

October, November, December 2013

ASBURY PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY DELIVERS A “GOSPEL EXPLOSION” TO JERSEY SHORE ARTS CENTER

Missionary Jubilaires Honored by Entire Asbury Park Community

In the spring of 1948, several young men gathered at James Burks’ home on Union Avenue in Asbury Park and started singing gospel music. That was the start of the Missionary Jubilaires, a hugely popular vocal ensemble that served the spiritual needs of local African-American churches for the next 40 years.

As part of its ongoing project to document and recognize the cultural legacy of the West Side, the Asbury Park Historical Society has spent the past several months planning a day to honor these outstanding vocalists. Saturday, September 28th was proclaimed “Missionary Jubilaires Day” by the City of Asbury Park. Members of this vocal ensemble, spanning several generations, were honored at huge benefit concert, which was held that evening at the Jersey Shore Arts Center in neighboring Ocean Grove.

Asbury Park Mayor Myra Campbell presented eight of the past performers and several surviving family members with framed proclamations.



Long-time lead singer, Ted Jones receives his proclamation from Charlie Horner. (Photo courtesy John Cavanaugh)

The concert was produced and emceed by music historians Pam and Charlie Horner of Classic Urban Harmony, whose decades of experience with gospel music and extraordinary generosity made this concert possible. Their website, Classic Urban Harmony, (www.classicurbanharmony.net) is a comprehensive source of information regarding this important genre of American roots music. In keeping with the Missionary Jubilaires’ tradition of quartet style singing, the concert emphasized vocal harmony, with several groups singing a cappella.

Many of the artists who participated in the concert traveled far to honor their musical colleagues. Frankie Davis, lead tenor of the world famous Golden Gate Quartet, flew in from Paris to be the headline act of the evening. Davis, who also led the Soul

Stirrers during the 1990's, was backed by the Mighty Stars of Portsmouth, Virginia. Also up from Virginia was another spectacular vocal group, King David's Harp.

Representing Asbury Park was world-traveled gospel recording star, Tyron McAllister, along with his two young sons: The Sons of Thunder. The masterful performance of the popular a cappella group, Quiet Storm, demonstrated the power of the unaccompanied human voice. The Spiritual Five and Brothers in Christ, also vocal groups, came from South Jersey to participate in the concert.

The concert was a fundraiser to benefit the Asbury Park Historical Society's efforts to save the Stephen Crane House on Fourth Avenue.

Exhibit Showcases Historic City Views



Coastal Asbury Park, looking south, c. 1950. Photo by Ed Noumair

Gallery 13, at the Shoppes at the Arcade, 658 Cookman Avenue, showcased "Aerial Asbury" during the month of November. Edward Noumair, who photographed almost every Asbury Park High School *Driftwood* yearbook since his graduation in 1939 until the mid-1980s, was trained during World

War II in the U.S. Marines as an aerial photographer. He served in the Marines from 1942 to 1946.

And now, for the first time ever, his aerial photographs of Asbury Park taken during the late 1940s through the early 1950s will be on view.

The opening receptions, where Noumair shared his passion for photography and Asbury Park, were held on Saturday, Nov. 2 from 6 to 10 p.m. during Asbury Park's First Saturday Celebration; and on Sunday, Nov. 3 from noon to 5 p.m. The show will continue through November 30th.

Noumair grew up in Asbury Park and graduated from the high school in 1939. He then opened his photography business on Summerfield Avenue and continued to operate Noumair Studios until 1999.

"I needed some money and I had experience with aerial photography in the Marines. Of course, in the Marines you had a super-camera weighing about 70 pounds. When I went up in the single-engine plane, my camera weighed about a pound or two," he said.

"I had to be careful when I poked my camera out of the plane. The pilot would take the airplane into an almost stall and then lift the wings. I would then hang out of the plane with my camera and get the shot. I did have a harness but I loosened it up quite a bit to get a good angle," he said.

Noumair said he paid \$15 per hour to fly out of arctic explorer Ike Schlossbach's Asbury Park Airport on Route 66, across from the current Asbury Park Press building. The aerial black and white photographs reveal a historic view of Asbury's famous boardwalk, buildings and hotels, some that

no longer exist, along with other city landmarks, parks and shorelines.

Noumair, now 92, continues to share his passion for photography while teaching one day a week at The Rugby School in Wall Township where he challenges young adolescent minds to think about composition and technique.

Proceeds from this show will benefit the Asbury Park Historical Society and photographs will be for sale in any format. Inquires about sales may be addressed to Mr. Noumair at: enoumair65@comcast.net.

Our Annual Christmas Bus Trip

The holiday bus trip co-sponsored by the Ocean Grove and Asbury Park Historical Societies is scheduled for Sunday, December 1st. The itinerary will feature many of the Big Apple's most popular sites, including: the Empire State Building's 86th floor observation deck, Rockefeller Center, St. Patrick's Cathedral, the decorated windows at Sak's Fifth Avenue and the High Line.

Those on the tour will also enjoy a pub lunch with a choice of entrees and will be able to "shop 'til they drop" at the Chelsea Market and Union Square's Holiday Bazaar. The price for a full day of festive activities is \$105.00 per person, and includes lunch, all admissions and a deluxe motor coach with lavatory facilities. The tour will depart from Fireman's Park on Main Avenue in Ocean Grove at 9:30 AM, and return there at 9:00 PM.

There are no refunds within 21 days of the trip. This annual event is a very popular one, and often sells out!

For additional information, call Teddy Chomko at 732-869-4478. Application available at the Asbury Park Historical Society website:

www.APHistoricalSociety.org.

You've Gotta Have Art!!



Enjoying a summer's afternoon during our very successful annual Art on the Boardwalk show in August were: (l to r) Dolly Sternesky, Toni Spano, Teddy Chomko and Lynn Wyckoff.

Just One More Song, Please...



Quiet Storm performing a cappella at the *Gospel Explosion* concert. (Photo courtesy John Cavanaugh)

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Senior (age 65 and up) \$15.00 Individual \$25.00 Family \$35.00

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