

Asbury Park Historical Society
Monthly Meeting: Thursday, March 20, 2025
Location: The Stephen Crane House
508 4th Avenue, Asbury Park 07712
MINUTES

President Kay Harris called the meeting to order: 6:30 P.M.

Board of Trustees in Attendance: Kay Harris, president; Andy Skokos, treasurer; Susan Rosenberg, secretary; Teddy Chomko (8:17 P.M.); Susan Skokos; Dolly Sternesky; Don Stine

Board of Trustees Absent: Eileen Chapman; Jennifer Stine

Guests: Stan Cain, A.P. Museum; Anita DiGiulio, member

Membership: Susan Skokos

77 members

Membership year is January - December.

Treasurer's Report: Andy Skokos

The 4 accounts reside in the PNC Bank:

Money Market: \$ 50150.77

A.P.H.S. Checking: \$10,346.27

S.C.H. Checking: \$ 1,161.84

Gaming: \$ 550.00

Grand total: \$ 62,208.88

Andy agreed to bring to the next Board meeting a budget breakdown of the A.P.H.S and S.C.H. to include income and expenses for both the SCH and APHS.

Stephen Crane House

Condominium (3-room apartment)

The current resident moved out on March 15. Andy Skokos and Werner Baumgartner will be refurbishing and updating the residence in anticipation of new occupancy. Seeking monthly rent of \$1,500; the rental pays its own utilities except for water and sewer which are paid by APHS.

Use of the S.C.H.

Keisha's Players have used the facilities ten times to rehearse for their March 29th production, "I'm Coming Out of This," at the Middletown Arts Center. They made a donation of \$100.00
A.P.T.V. and A.P. Museum continue to meet at the house, regularly.

OutReach: Susan Rosenberg

Susan R. has started to set up the room off the parlor as shop for selling merchandise as well as a storage room for Outreach items.
The next Outreach event will be Asbury Fest.

Tours: Susan Rosenberg, Frank D'Alessandro

Susan presented a report of 2024 tours;

In 2024, **123 people toured the house** and learned about A.P. and O.G. histories, Methodism, the 1878 house, the prominent Crane family, Stephen Crane and Mary Helen Peck Crane.

Group numbers included a Brookdale Comm. Coll. literature class (17) Brocton High School, N.Y. (31) and the Asbury Park Rotary Club (14).

Group tours total: 62 people

Weekend in Old Monmouth total: 28 people [18 Sat.; 10, Sun.)

Individuals total: 33

GRAND TOTAL: 123

Notable guests: *NYT* editor, author and participant in the historical 1969 Stonewall riots; professors from NYU, BCC, MU; and
Executive Director of Museums, Schuyler, NY

Susan R. has expanded the tour to include what the house was like as both a boarding house and the (Florence) Hotel.

Participation in Weekend in Old Monmouth is scheduled for May 3 and 4, 2025. In 2024, APHS was one of 52 historic sites.

Susan R. will identify qualifying docent candidates.

Archives Comm.: Eileen Chapman, Kay Harris, Christine Lutz, Kathleen Melgar, Don Stine

Documents, artifacts and photos are being identified on a spreadsheet and housed in archival sheets and boxes for protection from UV light.

Communications: Jennifer Stine

Susan R. relinquished responsibility for production of the newsletter. It was suggested that Jenny, Marsha Schreier and Susan R. work on it and that it come out in July and December. The A.P.H.S. website has been updated. Marsha Schreier has edited it. The old telephone number no longer exists. **The APHS telephone number is (732) 359 - 5355.**

By-Laws

The Board of Trustees has been asked to submit suggested updates to Dolly. A committee of Jim Henry, attorney, and Dolly Sternesky was suggested. Dolly will reach out regarding the due date.

Historic Preservation

Don asked about the working status of the Library Square fountain that the Society had worked on in the past. Teddy agreed to consult with Eileen Chapman.

One of the world's oldest and biggest steel Ferris Wheels, at 74', had resided in Asbury Park's Palace Amusements, 1892 - 1988. The Schuylkill River Heritage Center, Phoenixville, PA, is raising funds to preserve the iconic structure as a monument that would, in part, pay homage to Asbury Park's glory days. Don suggests that the Society help contribute by having Bruce Springsteen, at least, sign posters. (Bruce referred to the ride in several songs.)

Event Fundraising: Teddy Chomko, Dolly Sternesky

The two popular, long-standing events include Art on the Boardwalk and City Lights Tour, NYC.

Fundraising Merchandise: Andy Skokos, Kay Harris

Andy will arrange for a new bronze ornament design.

Kay adjourned the meeting at 8:40 P.M.

Submitted by Susan Rosenberg, Board of Trustees, Secretary

