



1301 Hudson St., Hoboken, NJ 07030  
[www.hobokenmuseum.org](http://www.hobokenmuseum.org) :: 201-656-2240

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Melissa Abernathy  
201-656-2240  
pr@hobokenmuseum.org

### **Oral History Series “Hoboken Is Home” Tells Stories of Diverse Community: Baker, Teacher, Girl Scout Leader**

**Hoboken, NJ** – May 1, 2007 – The Hoboken Historical Museum, in cooperation with the Friends of the Hoboken Public Library, announces the publication of two new oral history chapbooks based on the recollections of Hobokenites who arrived from other countries and who made the city home. The latest series is entitled *Hoboken Is Home* and explores ideas of home and community in the Mile Square City as its population has changed over time, carrying along older traditions and creating new traditions with other community members. Each publication will be released during a free launch event at the Museum.

On **Sunday, May 20, 2007, at 4 p.m.**, the public is invited to celebrate master pastry chef Giorgio Castiello, who established Giorgio’s Bakery at 1112 Washington Street during the 1970s. The recollections of Mr. Castiello and one of his daughters, Mary Grace, have been edited into an oral history chapbook, *It Takes Fifty Years To Be A Chef*, copies of which will be distributed to all who attend. The booklet has been printed with support from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state division of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more than three decades now, Mr. Castiello, a master pastry chef, has provided generations of Hobokenites with a wide range of traditional Italian pastries and desserts. Some treats have only been available for a limited period each year, during holidays and feasts, but others, like *sfogliatellei* and *pignoli* cookies have been available to tempt all year round. Working alongside his family, he has also produced cookies with names like “Il Blob” and “The Basil Tahan cookie” to please his customers. At the event, Giorgio’s customers are encouraged to offer their own recollections of the bakery at this celebratory event. Refreshments, of course, will be served.

And on **Saturday, June 30, 2007, at 4 p.m.**, we will honor retired Hoboken teacher Amada Ortega, whose recollections have been edited into a chapbook, ***Hoboken Was Like Heaven For Us***. This booklet was printed with the support of a mini-grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission.

Mrs. Ortega, who was born in Regla, Cuba, has been deeply involved in so many aspects of Hoboken life since arriving here in the late 1940s, it would be difficult to list them all. Her contributions include teaching in the Hoboken Public Schools and at the Industrial School, working as a Democratic Party Committeeperson, and, with her late husband, Manuel, volunteering at the local hospital and family planning center. Manuel worked for many years in Hoboken's Tootsie Roll factory and at Maxwell House, and both were active in rearing their two children. Their love for their adopted city, their civic pride, and their caring approach to their neighbors, has been inspiring.

**Sunday, September 16**, marks the final chapbook release in the series. At 4 p.m. the Museum will open its doors for a reunion of generations of Hoboken Girl Scouts and release the final chapbook in the series, ***We Did Have Wonderful Times: Hoboken Girl Scouts and the Little House on Garden Street, Recollections of Lee Raines and Catherine Ruchovansky*** – two former Hoboken Girl Scouts and Scout leaders whose recollections spanned over 70 years.

### **Browse Chapbooks Online**

The Museum and members of the Friends of the Hoboken Public Library initiated this oral history project in 2000 in response to the dramatic physical, social and economic changes in the city over the preceding 20 years, as an attempt to preserve the memory of certain aspects of public life before they vanished. Since 2002, a dozen chapbooks have been published in the “Vanishing Hoboken” or “Hoboken Memoir” series. All of them now have been converted into PDF files, accessible on the Museum's website, [www.hobokenmuseum.org](http://www.hobokenmuseum.org).

Reflecting the city's once-diverse and largely industrial local economy, the series has profiled the colorful lives of people like Betty Silvani of Schnackenberg's Luncheonette, marine engineer Jack Quinby, Club Zanzibar worker Dorothy McNeil, ship rigger Charles Kosbab, pharmacist Marvin Stemple, Hispanic community leader Tom Olivieri, fife-and-drum corps player Jack O'Brien, Judge Charles DeFazio, Jr., playwright Louis LaRusso II, and Lipton and Maxwell House worker Carol Ann Wilson, among others.

### **About the Hoboken Historical Museum**

Founded 1986, the Museum's mission is to educate the public about Hoboken's history, diverse culture, architecture and historic landmarks. In 2001, the Museum moved into one of the oldest buildings on the waterfront, in the former Bethlehem Steel shipyard, at 1301 Hudson St., Hoboken, where it maintains a series of rotating exhibits. The Museum is open six days a week, 2 – 9 pm on Tues. – Thurs., 1 – 5 pm on Fridays, and noon – 5

pm on weekends. It offers special exhibits, tours, events and lectures, as well as educational programs for adults and children on a weekly basis. An updated schedule of events and an online catalog of many items in its collections are available at [www.hobokenmuseum.org](http://www.hobokenmuseum.org). The Museum is a not-for-profit tax-exempt 501(c) entity.

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*Note to editors: Digital images of the chapbooks are available; call 201-683-6935.*