

HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOLDS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT CITY LIBRARY

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM. President Don Stine welcomed the trustees, members and guests. The trustees were introduced to the audience. Don began by speaking about the purchase of the Stephen Crane House by establishing a separate 501©3 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 was for historical associations to work collaboratively and invited those present to a new exhibition on 18th-19th C. costume at the museum in Freehold: "Properly Dressed" to run through August 2nd. The MCHA is responsible for five historic homes in the county.

Pam and Charlie Horner of Classic Urban



Charlie Horner, of Classic Urban Harmony, LLC speaks on Duke Ellington's introduction to "stride" piano as a teenager visiting Asbury Park. (Photo: Don Stine)

Harmony, LLC gave a multi-media 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. (See following article for a summary of this fascinating musical conversation).

On the Asbury Park Historical Society ballot, three trustees: Eileen Chapman, Jim Henry and Don Stine were running for re-election, and the Five Year Plan was up for approval. All were re-elected (no write-ins) and the Five Year Plan carried.

Asbury Park's West Side Music Legacy (1910 – 1970) - A
Presentation by Charlie and Pam Horner

Pam & Charlie Horner of Classic Urban Harmony, LLC gave a multimedia presentation on *Asbury Park's West Side Music Legacy (1910 – 1970)* at the Asbury Park Historical Society's annual membership meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2014.

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 musical legacy going back to the beginning of the 20th Century. This rich musical inheritance sprang up largely along ten blocks of Springwood Avenue, which was the main commercial corridor of the West Side of this formerly segregated city. As early as 1900, clubs located here were already playing ragtime. It is important to note that at that time, only larger cities in the US had their own newspapers published by and for the African-American Community. These would have included advertisements for those venues which featured these artists. As the Asbury Park-Neptune area did not have such a publication, the historical record is not as rich as it otherwise might have been, and the location of such important early establishments and roadhouses such as "The Hong Kong Inn" are lost to history.

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 Lunford 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. Although music abounded on the West Side, much of the vocal ensembles' work has not survived. This was due to the

fact that many of them were unable to obtain recording contracts; recordings by many of the pre-1960's ensembles are rare or non-existent.

Charlie and Pam have been recognized as experts in vocal harmony music by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, and are in the process of assembling an exhibit on this topic for the 2015 *Light of Day* event next January. Anyone having memorabilia which they would like to contribute for display may contact them at their web site: www.classicurbanharmony.net which is also the perfect place to learn more about this integral style of American music.

Local Author Attends Meeting



Author Douglas E. Freidman (left) is pictured with vocal harmony music expert Charlie Horner at the annual Asbury Park Historical Society's membership meeting. Friedman's family used to own concessions in the Asbury Park Casino. He grew up in Asbury Park, and his father owned a music store at Grand & Cookman during the 1940's. He is also the author of "The Encyclopedia of Early American Vocal Groups" and "The Last Great Jewish Performers in Nazi Germany". (Photo: Don Stine)

The Asbury Park Historical Society Five Year Plan

1. Acquire the Stephen Crane House (SCH).
2. Form a management organization for the SCH.
3. Repair and rennovate the SCH.
4. Create a docent program for the SCH.
5. Hold an annual recognition dinner.
6. Increase membership.
7. Place the APHS walking-biking tour on the web site.
8. Create a monument to the *New Era* shipwreck.
9. Get accounts on QuickBooks for 2014.
10. Sponsor more programs and events.
11. Create an annual callendar to post on the web site.
12. become more involved with other like associations.
13. Increase merchandising.
14. Hold annual community events.
15. Create more on-site documentation of city historic sites.
16. Make a documentary about the SCH.

Please be our Guest at the Historic Stephen Crane House!

The Asbury Park Historical Society welcomes all interested persons to our monthly meetings, which occur on the third Thursday of the month at the Stephen Crane House, 508 Fourth Avenue. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM, and light refreshments are served. Come, listen, learn, share and become involved! Our meetings for this quarter are:

March 20th, April 17th and May 15th.

We hope to see you there!

Trustees

Don Stine, President, Archives/Artifacts & Exhibitions
James Henry, Vice President, Legal Affairs
Donna Troppoli, Secretary, Newsletter
Mary Damato, Treasurer, Budget/Finance
Eileen Chapman, Special Events
Teddy Chomko, Special Events
Kay Harris, Membership
Jennifer Schulman, Website
John Moor, Fundraising
Susan Rosenberg, Historic Preservation/Sites and Buildings
David Sobotka, Historic Preservation/Sites and Buildings

Asbury Park Historical Society Membership
P.O. Box 543 Asbury Park, New Jersey 07712
(732)869-HIST www.APHistoricalSociety.org

Name: _____ Occupation: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please join one of our committees by circling a category below. You will be contacted upon receipt of your membership application.

Archive/Artifacts & Exhibitions	Budget/Finance/Treasurer
Fundraising	Historic Preservations: Sites & Buildings
Legal/Grants/Government Relations	Membership
Website	
Special Events	Other _____

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

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

Signature _____ **Date** _____

