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Hoboken Historical Museum Hosts Publication Party for Oral History Chapbook, “A Nice Tavern”

Book features recollections by Paul Samperi of his father’s lively career as owner of two of Hoboken’s most popular celebration halls

Hoboken, NJ – April 16, 2008 – The second oral history chapbook in the “Making Strides” series will be released on **Sunday, April 20, 2008 at 4 p.m.**, during a **free** event at the Hoboken Historical Museum. “A Nice Tavern: Remembering the Continental Hotel and the Union Club, Recollections of Paul Samperi,” is a lively account of Hoboken during Prohibition and beyond, and provides fascinating insights into the street smarts and business acumen of Paul Samperi’s father, Joseph, who rose from dockside flower-seller to owner of two of Hoboken’s most prominent hotels.

Samperi’s purchase of the Union Club was viewed by many in Hoboken as more than just a personal accomplishment. Originally founded by German immigrants in 1864 as the Deutscher Club von Hoboken, this popular establishment’s purchase by an Italian-American signaled to many in Hoboken’s “Little Italy” that they, too, might find success in a city previously known as “Little Bremen.” The Union Club became the premier setting for weddings and many parties and events sponsored by City Hall and Hoboken-based businesses through the 1940s and 1950s. In the 1980s it was converted into luxury housing.

The event is open to all, and everyone who attends the April 20 event will receive a copy of “A Nice Tavern.” We hope that past and present Hoboken residents will also share their own stories of celebrations held at the Union Club and their recollections of good times had at the Continental Hotel. Free, validated parking (up to three hours) available in the Independence Garage located at 12th St. and Shipyard Lane.

“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.

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. The Museum is a not-for-profit tax-exempt 501(c) entity.

Note to Editors: An image of the chapbook cover (black and white only) is available upon request.