

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ASBURY PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Where the Past
Meets the Future*

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Picturing Our City...in Light and Color



Wesley Lake's vintage Swan Boat ride is among the scenes captured by legendary lensman Milton Edelman, in a special January 19 presentation.

A Legendary Man With a Camera is the Focus, on January 19

He was there on the scene as official "house photographer" for two much-missed local landmarks — the Monterey Hotel and the highwayside Storyland Village. His busy studios in Neptune City and Oakhurst created portraits of hundreds of families, newlyweds, children and area dignitaries — and served commercial clients that included Asbury's own Charms Candy Company. His camera was present for countless expos, parades, pageants, political events, and postcards that are sought after by collectors — and on the evening of Thursday, January 19, lifelong lensman **Milton Edelman** comes into focus, as the subject of a special tribute presented by the Asbury Park Historical Society.

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Patti Arroyo at work on her colorful mural project, now on view at the city's Transportation Center.

Muralist Turns Station Walls Into a Winter Wonderland

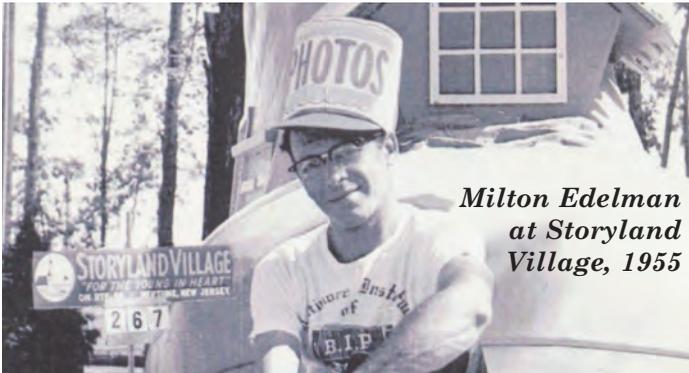
A welcome blast of color here in the season of too-short days and grey landscapes, a new mural project co-sponsored by the City of Asbury Park and ArtsCAP has transformed the lower level of the downtown Transportation Center. Best known for her many paintings, mixed-media pieces and wearable artifacts featuring Asbury Park's grinning mascot "Tillie," artist **Patricia Arroyo** spent much of December 2016 single-handedly creating the salute to Historic Asbury Park; a vivid and stylized fantasia spotlighting many of the city's most cherished landmarks and attractions (including, of course, Palace Amusements). As with the restored Rainbow Room sign, the APHS was proud to assist in funding the painting project, as a way of welcoming new and old visitors alike to station stop Asbury Park.

Annual Reorganization Meeting on Thurs., Jan. 19

Mark your calendar for the evening of January 19, when the Asbury Park Historical Society invites all members of the community to our annual **Reorganization Meeting**. Hosted in the city's historic **Public Library** at First and Grand Avenues, the 7 p.m. program will feature a special

tribute to photographer **Milton Edelman** (see above), plus swearing in of returning trustees to a new term, and a look at the year ahead. Complimentary refreshments will be served as well...so join your fellow APHS members for our first "night to remember" of the new year!

A Legendary Lensman Comes Into Focus



*Milton Edelman
at Storyland
Village, 1955*

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Scheduled as a special segment of the annual APHS Reorganization Meeting, the presentation represents a decades-spanning retrospective for the veteran photographer who marked his 94th birthday this past August 15. Hosted at the **Asbury Park Public Library**, the program will feature a display of Milton's most memorable work, a slideshow tour of his 60-plus year career, and a message of greeting (possibly in person, or on video) from the irrepressible shutterbug who "never quite retired."

Included in the slideshow will be examples of published vintage postcards from Edelman photos; aerial views of the Asbury waterfront; images of an ever-changing cityscape (such as the long-gone Levin's Department Store, pictured here); priceless scenes of summertime life and activity, and a sampling of studio work that boasts some fun self-portraits of the artist.



The 7 p.m. event will also offer the public an opportunity to examine a database of photo subjects, captured by the photographer between the 1960s and 80s, and included among a treasure-trove of negatives that Mr. Edelman generously donated to the Historical Society last year. The negatives were carefully catalogued by a team of volunteers headed by APHS trustee **Kay Harris**, who as proprietor of **Asbury Galleria** represents Milton Edelman's work for sale to the public.

All members of the community are invited to be there for the January 19 event at the Library, and to enjoy complimentary refreshments as you get acquainted with the work of a genuine behind-the-scenes local legend. There's no charge to attend...and you might even recognize a familiar name among the list of vintage Edelman photo subjects!



50/50 win for lucky history buff

At the monthly meeting of the Historical Society on November 17, 2016, the APHS Board of Trustees selected a winning entry in our annual **50/50 Sweepstakes**. The lucky winner of the popular fundraiser was none other than **Evelyn Murphy**, director of the Freehold-based Monmouth County Historical Association. The dedicated local history enthusiast received a check for \$950 — and very generously donated \$500 back to our organization and its ongoing programs! Many thanks to all who participated in the 2016 drive — and watch this space for information on our next 50/50 "fun"raiser!



A Busy Year That Was...and a Look Ahead!

Happy New Year, and again we welcome your participation in, and support of, the Asbury Park Historical Society.

Your membership is important to the society every year ...so please renew your membership for 2017 this month, or join for the first time.

It has been a very busy year for the APHS, especially since we acquired the **Stephen Crane House** and have been actively working to make much-needed repairs and improvements. To that end, we have been fairly successful, and the historic home of author Stephen Crane is in better shape than ever. If you haven't seen the newly-renovated parlor, then stop by the house any Sunday during open house tour hours, between noon and 2 p.m. — or schedule an individual or small group tour by calling **(732)361-0189**.

With many improvements and renovations done, it is now time to concentrate on forming and staffing our various committees, and that will be a main focus this year since we now have a viable place to meet and conduct business. We had hoped to focus on our committees last year, but the necessary work on the Crane House had to come first.



So, please, join us in rolling up our sleeves to preserve the history and legacy of the Jersey Shore's greatest city-Asbury Park!

— **Don Stine**, President, Asbury Park Historical Society
President Don Stine, Vice President James Henry, and Trustee Eileen Chapman will be sworn in to new terms on the APHS board, during the January 19 Reorganization Meeting at the Asbury Park Public Library.

Classic vocal groups perform “Live, Without a Net” at MU

On March 4, the newly renovated Pollak Theatre at **Monmouth University** will be transformed into a streetcorner from the old neighborhood — when our friends **Pam and Charlie Horner** return to the West Long Branch campus with “Doo Wop Explosion II,” an all-acappella concert event that showcases several generations of top vocal talent from Philadelphia, North Jersey, and NYC's boroughs.

A sequel to the first successful Doo Wop Explosion event in 2016, the Saturday evening serenade pays tribute to the harmony-based vocal traditions of the urban African American communities that coalesced into an exciting new sound in the postwar era.

Headlining the powerhouse program will be **The Spaniels**, inheritors of a legacy that began with their late colleague, lead singer Pookie Hudson — and the signature swooner that defined the entire doo wop era, the 1956 million-seller “Goodnight Sweetheart Goodnight.” Brooklyn-bred **Vito and the Salutations** are fondly recalled for early-60s regional hits like “Gloria” and “Unchained Melody” — and here in 2016 the group still boasts the presence of longtime members Vito Balsamo and Shelly Buchansky.

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A pink poster for a concert. At the top, it says "MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS PRESENTS". Below that, "ANOTHER NITE OF ACAPPELLA HARMONY". The main title is "doo wop - II" in large, stylized letters, with "EXPLOSION" underneath. To the right, it says "An All Acappella Concert". In the center, there is a list of performers: "Starring... Pookie Hudson's SPANIELS", "Vito & the SALUTATIONS", "QUIET STORM", "RE-MEMBER THEN A PERFECT BLEND", and "The COPIANS". Below the list, it says "Emcees Pam & Charlie Horner". The date and time are "7 pm, March 4, 2017". The venue is "POLLAK THEATRE, Monmouth University, West Long Branch, NJ". Ticket prices are "\$25, \$40, \$55 (Golden Seats)". At the bottom, it says "For Tickets Call: 732-263-6889 or visit Monmouth.edu/acts". There is a large microphone graphic on the right side of the poster.

Free public events at the Stephen Crane House



SAT. JAN. 28: Could you use a laugh? Crane House host **Frank D'Alessandro** honors the lasting legacy of **Laurel and Hardy** with a double bill spotlighting two of the classic comedy team's funniest: **Blockheads**, and **Way Out West**. Showtime's at 3 pm, with doors opening 2:30.

SAT. FEB. 4: Asbury Park Mayor Emeritus **Ed Johnson** opens a new Winter-Spring series of "Lights! Camera! Politics!" events, under the theme "The City Never Sleeps: Politics, Influence and Corruption." Burt Lancaster stars (in one of his finest late-career roles) with Susan Sarandon in director Louis Malle's 1980 drama **Atlantic City**; screening at 3 pm, with doors opening 2:30.

SAT. MARCH 4: "Lights! Camera! Politics!" continues with director Phil Karlson's hard-boiled 1955 social action exposé/ film noir, **The Phenix City Story**.

SAT. APRIL 1: The Spring series concludes with Jack Nicholson in Roman Polanski's 1974 study of murder and corruption in 1930s L.A., **Chinatown**.

Check the Stephen Crane House Facebook page or follow The Coaster newspaper for updates on additional free-admission events, here in our Lecture Room Theater!

"Doo Wop Explosion II"

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Although these veteran vocal groups are accustomed to working with instrumental backup, both will perform strictly acappella, making the March 4 concert a once-in-a-lifetime occasion.

While musical memories will fill the air, the evening is hardly all about nostalgia, as several next-generation acts aim to prove that the doo wop tradition remains in good hands. Returning for an encore appearance at the Pollak is Philly's **Quiet Storm**, a group that's attracted a coterie of fervent fans (known as "Storm Chasers") who follow them from gig to gig — and Piscataway's own **Re-Member Then**, who memorably backed the legendary Larry Chance at the 2016 show, will demonstrate the stuff that's made them two-time winners of the Acappella Showdown competitions at the Meadowlands. They're joined for the first time by **A Perfect Blend** and **The Copians**, an all-star outfit drawn from former members of several standout Philly vocal organizations.

The follow-up Explosion continues a partnership between Monmouth's Center for the Arts and our friends the Horners of **Classic Urban Harmony LLC** — the musicologists and collectors who curated an acclaimed 2015 salute to the sounds of Asbury Park's West Side, inside the Pollak Gallery. This is music that's too vital to keep confined to a museum, however, as Pam and Charlie celebrate people-powered soul in all its living, breathing, versatile glory, in a way that carries the "remember when" into the here and now.

Tickets for Doo Wop Explosion II are priced at \$25 and \$45 (with a Gold Circle seating option of \$55), and can be reserved through the Monmouth University Performing Arts Box Office at 732-263-6889, or online at www.monmouth.edu/arts. Gold Circle tickets also allow access to a Meet and Greet reception with the artists, to be held prior to the 7 p.m. concert.

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Join up or renew your membership today!

contact **Kay Harris**, Membership Chair, at kayharrismck@msn.com

...or get details at our website, www.aphistoricalociety.org

Your generous donations are greatly appreciated for our programs!

Donations via PayPal to antichay@gmail.com

Call the Crane House at 732-361-0189 or address correspondence to:

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