

# Arts & History

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1, No. 3 \* Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, Atlantic County, New Jersey \* 2/2009

The Message is...*The arts embody the American spirit of self-definition and expression. As author of two best-selling books, President Barack Obama can uniquely appreciate the role and value of creative expression. Read major points of his campaign platform on arts and culture on page 6.*

## 2009 GRANT AWARDS: for Arts & History in Atlantic County

History funds totalling \$6275 were awarded to nine non-profit history organizations for a variety of programs and services. All awards are required to be matched a minimum of two to one, so this award represents history projects of more than \$15,000 in Atlantic County. The funding from the NJ Historic Commission is awarded through a competitive grant process administered by the County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs. The following were awarded:

**AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY:** costs for archival storage materials and exhibition supplies. **ATLANTIC CITY CONVENTION HALL ORGAN SOCIETY:** printing costs to produce 2500 copies of brochure about the historic pipe organs located in Boardwalk Hall, Atlantic City. **ATLANTIC COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM, REFERENCE DEPARTMENT:** costs for archival storage boxes and folders for primary resource documents relating to Atlantic County history. **ATLANTIC COUNTY PARK SYSTEM:** costs for fabrication of interpretive signage for the Daniel Estell House and Estellville Glassworks, on the State and National Register of Historic Places. **ATLANTIC HERITAGE CENTER:** costs for intern assistance with the veteran oral history program. **GREAT EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY:** costs for archival boxes, folders and envelopes to conserve and protect original documents. **LINWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY:** costs for wider distribution of the Society's newsletter and revisions to brochures. **SOMERS POINT HISTORICAL SOCIETY:** costs for archival sleeves, boxes and notebooks for historic photo collection. **TOWNSHIP OF WEYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY:** costs for enlarging historic photos for a public exhibit and archival storage equipment for historical materials.

*"The point of this funding is to help make history accessible to the public," says Yechiel LeHavy, retired ACCC professor and member of the Atlantic County Cultural & Heritage Advisory Board. "But original historical materials also have to be protected from too much handling by the public. They also have to be stored properly, in acid free boxes or folders for instance, to preserve them for future generations. Archival storage materials are more expensive. Many of these local history groups operate on tiny shoestring budgets earned from membership dues but the work they do to collect and protect is very, very important. Access to the funding program from the NJ Historic Commission has made a big difference in Atlantic County."*

*...article continues as "2009 Grant Awards" page 6*

## TEEN ARTS: 2009 Festival Update

The Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs in partnership with Richard Stockton College, will present the annual Festival on **MONDAY, MAY 11** on the campus in Pomona, NJ. The Festival is hands-on workshops, exhibits and master classes, as well as reviews of teen performances, all given by professional artists. Any teen (13-18) is welcomed but must pre-register through a school, private teacher or parent. Applications are available online: [www.aclink.org/culturalaffairs](http://www.aclink.org/culturalaffairs). **APRIL 6** is the deadline for applications to be received at the Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs. *...article continues as "Teen" on page 8*

## 2009 CAPE BANK JAZZ@THE POINT FESTIVAL March 5-8, 2009

The Somers Point Jazz Society announces this year's festival. A pre-event price of \$40 per person is good for the entire 4-day event. *...complete festival lineup on page 8*

## Young Talent Program

A program to showcase young talent is being developed at Dante Hall Theater of the Arts in Atlantic City. *...continued as "Talent" page 8*

## What's Inside...

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Spotlight On...**ROMANCE** ...See article on page 3.

## While Visions of Sugarplums Danced...

"I had a wonderful time at the ballet- it was the best show I ever saw." "The Nutcracker was so great, I liked when the two dolls were alive and they danced like real toys." "I was really excited and everything was beautiful." These were just a few of the comments from youngsters who were given the opportunity to take a trip to the Nutcracker Ballet performed by the Atlantic City Ballet at the Stockton College Performing Arts Center. The Children's Cultural Foundation of Atlantic City provided the trip for 100 children in December. The Foundation was established in 1993 with a mission to educate, motivate and encourage by exposing youth to various cultural experiences. "Most of these children had never been to a theater, seen a ballet or attended a concert let alone visit a college campus. For some, it's the first time they've left the city they live in," says Jean Griffen, CCF board member. For more information about the Foundation email: [jean1927@comcast.net](mailto:jean1927@comcast.net) (type CCF Info on the subject line). For information about the Atlantic City Ballet go to: [www.acbt.org](http://www.acbt.org)

## Tour the World's Largest Pipe Organ

The Atlantic City Convention Hall Organ Society is offering tours of the Midmer-Losh organ located in the main auditorium of Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall. Designed in 1929 it contains over 33,000 pipes and was listed in the Guinness Book of World Record as the "World's Largest Pipe Organ." A restoration is underway and the \$20 cost of the tour goes directly to the restoration fund. The tour begins at 10:00 am and lasts two hours. It will also include the Kimball organ in the Hall's original ballroom. To make a reservation email: [acchostour@gmail.com](mailto:acchostour@gmail.com). Extensive information about the organ can be found at [www.acchos.org](http://www.acchos.org).

## Training for Non-Profit Organizations:

The Institute for Community Development of Southern NJ at Richard Stockton College is presenting training sessions for non-profits. The webpage has detailed information and online registration: [www.stockton.edu/icd](http://www.stockton.edu/icd). There is a fee involved for the training sessions.

February 24, 2009: Fund Development and Successful Fundraising  
March 14, 2009: Writing Persuasive Grants: An Intro to Grant Writing  
March 18, 2009: Grant Writing Boot Camp (multi-day class)  
March 31, 2009: What Every Nonprofit Should Know about Insurance  
April 15 & 22, 2009: Elements of a Business Plan (Two day class)  
April 7, 2009: Planning Your Capital Campaign  
April 16, 2009: How to Start a 501(c) (3)  
April 21, 2009: Implementing Your Capital Campaign: The Basics  
April 27, 2009: Making the Transition to Supervisor  
May 19, 2009: Management/Supervisory Development  
May 11, 2009: Enhancing Marketing Efforts Using Web-based Tools  
May 14, 2009: Website Maintenance: Part 1  
May 28, 2009: Website Maintenance: Part 2 (requires Part 1)  
June 3, 2009: Building a Better Agency by Building Your Capacity

## Legacy Planning for Artists:

"Etched In Memory" symposium to assist artists in preparing for and protecting their professional legacy through planning and archival practices. March 20 - 9 am to 3:30 pm, Rutgers University, New Brunswick. For information and registration: <http://waand.rutgers.edu/iwa/etched>

## Advocates for NJ History Seeking Members

This group advocates for statewide history issues such as historic preservation, sustained funding for historic sites, heritage tourism and the continued existence of the NJ Historic Commission. For more information go to: [www.njhistoryadvocates.org](http://www.njhistoryadvocates.org).

# Calendar of Events

## February & March

### 1/20-2/19 - VISUAL ART

Sarah Petruziello: Graphite Drawings on Paper, H Wing Gallery, [www.stockton.edu/artgallery](http://www.stockton.edu/artgallery)

### 2/ 1 - 1:00 pm - WORKSHOP

Jewelry Making with Bonnie Eger, [www.noyesmuseum.org](http://www.noyesmuseum.org)

### 2/1 thru 2/28 - VISUAL ART

Black History Special Exhibit, AC Chapt. Links, Cal Massey, Todd Johnson, Leonard Wilkinson, [www.acartcenter.org](http://www.acartcenter.org)

### 2/1 - VISUAL ART

Month-long portrait exhibit, Hammonton Art Center, 219 Bellevue Avenue, 609-567-5360

### 2/2 thru 2/27 - VISUAL ART

Clifford Maddox: "The Reality of Abstraction" ACCC Gallery [www.atlantic.edu/artgal/artgal.html](http://www.atlantic.edu/artgal/artgal.html)

### 2/2 thru 2/28 - VISUAL ART

"State of the Garden," works made from recycled materials, Noyes Satellite Gallery, Hammonton. 609-561-8006.

### 2/3 thru 2/28 - VISUAL ART/HISTORY

Gene Hudgins & The Yard Photo Exhibit, African Am. Heritage Museum of So. NJ at Atlantic City Free Public Library

### 2/4 - 7:00 pm - MUSIC REHEARSAL

Mainland Choral Society is seeking singers, rehearsals begin for April 26 performance. (609-823-4590)

### 2/6 - 7:30 pm - FILM

Jazz movie classic "A Great Day in Harlem", [www.spjazz.org](http://www.spjazz.org)

### 2/7: 1:00 pm - WORKSHOP

Creative Sparks: Young Artist Workshop: Jersey Traditions Folk Art - Decoy Flatties, [www.noyesmuseum.org](http://www.noyesmuseum.org)

### 2/8 - 1:00 pm - VISUAL ART

Reception: Clifford Maddox "The Reality of Abstraction" art exhibit, gallery at ACCC, [www.atlantic.edu/artgal/artgal.html](http://www.atlantic.edu/artgal/artgal.html)

### 2/8, 2/15 & 2/22 - 1:00 pm - WORKSHOP

3 day workshop: Introduction to Decoy Carving with Fred Reitmeyer, [www.noyesmuseum.org](http://www.noyesmuseum.org)

### 2/10 - 7:00 pm - MUSIC LECTURE

Dvorak's Boogie-woogie Bass; with Paul Somers, critic and composer, Atlantic County Library/Galloway (609) 652-2352.

### 2/10 - 7:00 pm - HISTORY

Proper methods of preserving and storing photos, Egg Harbor Twp. Historic Society, at County Library/ EHT

### 2/11, 2/12, 2/13, 2/14 - 7:30 pm - THEATRE

Stockton Theatre Program: Chastity & Destruction and Doors: world premiere of two one-act plays. Experimental Theatre. [www.stockton.edu/pac](http://www.stockton.edu/pac)

**CALENDAR IS CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**



## Valentine's Day: Supporting Restoration through Romance

Some say keeping romance alive takes a concerted effort. But that effort is nothing compared to the monumental task of keeping history alive, standing, heated, functional and operational. Just ask the directors of the Absecon Lighthouse and Lucy the Elephant. Both organizations have scheduled unique programs for Valentine's Day that cater to romance but will also help keep the doors open and the historic structures functioning through the proceeds. Both events feature fine food, music and champagne. "Last year we were thrilled to find that visitation to the Lighthouse increased by 29%; but with increased costs for everyday items and gift shop sales way off, we now find ourselves in an almost dire situation," says Jean Muchanic, director of the Absecon Lighthouse. Both structures are on the National Register of Historic Places and are run by private non-profit organizations with volunteer boards and paid directors. Those directors must be "jack of all trades" who care and maintain historic materials, develop and present public programs, and seek unique ways of raising funds for everything including their own salaries. "I don't know how more unique you can get than very fine dining inside the belly of the beast," joked Rich Helfant, director of Lucy the Elephant where award-winning chefs will prepare soup to nuts gourmet dining for two seatings limited to twenty couples per seating. A trip to the top of the lighthouse tower may have some couples seeing stars and others starry-eyed, for the latter a minister will be on hand to renew wedding vows. Reservations are required for both. Call Lucy the Elephant @ 609-823-6473 or Absecon Lighthouse @ 609-449-1360. First lit in 1857, Absecon is the tallest lighthouse in New Jersey and the only one to contain its original Fresnel lense. Lucy the Elephant, a Victorian architectural folly built in 1888, is a National Historic Landmark. Both are unique and cherished by many as symbols of the southern New Jersey shoreline but are also in need of community-wide support to keep them in visitor-worthy condition.

## History Bits... **A 1764 Trip to the Jersey Shore**

The following is excerpted from a diary kept by Rev. Carl M. Wrangel, dean of the Swedish Lutheran congregations in America (seen right) from 1758 to 1768, translated by Carl Magnus Anderson from the original in the archives in Uppsala, Sweden and published in *New Jersey History*, Vol. 87, spring 1969, pages 5-32. (...continued from previous issue)



*...Early in the morning we went out to the ocean where we first rowed over a bay formed by a long narrow island which lies out in the ocean, about a half mile from the mainland. Providence seems to have intended this island as a protection for the mainland against ocean waves...which otherwise would make their homes insecure, since the loose sand of which the soil is composed would soon be washed away by the violence with which the waves strike the land. This island, which is overgrown with trees, also holds off the chill winds from the ocean which in winter would make their seaside houses more than a little uncomfortable. However, now in the intolerable heat of summer they have a pleasant coolness from the ocean. Out of the bay we took oysters, which are found here in such abundance that in half an hour we had half filled the boat. We also took quantities of clawed crayfish with a specially prepared scoop. The sea was nearly covered with all kinds of sea fowl such as wild geese, wild ducks, sea gulls, etc. One is permitted to shoot as many as he wants. After we landed on the island and walked about a quarter of a mile, the width of the island, we came to the great ocean, and drank of its salt water; it is considered healthful and therefore a great many people with various illnesses come here in the spring and summer for two or three weeks to bathe in the water and to drink it. The beaches were covered with mussels, snails and coral, of which I gathered a whole pile. We also saw a kind of crayfish that was one and a half feet in diameter. It is similar to the clawed crayfish but the shell had the form of a horseshoe, where it is also called hoof by the people here. They use the shells as scoops to bail out their punts and boats, but the meat is not eaten.*

*...After we had strolled with the greatest of pleasure for two hours and had slaked our thirst with the wild grapes that grow on the island, we betook ourselves homeward. [We caught] several fish called Sheeps Head...so-called because the head greatly resembles a sheep. The meat is very white and tastes good. We also shot two wild geese and several other feathered creatures, so that after four hours absence we came home with a rich supply of foodstuffs...*

(The next edition of the newsletter will contain excerpts from an account of a 1799 trip by Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz, a Polish poet and statesman.)

## Calendar of Events continued...

### 2/12 - 7:00 pm - HISTORY

All About the Presidents: a talk by political history buff County Executive Dennis Levinson, Atlantic Heritage Center, [www.atlanticheritagecenternj.org](http://www.atlanticheritagecenternj.org)

### 2/12 - 7:30 pm - THEATRE

S.E.L.L.O.U.T - 4 talented comedic actors explore being African-American., [www.stockton.edu/pac](http://www.stockton.edu/pac)

### 2/14 - ROMANTIC DINNERS - See page 3

### 2/15 - 3:00 pm - WORKSHOP - MUSIC

Evolution of Jazz: advent & impact of big bands, Somers Point Jazz Society, [www.spjazz.org](http://www.spjazz.org)

### 2/15 - 3:00 pm - THEATRE

Stockton Theatre Program: Chastity & Destruction and Doors: world premiere of two one-act plays. Experimental Theatre. [www.stockton.edu/pac](http://www.stockton.edu/pac)

### 2/18 - 7:30 pm - HISTORY

Mark Demitroff, "Ethnic Settlement in the Pines", Buena Hist. Soc, Buena Vista Municipal Bldg.

### 2/19 - MUSIC

Patty Blee @Careme's Cafe Series, ACCC's Mays Landing Campus, [www.atlantic.edu](http://www.atlantic.edu)

### 2/25-4/1 - VISUAL ART

Greetings from Atlantic City: Paintings by Margaret McCann, H Wing Gallery, (closed 3/14-22 spring break) [www.stockton.edu/artgallery](http://www.stockton.edu/artgallery)

### 2/26, 2/27, 2/28 - 7:30 pm - DANCE

Stockton Dance Company: choreographers, performers and designers from the greater tri-state community in dance performance collaborations. [www.stockton.edu/pac](http://www.stockton.edu/pac)

### 2/ 28 - 3:00 pm - MUSIC

Lively jazz to celebrate Black History Month, Tony Day & friends. [www.noyesmuseum.org](http://www.noyesmuseum.org)

### 3/1 - 3:00 pm - DANCE

Stockton Dance Company: choreographers, performers and designers from the greater tri-state community in dance performance collaborations. [www.stockton.edu/pac](http://www.stockton.edu/pac)

### 3/2 - 7:30 pm - MUSIC

Michael Pedicin Quintet jazz concert, [www.stockton.edu/pac](http://www.stockton.edu/pac)

### 3/3 - 2:30pm - VISUAL ART

Slide Lecture by the artist Margaret McCann in Stockton AS102. [www.stockton.edu/artgallery](http://www.stockton.edu/artgallery)

### 3/5 - 7:00 pm - MUSIC (@ Stumpo's)

2009 Cape Bank Jazz@the Point, see page 8

### 3/5 - 7:00 pm - MUSIC (@ Gregory's)

2009 Cape Bank Jazz@the Point, see page 8

### 3/6 - 5pm - VISUAL ART

Opening reception for David Ahlsted exhibit, [www.noyesmuseum.org](http://www.noyesmuseum.org)

### 3/6 - 8:00 pm - MUSIC

2009 Cape Bank Jazz@the Point, see page 8

### 3/6 - 10:00 pm - MUSIC

2009 Cape Bank Jazz@the Point, see page 8

### 3/7 - 8:00 pm - MUSIC

2009 Cape Bank Jazz@the Point, see page 8

### 3/7 - 10:00 pm - MUSIC

2009 Cape Bank Jazz@the Point, see page 8

### 3/8 - 3/30 - VISUAL ART

Women in the Arts, Juried show, Hammonton Art Center, 219 Bellevue Avenue, 609-567-5360

### 3/8 - 1:00 PM - VISUAL ART

Opening reception, Lois Adams March exhibit, ACCC gallery, Mays Landing, [www.atlantic.edu](http://www.atlantic.edu)

### 3/8 -2:00 pm - MUSIC

2009 Cape Bank Jazz@the Point, see page 8

### 3/5 - 4:00 pm - MUSIC

2009 Cape Bank Jazz@the Point, see page 8

### 3/8 - 4:00 pm - MUSIC

Danú - one of the leading traditional Irish ensembles of today., [www.stockton.edu/pac](http://www.stockton.edu/pac)

### 3/10 - 7:00 pm - MUSIC LECTURE

"Mills College's French Refugee;" discussion with Paul Somers, critic and composer, Atlantic County Library System/Galloway Twp. (609) 652-2352.

### 3/11: 10:00 am - TRAINING

Noyes Museum of Art, learn about the newest exhibiting artists and consider training to become a docent. [www.noyesmuseum.org](http://www.noyesmuseum.org)

### 3/11 - 12:30 pm - VISUAL ART

Gallery Tour with artist Margaret McCann, H Wing Gallery, [www.stockton.edu/artgallery](http://www.stockton.edu/artgallery)

### 3/11 - 7:30 pm - MULTI-DISC

Taikoproject: Taiko drumming, storytelling, spoken word, music, hip hop choreography, video multimedia, and dance. [www.stockton.edu/pac](http://www.stockton.edu/pac)

### 3/14: 1:00 pm - WORKSHOP

Creative Sparks for Young Artists, [www.noyesmuseum.org](http://www.noyesmuseum.org)

### 3/19 - 10:30 am - MULTI-DISC

Garry Krinski's Toying with Science: circus skills, balance, mime and music to explore gravity, leverage and fulcrums, [www.stockton.edu/pac](http://www.stockton.edu/pac)

### 3/19 - 6:00 pm - HISTORY

Antiques appraisal, Northfield Hist. Soc, at Northfield City Hall, Shore Rd., 641-4607

### 3/21 - 1:00 pm - WORKSHOP

The Ancient Art of Ukrainian Egg Decorating-"Pysanky", [www.noyesmuseum.org](http://www.noyesmuseum.org)

### 3/21 - 7:00 pm - THEATRE

Murder Myster Theatre: I Love a Man(?) in Uniform, Absecon Lighthouse, Atlantic City, [www.abseconlighthouse.org](http://www.abseconlighthouse.org)

### 3/25 - 7:00 pm - HISTORY ROUNDTABLE

See page 8

### 3/27 - 7:30 pm - FILM

An Evening with Robert Osborne - classic film clips and discussion, [www.stockton.edu/pac](http://www.stockton.edu/pac)

### 3/27 - DEADLINE

Nomination forms for annual historic preservation award, [www.aclink.org/culturalaffairs](http://www.aclink.org/culturalaffairs)

### 3/28 - 7:00 pm - DANCE

Black Dance In America - 1850 to the present. AC Dance Theater @ Dante Hall Theater of the Arts, [www.dantehall.org](http://www.dantehall.org)

### 3/29 - 4:00 pm - MUSIC

Bay-Atlantic Symphony performs Shadows and Light exploring two contrasting sides of one of the great symphonic composers, Johannes Brahms. With pianist Cong Fan. [www.stockton.edu/pac](http://www.stockton.edu/pac) (Conversation with conductor at 3:00 pm.)

### 3/31 - 7:30 pm - MULTI-DISC

The National Acrobats of China combine martial arts, traditional music, acrobatics and illusion [www.stockton.edu/pac](http://www.stockton.edu/pac)

### 4/6 - DEADLINE FOR TEEN ARTS APPS

### 4/6 - 5/1 - VISUAL ART

Paintings of Michael Waters: "A View from the Edge," ACCC gallery, [www.atlantic.edu/artgal](http://www.atlantic.edu/artgal)  
Reception: Sunday, April 12, 1-4pk

### 4/7 - 9:00 am - WORKSHOP

Teachers' Workshop - Hands-On Printmaking for the K-12 Classroom: Part 2, 5 professional development hours, [www.noyesmuseum.org](http://www.noyesmuseum.org)

### 4/15, 4/16, 4/17 - 7:30 pm - THEATRE

Stockton Theatre Program, Measure for Measure: Shakespeare's slightly melancholy comedy [www.stockton.edu/pac](http://www.stockton.edu/pac)

**To supply information for calendar email: [cmasonpurdie@aclsys.org](mailto:cmasonpurdie@aclsys.org). Next newsletter will cover April and May. Deadline is: March 10**

# Gallery...Around the County



**Pictured at top:** Participants in Atlantic City Free Public Library's '30 Years, 30 Voices' oral history project, from left: Dr. James Karmel, prof. historian and project contractor; project narrators Dr. Walter Palmer, community activist; Audrey Hart, Atlantic Ave. business owner; Thomas Carver, Exec. Director of the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority; Allen "Boo" Pergament, city historian; Barbara Hudgins, former city councilwoman; Miriam Ramos, casino housekeeper and Local 54 advocate; Russelle Patterson, Atlantic City Police Dept. and Howard Bacharach, Exec. Director of the Atlantic City Hotel & Lodging Association; and Heather Halpin Pérez, archivist for the Library's Alfred M. Heston Collection of Atlantic City history.



**2nd row L to R :** Dancers Serena Coleman and Brooke Parsons, Stockton Dance Company (photos by Michael Ein), "Fashion Lady" by Calvin Massey whose work will be featured at Atlantic City Art Center.



**3rd row L to R:** graphite drawing by Sarah Petruziello on exhibit in Hwing gallery at Stockton College; painting by Clifford Maddox whose work is on exhibit in the ACCC gallery; work by artist Leonard Wilkinson, seen here with clay artist Madeline Ross, will be on exhibit at the Atlantic City Art Center.

**Bottom L to R:** a large crowd attended the grand opening of the new studio and exhibit space of the Hammonton Art Center - now located at 219 Bellevue Avenue; Musicians, dancers and drummers from the TaikoProject will perform at the Stockton Performing Art Center.



**2009 Grant Awards...** *continued from page one*

Twenty five arts organizations were awarded a total of \$79,600 by the NJ State Council on the Arts/Dept. of State (a partner agency of the Nat. Endowment for the Arts) through a competitive grant process administered by the County's Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs. The following is the list of arts awards: **ABSECON LIGHTHOUSE:** Artist fees for presenting "living history" theater piece written for the historic lighthouse and public musical presentations. **ARC OF ATLANTIC COUNTY:** artist/instructor fees for performing arts showcase featuring mentally and physically challenged individuals. **ATLANTIC CITY ART CENTER:** general program support for monthly exhibitions and other programs. **ATLANTIC CITY BALLET:** general operating support for dance company performing classical ballet and new choreography based on different cultures. **ATLANTIC CITY WATERFRONT FOUNDATION:** to commission NJ artist to paint a public art mural incorporating the work of deceased NJ artist Connie Jost. **ATLANTIC POPS COMMUNITY BAND:** rental and productions costs for intergenerational community band. **ATLANTIC YOUTH ORCHESTRA:** fees associated with rehearsals and performances. **BOROUGH OF BUENA:** Artist fees for free summer concerts. **BUENA VISTA TWP:** Artist fees for free summer concert series. **CHICKEN BONE BEACH HISTORICAL FOUNDATION:** artist fees for free summer jazz concerts on Atlantic City Boardwalk. **CHILDREN'S CULTURAL ARTS FOUNDATION INC.:** transportation and ticket costs for urban children to attend cultural activities in the region. **DANTE HALL THEATER OF THE ARTS:** General operating support for varied programs in music and theater. **EGG HARBOR CITY:** artist fees for free summer concerts. **FRIENDS OF THE PARKS:** artist fees for Pinelands Folk Festival. **GALLOWAY ARTS CENTER:** artist/teacher fees for project connecting visual art and theater. **HAMMONTON ART CENTER:** General operating support for art center activities. **INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF BLUES FOUNDATION:** artist/teachers fees for educational outreach programs. **NORTHFIELD CULTURAL COMMITTEE:** artist fees for free summer concerts. **SOMERS POINT, CITY OF:** artist fees for free summer concerts. **SOMERS POINT JAZZ SOCIETY:** artists fees for four day jazz festival to include national and regional musicians, **SOUTH JERSEY AREA WIND ENSEMBLE:** artist fees for a guest conductor for one performance and composer commissioned to write original music. **STOCKTON ART GALLERY:** exhibition shipping costs and honorarium for artist lecture. **STOCKTON DANCE COMPANY:** fees for guest artist and choreography. **STOCKTON THEATRE PROGRAM:** guest artists to perform with student and community actors. **VENTNOR ART CENTER:** artist/teachers fees for Young Peoples Summer Arts Program in visual art, dance, theater and creative writing.

The revised application for both these competitive grant programs will be available online ([www.aclink.org/culturalaffairs](http://www.aclink.org/culturalaffairs)) at the end of June. The history application will be due in August and the art application will be due in September. All funding is contingent upon the availability of funds at the state and national level. For more information contact the Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs (609) 646-8699 x6314 or email: [cmasonpurdie@aclsys.org](mailto:cmasonpurdie@aclsys.org).

**Platform on Art & Culture...** *continued from page one.*

Excerpted major points include: **Reinvest in Arts Education:** In addition to giving children the science and math skills they need to compete in the new global context, also encourage the ability to think creatively that comes from a meaningful arts education. **Expand Public/Private Partnerships: Schools and the Arts** by increasing resources for the U.S. Dept. of Education's Arts Education Model Development & Dissemination Grants, and engaging the foundation and corporate community to also increase support for public/private partnerships. **Create Artist Corps:** Young artists trained to work in low-income schools and communities. **Champion the Importance of Arts Education** as indispensable for success as evidenced by studies showing that arts education raises test scores in other subject areas as well. **Support Increased Funding for the NEA:** Since 1992 the National Endowment for the Arts has seen annual reductions. **Promote Cultural Diplomacy:** American artists, performers and thinkers can inspire people all over the world. **Attract Foreign Talent:** The flipside to promoting American arts and culture abroad is welcoming members of the foreign arts community to America. **Provide Health Care to Artists:** Since many artists work independently or have nontraditional employment relationships, employer-based coverage is unavailable and individual policies are financially out of reach. **Tax Fairness for Artists:** amending the IRS Code to allow artists to deduct the fair market value of work, rather than just the materials costs, when they make charitable contributions. For full text: [www.barackobama.com/pdf/issues/additional/Obama\\_FactSheet\\_Arts.pdf](http://www.barackobama.com/pdf/issues/additional/Obama_FactSheet_Arts.pdf)

**For Artists with Disabilities:**

A series of forums will be held with information and networking opportunities for artists with disabilities and individuals with disabilities who are interested in management and technical employment opportunities in the arts. The forums also welcome arts employers to discuss the process of hiring artists and managers with disabilities. April 20: Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton Twp. (Mercer Co.) and June 8: Perkins Center for the Arts, Collingswood. Contact: [rcarr@njtheatrealliance.org](mailto:rcarr@njtheatrealliance.org).

**2009 NJ Tourism Conference**

It will be held April 1-3 in Atlantic City at Trump Marina. NJ Dept. of Travel and Tourism is taking nominations for the Governor's Tourism Awards for individuals and organizations that have contributed to the visitor experience. Deadline to nominate is February 13. Guidelines and nomination form are online at: [www.state.nj.us/travel/pdf/2009-gov-conf-award-application.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/travel/pdf/2009-gov-conf-award-application.pdf)

# The History Files: June Sheridan, Atlantic County Historian

**Mysterious McKee...** “McKee City” is a large tract of land mostly within Egg Harbor Township in Atlantic County, NJ. It once was part of the extensive real estate holdings of a man considered to be the wealthiest African-American in America at the turn of the 20th century.

John McKee was born in Virginia around 1821. As a boy he was apprenticed to a bricklayer. He later moved to Philadelphia and first worked in a livery stable and then in a restaurant on Market Street below 8th owned and operated by James Prosser. Mr. Prosser was part of a group of prosperous African American “caterers” that operated popular eating establishments in the City. Notes a pamphlet published in 1918 about the history of Market Street: *“In the Civil War days James Prosser, a famed terrapin chef, had a restaurant at 806. Prosser was a fine-looking mulatto, and his terrapin has been made historic in verse.”*

McKee married Prosser’s daughter, Emeline, sometime before 1847 and he helped to run the restaurant. The restaurant business apparently afforded him the funds to dabble in real estate. In 1866 he turned to real estate investing full time. Some sources claim that he both provided for and took advantage of the large migration into Philadelphia of newly freed slaves from the southern states after the Civil War. He provided them with rental housing but often had them sign over to him any land holdings they had abandoned in the South. (During reconstruction after the Civil War the Department of the South divided up many Southern plantations into small acreage allotments that were given to freed slaves.) In 1858 he built a large house at 1030 Lombard Street and here he lived and ran his real estate business. At the time of his death in 1902 he owned more than 300 rental properties in Philadelphia.



McKee’s first land transaction in Atlantic County was in 1884. He continued to purchase land for 18 years until his holdings totaled more than 5000 acres. He laid out a number of 50 acre tracts and built a sawmill to construct houses to be leased. About 18 farmsteads were built along the West Jersey Seashore Railroad line from English Creek Avenue west to “Reega Station” which was located just east of the Gravelly Run. McKee set many stipulations and terms of compliance for his leases. A lease ran for five years during which time the lessee was to clear ten acres each year. Trees and brush were to be burned and the remaining stumps to be hauled to the rear of the house. In Fall the cleared land was to be planted in timothy or rye and clover in the the Spring. No hay, straw or fodder was to be sold off the farms. It was all to be used on the farm. There was also a stipulation that no liquor was to be sold on the properties and the property could not be “underlet.” Cedar trees were forbidden to be cut down and tenants were expected to white-wash their fences annually. At the end of a five year lease, only if all terms had been met, the tenant would be offered a new ten year lease at \$50 per year paid semi-annually. Most of the houses consisted of two rooms downstairs, three rooms on the second floor and two on the third. There was no indoor plumbing. He also had a school built for the children of the area. It is reported that he held an annual Christmas party for his tenants and gave gifts of a horse, a cow or a few hogs. He envisioned a full scale town and had plans drawn up for a hotel, church, post office and other amenities. He died, however, of a stroke at age 81 before bringing it to fruition. An article about his death in the *New York Times* (April 11, 1902) claims he was “the wealthiest negro in the United States.” In addition to the Philadelphia and New Jersey holdings, he also owned more than 200,000 acres in Georgia, Kentucky, West Virginia and New York State.

John McKee is often referred to as “Colonel” McKee. Some sources claim him a “Civil War hero” but this historian has found no listing of him in Civil War rosters including those of the 11 “coloured” regiments that were mustered and trained at Camp William Penn outside Philadelphia for service in the War. The only record of service found to date, verified because it lists his 1030 Lombard Street address, dates from 1870. While well after the war, it does indicate a promotion to Colonel. In 1870 the Pennsylvania militia had just been reorganized and re-named the “Pennsylvania National Guard.” The 1870s seem a curious time and age (49) for him to have sought military service, just adding to the mystery. Much like his McKee City leases, John McKee’s last testament and will contained extensive instructions. However, none of these were ever followed including the establishment of a school bearing his name. His will was contested for many years and a major portion of the funds was depleted in the process. In the end an annual scholarship was established bearing his name. For more information see: [www.mckeescholars.org](http://www.mckeescholars.org).



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**This newsletter is produced to promote knowledge & appreciation of the arts and history community in Atlantic County, NJ.**

**Organizations and individuals are invited to submit images and text for publication as well as suggestions for future articles.**

Printed newsletters will be distributed to cultural & heritage agencies in the County and various regions of New Jersey.

The larger distribution will be via email.

Individuals may sign up to receive

the newsletter via email.

Dec.-Jan. Issue

Submission Deadline: Nov.15

Feb.-March Edition

Submission Deadline: Jan. 15

April-May Edition

Submission Deadline: March 15

June-July Edition

Submission Deadline: May 15

August-Sept. Edition

Submission Deadline: July 15

Oct.-Nov. Edition

Submission Deadline: Sept. 15

Email submission is preferred.

Fax and mail will be accepted.

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NEW JERSEY  
STATE  
COUNCIL  
ON THE  
ARTS

## The Somers Point Jazz Society presents the **2009 CAPE BANK JAZZ @ THE POINT FESTIVAL ON March 5-8, 2009**

**3/5: The Magnificent 7** (Mike Pedicin, John Guida, Jon Pruitt, Joe Breidenstine, Bob Ferguson, Andy Lalasis, Harry Himles) performing at Stumpo's Restaurant, 7-10pm

**3/5: Ken Fowser/Behn Gillece Quartet** at Gregory's, 7-10pm

**3/6: Tony Day Quartet** (Denise King, Ralph Bowen, Teddy Royal) performing at the Inlet Restaurant. 8pm and 10pm

**3/6: "One for All"** (Eric Alexander, David Hazeltine, Jim Rotondi) performing at Stumpo's at 8 pm and 10 pm

**3/6: Jazz guitarist Dave Stryker** will appear with his trio at 10 pm at Gregory's Restaurant.

**3/7: Vincent Herring & The Earth Jazz Agents**( Anthony Wonse, Richie Goods, Joris Dudli) performing at Stumpo's 8 pm.

**3/7: Grammy award winner Brian Lynch** with his quartet performing at the Inlet Restaurant 8 pm.

**3/7: The Steve Giordano Group** performing at Gregory's at 10 pm.

**3/8: Joe Magnarelli Quartet** (Dick Oats, Ohil Polumbi, John Riley) performing at Gregory's at 2:00 p.m.

**3/8: Pianist Jim Ridl with Charles Pillow, Chris Karlik & Tom Dicarlo** performing at the Inlet Restaurant at 2 pm.

**3/8: Jazz vocalist Gina Roche with Tony Micelli, Nilson Matta, Keith Hollis & Randy Porter** performing at Stumpo's at 4:00 p.m.

**A pre-event price of \$40 per person is good for the entire 4-day event.**

**[www.spjazz.org](http://www.spjazz.org) (609) 927-6677**

### **Teen...** *continued from page one*

Film and literary submissions must accompany the applications. On May 7 the Visual Art drop off begins at 1:30 pm @ Stockton H-Wing Art Gallery. All artwork must have an identification tag. All activities on the day of the Festival will begin at 8:30 am and end at 1:50 pm. The Office will not be responsible for any schedule conflicts if there is no clear statement found on the application that the school or student cannot be on campus by 8:30 am or must leave before 1:50 pm. For more information email the Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs at cmasonpurdie@aclsys.org. (Please type Teen Arts in the subject line.)

### **Preservation Award Deadline Extended to March 27**

The nomination form for projects in Atlantic County that involve preserving history can be found online at [www.aclink.org/culturalaffairs](http://www.aclink.org/culturalaffairs). Call (609) 646-8699 x6314 or email: cmasonpurdie@aclsys.org for more information.

### **History Roundtable Discussion: March 25**

Open to all historical societies and anyone interested in local history. This is a networking and information sharing evening at the Somers Point Historical Society on Shore Road next to the Somers Point City Hall - 7:00 pm.

### **Talent...** *continued from page one*

A monthly youth showcase is being developed in memory of local entertainer Roland Suarez aka "Cooks Books." The first program is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, February 22 with auditions the Sunday before. Showcases would be held the last Sunday of each month. Those interested in participating should contact Dante Hall Theater of the Arts at (609) 344-8877.