

## New Jersey SHPO Officials Visit Asbury Park

A State historic preservation official was in Asbury Park on **Thursday, March 14**, touring some of the city's historic places and meeting with members of the Asbury Park Historical Society for a question and answer session.

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Administrator Dan Saunders attended the meeting, along with State Senator Jennifer Beck and Historical Society President Don Stine. They visited the National Guard Armory on Lake Avenue, Convention Hall and the Stephen Crane House on Fourth Avenue. Convention Hall is already on the state and federal register of historic places and the others are considered strong prospects for placement, according to Stine. He said that the Crane House is very close to gaining designation and members of VFW Post 1333, which occupies the Armory Building are studying the requirements to have the Armory declared a historic site.

During the Q&A at the Crane House, Saunders was asked about the State's ability to intervene in the matter of the missing decorative missing copper panels that were removed from Convention Hall last year, and later stolen from their storage area.

Calling Convention Hall "the building that



Asbury Park Historical Society Trustee David Sobotka greets Dan Saunders of the NJ State Preservation Office.

defines Asbury Park", Saunders said his office had sent a letter to Madison Marquette, the owner of the beachfront property, urging them to "make it right" and that the Historic Trust could take Madison Marquette to court, which could assess a penalty against the company.

Stine said the meeting with Saunders of the Historic Preservation Office was "a good step in the right direction" and he hopes to work more closely with the State to maintain and preserve historic buildings in Asbury Park, including the Crane House, Armory and the Public Library.



## Boating on Wesley Lake

There has been a long, albeit interrupted history of recreational boating on Wesley Lake, the narrow body of water that separates Ocean Grove from Asbury Park. In the early 1890s Mayor James Bradley bought 16 white swan boats for recreational use on Wesley Lake. These large side wheelers (which were hidden by the bird's wings) were propelled by the turning of a crank, which engaged the metal tracks in the water along which it ran. Each boat could hold about ten people. A postcard of that era depicts dressed-up ladies and gentlemen riding in these boats. At that time, those desiring a more strenuous trip could also hire row boats, which were available by the dozen.

As the times changed, so did the recreational boats available to the city's fun seekers. In the mid- 20<sup>th</sup> Century small motor-powered boats, which held two to four people, could be driven inside of two metal tracks on the Asbury Park side of the lake. The tracks which were part of these former amusements can still be seen on the lake's bottom. During the city's more difficult years,

boating disappeared from Wesley Lake for several decades.

However, with Asbury Park's rebirth, boating finally returned to Wesley Lake in 2011. These were not the grand side wheeled swan boats of the 1890s or the zippy motor boats of the 1950's and 1960's but "green" machines: people-powered pedal boats made of fiberglass. Each craft may hold up to three people, and their forms are not limited to white swans. One may hire a black swan, pelican, dragon, pink flamingo-even a pirate ship! These boats continue to delight city visitors and residents and may be hired for private parties and fundraisers. Linda Occhipinti and Joseph Gambarony are the proprietors of Asbury Park Pedal Boats, which is open during May through October, weather permitting.









## Update on the Purchase of the Stephen Crane House

As you know, the Asbury Park Historical Society has been offered ownership of the Stephen Crane House by its present owner, Frank D' Alessandro, for the price of one dollar. Although this is a bargain purchase price, much fund raising needs to be done to enable the historical society to own this unique historic gem.

### Here is how to do it:

Please view our fundraising video appeal on our web site: [www.APHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.APHistoricalSociety.org) You may contribute directly through the website by using PayPal- your contributions are tax deductible!

"Share" on Facebook, Twitter, Google+, your personal email distribution lists, the website, APHS Facebook Page, [youtube.com](http://youtube.com), etc. When you "like" or "share" our campaign page in Facebook, your entire network of friends is exposed to it instantly. They may donate or "share" or "like" it themselves and expose their entire Facebook network to it.

Right underneath the video there are options to:

"Like" "Tweet" "Google+"  
"Embed" "Email"

Please select as many of them as you are active on. **Facebook "Like" is the most important.**

Right above those buttons, is a text box entitled "Share this Campaign"

If you highlight the text in the box and "copy" it by right-clicking your mouse, you can then paste it onto your Facebook wall or include it as a link in an email. This will automatically pop up on your Facebook page and generate more activity on the site.

Any technology questions at all, please email Matt Hiznay @ [m.hiznay@gmail.com](mailto:m.hiznay@gmail.com)



### **Rainbow Room Sign Goal is Reached!!**

The Rainbow Room Sign is finally paid off! A final fundraiser held at Georgie's Bar on May 12<sup>th</sup> netted \$615.00! Participants played Bingo, Name that Tune, and Trivia; more than 25 gifts were awarded to the winners.

David Hoffman was emcee of the event and donated his services. Dorian, as Morgan LaFaye, stepped in and co-hosted with David. Charles Guerra and Georgie's Bar donated the services of a DJ, Robin Lichtenstein, Esq. was the event sponsor. Thanks also to Project Rainbow committee members: Teddy Chomko, Joe Lemme, Frank D'Alessandro, Sue Henderson, and Carol Torre, who with volunteer Mickey Carter, worked the event.

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Asbury Park Historical Society Membership  
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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](mailto:antichay@g-mail.com)

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

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_      **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

