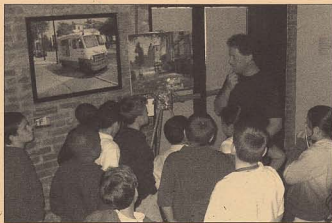


# HOBOKEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

Volume 9, Number 5

November/December 2003

## Painting the Town Family Day



The artist answering questions from Ms. Temple's sixth-grade class.

Frank Hanavan and his easel became a familiar sight on Washington Street this fall, as Frank created newly commissioned paintings for the Hoboken Historical Museum's collection in conjunction with the current

exhibition, *Frank Hanavan: Painting the Town*. When not at his easel, Frank was participating in our school programs. These sessions proved so popular that Ms. Temple's sixth-grade class from the Wallace school returned for a two-hour drawing workshop.

Art educator Carol Losos joins artist Frank Hanavan on Saturday, November 22, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., for *Painting the Town Family Day*. After exploring the current exhibition, children ages 3 to 7 will create a mural collage of a Hoboken streetscape, while kids ages 8 to 14 attend a drawing workshop with the artist. The program is free. Space is limited and an adult must accompany children under 12 years of age. To reserve a spot, please call the Museum at 201-656-2240, option 2.

Most Sundays, you can meet Frank as he paints at locations around town. Stop by the Museum to find out where he'll be.

## Hoboken Eagles Return to Their City Hall Perch

After an absence of nearly a decade, two majestic eagles have returned to their perch atop City Hall.

In a city better known for pigeons than the national symbol, the two decorative gold-leaved copper eagles, which sat atop City Hall from 1911 to their removal for anticipated repair in 1996, have come back to Hoboken.

"For many years, those eagles symbolized freedom and patriotism. Now, they return to their rightful place, fully restored, to be enjoyed every day by the residents of Hoboken," said Mayor David Roberts, who spearheaded the restoration and personally paid for the repairs.

In many ways, Hoboken City Hall's eagles symbolized the city itself. The proud gold-leaved birds looked out over a bustling city at the turn of the 20th Century and began to fade as the economy and the city's social fabric changed. Even coats of green, bronze and yellow paint over the decades couldn't

(continued on page 2)



Mayor David Roberts and the eagles at Union Stone, Cleaning and Restoration's workshop. Photo: Joseph A. Corrado.

## Hoboken Eagles Return... (continued from page 1)



Eagles installed on City Hall. Photo: Joseph A. Corrado.

restore their luster.

As the city's fortunes changed, so did the eagles. In 1996, as part of the first phase of City Hall's restoration, the eagles were removed for review and storage by the Hoboken Historical Museum. Under the direction of Director Robert Foster, the museum undertook an analysis and historical documentation of the two regal birds.

In a nutshell, the museum's research uncovered the following: The eagles were manufactured at the turn of the last century by Miller and Doings, Inc. of Brooklyn, NY, to be placed atop City Hall in 1911, following the expansion of the original 1885 municipal building. Despite their imposing appearance and five-foot wingspan, the copper eagles actually weigh about 15 pounds apiece and were affixed to the building by two sets of 18-inch metal spikes which are still visible.

"Eagles atop a city hall were not uncommon at that period, representing a patriotic spirit and a sense of Americana," said Foster.

For 16 years as a City Councilman, Mayor Roberts championed neighborhood character issues, like historic preservation. Upon taking office as Mayor in 2001, he felt it was time to focus once again on City Hall's restoration.

"City Hall reflects our community and our residents deserve a municipal building which keeps to its original character and meets the stringent guidelines of our Historic District," Mayor Roberts said.

Earlier this fall, the eagles were removed from storage and delivered to Union Stone, Cleaning and Restoration in the Marion section of Jersey City for their transformation. "These eagles were in a major state of disrepair after many years of neglect," said John Lindner, a principal with Union Stone. "Their structure is made up of many pieces of copper and we needed to weld the seams to insure their integrity." With their structural skin secured and cleaned of layers of paint, Lindner applied a white "gesso" primer, several coats of aqua leaf with 24 karat gold and, finally, an ultraviolet coating to protect the eagles from the sun and elements.

The eagles' long journey from birth in Brooklyn to maturity atop Hoboken's City Hall to restoration in Jersey City is over, and a new chapter is about to begin. "We all look forward to many, many more decades of their presence at City Hall. It's only appropriate, and it's their home," Mayor Roberts said.

## 10 Questions for Frank Hanavan

The artist talks about Hoboken, the Impressionists, trained hawks, and finding interesting people to talk to on the job. **Frank Hanavan: Painting the Town** remains on view through December 28.

*Q: How long have you been painting?*

I have been painting since I was in 8th grade in junior high school.

*What painters influenced you?*

I am always most interested in the Impressionist painters, also, the turn-of-the-century American Realists. They are looking for the same sort of things in their paintings as I am.

*You paint from life with a focus on cityscapes. Describe the plein air, or outdoor painting, experience.*

It's just like painting indoors, but you need to carry everything you are going to need that day with you. Also, the environment you are painting in will vary from day to day in its noise, its light, its degree of energy and activity.

*Bugs, freezing temperatures, traffic fumes, why paint outdoors at all?*

Who was the famous bank robber that said, when asked why he robbed banks, "that's where the money is"? That's how I feel, I want to paint the effects of sun-



D & V Barbershop near Eleventh Street, 2003 (detail). Photo: Karl Trappe.

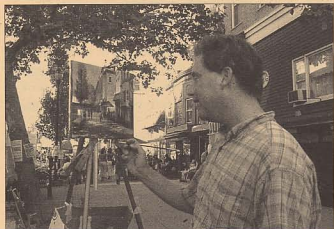
light in different environments, so I have to go and see those places firsthand.

*How do you prepare yourself to begin work? Do you have a weather preference? What are your essentials?*

I work regularly; it's my full time job. I have a backpack with paint, brushes, etc. and I carry a bag with my lunch, a book to read on the subway, and stuff like that. Most of that stuff is represented in the Museum. I don't have a weather preference in terms of painting, unless it's raining too hard. I like warm sunny weather for my own comfort though!

*What are some of your favorite painting locations?*

There are a lot of places I return to again and again every year. For instance in Hoboken, I paint that fruit and vegetable store on third and Washington all the time. When I produce a painting I really like, I will go back to that location again and try a variation on the first painting.



Frank Hanavan painting on Washington Street. Photo: Bob Foster.

*You have painted Hoboken landmarks for over 10 years, some of them gone now. How do your paintings preserve our city's memories?*

Well, when the painting is done I have the image on canvas, as close to the appearance of the subject as I could make it. Also, I always include the full date next to my signature.

*Do people find it easy to approach you while you are painting in public? What are some of the more interesting things that have happened to you while painting outdoors?*

I have different moods when I am painting. Mostly, I would like to believe, I am happy to talk to people while I paint. Sometimes I get one of those people who think they are comedians and all they need is a straight man for their dumb jokes.

Not too many interesting things are happening around me while I paint. In Bryant Park last summer they had trained hawks flying around to keep the pigeons away—that was interesting.

*You are often commissioned to paint portraits of homes and businesses. Is most of your work commis-*

*sioned? What was your most interesting commission?*

I was once commissioned to paint a still life set up on someone's kitchen stove. I think the work in the show gives a good cross section of my work in regards to how many are commissions. Nearly every painting in the show of a home or storefront was a commission.

*Do you have any advice for aspiring plein air artists?*

Learn how to draw. That's the very best advice I can give to any painter. Also, do a lot of paintings; every one you do makes the world just a tiny bit nicer. People in the neighborhood you are working in will be delighted to see you and you will find interesting people to talk to. Everyone should try it.

*Have questions for the artist? E-mail him at [jfhanavan@earthlink.net](mailto:jfhanavan@earthlink.net). Visit Frank's Web site at <http://home.earthlink.net/~jfhanavan/paintings/>*

## Home Sweet Hoboken

Artist Joy Sikorski is a Hoboken newcomer. She is the author of *How to Draw a Radish*, *How to Draw a Cup of Coffee*, *How to Draw a Clam*, *Squeaky Chalk*, and the *How to Draw a Radish Page-A-Day Calendar*. Look for the announcement of Joy's "How to Draw My Home Sweet Hoboken" children's drawing class at the Museum early in 2004.

As an adventurous New Yorker, I was thrilled to ride the riverboats in April this year, commuting to my new job at Wiley by ferry, down the East River, around the Battery and up the Hudson. Forty-five minutes each way, every day on the endlessly interesting rivers of Upper New York Bay! Delicious! I soon ventured deeper into Hoboken from my office perch on the riverbank. I reported to curious friends: "It's all brick, like a little Irish factory town. They have these (continued on page 4)



Joy at the Hoboken Arts & Music Festival. Photo: Bob Foster.

## Home Sweet Hoboken (continued from page 3)

odd little gated lots in front of every house, grapevine arbors on the roofs, flowers on every stoop. Little pink petunias grow out of all the sidewalk cracks. There's so much Light, Air, Water! Yes, mockingbirds singing everywhere! And the fresh mozzarella is to die for." My husband Nick rode the boat over with me one day. In Stevens Park at lunchtime we watched two baby woodchucks romping in the grass. So cute! We love that kind of thing.

We moved here at the end of May, into a lovely place with lofty and elaborately stamped tin ceilings, giant sized windows, wood floors, marble fireplaces and an original 1950's Welbilt stove in the kitchen (fully functional!). Enchanting! Nick and I are both artists, and we had been admiring the Secret Gardens poster in every shop window, which led us to the Hoboken Historical Museum. The Antonio Jacobsen exhibit was up—all those glorious paintings of boats! The water was very nicely painted, I noted, being now an expert on river travel.

Very early in June and still new in town, we toured the Hoboken Historical Museum's Secret Gardens. Our Hoboken roots were growing. It was the height of the rainy season, and having a big back yard for the first time in 18 years, I scampered out, inspired, in between cloudbursts, to plant things. I even planted a paw paw tree, as I advise in my book, *How to Draw a Cup of Coffee*. As summertime finally came, I paddled a kayak on the Hudson at Stevens Park! Everything seems so doable here.

How to Draw is what I do—cheerful, fun, and smart books for grown-ups and kids. We donated a box of *How to Draw a Clam* books to the Hoboken Historical Museum—such an active, committed and also beautiful

museum. It was easy to get involved, and July 30th I found myself at the museum teaching little children how to draw boats—we unrolled a giant bolt of paper across the museum floor and everyone scrambled for crayons. The children were quite young and one small artist had to be steered gently away from the museum wall by Museum Director Bob Foster. Randy, the unofficial museum guitarist, strummed along as we sang the "Little Old Tugboat" song.

It was inevitable that the Hoboken Arts and Music Festival, September 21st, a glorious sunny day, found me at the Hoboken Historical Museum booth on Washington Street, selling books to benefit the Museum, and promoting my upcoming "How to Draw My Home Sweet Hoboken" children's drawing class in January. To my left, "Good To The Last Drop" T-Shirts were being sold; behind me, Frank Hanavan was painting a portrait of the nearby coffee shop. That day Nick was conducting historians from Paterson on tours of Hoboken.

My New York friends think I'm a little bit nutty when I go on and on about Hoboken, of all things. But recently I brought five of them up to the HHM on a special Wiley only daytime tour. They are now clamoring for more! And I still ride the ferryboats whenever I want.

©2003 by Joy Sikorski

Visit Joy's Web site [www.joysikorski.com](http://www.joysikorski.com). You can e-mail Joy at [joyradish@aol.com](mailto:joyradish@aol.com)

## Test Your Hoboken Knowledge

Several years ago, we received this incredible list of questions composed in the 1980s by longstanding Hoboken residents, born and raised here in town. Three lists of forty questions were created expressly to test

## Congratulations Demarest Class of 1948



Class reunion organizer and Museum member Louis A. Mayer sent this group photo of his Demarest High School reunion held this June in Point Pleasant, NJ. More than 25 Demarest classmates and their spouses attended.

knowledge of local lore. The purpose of the quiz was to separate the real McCoy from nouveau Hobokenites.

Over the next year, we will list ten questions in each newsletter. Write down your answers and bring them with you to the Museum. Answer all ten correctly and you'll get a special gift from the Museum shop. Good luck!

1. When the going was tough, where did Tony Mike work?
2. What is a yum-yum?
3. What was the U.S.?
4. Name at least two former major league baseball players from Hoboken.
5. What was the Rivoli's nickname?
6. Where was the Blue Point?
7. Where was the Flying Pizza?
8. Who was Bah-Bah?
9. Name at least two Baccala Brothers.
10. If his last name was the wiseguy or Finn, what his first name?



*Terry Pranses guiding the very popular Hoboken Grit Tour. Photo: Melissa Abernathy.*

## A Month of Tours

In the month of October, the Museum sponsored four walking tours, all sellouts. We thank tour guide and Museum Trustee Terry Pranses, and researcher David Webster, for the very popular tour of Hoboken industrial sites. Kudos to Barbara Gross and Museum Trustee Michele Boyd for creating one of the best food tours ever conducted in the Mile Square City and to Director Bob Foster for his tour of the Maxwell House factory site.

Tours will continue in the spring. If you are interested in leading a tour, please let us know by stopping by the Museum or calling 201-656-2240, option 6.

Special thanks to Museum Officer Diane Daley and former Museum Trustee Lisa Conde, both new moms-to-be, who somehow found time to organize this year's

House Tour and Museum fundraiser. Over 600 visitors were treated to a beautiful fall day and a selection of lovely homes. We wish to thank the nine homeowners who graciously opened their doors for the day. Thanks also to everyone who helped the day of the tour, especially Valerie D'Antonio, who did a fantastic job coordinating the nearly 75 volunteers.

Bravo everyone!



*The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation fundraiser held at the Museum. Photo: Bob Foster.*

## Make Your Next Event Historic

This fall the Museum has been a busy place for after-hours private parties and special events. On October 3, the Museum hosted the "Let's Bag Breast Cancer" fundraiser for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, North Jersey Affiliate. Later in the month, Museum members Jodie Fink and Paul Pizzuti, along with their daughter Emma, held a joint birthday party in the Museum space.

Housed within a turn-of-the-century building that once served as the machine shop of the old Bethlehem Steel Shipyard, the Museum is a perfect setting for all types of functions—corporate entertaining, meetings, fundraisers, weddings, and birthday and holiday parties.

For more information on rental of the Museum space, please contact us at 201-656-2240, option 8, or [rfoster@hobokenmuseum.org](mailto:rfoster@hobokenmuseum.org).

## Next Show to Star Hoboken

Although it will be hard to put together a show as popular as the Hoboken paintings of Frank Hanavan, we will try.

Our next exhibition will com- (continued on page 6)

## Next Show to Star... (continued from page 5)

memorate the 50th anniversary of *On the Waterfront*, the classic movie shot on location in Hoboken. We are looking for people who have firsthand memories or artifacts of the time when director Elia Kazan and his talented cast and crew filmed here. If you have such memories or artifacts, we would like to include them in our exhibit. Please contact Director Robert Foster at 201-656-2240, option 8, or rfoster@hobokenmuseum.org.

## Notable Acquisitions

The Museum sometimes purchases and receives donations of items related to Hoboken's past. If you have Hoboken artifacts you'd like to donate, please contact us at 201-656-2240. The following are items recently acquired by the Museum.



- John and Marion Brown contributed copies of *The High Light* student magazine and programs for class plays from Demarest High School 1931-34. Accession 2003.036

- Terry Kennedy, guest curator of *The Tubes: Rails under the Hudson, 1874 to the Present-day PATH*, has added to our transportation collection with various digital

images relating to the H&M R.R. and Port Authority Trans-Hudson Corporation; Accession 2002.239. Terry also donated nine Hudson & Manhattan Railroad tickets dating from 1917 to 1940, as well as examples of tokens introduced in 1944, when fares were increased. Accession 2003.001.



- Seven modern photographs taken by John Bartelstone and donated by him, including views of the now closed 19th Street PATH station in New York City and the Hudson and Manhattan Powerhouse in Jersey City. Accession 2003.029

- Three sepia-tone photos of the 1900 Hoboken Pier fire donated by Michael J. Lisa. Accession 2003.012.

- Allen Kratz and Paul Somerville presented a set of 36 Hoboken postcards produced by Brian Gallagher. Accession 2003.005.

- While living in Hoboken in 1854, Stephen Foster wrote "Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair." Joseph Vorbach donated the sheet music published by the Boston Music Co., 1936. Accession 2003.004.

- John Heliker donated a Dan Hornsby Trio recording of "O Susanna" by Stephen Foster. Accession 2003.006

- The Museum recently acquired the marriage cer-

tificate of Emil Reiner and Emma Wermuth dating from 1909. The circumstances of their wedding are explained in a newsclipping headlined: "Happily United: Representatives of the German Emigrant Home see loving pair in distress!"

Mr. Reiner came to the dock in Hoboken to welcome his fiancée, Miss Wermuth of Berne, Switzerland, arriving on a North German Lloyd steamship, but immigration officers would not permit his future wife to land, saying she would have to go to Ellis Island instead. The couple turned to the German Emigrant Home for help. Pastor Richter of St. Matthews Church in Hoboken married the couple late that same evening, and, happily united, they were permitted to leave together. Accession 2003.039.



## Ho-Ho-Hoboken Holiday Gifts

You'll find the saying "If you can't find it in Hoboken...you're not looking hard enough" on one of the T-shirts in the Museum Shop. Visit the Hoboken Historical Museum this holiday season and find out why truer words were never spoken.

**The Hoboken Historical Museum Gift Fair on Sunday, December 14, from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., features area artisans and authors.** This celebration of local creativity makes shopping a joy. Meet the artists and purchase inspired gifts for everyone on your list.

All season long, you can find Hobo-centric gifts for the entire family in the Museum Shop. For the newest family member, "Best Baby" onesies (sizes 12, 18, and 24 months) in lemon yellow cotton will have everyone looking forward to next year's Hoboken Baby Parade. For history buffs, you'll find Hoboken maps and books. The Sinatra fan on your list will love our selection devoted to Hoboken's favorite son. A framed laser print of a favorite city scene makes the perfect holiday housewarming gift. And you'll find T-shirts galore.

If you believe that where you spend your shopping dollars truly matters, give the gift that gives back to the Museum. **Hoboken Historical Museum Membership is the perfect year-round gift for anyone you know who loves the Mile Square City.** Members receive invitations to members-only previews, our bi-monthly newsletter, and discounts on selected Museum merchandise and events. Best of all, your gift supports the Museum and contributes to our basic operating expenses.

**Visit the Museum Shop, Tuesday through Thursday evenings, from 5-9 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, from 12-5 p.m. And stop by our table at the City Hall Holiday Crafts Fair, Saturday, December 6 and Sunday, December 7.**

# Thank You Museum Docent Volunteers

Whenever you visit the Museum, you will meet a person who is knowledgeable about the exhibit and Museum's activities, and can even tell you where to eat in town. Over the last year, the Museum had a great crew. Special thanks to docents Paul Neshamkin, Elizabeth Shakespeare, Doug Donkin, Cliff Annicell, Beth Mackin, and Sue Bostwick.

We would like to add your name to our volunteer list. If you are interested in becoming a Museum docent or event volunteer, contact Director Robert Foster at the Museum, 201-656-2240, option 8, or send an email to [rfoster@hobokenmuseum.org](mailto:rfoster@hobokenmuseum.org).

# Membership News

The Museum welcomes the following new members and thanks renewing members for their continued support: *Individual*—Sheneza Ali; Aaron Applegate; Cathy Beluch; Brian Bensor; Linda Benz; Karen Berryman; Melanie Best; Patty Bifulco; Donnell E. Brown; John Butz; Katherine Cardino; Cheryl Fallick; Mary Feury; Gemma Flattly-White; Audrey Merwin Grossman; Alison Josephs; Carolyn Kaufman; Jenny Lucas; Vincent M. Mastandrea; Elizabeth McGuinness; Hilario Melendez; Suzie Nash; Julie O'Donnell; Deborah Olita; Kathy Perkins; Robert Rosenthal; Stephanie Swane; Kathleen Temple; Randall Underwood; Elizabeth Van Itallie; Robert Walker; Sarah Warner. *Dual/Family*—Jan Abernathy and family; Jeanne and Bob Becker; Robert and Linda Drasheff; John and Alison Fischer; Iseult Devlin Geoff and Ronan Limroth; David Kalmus and family; Katie Kavan and family; Hugh and Beth Kilmer; Charles Luce and Leslie Bryan; Nancy Lynch and Chris Falkner; Robert B. McEneny and Family; Laurie Newman, Adam Krass and Joel Krass; Harvey L. Ozer and family; Kaysi Umacke and family.

# Need a gift?

Check out the Museum Gift Shop or give a gift donation or a gift membership—see forms below.

## HOBOKEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM CONTRIBUTORS CATEGORIES

Choose one of the categories below and send this form to us at the HOBOKEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM, P.O. Box 3296, Hoboken, NJ 07030. You'll be helping us make history and your gift is tax-deductible.

- ☐ \$10,000 ☐ \$50,000 *Builder of Hoboken's First Historical Museum—You!*
- ☐ \$1,000 *Chairman of the Board—Frank Sinatra*
- ☐ \$500 *Philanthropist—The Stevens Family: Colonel Stevens, Edwin and Martha Bayard Stevens*
- ☐ \$250 *Founder—Alexander Cartwright, author of the rules for the first organized game of baseball*
- ☐ \$100 *Visionary—Photographers Alfred Steiglitz and Dorothea Lange; sculptor Alexander Calder*

FROM (NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR) \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

GIFT IN THE NAME OF \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Gift for the Kirchgessner Collection
- ☐ Gift for the Exhibition and Acquisition Fund

The Hoboken Historical Museum received a general operating support grant in 2003 from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of Cultural Affairs in the Department of State.

A large-type edition of this newsletter is available by writing to us at: P.O. Box 3296, Hoboken, NJ 07030.

## Join Us!



As a member of the HHM you will receive our publications, bi-monthly newsletter, a discount on selected Museum events and merchandise.

Is this a ☐ new membership or a ☐ renewal?

**Individual Membership:** ☐ 1 year \$30

**Dual/Family Membership:** ☐ 1 year \$50  
(includes children under 18)

☐ May we call on you to volunteer?

☐ Individual Lifetime Membership \$250

☐ Dual/Family Lifetime Membership \$400  
(includes children under 18)

☐ Gift membership from: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print Name. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Day \_\_\_\_\_ Nite \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

To become a member, send completed form with check payable to the Hoboken Historical Museum at P.O. Box 3296, Hoboken, NJ 07030.



1301 HUDSON STREET  
P.O. Box 3296  
HOBOKEN, NJ 07030  
TELEPHONE: 201-656-2240  
www.hobokenmuseum.org

#### MUSEUM HOURS

TUESDAY-THURSDAY EVENINGS: 5-9 P.M.  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY: 12-5 P.M.

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 6  
Hoboken, NJ

## MUSEUM DATES TO REMEMBER NOVEMBER & DECEMBER



**Through Sunday, Dec. 28, Frank Hanavan: *Painting the Town*.** Exhibit on view during museum hours from Tuesday-Thursday Evenings: 5-9 p.m. and Saturday & Sunday: 12-5 p.m. Admission: \$2/members free.

**Saturday, Nov. 22, *Painting the Town Family Day at the Hoboken Historical Museum*, 1301 Hudson Street, 3 p.m.** Please call to reserve your place, 201-656-2240, option 2. Free. See article on page 1.

**Saturday, Dec. 6 and Sunday, Dec. 7, *Hoboken City Hall Holiday Crafts Fair*.** The Crafts Market takes place at City Hall, 94 Washington St., and across the street at The Shannon Lounge (Sunday only), 106 First Street, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Look for the Museum's table.



**Sunday, Dec. 14, *Hoboken Historical Museum Gift Fair*.** Meet local artisans and authors and purchase their wares at the Museum, 1301 Hudson Street, 12-6 p.m.

Seating is limited for events held at the Museum, 1301 Hudson Street, Hoboken, NJ. To reserve your place, call 201-656-2240, opt. 2.