

July, August, September 2013

ASBURY PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO HONOR ONE OF THE CITY'S GREATEST GOSPEL GROUPS WITH HUGE GOSPEL CONCERT

Missionary Jubilaires gave spiritual inspiration to Asbury Park's African American community for 40 years

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.

At 7 p.m. on Saturday, September 28, as part of its ongoing project to document and recognize the cultural legacy of the West Side, the Asbury Park Historical Society will honor the Missionary Jubilaires with a huge gospel benefit concert.

"If you missed our Soul of Asbury Park concert at the Paramount Theatre in 2011, then you really missed something special! So, you should probably not miss our second concert honoring the music of Asbury Park's West Side," Historical Society President Don Stine said.

The concert will take place at the Jersey Shore Arts Center, Main Avenue and Main



The Missionary Jubilaires in the 1960s.
(Photo by Michael Denning,
courtesy of the William Farley family)

Street Ocean Grove, six blocks from where the Missionary Jubilaires first began.

Tickets are \$20 in advance (\$25 at the door) and are available through the Asbury Park Historical Society's website: www.aphistoricalociety.org. Tickets can also be purchased at the Asbury Galleria in the Convention Hall Arcade on the boardwalk and at the Stephen Crane House, 508 Fourth Avenue, on Sundays from noon to 4:00 p.m.

In keeping with the group's tradition of quartet style singing, the gospel concert will emphasize vocal harmony, with several groups singing a cappella.

Former members of the Missionary Jubilaires have been contacted and invited to attend.

"Surprise guests are also expected and we are ready to go," Horner said.

Headlining will be Frankie Davis, lead tenor of the world famous Golden Gate Quartet. Davis, who also led the Soul Stirrers during the 1990's, will be backed by the Mighty Stars of Portsmouth, Virginia. Also up from Virginia will be a spectacular vocal group called King David's Harp.

Representing Asbury Park will be world-traveled gospel recording star, Tyron McAllister, along with his three young sons, the Sons of Thunder. The popular a cappella group, Quiet Storm, will sing an all gospel set. From South Jersey, there'll be two vocal groups, the Spiritual Five and Brothers in Christ.

The concert will be produced and emceed by music historians Pam and Charlie Horner of Classic Urban Harmony. The concert is a fundraiser to benefit the Asbury Park Historical Society's efforts to save the Stephen Crane House on Fourth Avenue.

More information is also posted at www.classicurbanharmony.net or telephone Classic Urban Harmony at 973-214-4350 or Don Stine at 732-774-4590.

The Stephen Crane House, 508 Fourth Avenue, Asbury Park, is now open on Sunday afternoons from 12:30 until 4:00. Please make a visit!

Double the History, Double the Fun!

Two local historical societies are teamed up on Sunday, June 30 to celebrate and preserve the history of Asbury Park.

The Township of Ocean Historical Museum launched their new exhibit, "Asbury Park: The History of a Jersey Gem," on June 30 at the Eden Woolley House, 703 Deal Road. The Asbury Park Historical Society was on hand, sponsoring



AP Historical Society event organizer Teddy Chomko channels Stephen Crane.

a very successful cookout and small festival which raised money to purchase and preserve the Stephen Crane House on Fourth Avenue in Asbury Park.

In addition to barbecued fare, Colliflower the Clown offered humor and face painting, Madame Marie's granddaughter told fortunes for a small fee and local artist Ray Sternesky had his beautiful, creative artwork of the Jersey shore for sale.

"The Township of Ocean Historical Museum has been very kind to offer us this opportunity to raise money for the Stephen Crane House and it was an excellent opportunity for people to share and celebrate the history of Asbury Park," Asbury Park Historical Society President Don Stine said.

The exhibit has artifacts and photos that tell the story of Asbury Park from its beginning in 1871 as the brainchild of businessman and avid Methodist James Bradley to its current rebirth. The centerpiece of the exhibit is a full-size carousel animal—a sea dragon, hand carved by folk artist George Hoffman.

"The exhibit covers Asbury's distinctive history as both a legendary resort and a thriving retail center. It includes the rich cultural and musical contributions of the West Side," exhibit curator Peggy Dellinger said.

The Eden Woolley House is open Tuesday through Thursday, 1 to 4 p.m.; Thursday evenings, 7 to 9 p.m.; and the first and second Sundays of the month, 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free (donations are always welcome). The Asbury exhibit remains through next spring.

Art Show Returns to the AP Boardwalk

The Asbury Park Historical Society held its annual Art Show on the Boardwalk on Sunday, August 18th. About 20 artists participated in what was a most successful event for both the artists and the historical society. The boardwalk was crowded (with art lovers!), despite the cloudy weather. Event organizer Teddy Chomko was pleased with the result, and looks forward to an even bigger show next year!

Night Out Against Crime



Lorenzo Harris III hangs out with "Barry, The Baronet Theatre Cop" at the Asbury Park Historical Society's promotional table during the city's Night Out Against Crime on Tuesday, Aug. 6. Harris is a direct descendant of his grandfather, Lorenzo Sr., who was famous for building spectacular sand structures on the Asbury Park

beachfront and, most interestingly, using only his one arm- the other arm was lost in an accident. Since African-Americans were not allowed on the main beaches during Lorenzo Sr.'s day, he used the pseudonym "The Arab" to overcome the prohibition.

People would toss money down onto a blanket to see his creations.



Lorenzo Harris, Sr. with his "Fairy Tale" sand sculpture, Asbury Park beach, c. 1921
(Courtesy, collection of Kay Harris)

His son, Lorenzo Jr., went on to become a prominent city physician. Kay Harris, owner of the Asbury Galleria in the Convention Hall Arcade, is sister to Lorenzo III. "Barry, The Cop" is from the former Baronet Theatre on Fourth Avenue.

The annual Morro Castle Memorial Ceremony will be held on Sunday, September 8th at 1:00 PM on the AP Boardwalk at 5th Avenue. (Weather permitting)

Until next time...

As you see, the AP Historical Society has been having entirely too much fun this summer! *Why not join us?* Since we don't have room for a membership application this quarter, please visit our informative and helpful web site at:

www.APHistoricalSociety.org

where you will find information on membership, donations and important updates of our events. You can also contact the trustees through the web site with any AP history-related questions you might have.

Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at the Stephen Crane House, 508 Fourth Avenue, Asbury Park at 7:30PM.

Asbury Park Historical Society Trustees

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A film about the Morro Castle disaster will be shown later on Sunday, September 8th, at both 3PM and 5 PM at the Stephen Crane House. To support our Crane House fund raising efforts, there will be a \$5.00 donation for this film event.

