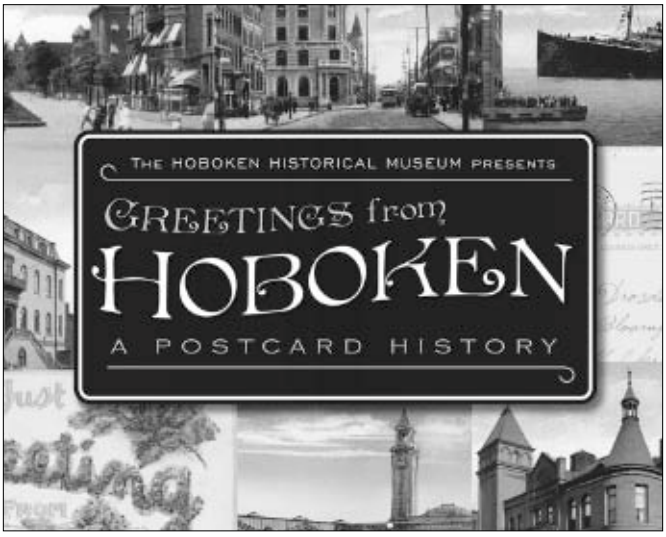
Hoboken Historical Museum

NEWSLETTER

Volume 14, Number 1 January/February 2008



Instant messages, turn-of-the-20th-century style.

The Golden Age of Postcards—and of Hoboken

Corresponding with the greatest growth spurt in Hoboken's history, 1898 – 1930, a simple reduction in postage from 2 cents to 1 transformed the medium of souvenir postcards into a national craze. Known among collectors as the "Golden Age of Postcards," the first half of that era, up to roughly the beginning of World War I, gave rise to a flourishing of creativity and communications. In those days, mail was delivered twice a day in many urban areas. By 1913, according to Postal Service estimates, some 900 million postcards had been mailed.

Hoboken's population grew by more than two-thirds over the same period, from 43,000 in 1890 to more than 70,000 by 1910, and many of the city's public buildings—City Hall, schools, social clubs—and much of the housing stock dates to that era. Fortunately for history buffs, the mania for picture postcards and the spirit of boosterism that pervaded this boomtown resulted in a rich visual documentary record of pre-World War I Hoboken.

Much like today, however, social observers grew alarmed at the rapid rise in popularity of tersely worded correspondence via postcards, voicing concern that it would mean the demise of letter-writing and literacy. John Walker Harrington wrote an essay for the March 1906 edition of *American Magazine* entitled, "Postal Carditis and some Allied Manias," in which he bemoaned the fact that the "pasteboard souvenir industry has fattened upon epistolary sloth and collecting manias." Sound familiar?

Hoboken's history as an immigration gateway contributed to the detailed record we have of the period in the many picture postcards that newcomers would send to their families back home, or on to family and friends in their adopted land. Hoboken was a hub for the postcard trade, with German ships bringing the finest-quality postcards from German printers. One store, Brook's, at 1118 Washington St., advertised itself as a "headquarters for souvenir postcards."

Nearly 400 of these brightly colored images will be on display when the Museum reopens on **Sunday, Jan. 20,** with **"Greetings from Hoboken: A Postcard History,"** an exhibition of postcards from the Museum's own collections that presents a lively portrait of a booming young city, proud of its fine homes, new businesses and thriving shipping industry. The Museum's extensive collection derives primarily from donations and acquisitions from the collections of Director Robert Foster, Trustee Paul Neshamkin, and historian and Museum founder Jim Hans. Accompanying many of the displays will be relevant artifacts from Hoboken businesses and landmarks.

The displays are divided into several themes, among them the use of postcards to share news events, with postcards of the famous 1900 pier fire and the engineering marvel of "the Tubes" when the Path system opened in 1908. Others include "view cards," depicting the city's amenities and new buildings, and there's even a selection of homemade postcards used to announce family milestones. Nationwide, the start of WWI put a damper on the postcard craze and left the German printing industry in a shambles. However, as an embarkation point

At the Hoboken Historical Museum

Opening reception for members, January 20, 2–5 p.m.
Greetings from Hoboken: A Postcard History, and our
Annual Volunteer Appreciation Celebration

In the Upper Gallery

On view January 20 through March 2
The Waterfront as Muse: 1960s Photographs by Guy Ciarcia

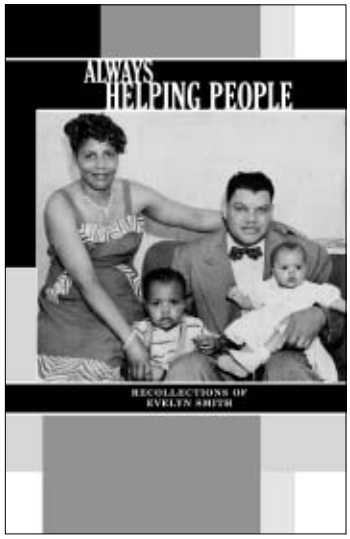
The Golden Age of Postcards (continued from page 1)

for U.S. troops, Hoboken's postcard trade continued to flourish, with images of servicemen enjoying the "Hut"—a YMCA-sponsored hangout after federal law closed all taverns within a half-mile of the waterfront.

The exhibit, which will be on view through July 3, was made possible through a special project grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State, as well as the generous support of our corporate donors, including Applied Companies, John Wiley & Sons, Lobato Floors, Otis Elevator, QualityPro Painters, Union Stone Cleaning & Restoration and Hufnagel Landscaping & Design. Admission to the reception is free.

Black History Month Celebration

Always Helping People: Recollections of Evelyn Smith



On **Sunday, Feb. 24, at 4 p.m.,** the Hoboken Historical Museum will celebrate Black History Month with the release of a new oral history chapbook, *Always Helping People,* featuring **Evelyn Smith**'s recollections of the contributions of her parents, Leo and Sarah Smith, to the Civil Rights movement and trade unionism. The chapbook is studded with fascinating photographs of Leo and Sarah Smith with historical notables, including Eleanor Roosevelt and Harry Truman, and includes an early snapshot of Leo Smith when he was a young ballplayer in the Negro Leagues.

Always Helping People inaugurates a new set of oral history publications, collected under the title, **Making Strides.** The three chapbooks in this series explore how former small-town residents—beginning with Leo and Sarah Smith, who were originally from rural North Carolina—made their way to densely populated, urban Hoboken, and crossed barriers of race, ethnicity, and class to succeed as individuals, strengthen neighborhoods, and enrich our city. Each booklet allows readers to better understand the challenges faced by Hoboken strivers.

"Making Strides" is part of the ongoing "Vanishing Hoboken" Oral History Project, coordinated by members of the Friends of the Hoboken Public Library and the Hoboken Historical Museum. The "Vanishing Hoboken" project was initiated in the summer of 2000 in response to dramatic physical, social, and economic changes in the city of Hoboken, and to the consequent "vanishing" of certain aspects of public life—especially its disappearing identity as a working-class city and its tradition of multi-ethnic living. Since 2002, 14 chapbooks have been published. "Making Strides" is made possible through a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities, with additional support from John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Evelyn Smith will be on hand at the February event to talk about her parents' activism and dedication to our community. The event is free and open to all; we hope that community members who remember Leo and Sarah Smith will attend and offer their recollections too.

Inspired by views of the Hudson River, Guy Ciarcia mixes photography and artistic digital effects.

The Waterfront As Muse: 1960s Photographs by Guy Ciarcia

Growing up in Union City, Guy Ciarcia had a view of the Empire State Building framed in the window of his working-class family's apartment. As a daily sight from his home, from the bus stop, or from his aunt's home on the Weehawken bluffs, the New York City skyline was something he took for granted at times, he says, yet clearly it fired his imagination as a young photographer and artist. The waterfront and skyline continue to inspire him, though he's spent most of his life since graduating college in 1965 living "out in the country" just north of Trenton, and working as an exhibiting artist in multiple media and as an art teacher in the Trenton school system. "Now that I'm retired from achieving, I can do what I want," Ciarcia says.

He recently unearthed a series of color and black-and-white slides he shot between 1958 and 1974 depicting the New York skyline and Hudson County's working waterfront in its waning days as one of the busiest shipping ports in the world. The slides were badly damaged by dust and mold, but after he'd cleaned them off, he scanned them digitally and, pixel by pixel, restored them to clarity. He then applied his artistic eye and digital skills to manipulate some of the images, creating new images that are somewhere between painting and photography.

The resulting series, ***The Waterfront as Muse*,** evokes the many moods of the waterfront, like Hokusai's series of views

of Mt. Fuji or Monet's of the Rouen cathedral. They will be on display in the Upper Gallery of the Museum through Mar. 2, starting with an **opening reception on Jan. 20 from 2 – 5 p.m. Admission is free.**

The earliest photos date to Ciarcia's days as a Boy Scout in a Hudson County troop that included his Hoboken friend, Bob DeRuggiero, who had a camera and a dark room. At 15, Ciarcia received a 35-mm camera and the two began prowling all over Hudson County looking for subjects to shoot, mostly with slide film. "We had a fantasy of documenting Union City," he says, "but along the way, making room for new work, I'd thrown out many of those old slides, and Bob lost all of his in a fire."

The exhibit recalls a lost era, including glimpses of a barge community moored along the Weehawken waterfront, where people lived full-time and worked in the shipyards and factories of Hoboken and Weehawken. Many views are from Boulevard East in Weehawken, where Ciarcia's aunt lived, where he shot the New York City skyline at different times of day, with varying light and color effects. He caught rare scenes, such as a rainbow arcing over the Empire State Building and ice floes on the river, as well as the daily life of the waterfront, then crowded with ships and a tangle of freight train lines. Ciarcia remembers Hoboken as a real factory town, with distinctive smells of the Maxwell House coffee plant and the cocoa malt factory.

A member of the now-defunct Smokehouse Painters of the 1960s, an influential group of muralists known for painting hard-edged abstracts on building exteriors, Ciarcia has earned grants from the Museum of Modern Art and prizes from many juried shows. His work has been exhibited in galleries and museums across the Northeast, with pieces in the collections of the Smithsonian, Mercer County, and corporations such as AT&T and Unisys. He's currently working on a book of photography.

Black Maria Film Festival

The 27th Annual Black Maria Film and Video Festival, an international juried competition and award tour featuring cutting-edge works from independent film and videomakers, travels again to the Museum on **Monday, February 4, at 7 p.m.** The works exhibited by the festival explore the human condition as well as the creative potential of the medium.

Following a rigorous jurying process, the festival selects works from the annual collection of 50 award-winning films and sends them out on a national tour each winter, visiting more than 70 institutions. Individual events usually run 90 minutes, and are tailored to the host institution by a festival curator, who introduces the screenings, facilitates audience discussion, and provides program booklets with descriptions of all the works.

Edison's Black Maria studio

The Festival is named for Thomas Edison's Black Maria, the world's first motion-picture studio, where just over 100 years ago, the inventor experimented with film-making at his West Orange, N.J., laboratory. A technological marvel for its day, the Black Maria had a hinged roof and rotated on a circular wooden track to follow the sun and illuminate the stage.

The Black Maria festival is recognized by The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as an Academy Award qualifying festival for short films (documentary, animation, and live action) and has earned several state awards. **Admission is $5**, and seating is limited, so please call 201-656-2240 to reserve your place.

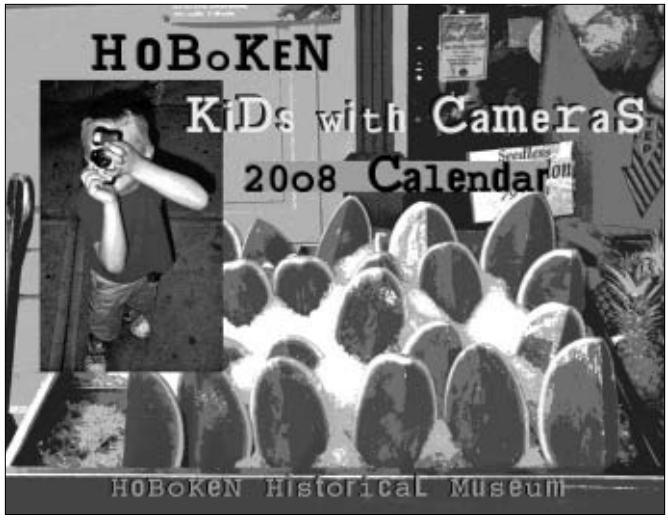
Local librarian and board member Penny Metsch keeps toddlers enthralled.

Uptown Storytime

Uptown Storytime continues through the winter with popular storyteller Penny Metsch, who is a local librarian and a new member of the Museum's board of trustees. Preschoolers and toddlers accompanied by family members or caregivers are invited to join us at **10 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 7,** for listening to stories, singing songs, and sticking stickers. Uptown Storytime takes place at the Museum, free of charge, and is designed for children ages 18 months to 5 years old. For more information, contact the Museum at 201-656-2240, option 5.

Volunteer Appreciation Party

The Hoboken Historical Museum wouldn't be able to manage such a broad range of exhibits and events without the support of a small army of dedicated volunteers. The Museum would like to thank all the volunteers who have donated their time and talents throughout the year. If you are one of our fabulous volunteers, we extend a very special invitation to you to join us for the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Celebration at the opening reception for *Greetings from Hoboken* and *The Waterfront as Muse: 1960s Photographs by Guy Ciarcia*, **Sunday, Jan. 20, from 2 to 5 p.m.** at the Museum.



Kids with Cameras… Our 2008 Calendar

Whether you're a kid or a kid at heart, you'll love the Museum's 2008 illustrated wall calendar, "Kids with Cameras," featuring colorful and surprising images of Hoboken taken by local kids in Museum workshops and after-school programs led by photography instructor Jaime Schlesinger for students at Demarest and Brandt Middle Schools and the Hoboken Charter School.

As the hometown of world-famous photographers such as Alfred Stieglitz, Dorothea Lange and Benedict Fernandez, Hoboken continues to inspire budding photographers. Led on photo safaris by Schlesinger, who is a local resident and graduate of the NYU Tisch School for the Arts, the kids mostly used disposable cameras to master the art and techniques of capturing reflections on windows, interesting atmospheric effects in the sky, and people at work and play around the Mile Square City. A local graphic designer grouped selected photos in bright, attractive layouts that will cheer up any wall.

As with the popular 2007 Hoboken Museum calendar, which was illustrated with drawings by local kids from the *Kids Map Hoboken* project, each month is annotated with the main events at the Museum, including the Great Hoboken Auction, the Baby Parade, the Garden Tour and the House Tour. Plus, major citywide events and historic dates in Hoboken history are highlighted. The calendar also makes a great gift and is available for $10 in the Museum Shop.

Museum's Endowment Fund Gets Off to a Strong Start

Barri and Daniel Cillié have donated 100 shares of Hudson City Bancorp (HCBK) common stock to the Museum's Endowment Fund. The donation is the first received by the Endowment Fund and the first donation of securities ever received by the Museum.

The Museum's Endowment Fund was established last year to help ensure the Museum's future financial stability, maintain exhibition and education programs, and provide for the Museum's growth. Endowments provide nonprofit organizations such as the Museum with a perpetual source of internal financial resources. They are funded through donations that are invested and disbursed in accordance with strict rules and guidelines set by the organization. These investments generate interest, dividends and capital gains income for the organization's use.

Gifts to the Endowment Fund are tax-deductible and donors may contribute to the Endowment Fund or establish a specific and named endowment to support a particular area of the Museum's activities of interest to the donor. Gifts of cash, stock, real estate as well as life insurance policies and bequests are welcome.

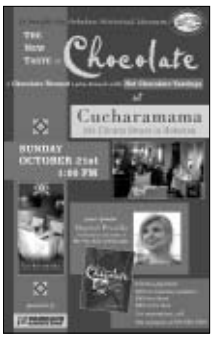
Donations of appreciated assets, such as stock, can provide substantial tax savings to the donor. First, by giving securities that you have owned for at least a year and that have appreciated in value, you may be able to avoid paying capital gains tax on the proceeds. Second, you can reduce your taxes when you transfer securities and use the appreciated market value (versus what you originally paid for the securities) as your tax-deductible amount. In other words, the higher the market value of your securities, the higher your tax deduction. Please consult with your tax advisor to assess the potential benefits of such a gift for your individual financial situation.

Barri and Dan Cillié also donate their time as Museum volunteers.

Making donations of stock and other financial assets to the Museum accounts is very simple. Please contact Museum Trustee Dan Cillié at 917-319-6788 for assistance. Further information on the Endowment Fund is on the Museum's website.

Year In Review, 2007

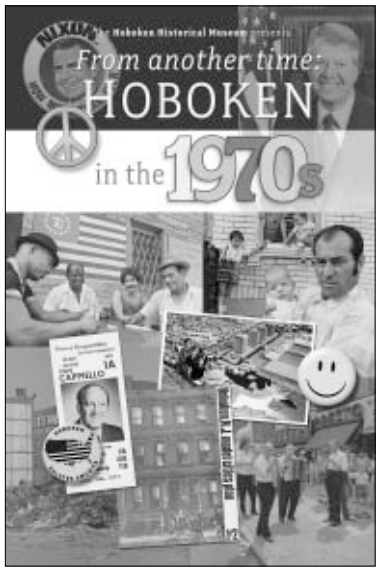
In 2007, the Hoboken Historical Museum enjoyed its busiest year ever, adding even more events and lectures to expand on our exhibits, as well as new events like the Chocolate Brunch and Heirloom Garlic-Tasting Festival to our line-up of perennial favorites, like the House and Garden Tours and Great Hoboken Auction. This year, a lecture series by key figures from the 1970s showed how much Hoboken has changed since the economic slump that hit most of the industrial centers across the Northeast.



Then the Museum rocked the waterfront with a series of reunion concerts celebrating the vibrant independent music scene that thrived here in the 1980s, organized by the City's Cultural

Affairs coordinator, Geri Fallo, and culminating in the Sinatra Idol contest on the Chairman of the Board's birthday. Our Upper Gallery showcased six artists and photographers, while our education program involved hundreds of kids and families in more than 70 educational and fun projects, such as *Kids with Cameras*. Following is a recap of highlights from 2007.

Exhibits and Events



The first exhibit of the year, ***From Another Time: Hoboken in the 1970s,*** mined three rich veins documenting the decade of Hoboken's turnaround from a nearly abandoned industrial center into a hotbed of residential development: the work of three talented photographers; a doctoral dissertation on Hoboken's urban renewal by noted land-use professor Martin Bierbaum; and the recollections of several key individuals who were active in Hoboken at the time.

The material provided a multifaceted view of the period through an exhibit of large-format black-and-white photographs, accompanied by a narrative drawn from Bierbaum's dissertation and other sources, plus news clippings and artifacts from the time, such as yearbooks, civic guidebooks and festival posters. The photos were reproduced in a book, which also includes moving essays by a born-and-raised Hobokenite and a woman who adopted Hoboken as her home in the 1970s. The struggles and the joys of the era came to life in a series of talks at the Museum by developer Joe Barry, activist Helen Manogue, journalist Anthony DePalma, artists Hugh and Beth Kilmer, photographer Virginia Parrott and Model Cities Program director Michael Coleman. The exhibit even inspired a revival of the 1975 play, *A Lamppost Reunion*, by Hoboken playwright Louis LaRusso, in two sold-out readings produced by Mile Square Theater that featured several actors from the TV series, *The Sopranos*.

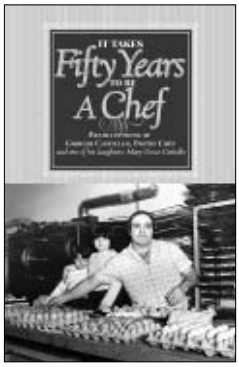
The second exhibit, ***Hoboken Tunes: Our Musical Heritage***, opened in July and delved into our small city's outsized contributions to the world of music. Using multimedia exhibits of memorabilia, listening stations and video, the exhibit celebrated famous son Frank Sinatra and famous resident Stephen Foster, along with nearly forgotten musical phenoms, like pianist "Blind Tom" Wiggins, who retired here after a life spent touring some of America's most famous stages, and Jimmy Roselli, who was born a few doors down from Sinatra and became one of the Mafia's favorite crooners.

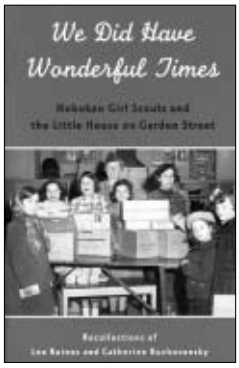
Year in Review, 2007 *(continued from page 5)*

Displays included instruments manufactured here, including much sought-after Guild guitars and a number of hybrid instruments, such as the ukelin and the marxophone, which were a brief national fad in the 1920s and '30s. Visitors were greeted by a giant tie-dyed backdrop in the center of the exhibit honoring a pair of struggling actors, James Rado and Gerome Ragni, who appreciated Hoboken's affordable rents in the 1960s when they wrote the lyrics and music to the revolutionary musical, *Hair*.

The exhibit paid homage to the flourishing indie rock scene in the 1970s and 1980s with reunion concerts organized by the city's cultural affairs coordinator Geri Fallo and a talk by Maxwell's founder Steve Fallon and current booker Todd Abramson. Performances and talks by artists and record label owners included the Cucumbers, performers from the late 1980s' kitchenTablemusic showcase, and Bar None Records' Glenn Morrow. At the fall Arts & Music Festival, the exhibit inspired a full day of reunion acts: the Bongos, Health & Happiness Show, the dBs' Chris Stamey, and Glenn Mercer of the Feelies.

Chapbooks and Other Events





This year the Museum and the Friends of the Hoboken Public Library published four new chapbooks in their oral history project, "Vanishing Hoboken," documenting the recollections of past and present Hobokenites. This year's series, "Hoboken Is Home," explored ideas of home and community in the Mile Square City as its population has changed over time. Each oral history is edited into a 5.5" x 8.5" booklet, which is professionally designed and illustrated with photos and other memorabilia, and celebrated with a reception at the Museum. Previous chapbooks are available for viewing on the Museum's website.

The first one, *The Minute I Walked Into the Place, I Was Home,* is based on **Paula Millenthal Cantor**'s memories of Hoboken Stevens Academy and a former Hoboken synagogue, Adas Emuno, and reunited many former students at its launch in March. The second, *It Takes Fifty Years To Be A Chef*, tells the story of Italian-born pastry chef **Giorgio Castiello**, who opened a bakery at 1112 Washington St. in the mid-1970s. He and his family, who still run Giorgio's, brought huge platters of delicious pastries to delight dozens of fans at the Museum in May.

Former students and friends of Cuban-born Hoboken public school teacher **Amada Ortega** (pictured below, center) came to the Museum in June to celebrate the many ways she and her late husband Manuel touched people's lives after they moved here as teenagers and raised their family, as told by Mrs. Ortega in *Hoboken Was Like Heaven to Us.* Finally, former Girl Scouts, troop leaders and friends gathered in September to reminisce

with **Catherine Ruchovansky** about their late friend and leader **Lee Raines**, who together told the stories in *We Did Have Wonderful Times: Hoboken Girl Scouts and the Little House on Garden Street*.

Joel Lewis, (pictured above, center) who wrote the narrative for the "Hoboken Tunes" exhibit, released his third volume of poetry, *Learning from New Jersey*, with a launch party in October at the Museum, featuring a slide show of Hoboken artist Tim Daly's work, a few pieces of which are reprinted in the book.

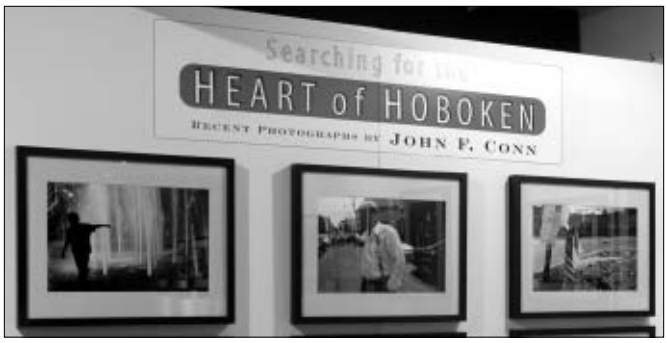
Railroad fans were treated to an illustrated talk on the miniscule but vital **Hoboken Shore Railroad**, by historian Benjamin Bernhart in November. The nearly one-mile-long line served the docks and factories along the Hoboken/Weehawken waterfront from 1895 through the 1970s.

The Arts: Upper Gallery Exhibits, Film Series

In addition to history, part of the Museum's mission is showcasing local artists and those who have made Hoboken and Hudson County the subject of their work. This year, the Upper Gallery space hosted three photographers, two painters and a textile artist. The series began with black-and-white photos of people and buildings by **Caroline Carlson,** titled "1970s Hoboken."

Her exhibit was followed by one capturing the same period in vivid color, "Beautiful Downtown Hoboken: Photographs from the 1970s" by **Virginia Parrott**. Her work included a series of shots of the ubiquitous clotheslines that used to crisscross the backyards of Hoboken, displayed on a clothesline strung across the Upper Gallery from a pulley. Then, textile artist and self-taught quilter **Peggy McGeary** brought a selection of

colorful abstract and representational works, including the Sesquicentennial quilt, in "Memories in Needle & Thread."



John Conn, who was born in the Bronx but keeps returning to Hoboken for inspiration, exhibited recent color photos in an exhibit called "Searching for the Heart of Hoboken," in contrast to his black and white photos included in the "From Another Time" exhibit and book.

The Upper Gallery exhibits concluded with two painters who've depicted both iconic and intimate scenes of Hoboken. Known to Museum visitors for his "Greetings from Hoboken" designs for sale on t-shirts, posters and note cards, **Raymond Smith** showed a variety of views of Hobokenites at leisure in "Figures and Landscapes." Then, **Frank Hanavan,** who has become "Part of the Landscape" through his plein-air style of working, returned for his second Museum exhibit. Many of his paintings are available as limited-edition prints and note cards in the Museum gift shop.

The Museum also hosts several film series annually, starting with a selection of winners from the New Jersey-based national film and video competition, the **Black Maria Festival**, in February. This was followed by two showcases of short films and videos produced by students and faculty of New Jersey City University and curated by Urban Image, a collective of media artists based at NJCU: "**Truth, Lies, Secrets**" in April, and "**Persona**" in the fall.

Year in Review, 2007 *(continued from page 7)*

Kids & Family Programs

Last year, education director Sherrard Bostwick (pictured above) helped bring history to life for hundreds of local children by coordinating more than 50 school group visits, eight Uptown Storytime sessions, three family concerts, two Family Fun Days, and a family photography workshop led by Jaime Schlesinger that inspired the "Kids with Cameras" calendar. Fan letters from many of the kids are filled with rave reviews for the activities and tours, which taught them about life in Hoboken in the 1970s and Hoboken's contributions to the world of music. Performances by local entertainer Dave Lambert and Spyro Gyra guitarist Julio Fernandez drew capacity crowds.

Festivals, Tours, Parades & Teas

Hoboken has always forged a sense of community through festivals and events, and the Museum is proud to continue that tradition by planning and hosting many of the perennial favorites. Several serve as fund-raising opportunities for the Museum; others are simply a fun way to introduce people to interesting aspects of Hoboken's past.

All of these events are organized by committees of our trustees or by individual trustees or friends of the Museum, and it takes a small army of dedicated volunteers to manage all these events. We're always looking for more volunteers, so give the museum a call if you're interested in donating a couple of hours at your favorite events.

We added two new events this year in October: the **New Taste of Chocolate Brunch** at Maricel Presilla's Cucharamama Restaurant, with a lecture by Dr. Presilla on the origins and preparation of rare gourmet cocoas, and an **Heirloom Garlic-Tasting Festival,** featuring exotic varietals trucked in by farmers Rich and Sue Sisti from their farm in Wantage, N.J., who also provide the produce for our annual **Tomato-Tasting Festival** in August.

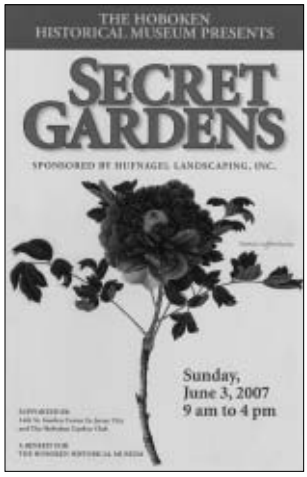
In April, a capacity crowd enjoyed lunch and a fascinating talk by Lipton Tea Master Taster Peter Goggi at the **2nd Annual Great Hoboken Tea**, which included a tea-tasting at Teak Restaurant. A couple of weeks later, more than a hundred people registered as bidders at the annual **Great Hoboken Auction**, held once again under a big tent in Shipyard Park. Eugene Flinn, owner of Amanda's and the Elysian restaurants,

reprised his role as chief auctioneer and kept the bidding lively for unique items such as Macy's Parade float sculptures, a membership in the Shipyard complex pool, commissioned works of art from Frank Hanavan and others, and Police concert tickets.

The **6th Annual Baby Parade** drew more than a hundred families to the waterfront promenade between Sinatra Park and Pier A in May to compete for trophies for most creative costume and stroller decorations. Sponsored by pediatric practices, child-care providers and other family-oriented businesses, this event revives a tradition from the early 20th century, when the city organized a Baby Parade in part as a way to introduce newly arrived immigrant families to the

medical services available in town. A companion event, the **4th Annual Pet Parade,** took place in October for proud pet owners, who also dressed up their pets—mostly dogs, with one brave parrot—to compete for trophies sponsored by local pet care providers.

Easily the most anticipated and popular events of the year are the **Secret Garden Tour** in June and the **Hoboken House Tour** in late October. Through the generosity of eight to ten local homeowners in each event, hundreds of visitors got a chance to peek behind the city's attractive facades to see a wide variety of approaches to interior decorating and cultivating the green spaces in a mix of historic and contemporary homes across the Mile Square City.



This year, the Museum again joined in several communitywide events to show our civic pride by marching with a contingent of trustees and members behind our banner in the St. Patrick's Day, Memorial Day, and Fourth of July parades, sometimes led by a fife and drum group, the Spirit of 1861. Likewise, we support major city-sponsored events by setting up a booth at the spring and fall Arts and Music Festivals and the Holiday Crafts Fair at City Hall, as well as at the two traditional Italian festivals, the midsummer celebration of the Feast of St. Ann and the early-fall Festival of the Madonna dei Martiri, where we sell Museum merchandise and raise awareness of our programs and events by handing out literature.

Board of Trustees/Collections/ Communications News

The Museum's trustees were not only busy organizing and volunteering for all the above-mentioned events, they also notched some milestones in 2007, including establishing an Endowment Fund, and welcoming two new members, local librarian Penny Metsch, well-known among toddlers and their parents and caregivers as our favorite Uptown Storytime reader, and local resident Blake Perkins, who has a law practice in New York.

Collections Manager David Webster expanded the Museum's online catalog, which enables the public to perform keyword searches of more than a third of the documents, images, and objects in our collections, to more than 30,000 items. Our collections department also supplied the iconic images of Hoboken adorning the windows of the new CVS in the restored former Hostess bakery building at Park and 14th St.

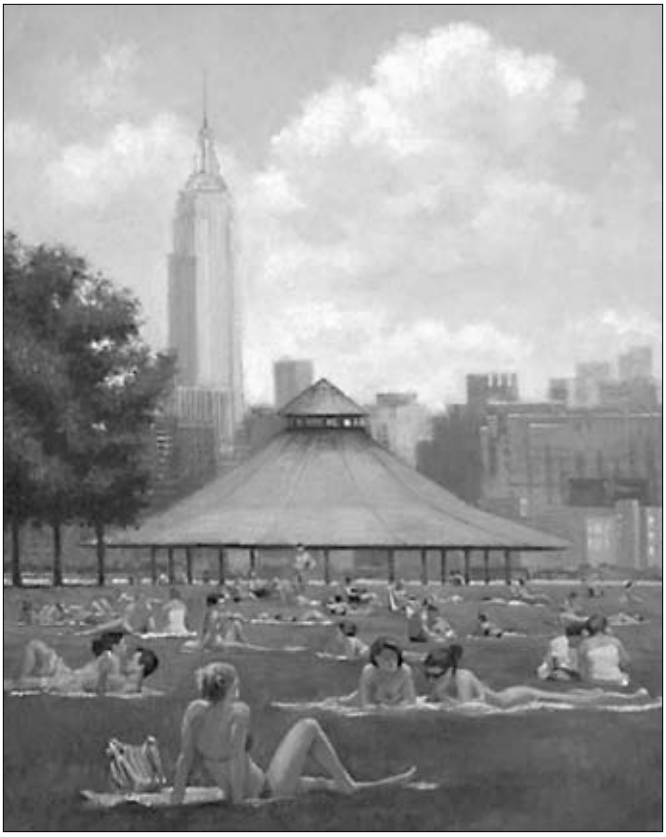
To keep members up to date on our activities, we launched a new e-mail news channel, which you can now subscribe to by visiting our website, www.hobokenmuseum.org. Webmaster Jean-Paul Picard also created an online donations area for the midyear and year-end fundraising drives, and

Year in Review, 2007 *(continued from page 9)*

online order/payment form for several of our books.

Collections: Selected Gifts and Acquisitions

This year, the Museum lost a good friend and our chief ambassador, Doug Donkin. To honor his memory, the Museum established a fund for donations to be used for acquiring new items for our collections, where Doug spent many hours assisting Collections Manager David Webster. Thus far, $2,000 has been donated, and we're pleased to announce the first acquisitions by this fund: two paintings of Pier A Park by Frank Hanavan and Raymond Smith, both of whom had exhibits in the Upper Gallery last year. This is a fitting tribute to Doug, who in addition to his work with the Museum, was an enthusiastic supporter of the Hoboken arts community, volunteering countless hours helping local artists and theater groups.

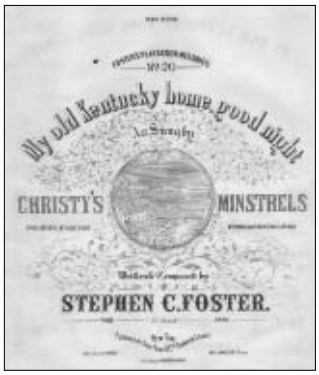


Smith's "Sunbathers 1, Pier A"

Hanavan's "Pier A Park Kiosk"

Donations will continue to be accepted. Donors in 2007 to the Doug Donkin fund include Melissa Abernathy, Brian Bishop, the Bostwick family, Michelle Boyd & Scott Oberstaedt, Valerie D'Antonio, Barbara Gross, Brian & Kate Hehir, Adrian Kim & Harn Koo, Hani Koo, Sylvia Lee & Alexander Ostro, Carol Losos, Laura Mantlik, Ann O'Brien, Sheila Phalon, Sue Willen and Kwang Woo & Miryon Lee.

A few of the many recent gifts to Museum collections are briefly described below. Where *OLC* follows a listing, go to our On-Line Catalog (www.hobokenmuseum.org and follow link on the left) where you can see all the items and some images for that gift. If your gift is not here, it may already be online, but it will appear in this column in a future issue.



2007.046

2007.046. Gift of John Heliker. Six pieces of published Stephen Foster sheet music, copyright 1853 – 1856. *OLC*

2007.047. Gift of Frank Balogh. Five Our Lady of Grace Church Debt Society membership cards, 1880 – 1882; four souvenir programs from St. Mary Hospital Annual Charity Ball, 1949 – 1951; convention ribbon badge, Hoboken Police, circa 1910 – 1920; folder with 33 pieces of correspondence and reports about the Admiral Benson Service Club, 816 Washington St., Hoboken, 1919 – 1920, with most items related to Mary H. (Miller) Markey or her daughter, Florence G. Miller, both of Hoboken, who were involved with the local administration of the club; includes an eight-page report on Dec. 10, 1919 fire which destroyed it, killing two persons, and the aftermath. *OLC*

2007.047

Membership News

The museum welcomes the following new members and thanks renewing members for their continued support:

Individual: Megan Avery, Charles Bogert, Walter Bramkamp, Dave Bruce, Rosemarie Canale, Matthew Clark, Caroline Cormier, Laura DaRonco, William Deile, Nicholas Dibrino, Ken Emerson, Laura Foligno, Gary Fuess, Ellen Hinnenkamp, Chris Idler, Daniel Joyce, Robert Kirchgessner, Laura Knittel, Hani Koo, Cynthia Kuperus, James Lolan, Kathy Mallow, Laura Mantlik, Deborah Maxwell, Jack Murphy, Susan O'Connell, Elizabeth Oravetz, Laura Parry, Sheila A. Phalon, Evelyn Plummer, Christina Romano, Jeanne Rotunda, Carl F.Schaefer, Steve Shelley, Ann Sheridan, Eileen Shine, Barbara Failla Stoll, Colin Stredwick, and Mary Louise Wagner.

Dual/Family: Charlie & Jan Bohn, Gertrud Borchardt, Bree Conover & David Brewer, Suzanne Cummings & Michael Cairns, Tracie Fracasso & Rick Wynne, Jon Fried & Deena Shoshkes, Christine & Eric Gladbach, Marianne & John Glasel, Brian & Kate Hehir, John Johnson Jr., Adrian Kim & Harn Koo, The Lambert Family, Emma & Hugues Lavandier, Sylvia Lee & Alexander Ostro, Anne Lockwood & Sean Kelly, John V. Lyon Family, Frances & Vincent Mastandrea, Jean Marie & Andrew Mitchell, Lucretia Moroni & John Oliensis, Nora Obringer & Ivan Shen, Patrick & Jennifer O'Callaghan, Elizabeth Radis, Steven Rapkin & Carlos Maymi, Merle Schneider & Steve Walkowiak, David & Melanie Schwartz, Jeanne-Marie & John Scura, Joel & MaryLou Sleed, Elizabeth Van Itallie & Glen Morrow, Kwang Woo & Miryon Lee, and Alison Ziegler, & John Fischer.

Lifetime Individual or Dual/Family: Janna & Adam Cohen, Jules Herbert, Ryn Melberg, and Deborah Olita.

Questions about membership? New address? E-mail us at membership@hobokenmuseum.org.

HHM 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.

❑ $1,000 ***Chairman of the Board*** ❑ $250 ***Founder***
❑ $500 ***Philanthropist*** ❑ $100 ***Visionary***

From (Name of Contributor)

Street Address

City State Zip Code

Gift in the Name of

The Hoboken Historical Museum received a general operating grant in 2007 from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of Cultural Affairs in the Department of State.

Membership Application

As a member of the Hoboken Historical Museum you will receive special invitations to members-only openings, our bimonthly newsletter, and discounts on selected Museum merchandise and events.

Name (Please Print)

Street Address

City State Zip

Home Phone Business Phone

Email ❑ Change of Address

This membership is a gift from:

Name (Please Print)

Street Address

City State Zip

Home Phone Business Phone

Email

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

❑ One-Year Individual Membership: $30.
❑ One-Year Dual/Family Membership: $50.
(includes children under 18)
❑ Lifetime Individual Membership: $250.
❑ Lifetime Dual/Family Membership: $400.
(includes children under 18)

❑ Additional Donation Enclosed: $_____.

$_____. Total Enclosed

❑ Enclosed is my company's matching gift form.

This membership is: ❑ New ❑ Renewal ❑ Gift

Payment Options:

❑ Check made payable to the Hoboken Historical Museum

❑ Charge to: ❑ MasterCard ❑ Visa ❑ American Express

Name as it appears on card

Card Number Expiration Date

Signature

Please contact me with information on:

❑ Museum Collection Donations ❑ Volunteer Opportunities
❑ Special Events ❑ Family-Friendly Activities

For corporate membership, sponsorship or in-kind gift opportunities, please call the Museum: 201-656-2240, option 8.

1301 Hudson Street
P.O. Box 3296
Hoboken, NJ 07030
Telephone: 201-656-2240
www.hobokenmuseum.org

Museum Hours
Tuesday–Thursday: 2–9 p.m.,
Friday: 1–5 p.m., Saturday & Sunday: 12–5 p.m.

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

Volunteer Appreciation Party
Sun., Jan. 20, from 2–5 p.m.

Museum Dates to Remember — January & February

The Museum will be closed from the beginning of the year while two new exhibits are being installed and will reopen on Sunday, January 20.

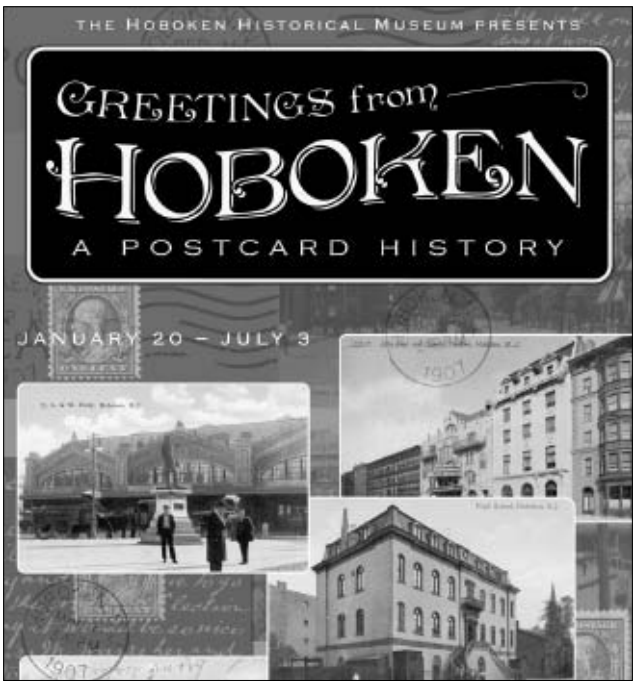
Sun., Jan. 20, 2–5 p.m., Opening reception for *Greetings from Hoboken: A Postcard History,* and ***The Waterfront as Muse: 1960s Photographs by Guy Ciarcia*** in the Upper Gallery. Free.

Sun., Jan. 20, 2–5 p.m., Volunteer Appreciation Day at the Museum. All volunteers welcome.

Mon., Feb. 4, 7 p.m., Screening of Black Maria Film Festival entries at the Museum. Admission is $5.

Thurs., Feb. 7, 10 a.m., Uptown Storytime at the Museum for children ages 18 months to 5 years and their caregivers. Free.

Sun., Feb. 24, 4 p.m., Chapbook Publication Party for *Always Helping People* featuring Evelyn Smith. Free.



Parking! Littleman Parking-Independence Garage, located at 12th Street and Shipyard Lane, offers three hours of free parking seven days a week for Museum visitors in the covered lot across from the former Hollywood Video. Remember to bring your ticket into the Museum for validation.

Printed on Recycled Paper. Newsletter edited, designed, and proofread by Melissa Abernathy, Claire Lukacs, and Sue Bostwick. Contributors this issue: Guy Ciarcia, Dan Cillié, Bob Foster, Ann Marie Manca, Holly Metz, McKevin Shaughnessy, and David Webster.