Crane's favorite authors, as well as an authentic Crane autograph, a Civil War era rifle, and other period furnishings. The centerpiece of the project is a custom-built, illuminated bookcase housing early editions of the author's published works... and across the hall, the bookshelves of the Archive Room feature many subsequent printings of Stephen Crane's novels, essays, poems and short fiction; audio and video adaptations of his stories; numerous Crane biographies and critical studies, plus works by many of his friends, influences and contemporaries.



Congratulations to **Tom Hayes**, founding father of The Stephen Crane House, for his designation as a 2019 honoree of the annual Carousel Awards, presented by the **Asbury Park Chamber of Commerce** on May 10. It was Tom and his family who purchased the gutted and boarded-up property at 508 Fourth Avenue in 1995, acting on the knowledge of its connection to Stephen Crane, and with the intent of establishing a museum and cultural center dedicated to the famed American author. From there began the painstaking work of restoring the circa 1878 cottage...a project enabled by a crew of community volunteers, and facilitated in good part by a couple of generous donations from one Bruce Springsteen...with a public unveiling of the newly rechristened Stephen Crane House in 1996.

Upon moving to Wall Township at the turn of the new century, the New Jersey Natural Gas executive would sell the Crane House property to his next-door neighbor **Frank D'Alessandro**. The retired educator and APHS trustee would continue to develop the site as a cultural and community resource, before donating the house to the Society in 2015. Still working with NJNG...and well known throughout regional philanthropic and nonprofit circles, for his years of service in support of many a worthy cause...Tom Hayes shared this year's **Joan Flatley Spirit of Asbury Park Award** with **Townsquare Media** (parent company of radio stations 94.3 The Point and NJ 101.5), for their work in the establishment of the Asbury Park Boardwalk Radio Station.



Students from the **Gaynor McCown Outward Bound School** in Staten Island got a first-hand look at famous musical sites in Asbury Park on a chilly Thursday, April 11. AP Historical Society president **Don Stine** took them on a three-hour tour that included venues old (**The Paramount, Convention Hall**), new (**Lake House Academy, House of Independents**) and, of course, **The Stone Pony**. This was the third year in which the school's students have come to Asbury Park, one of the school's most popular field trip destinations — and being on the world-famous stage of the Pony is always a must-have photo op!



Work has commenced on the renovation of the southwest-corner bedroom of the historic Stephen Crane House, with **Jerry Goodrich** and son Chris prepping the second-floor space for an extensive makeover here in 2019. The plaster specialist (whose detail-intensive work was a major part of the recent overhauls of the house's parlor and library) will be handling the early phase of the project, which when completed will re-open the room to the public as a designated "Stephen's Room," recreating the look of a young boy's bedroom in the (mid 1880s) years when aspiring author Stephen — an avid reader and baseball fan who was also known to travel about town by both bicycle and pony — attended school here in Asbury Park. The Historical Society, which will be seeking out and acquiring furnishings and other materials appropriate to that project, welcomes any donations of funds or period-correct items toward that goal, with an anticipated re-opening in the fall of this year.

Follow the Asbury Park Historical Society and The Stephen Crane House on Facebook

...as Asbury Park and the APHS Get BUSY in Fall 2019!



At left, a visitor to the historic Crane House displays a plate commemorating the former **First Presbyterian Church of Asbury Park**, the congregation (relocated to Ocean Township following a circa-1980 fire) that marked its centennial at the end of the 1970s. A donation of this and other materials related to the old church building was among several gifts of photographs, ephemera and other items that the Asbury Park Historical Society received recently, from a number of generous neighbors in and around the city.

These gifts included arcade-attendant aprons and items from onetime employees of the iconic **Palace Amusements** (right), as well as a set of

framed views featuring old-time Asbury-based businesses, donated by the employees of **CohnReznick** (the Eatontown-based accounting firm which recently relocated to the BellWorks complex in Holmdel).

The Historical Society continues to welcome donations to our collection of materials related to the history of Asbury Park...as does the future **Asbury Park Museum**, the ongoing project chaired by APHS trustee **Kay Harris**. Feel free to contact us via email or Facebook with any inquiries regarding your contribution to the preservation and promotion of Asbury Park's always-amazing history!



Left to right: artist **Ray Sternesky**, APHS trustees **Dolly Sternesky** and **Teddy Chomko**, and **Marianne Casella** enjoyed a beautiful and busy day at the city's world famous beach and boardwalk on August 18, during the 14th annual **Art on the Boardwalk** event presented by the Asbury Park Historical Society. A favorite fundraising event for the society — and a great reason to take in the waterfront panorama at the height of the summertime season — the yearly show and sale of original paintings and artisanal crafts is a colorful exhibit of works by dozens of local and regional creatives, working in a variety of media. Thanks to Teddy and his hard-working crew of volunteers for helping to make this year's event a successful one for all involved...and reinforcing what generations of resident families, day-trip visitors, seasonal strollers and future superstars have known for years: the Asbury Park Boardwalk is that special place where ART happens!



Local historian **Gary Crawford** and his granddaughter, **Sayde Izquierdo** did the honors this year on behalf of the Asbury Park Historical Society, as they placed a memorial wreath at the SS Morro Castle monument outside the **Paramount Theatre** on Sunday, September 8, which marked the 85th anniversary of the famous maritime disaster.

The APHS places a wreath at the monument every year on the anniversary, and the many mysteries surrounding the story of the Morro Castle continue to intrigue people from all walks of life. Following the ceremony, the hosts and production crew of a popular television series visited the Paramount and other local sites (including the Crane House), interviewing history buffs, experts, and collectors of memorabilia about the controversies and questions that continue to swirl in the ill-fated ship's wake. While we're sworn to secrecy regarding the details of the episode that's slated to air in late 2019, stay tuned to the Historical Society's social media pages for updates!

Fall Public Events Presented by the APHS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 at the ASBURY PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY: Join the Historical Society for a special presentation on "How to Research Your Property," by **Roger Champagne**. The Asbury Park resident discusses his experiences buying, renovating, and exploring the timeline of his Emory Street house, and offers pointers on "how to take a deep dive back into history," by discovering how your home and its previous occupants contributed to Asbury Park through the decades. There is no charge for admission to this 7 pm event at the Library (First and Grand Avenues), and refreshments will be served.



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 at the CRANE HOUSE: Actor and Brookdale Community College faculty member **Geoff Shields** presents a performance of his original one-man show *The Junk Drawer*, on the stage of the Lecture Room Theater. A full-length expansion of a piece that Geoff read in one of our past Season's Readings programs, the humorous and autobiographical script represents an adventure in playwriting for the professional who has appeared in our live "radio play" productions *The Reluctant Voyagers*, *A Bum's Christmas*, and *The Ghost*. A donation of \$5 is suggested for the 6 pm performance.



SATURDAYS, OCTOBER 5, NOVEMBER 2, DECEMBER 7 at the CRANE HOUSE: Asbury Park Mayor Emeritus (and classic movie fan) **Ed Johnson** returns for a new season of "Lights! Cameras! Politics!" free film screening events, presented under the theme Tales of Espionage. Alfred Hitchcock's 1946 *Notorious* kicks off the schedule on 10/5, followed on 11/7 with Max Von Sydow in John Huston's 1970 *The Kremlin Letter*, and on 12/7 with Tom Hanks starring in Steven Spielberg's 2015 *Bridge of Spies*. All programs begin at 3 pm, with no charge for admission, and complimentary refreshments served.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19 at the CRANE HOUSE: Actor, playwright, poet, rapper, and musician **Rock Wilk** returns to the Lecture Room, the venue in which he introduced all of his past solo shows (which went on to acclaimed Off Broadway runs after being seen here first!). Rock is back with a new and revised version of *Imagine Judith*, an autobiographical script (about the author's search for his birth mother) that he read here in rough draft last year. A "Pay What You Can" donation is suggested for the 7 pm event.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 and SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 at the CRANE HOUSE: Actor, director, and Friend of the Crane House **Bill Timoney** (fresh from a Broadway engagement in the Tony winning *Network*) returns just in time for Halloween, with four performances of the solo play *St. Nicholas*, a chilling tale of romantic obsession (and modern day vampires) by Irish playwright Conor McPherson. Performances are at 2 and 7 pm on October 26 and 27, with a suggested donation of \$10.

Follow **The Stephen Crane House on Facebook** or join our mailing list for updates on additional events...including a very special Birthday Salute to Stephen Crane program on Saturday, November 9, and our long-running holiday tradition **Season's Readings from the Crane House** on a date to be announced in December!

The Asbury Park Historical Society

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Join up or renew your membership today!

contact **Kay Harris**, Membership Chair, at kayharrismck@msn.com

Your generous donations of funds, historical materials and period furnishings are greatly appreciated for our community programs!

Donations via PayPal to antichay@gmail.com

Call the Crane House at 732-361-0189 or address correspondence to:

Asbury Park Historical Society c/o Stephen Crane House, 508 Fourth Ave., Asbury Park, NJ 07712

