

HOBOKEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

Volume 11, Number 4

July/August 2005

In honor of Hoboken's Sesquicentennial, the Hoboken Historical Museum proudly presents
The City of Hoboken, 1930-2005



Bird's-eye View of Hoboken, New Jersey U.S.A. New York's Last Seacoast of Bohemia, executed for Messrs. Morley and Throckmorton in 1930 (detail shown). Sites of interest are noted, among them theaters to which Christopher Morley and Cleon Throckmorton attracted a sophisticated New York audience nightly. This is one of several maps in our new exhibition, *The City of Hoboken, 1930-2005*.

The Hoboken Historical Museum continues its celebration of the Sesquicentennial Year with *The City of Hoboken, 1930-2005*, the sequel to *The City of Hoboken: The First 75 years*, which closes on July 3. The new exhibition looks at the history of Hoboken over the last 75 years and covers the Great Depression, the growth and decline of industry, transportation systems, and lives and legacies of the city's mayors through documents, maps, and artifacts from the Museum's own collection. **The new exhibition opens with a special member's preview on Sunday, July 31, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., and to the general public on Tuesday, August 2.** Many lectures and special events will accompany this exhibition on view until December 23.

Museum Calendar

Sunday, July 3

Last day to view *The City of Hoboken, 1855-1930*.

July 4–July 30

Museum closed for installation.

Tuesday, August 2

The City of Hoboken, 1930–2005, opens to the public.

Looking Back 30 Years

All year long, the works of artists inspired by the City of Hoboken are on display in the Upper Gallery at the Museum. The series continues with *Hoboken 1974–76: The Photographs of John F. Conn*. Conn began his documentary series on Hoboken as the Port Authority piers were closing and the city was reinventing itself. In “Hoboken—an American town,” an article from the June 1980 issue of *Hasselblad* magazine, Lars Svensson describes Conn’s work as having “a very American style... He succeeded in establishing relaxed relationships with the people and environments he photographed.” The exhibition of Conn’s work opens with an **artist’s reception on Sunday, July 31, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.**, and remains on view through Sunday, September 11. In September, John F. Conn will return to the Museum to discuss his pictures dating from the 1970s, and show slides from a new series of Hoboken photographs.

Conn got his start in photography with the U.S. Marine Corps. He later studied at the School of Visual Arts and worked as Senior Photographer of Citibank. His photographs have appeared in the *New York Times Sunday Magazine* and *American Photographer*, among other

publications. His work has been exhibited at the Soho Gallery, the Susan Caldwell Gallery, and the Nikon House Gallery. He lives in the Bronx.



Erie Lackawanna Terminal, Hoboken, NJ, black-and-white photo by John F. Conn



Girl Practicing Her Baton Twirling, Hoboken, 1976, black-and-white photo by John F. Conn

Taste of Summer



For gardeners and cooks and folks who just like to eat, nothing evokes summer like a warm tomato just picked from the vine. **On Sunday, August 28, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., the Hoboken Historical Museum presents its Sixth**

Annual Heirloom Tomato-Tasting Festival in the walkway alongside the Museum, 1301 Hudson Street, Hoboken.

Wantage farmers Rich and Sue Sisti of Catalpa Ridge Farm will supply tastings of some of the dozens of old-fashioned tomato varieties they and neighboring New Jersey farmers grow. Favorites include the supremely flavorful “Aunt Ruby’s German Green,” “Brandywine Pink,” “Cherokee Purple,” and “Radiator Charlie’s Mortgage Lifter,” the seeds of which have been passed down from one generation of gardener to the next. And if you like what you taste, you can take home some of that edible summer sunshine. Heirloom tomatoes and garlic, and other fresh-from-the-farm produce will be available for purchase.

The tasting event is free and open to the public. For more information, call the Museum at 201-656-2240



Some of the guests honoring Tom Olivieri.

When People Got Together

The Museum was proud to host a celebration on May 21 during which over 150 guests assembled to honor Tom Olivieri’s contributions to Hoboken culture and civic life. All who attended received copies of an oral history chapbook with Mr. Olivieri’s recollections of 50 years in our city, which lays claim to his heart in equal measure to his native Puerto Rico. The Olivieri family out did themselves with a spectacular spread of traditional Puerto Rican food (prepared over many days!) and a delightful trio entertained over 150 assembled guests who danced and sang and reminisced. We thank the Olivieris for their tremendous generosity.

Mr. Olivieri read from a moving speech that brought tears to the eyes of many in attendance. We are reproducing it here for those who missed the ceremony.

“La otra noche recibí una llamada desde la Florida, de un buen amigo, un hermano, Mario Rivera cuya familia también fueron pioneros Puertorriqueños en nuestro querido Hoboken

para la decada del 1950. Mario llamo para felicitarnos durante esta celebracion y la vez enviarle un caluroso saludo y muchos recuerdos a nuestra gente en general. Como de costumbre la conversacion se extendio por mas de 2 horas de nostalgia, trivia y recuerdos gratos y amargos de un tiempo



que jamas volvera. Tiempos simples, La brega de nuestros padres. Dignidad. Tiempos alegres, Juventud. Recordar es vivir...

Tom Olivieri.

The other night I received a call from Florida, from a good friend, a brother, Mario Rivera, whose family were also Puerto Rican pioneers in our dear Hoboken during the early 1950s. Mario called to congratulate us and to extend a warm greeting and best wishes to our community in general. As usual our conversation lasted over two hours of nostalgia, trivia, and bittersweet memories of times gone by never to return. Simple times. Struggles of our parents. Dignity. Happy Times. Youth. To remember is to live again.

Torres, Olivieri, Rivera, Colon, Crespo, Adames, Gonzalez, Correa, Antonmarchi, Rodriguez, Casanovas, Monagas, Rosa, Vargas, Andino, Ramirez, Guzman, Ramos, Quiles, Lugo, Muñoz, Esquilin, Chaparro, Hernandez, Cabrera, Cruz, Arocho, Pagan, Morales, Corton etc. Esos fueron los apellidos de las primeras familias que "brincaron el charco" sembraron semillas, echaron raizes y pavimentaron el camino para otros inmigrantes latinos en este bendito pueblo llamado Hoboken. Todo esto sin olvidar su herencia Puertorriqueña. Algunos de ellos se encuentran presentes entre nosotros hoy. Vamos a recordarlos con un caluroso aplauso.

Torres, Olivieri, Rivera, Colon, Crespo, Adames, Gonzalez, Correa, Antonmarchi, Rodriguez, Casanovas, Monagas, Rosa, Vargas, Andino, Ramirez, Guzman, Ramos, Quiles, Lugo, Muñoz, Esquilin, Chaparro, Hernandez, Cabrera, Cruz, Arocho, Pagan, Morales, Corton, etc. These were the last names of the first families that "jumped over the puddle" (the Atlantic Ocean) and planted seeds, grew roots and paved the way for other Latin immigrants in this blessed town called Hoboken. All this without forgetting their Puerto Rican Heritage. Today some of them are present among us. Let's give them a big hand.

Phillips, Grube, Lemp, Rea, Clyons, Izzo, Flack, Metcalfe, Carpenetti, Zappulla, Mitchell, Romo, Zlotkowski, Ward, Simonson. Apellidos de las familias que conocimos por primera vez en la Calle 12 y Avenida Willow hace ya mas de medio siglo. Gracias por su recibimiento. Los recordaremos gratamente siempre. Un caluroso aplauso para esos viejos vecinos.

Phillips, Grube, Lemp, Rea, Clyons, Izzo, Flack, Metcalfe, Carpenetti, Zappulla, Mitchell, Romo, Zlotkowski, Ward, Simonson. Those were the last names of the families whom

we first met on 12th Street and Willow Avenue more than half a century ago. We sincerely thank them for their welcome. They will always have a place in our hearts. Please remember our old neighbors with a warm round of applause.

Los negocios del vecindario [neighborhood businesses]: Grube's Diner, Phillips Candy Store, Leo's Garage, Louis' Pharmacy, Eddie's Liquors, Lisa's Bar, Charlie Hetzel's Bar. Later on: la bodega de Pedro Cruz, Bula's Market, Ray's Cleaners, Elisa's Bar de Jerry y Elisa Forman, La Cabaña, El Restaurant Pepote... The 2nd Precinct, the Rec Center with Miss Eberle, my old art teacher...

La escuela nuestra fue la vieja escuela #6. Wallace Elementary School. En ella, los niños aprendimos a hablar el ingles facilmente sin clases de ISL. A los adultos se le hacia un poco mas dificil pero si no sabian una palabra la Puertorriqueñizaban... la palabra Roof (azotea) se convirtio en el roofo, market en la marketa, backyard en la yarda y basement en el basemen'. De ahí nacio el espanglish en Hoboken.

Our old school PS#6 Wallace School. Within her, our children learned English without much difficulty and without the benefit of ESL classes. Adults may have found it more difficult but they quickly "Puertoricanized" some words, roof became el roofo; market, la marketa; backyard, la yarda; and basement, el basemen'. That was the birth of "Spanglish" in Hoboken.

La Tootsie Roll, La Eisen Bros, La Rego, La Actwell Toys, y la industria de la tela, muchas factorias de ropa. Alquileres bajos, salarios mas bajos. Tiempos simples, tiempos felices. Nostalgia.

The Sweets Company of America (Tootsie Roll), Eisen Bros, Rego Electric, Actwell Toys, and garment factories (sweat shops) galore. Low rents, even lower wages. Simple times, happy times. Nostalgia...

Para ese tiempo habian 4 teatros en Hoboken. El Rialto, El Rivoli, el US y por supuesto el majestuoso Fabian. El Kiddie show los sabados (Dos peliculas, un episodio, 10 comiquitqs, prologos, y noticias por solo 15 chavos la taquilla). Años despues el Teatro Colony en la calle 48 se convirtio en uno de los lugares mas visitados por Puertorriqueños los fines de semana. Las mejores peliculas del cine mejicano. Recuerdan los viajes en la guagua #22 a Palisades Park con su piscina de agua salada, la montaña rusa y el tunel del amor? o a Callahan's a comer franfuras? Y quien puede olvidar aquellas fiesta casi todos los sabados en los diferentes apartamentos del vecindario? Mucho bolero, cha cha cha, guaracha y merengue.

At the time there were four theaters in Hoboken. The Rialto, the Rivoli, the U.S. and, of course, the majestic Fabian. (The Kiddie Show on Saturdays featured two movies, one serial episode, 10 cartoons, coming attractions and the newsreel for only 15 cents.) Years later the Colony Theater on 48th Street became one of the most frequented places by Puerto Ricans on weekends. The best movies of the Mexican Cinema. Remember the bus trips on the #22 bus to Palisades Amusement Park with its salt water pool, the roller coaster, and, of course the tunnel of love? Or going to Callahan's to eat hot dogs? And how about the parties in the different apartments throughout the neighborhood? Lots of bolero, cha cha

When People Got Together *(continued)*



The entertainers for the celebration.

cha, guaracha, and merengue.

Nunca olvidaremos el Centro Catolico en la 2 y Washington. El Padre Eugene Zwahl, El querido Padre Eugenio. Tambien el Padre Marcos. La Iglesia San Jose. Donde tantas bodas que han durado toda una vida se consumaron. Las Hijas de Maria, Los Caballeros del Santo Nombre.

We'll never forget el Centro Catolico on 2nd and Washington. Father Eugene Zwahl. Dear Father Eugene. Also Father Marcos. St. Joseph's Church where so many weddings that have lasted a lifetime were consecrated. The Daughters of Mary, the Holy Name Society.

Al igual que otros emigrantes anteriores, nuestros padres llegaron aqui con la esperanza de forjar un mejor futuro para sus hijos pero siempre añoraban el regreso al isla. Algunos formaron sus familias aqui por varios años y luego regresaron a Puerto Rico con sus ahorros para resumir sus vidas. (De ese grupo algunos volvieron a vivir otra vez en Hoboken ya que sus hijos no se acostumbraban por alla.) Otros se establecieron aqui y 25 o 30 años mas tarde algunos fueron victimas del desplazamiento ocurrido en el pueblo en nombre del progreso. Hoy dia, algunos descendientes de esos honorables pioneros aun residen en Hoboken y comunidades cercanas. Su presencia aqui esta tarde es testigo de esto. Mi familia comparte esta celebracion y este reconocimiento con nuestra comunidad Puertorriqueña presente y ausente de Hoboken y con todos los que tan graciosamente nos honran esta tarde.

Like other immigrants before them, our fathers came here hoping to shape a better future for their children. However, they always anticipated returning to the island. Some shaped their families here for several years and then returned to Puerto Rico with their savings to resume their lives there. (Of that group, some came back to Hoboken because their children missed the way of life here). Others settled down here, but became victims of the gentrification that occurred in this town 25 or 30 years later. At present some descendants of those honorable pioneers still reside in Hoboken and nearby communities. Their presence here is living testimony of this. My family shares this celebration and this tribute with our Puerto Rican community present and absent as well as those who have so graciously bestowed this honor upon us.

Por ultimo, los que me conocen saben que a pesar de vivir en este querido pueblo de Hoboken por mas de 50 años yo

tengo una relacion amorosa incontenible con mi tierra natal, Puerto Rico. Siempre comento que estoy aqui bajo protesta y creo que ese sentimiento lo comparto con algunos de ustedes. Mama, Borinquen me llama. Sin embargo, cuando me ausento de Hoboken por cierto tiempo siento un vacio en mi y me hace falta mi hogar aqui. Algunos dicen que es el agua de Hoboken. Pero la verdad es que en esos momentos extraño este pueblo, esta Mecca Boricua, este rincon especial del mundo que el destino nos reservo. Le doy gracias a Margie y a my familia por aguantarme tanto, y le doy gracias a ustedes por permitirme esta breve pero sincera expresion de amor a todos.

Lastly, those that know me know that although I have lived in Hoboken for so many years, I have an ongoing love affair with my birthplace, Puerto Rico. I always say that I am here under protest. I think some of you may share that sentiment with me. Mama, Borinquen calls me. However, I must admit that whenever I am absent from Hoboken for some time, there is a void within me, and a feeling of homesickness. Some say it's the Hoboken water. Nevertheless, at those times, I miss this town, this Puerto Rican Mecca, this unique corner of the world that destiny set aside for us. I thank Margie and my family for putting up with me, and I thank you for allowing me this brief but heartfelt expression of love to you all."



Mary and Ray Smith with Tom Olivieri.

Feasts for Members

Members of the Hoboken Historical Museum will notice that this issue of the newsletter comes with a new Hoboken Oral History Project chapbook, *When People Got Together and There Were Feasts*. Derived from an interview conducted by Alisa Del Tufo in 2001, this booklet presents Tom Olivieri's recollections of arriving in Hoboken from Puerto Rico more than fifty years ago and the life he and his family made here.

Publication of *When People Got Together...* was made possible by a mini-grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of Cultural Affairs in the Department of State. This is the sixth chapbook to be released in the "Vanishing Hoboken" series. Museum members receive complimentary copies by mail, one of the benefits of membership. More chapbooks are in the works, so be sure to join or renew your membership today—and watch these pages for the announcement of the next release.



4th Annual Hoboken Baby Parade

The Hoboken Historical Museum's Baby Parade on May 15 attracted the town's tiny tots and their proud mamas, papas, brothers, sisters, grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cheering fans. The 4th annual parade will go down as one of the best ever, everyone was a winner.

A many-armed octopus, pizza boy, and an Indian Bride in all her finery took honors in the **Best Dressed Child** category. **Asher Kaufman** swam along Hoboken's Riverwalk accompanied by his parents Saydi and Dan. Parents Brian and Charmaine were seen picking up Hoboken's favorite slice and winner of "best pizza 8 months in a row," their baby **Logan Smith**. But all eyes were on the bride, **Aanya Deva Mukherjee**, escorted by her mother Vrinda and brother Rohan.

Winners for **Most Creative Carriage** were the legendary Loch Ness Monster and Pot o' Gold found at the end of the rainbow. **Nessie Claire Murray** made a rare appearance with mother Debbie McDonald and aunt Carla Criqui. While wee leprechauns **Dylan and Aidan Zajac** accompanied their parents Colleen and Paul.

The eggs-traordinary **Lila Singer** and parents **Andy and Rebecca** flew away with **Best Dressed Family**. Stampingeding into town and taking **Best Dressed Group** were rodeo champions **Dylan McDonald** and parents Tara and Peter, **Michael Arens** and parents Jill and Joe, **Wyatt Ralff** and parents Steve and Alexa, **Luc Callanan** and parents Nora and Bill, **Sean Swiatek** and parents Shannon and Jason, along with **Philip and Matthew Buonamo** and their parents Danielle and Philip.

Congratulations and thanks to all participants, winners, guests, organizers, and sponsors.



Photos by Jennifer Goodin

Great Hoboken Auction Great Success

The Sesquicentennial edition of the Great Hoboken Auction broke all records on April 30 this year in its brand new location, under the tent in Shipyard Park. And it's all thanks to you—our committee, donors, advertisers, bidders, and last but not least—our volunteers the night of the Auction. Without all the hard work you put in, it never could have happened. Here's a partial list (apologies to those we have missed): Gladys Lu Kirkinis, Patti Bifulco, Ray and Mary Smith, Denise Campbell, Margaret Feitell, Melissa Abernathy, Eileen Lynch, Janet Brinkos, Gertrud Borcharst, Judson Weaver, Jean-Paul Picard, David Webster, Sue and Randy Bostwick, John Carey, Bill Tobias, Bob Foster, Beth and Rick Mason, Andrea Weiss, Valerie D'Antonio, Danielle Frankenthal, Barbara and Skip Gross. And of course, a big thank you to our grand auctioneers, Eugene Flinn and Chris O'Connor.

Thanks again to you all for making this such a fun event, and the Museum's biggest fundraiser.



Eugene Flinn and daughter Celia lead the Museum regiment at Hoboken's Memorial Day Parade 2005.

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.

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Each year, foundation, government agencies, corporations, and individuals provide support for a range of activities at the Museum. Without special funding it would not be possible to accomplish all that we do, from educational programs for children, families, and adults to exciting new exhibitions. We celebrate the generosity of our members and friends with this list of contributors to the Hoboken Historical Museum featuring recent donors who gave \$100 or more. We extend our sincerest thanks to all of our supporters.

To find out more about making a gift to the Hoboken Historical Museum, contact Director Robert Foster at 201-656-2240, opt. 8, or e-mail director@hobokenmuseum.org.

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* *Special thanks to those employers that provided matching gifts to increase support.*

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of these records, we encourage our readers to let us know of any errors or omissions by calling 201-656-2240, opt. 8.

Accessions

The Museum wishes to acknowledge the many donors who have given items to its collection. We apologize for running behind in honoring those who have been so generous. This list is for some of the 2004 accessions and future issues will continue the listings until they are current.

2004.008. Nine tickets to Hoboken events, 1914–1917; a Hoboken Chamber of Commerce hat, ca. 1970. Gift of Anthony Bucino.



2004.013. 1930 Pocket calendar from the Keuffel & Esser Company, Hoboken. Gift of Paul Neshamkin.

2004.014. Ceremonial jacket and cap from the Hoboken Elks Lodge; ca. 1940's photo of 'Doc Izzo' in a dance band. Gift of Anthony M. Izzo.

2004.015. Digital images of over 54 items from a 1950's scrapbook belonging to Ken Schultz including high school memorabilia, Hoboken Centennial and "On the Waterfront" autographs. Gift of Ken Schultz.

2004.016. Over 40 books, magazines and research items related to the "City Animals" exhibit (many were displayed). Gift of Holly Metz.

2004.017. Printed poster with 1893 photograph of Washington Street. Gift of John Lyon.

2004.018. Bottle from beer distributor Phillip Muller, 211 Bloomfield St., ca. 1900–1920. Gift of Gregory Haines.

2004.019. Digital images of Anthony DeVincenzo documents. Gift of the DeVincenzo Family.

2004.020. Six digital images from a photo album with pictures of Eleanor Salinardi when she visited on the sets of "On the Waterfront", ca. 1953, including candid images of Marlon Brando, Karl Malden, et al. Gift of Eleanor Salinardi.

Membership News

Membership provides a way to support the Hoboken Historical Museum while learning about Hoboken's unique cultural heritage and participating in the life of the museum. From invitation-only previews of exhibitions to the opportunity to learn more about Hoboken through special lectures and tours, our members get the very best of the Hoboken Historical Museum. The Museum welcomes the following new members and thanks renewing members for their continued support: *Individual*: Mark Aurigemma; Ann Bauer; Tom Brennan; Jack Brunet; Corleida Burrell; Tony Chen; Anthony Cerbo; Valerie D'Antonio; Sylvia de Martino; Mark Fitzmartin; Steve Garza; Kay Gimmetstad; Camille Gogol; Angela Grimaldi; Naomi Harley; Tazuko Hosaka; Alfred P. Josephsen; Bob Klapouchy; Eric Kurta; Susan Lisovicz; Lucha Malato; Raymond Matthaei; Brenna McCarthy; Gloria Jean Martorano; Joseph Minuti; Margaret O'Brien; Erinn O'Neill; Eddie Ortiz; Anthony Romano; Daniel Ruddy; Jack Silbert; Jodie Tunis; Linda Vollkommer; Rita Vollkommer; Elaine Wighardt; *Dual/Family*: Nerieda Baez; Alan Cohen & Michael Petrikat; Tim & Mercedes Colyer; Patricia and Edward De Fazio; Thomas Engstrom and Family; Thomas & Roopa Foley; Kara German; Kristen Georges & Michael LaTona; Marianne & John Glasel; Karen Kelly & Kenneth Howitt; Carl Kirshen & Family; Joan Koehler & Jan Nordland; John V. Lyon & Family; Louis & Enid Muraca; Jack & Barbara O'Brien-Dabinett; Chris O'Connor & Annie McAdams; Kevin & Amy Porter; Stephen Wilkens; *Lifetime Individual*: Janice Reed.

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

The Hoboken Historical Museum received a general operating grant in 2005 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.

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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)

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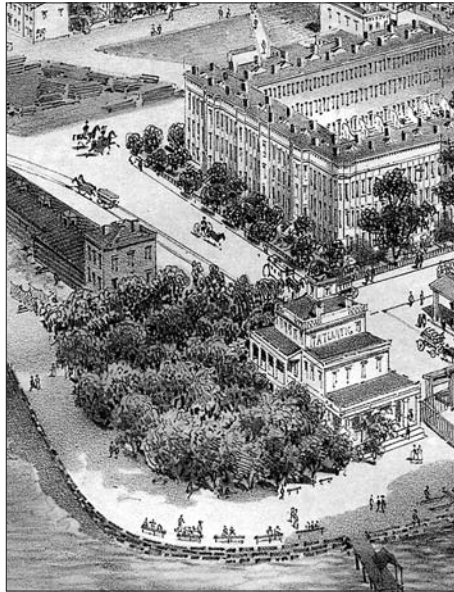
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MUSEUM DATES TO REMEMBER JULY & AUGUST

Through Sun., July 3, 2005, *The City of Hoboken: The First 75 Years, 1855–1930*, exhibition on view during Museum hours.



July 4 through July 30, Museum closed for installation.

Sun. July 31, 3–5 p.m., Members' preview *The City of Hoboken, 1930–2005* (Members look for your invitation in the mail) and artist's reception *Hoboken 1974–76: The Photographs of John F. Conn.*

Tues., August 2, *The City of Hoboken, 1930–2005*, opens to the public. The new exhibition remains on view until December 23 during regular Museum hours.

Sun., August 28, 1–5 p.m., **Sixth Annual Heirloom Tomato-Tasting Festival** in the walkway alongside the Museum. Free



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