

ASBURY PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes, Annual Membership Meeting of Thursday, January 16, 2013 held at the Asbury Park Public Library at 7:00 PM

Trustees Present: Chapman, Chomko, D'Amato, Harris, Henry, Moor, Rosenberg, Sobotka, Stine, Troppoli (quorum achieved)

Trustees Absent: Schulman

Meeting called to order at 7:15 PM. President Don Stine welcomed the trustees, members and guests. Trustees were introduced to the audience.

Don began by speaking about the Campaign to purchase the Stephen Crane House by creating a separate committee and 501c3 not for profit corporation for this purpose.

He outlined the APHS Five Year Plan and encouraged those present to introduce themselves to the trustees and sign up for committees in in order to put the society's plans into action.

Present at the meeting as a new member was Bradley Beach resident Evelyn Murphy, the new President of the Monmouth County Historical Association (www.monmouthhistory.org); Evelyn's background is in finance. She spoke briefly about the state's 350th Anniversary this year, how important it is for historical associations to work collaboratively and invited those present to a new exhibit on 18th-19th C. costume at their museum in Freehold: "Properly Dressed", to run through August 2, 2014. The MCHA is responsible for five historic houses in the county.

Pam & Charlie Horner of Classic Urban Harmony, LLC gave a multimedia presentation on *Asbury Park's West Side Music Legacy (1910 – 1970)*.

Charlie gave the lecture while Pam displayed photos of AP West Side vocal groups, as well as the many big band and jazz greats who visited and performed in Asbury Park.

Asbury Park's West Side has an extensive music legacy going back to the beginning of the 20th Century. As early as 1900 clubs along Springwood Avenue were playing ragtime. By the 1910's ragtime was developing into jazz and some of the great pioneers of stride piano were playing the same nightspots on Springwood – names like Willie Gant and Donald Lambert. In 1913, a 14-year-old Edward Kennedy (Duke) Ellington was exposed to stride piano playing on the West Side while vacationing in Asbury Park. William (Count) Basie, who was born in Red Bank, played Springwood Avenue with his first band in 1922 at the age of 17. Fats Waller wrote "Honeysuckle Rose" in an Asbury Park home in 1929. Many more jazz greats began their careers or had close connections to Asbury Park's West Side.

Throughout the 1930's and 1940's major acts continued playing Asbury Park, including Dizzy Gillespie, Billy Eckstine and Jimmie Lunsford who performed to packed crowds at the Armory (the present VFW). As the 1950's ushered in the age of Rhythm & Blues and Rock & Roll, Asbury Park's West Side produced many singers including Bobby Thomas & the Vibranaires, Lenny Welch & the Mar-Keys, the Junveniles, the Endeavors, Ray Dots, V-Eights and others. To the Soul Music Era of the 1960's and 1970's, Asbury Park contributed the Broadways and Billy Brown (later of the Moments and Ray Goodman & Brown). An interesting observation which illustrates how much talent was present in this small city at that time is that there may have been a number of active vocal ensembles; with the passage of time, many of the same individuals were members of one than one group.

In the field of Gospel Music, Asbury Park produced some of the finest groups around, including the Golden Harmonaires, Missionary Jubilaires and Golden Harmonettes.

On the Asbury Park Historical Society ballot, three trustees were running for re-election and the Five Year Plan was up for approval. The count was as follows:

Stine: 22

Henry: 23

Chapman: 23

All were re-elected (no write-ins)

The Five Year Plan carried: 20 yea, 1 nay