



**NEW MUSEUM HOURS**  
 TUESDAY–THURSDAY: 2–7 P.M.  
 FRIDAY: 1–5 P.M., SATURDAY & SUNDAY: 12–5 P.M.

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 Hoboken, NJ

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

**Volunteer Appreciation Celebration**  
**Sun., Jan. 25, from 1–3 p.m.**

## MUSEUM DATES TO REMEMBER – JANUARY & FEBRUARY

**The Museum will be closed from Jan. 26 through Feb. 28 to dismantle the current exhibitions and install new ones, and will reopen on Sunday, Mar. 1.**

**Sun., Jan. 25, 1 – 3 p.m., Volunteer Appreciation Celebration** at the Museum. Free. All volunteers past, present and future are welcome. Free.

**Sun., Jan. 25, 4 p.m., Heaven, Hell or Hoboken talk:** Historian and Edison scholar Dr. Mary Ann Hellrigel will discuss Edison's role in WWI preparations, at the Museum. Admission: \$5; HHM members free.

**Mon., Feb. 9, 7 p.m., Screening of Black Maria Film Festival** entries, Shipyard Marina boathouse, 13th St. pier. Admission is \$5.

**Sun., Feb. 15, 4 p.m., Lincoln Day talk:** Lincoln scholar Frank Coburn will discuss "Lincoln and the Right to Rise," Shipyard Marina boathouse, 13th Street pier. Admission: \$5; HHM members free.

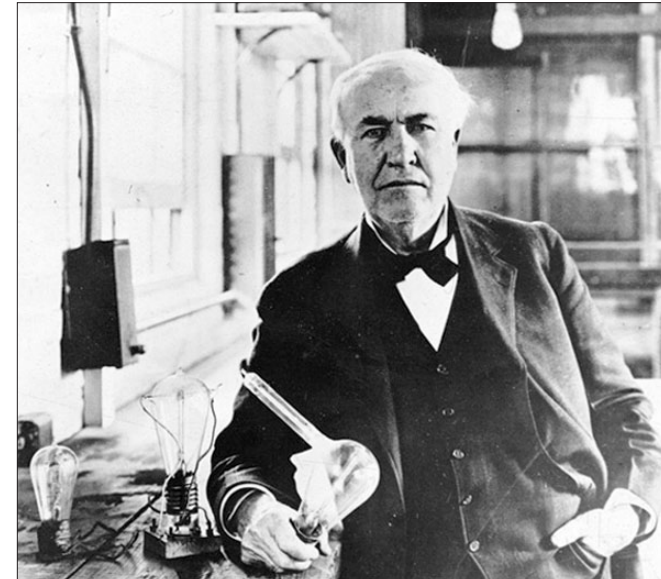


**Parking!** Littleman Parking-Independence Garage, located at 12th Street and Shipyard Lane, offers three hours of free parking seven days a week for Museum visitors in the indoor garage. Remember to bring your ticket into the Museum for validation.

# HOBOKEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

Volume 15, Number 1

January/February 2009



Master inventor was tapped to jumpstart research and development for 20th century warfare.

## Thomas Edison and World War I: 'More a Matter of Machines than Men'

By the time "the Great War" broke out in Europe, New Jersey's Thomas Edison was established as one of the leading inventors and businessmen of his day. In 1915, Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels asked him to head up a group that became the Naval Consulting Board, convened to accelerate research into U.S. preparedness for modern warfare.

Though Edison lived up to his reputation for productivity, generating some 45 inventions for the effort in a matter of two years, the war was over before any of them could be fully deployed, according to Edison scholar and former Stevens Institute of Technology professor, Dr. Mary Ann Hellrigel. The historian visits the Hoboken Historical Museum on **Sunday, Jan. 25, at 4 p.m.**, to cap off the *Heaven, Hell or Hoboken* exhibit with a **talk on Edison and his New Jersey lab's role in World War I.**

Nearly 70, Edison claimed almost one thousand patents under his name and had launched many successful businesses. At this point in his career, he was thinking about his legacy and service to his nation. In an interview published in May 1915 in *The New York Times*, he was asked for his opinion on the war in Europe and his view of the country's military readi-

ness. Edison envisioned a modern military that was "more a matter of machines than men," with such innovations as a volunteer army, airplanes, a system of armory factories, improved naval vessels, submarine detection and torpedo evasion technology, and federally funded research laboratories.

Given his way, Edison would have brought \$5 million in government funding to his lab in West Orange and for tests conducted off the Atlantic Coast in Sandy Hook, New Jersey, and Florida. However, Congress appropriated less than half that amount and only \$500,000 for operations—not enough to accomplish what he had in mind. The Armistice was signed before the Navy adopted any of Edison's inventions and federal funding for military research and development waned as the nation returned to a peacetime economy. Indeed, Edison returned to his laboratory and his work on storage batteries, phonographs and recordings, and other consumer goods.

Hellrigel is a public historian, and at one time was editor of the microfilm edition of the Thomas A. Edison Papers at Rutgers and the Edison National Historic Site in West Orange. She herself is a Rutgers alumna and Passaic native. Currently, she is completing a book manuscript for Johns Hopkins University Press titled, "Following the Light: Thomas A. Edison and the Commercialization of Electricity."

## Lincoln and the 'Right to Rise': Historian To Address Lincoln's Legacy

No U.S. president has inspired as much research and ink as Abraham Lincoln. His personal biography, his leadership during the nation's most dangerous national conflict, his tragic

### At the Hoboken Historical Museum

On view through January 25  
**Heaven, Hell or Hoboken: A City Transformed by World War I**  
 On January 25, Sunday, 1 – 3 p.m.  
**Annual Volunteer Appreciation Celebration**  
*Past, current and future volunteers are welcome.*

### In the Upper Gallery

On view through January 25  
**Suspended in Time: Works on Glass, by McKevin Shaughnessy**

**Note: The Museum will be closed January 26 – February 28**

**Lincoln and the 'Right to Rise'...** (continued from page 1)

assassination, his eloquent speeches and writing—any of these alone distinguish him as a figure worthy of so much study. Among all the fascinating possibilities, Frank Coburn, former curator and director of the museum at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tenn., was most inspired by the great man's writings on the promise of the Declaration of Independence, which Lincoln felt granted all men the "right to rise" to their full potential, regardless of their origins. The HHM is bringing Coburn to the Shipyard Marina boathouse on the 13th St. pier on **Sunday, Feb. 15, at 4 p.m.**, for a talk in honor of Lincoln's birthday (Feb. 12).

It was a happy accident that drew Coburn into such an intense relationship with the 16th president. He transferred to the small liberal arts college in East Tennessee to study history and math to become a schoolteacher, and took a part-time job working in the museum, which houses one of the largest collections of Lincolniana in the world. Just before he was to begin his student teaching, the job of full-time curator and acting director opened, and he jumped at the chance to stay on while he finished a Master's degree in history.

For the next eight years, Coburn spent eight hours a day, five days a week, immersed in Lincoln's writings, attending academic conferences on Lincoln, conducting tours, and giving talks. He frequently fielded calls from other researchers on many controversial theories about aspects of Lincoln's life and his assassination, but Coburn's interest was drawn more to Lincoln's intellectual struggle with the promise of equal opportunity in the context of his own background and the views dividing the country.

Lincoln's father had worked for a time in coal mines alongside slaves whose owners collected the wages for their work, which informed his argument in the famous debates with Stephen Douglas that slavery is not just morally wrong, but also that no man should profit from another's labor, according to Coburn. Though Lincoln's views on racial equality were not without reservations, he argued that the promise of the Declaration is to guarantee each man the right to rise as far as his abilities allow.

In recent years, Coburn's career has taken another sharp turn, albeit one he finds just as intellectually stimulating. He has become a Methodist pastor, and currently serves a congregation in Wenonah, N.J., near Philadelphia.

**Black Maria Film Festival**

The Museum is proud to once again bring to Hoboken New Jersey's own Annual Black Maria Film and Video Festival, an international juried competition and award tour featuring cutting-edge works from independent film and videomakers.



Edison's Black Maria studio

Now in its 28th year, the festival will bring a handful of works to the Shipyard Marina boathouse on the 13th St. pier on **Monday, Feb. 9 at 7 p.m.**

Following a rigorous

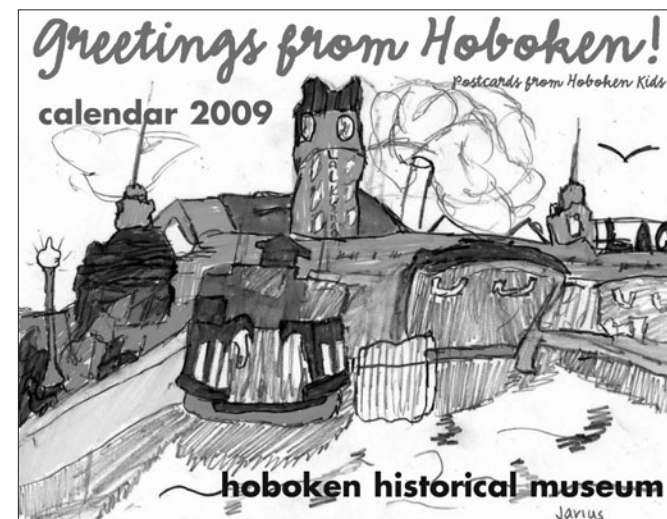
jurying process, the festival selects works from the annual collection of 50 award-winning films and sends them out on a national tour each January. The event runs about 90 minutes, and is tailored to the host institution by a festival curator, who introduces the screenings, facilitates audience discussion, and provides program booklets with descriptions.

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 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 a qualifying festival for the short films (documentary, animation, and live action) category and has earned several state awards. **Admission is \$5**, and seating is limited, so please call 201-656-2240, option 8, to reserve your place.

**Auction Donations Welcome**

Do you have a historical picture or piece of furniture that you no longer have room for? Or perhaps tickets to a coveted sports or cultural event, or to an exotic travel destination? The Museum is soliciting donations to the 2009 Great Hoboken Auction, April 25. Donations to nonprofits like the Museum may be tax-deductible; consult your tax advisor. For more information, please contact the Museum at 201-656-2240.



It's not too late to get extra copies of the Museum's 2009 illustrated wall calendar, "Greetings from Hoboken," featuring colorful and iconic images of Hoboken created by local kids in Museum workshops and by school groups and independent submissions to the postcard design contest that accompanied our 2008 exhibition featuring historic postcards of Hoboken.

As with the previous Hoboken Museum calendars, each month is annotated with the major events at the Museum, including the Great Hoboken Auction, the Baby Parade, the Secret Garden Tour and the Hoboken House Tour. Plus, major citywide events and historic dates in Hoboken history are highlighted. The calendar is available for \$10 in the Museum Shop.

**Membership News**

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

*Individual:* Liza Arguelles, Charles Bogert, Jackie Brabham, Walter Bramkamp, Thomas Brennan, BrianDavid Realtors, Carmine T. Calabrese, Pamela Campbell, Denise Campbell, Castleton Furniture & Design Center, Ruth Charnes, Closets by Karen, Francine Colon, Caroline Cormier, James Corrado, Tristan Crotty, Joe Curci, Diana C. Davis, Richard Del Boccio, Louis Dell'Aquila, Nicholas Dibrino, Maria Dolan, Elizabeth Eulberg, Hugh Evans, Lori Feinsilver, John Foley, Gary Fuess, Caroline Fuller, Stephanie Gaasterland, Hugo Gonzalez (State Farm Insurance), Sheryl Goski, Susan Greenwood, Mary Haggerty, Brian Hehir, Tazuko Hosaka, Edward Huelbig, Chris Idler, Kiddie Designs Inc., Gladys Lu Kirkinis, Steven Kosmacher, Cynthia Kuperus, Terry La Du, Jennifer Lampert, Kirstyn Lobo, Mr. John V. Lyon, Margaret Mallan, Dean Marchetto, Regina Marchi, Ralph Mascolo (Shipyard Dry Cleaners), Mrs. John Medoff, Hilario Melendez, Audrey Merwin, Kathleen Mone, Priscilla Moody, Cornelius Murphy, Suzie Nash, David Nielsen, Eric Nolan, Susan O'Connell, Piotr Oko MD, Elizabeth Oravetz, Florence Pape, Mrs. Laura Parry, Susan Polachek, Cynthia Quint, Tony Ridzyowski (Cortes and Hay Inc.), William Rohrer, Elizabeth Schaefer, Sharon Shahinian (Coldwell Banker), Sissi Siska, Natalie Smith, Jeanne Stuhmann Thomas, Bill Tobias, Toni Tomarazzo, Annemarie Tyne, Joyce Tyrell, Brenda Vallieu, Mary Louise Wagner, Beth Ann Walters, Anthony A. Weidner, Stephen Wieler, Marilyn Witt, David Zimmerman.

*Dual/Family:* Jen Begasse, Douglas & Mary Ann Bowen, Sheri & Ted Bronstein, Eileen Budd & Family, Jason Burch & Ann Wallace, Camille Bustillo, Lucille & Dominic Casulli, Cristin Circco-Powell

& Mark Powell, Carter & Stephanie Craft, Ed & Patricia De Fazio, Donna & Joe Del Giudice, Kathleen & Anthony Durstewitz, Jenny Elsenrath & James Anastas, Deborah Ferrigno, Rev. Mary Forell & Christopher Davis, Sandy Gansberg & Michael Rosenblum, Juliette & George Gavin, Christine & Eric Gladbach, Marianne & John Glasel, Elaine & Lloyd Gold, Deidre Hall & Greg Bond, Michael Hanrahan & Paddy Aler, Alan & Jerry Heath, Patrick & Mary Kate Horbac, Theresa Howard & Peter Baracska, Phil & Jan Huling, David Kalmus & Abbie Jacobs, Katherine Kemper & Robert Delaney, Rebecca Kramnick & Phil Cohen, Susan Locke & Daniel McManus, Anne Lockwood & Sean Kelly, Susan Mantel, Arturo & Pat Martinez, Frances & Vincent Mastandrea, Iris McCort & Ron Knight, Kevin & Susan Mullarkey, Mary Murphy & Raymond Smith, Jennifer & Patrick O'Callaghan, Ruth & Patrick O'Callaghan, Chris O'Connor & Annie McAdams, Roxane Orgill & Conrad Bahlke, Harvey & Anna Ozer, Karen & Robert Parry, Edith & John Payne, Jackie & Nick Petruzzelli, Paul Pisanelli & Montgommari Parsons, Kathy & Bruce Prussack, Audra Rose & Tom Jacobson, Yoko & Peter Rozano, Joel & Marylou Sleed, Irene & Ivan Sobolov, Christa and Gregory Tyson, Louise & Ralph Vecchio, Steve Walkowiak & Merle Schneider, Alicia & Jim Weinstein, Caroline Welling & David McGuire, Barbara & Peter Westergaard.

*Lifetime Individual or Dual/Family:* Corlelda R. Burrell, Thomas & Roopa Foley, Seth Grosshandler & Kim Wainwright.

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

The Hoboken Historical Museum received a general operating grant for 2007 – 2008 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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: \$40.
- One-Year Dual/Family Membership: \$65. (includes children under 18)
- Lifetime Individual Membership: \$650.
- Lifetime Dual/Family Membership: \$1,050. (includes children under 18)
- Additional Donation Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Total 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.

**Year in Review, 2008** (continued from page 5)

Rich and Sue Sisti from Wantage, N.J., who also provided the produce for our 7th annual **Tomato-Tasting Festival** in August, which had lines that wrapped around the building.



In April, a full house packed the big tent in Shipyard Park to bid on dozens of unique finds and enjoy good food and drink at the annual **Great Hoboken Auction**. Eugene Flinn, owner of



Amanda's and the Elysian Café restaurants, reprised his role as chief auctioneer and kept the bidding lively for unique items such as Macy's Parade studio tour, a membership in the Shipyard complex pool, commissioned works of art from Frank Hanavan and others, and ballet tickets.

In May, the **7th Annual Baby Parade** drew more than a hundred families to the waterfront promenade below Sinatra Park to compete for trophies for the most creative costumes and stroller decorations. Sponsored by pediatric practices, child-care providers and other family-oriented businesses, this event revives an early 20th century tradition, in which the city organized the event in part as a way to introduce newly arrived immigrant families to available medical services. A companion event, the **5th Annual Pet Parade**, took place in October for



proud pet owners and their pets—mostly dogs—to compete for trophies and earn gift bags sponsored by local pet care providers.

Two of our most popular events are the **Secret Garden Tour** in June and the **Hoboken House Tour** in late October. For each, about ten generous homeowners open their doors to give hundreds of visitors a chance to peek behind the city's facades to see a wide variety of interior décor and green spaces in a mix of historic and contemporary homes across the Mile Square City.

This year, Museum trustees and members joined in marching behind our banner in the St. Patrick's Day and Memorial Day parades. We set up a booth at the city-sponsored Arts and Music Festivals and the Holiday Crafts Fair, as well as at the two traditional Italian festivals, the Feast of St. Ann and the Festival of the Madonna dei Martiri, where we sell Museum merchandise and raise awareness of our programs and events.

**Recession Drives Changes at HHM**

Like many nonprofits, the Museum saw significant declines in both private and public funding sources in 2008, and the Board of Trustees decided to institute some measures this year to trim expenses and shore up revenues. The Museum will stay open six days a week, but on weeknights will close two hours earlier, at 7 p.m., on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, to save on staffing and utilities costs. Friday and weekend hours remain the same.

Our annual and lifetime memberships will increase for the first time since 2001, to \$40 for individuals and \$65 for dual or family memberships. Lifetime memberships will now cost \$650 for individuals, and \$1,050 for families.

The newsletter will begin accepting advertising to offset our printing and mailing costs, and will offer members the option of subscribing to an e-mailed PDF version. Thanks to assistance from the Friends of the Library, which has committed to donate \$3,000, our oral history chapbook series will continue this year, although due to cutbacks in special project grants, we will reduce the number from three to two this year.

Along with these changes, the Museum will seek additional income through a number of initiatives, such as renting its space for special events and renting one of the backlit advertising marquees in the walkway. The board will try to minimize further impact on the Museum's operations or educational programming. The ongoing support of our membership, volunteers, and corporate sponsors is vital for our future. We appreciate your loyalty and commitment to sustaining our mission.

**Museum's Online Collections Website Offers New Features**

Since 2006, the Museum has offered an online version of its collections catalog. On the website, [www.hobokenmuseum.org](http://www.hobokenmuseum.org), users can access a database containing more than 10,000 records with 32,000-plus images of books, ephemera, documents, photos, and artifacts, all in an easy-to-use format with multiple methods to find out about Hoboken's history. In 2008, the site logged more than 18,000 user searches. We added several new features to make it even more useful.

From the Museum's home page, click the "On-Line Catalog/Research" link in the left column, which brings you to an introduction page. To search the catalog, just click on the banner at the top to go to the first search screen, which prompts you to enter a search term in the "Keyword" box. If you are new to the catalog, we suggest that you try the "Random Images" button first. It shows you 30 records at a time with an image from each record. Clicking a picture enlarges it in a new window. If you click on the highlighted text under any image you can view that record with all the data and images in it. When looking at records, you always have a menu on the left where you can find other search functions, help screen or return home to the Museum's main page. (The appearance of the catalog on your computer may vary due to browser settings, monitor size and screen resolution.) Try "Click & Search," which provides an overview with lists of the names, words, search terms, plus the scope of the catalog.

Try "Click & Search," which provides an overview with lists of the names, words, search terms, plus the scope of the catalog.

**New buttons**

The catalog's newest features are buttons that will allow you to send pages or images to friends with your comments, or to e-mail the Museum directly about the catalog.

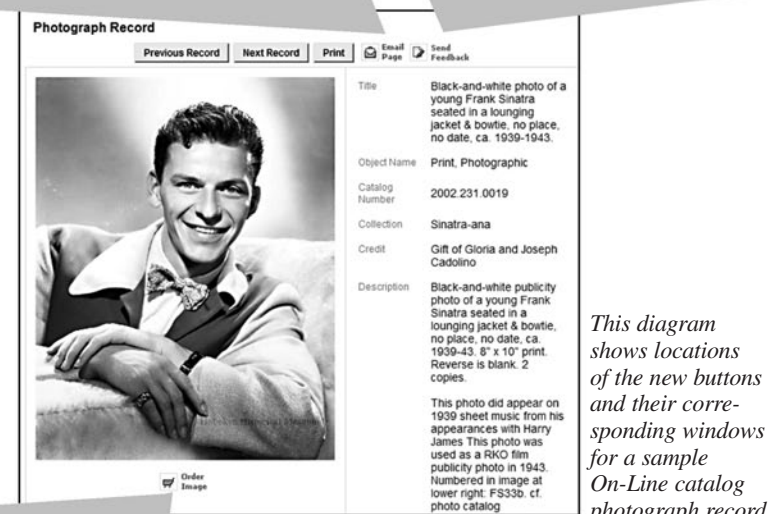
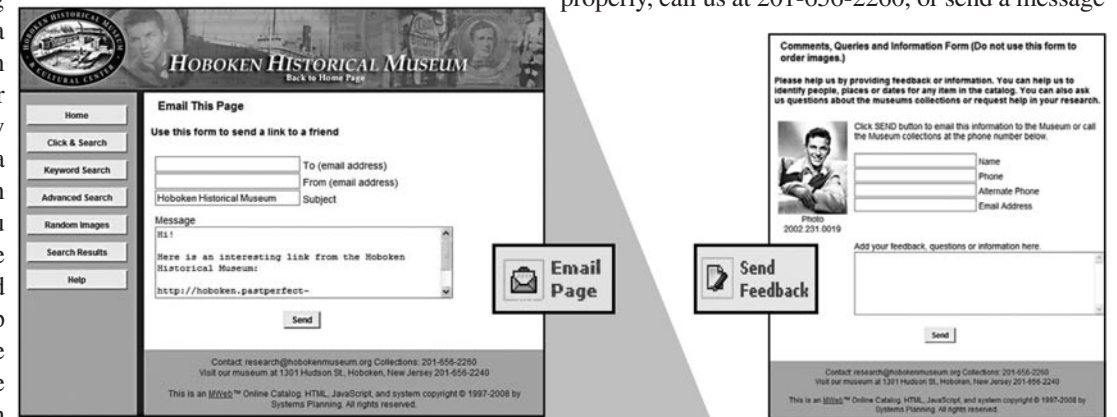
**Email Page:** click on this button at the top of every record or image screen and it opens a window (or tab, depending on your browser setting) that embeds a link in the message to the page you are currently visiting. Just enter the e-mail of a recipient, your e-mail address and add your message. Click the **Send** button at the bottom. The site will acknowledge "Message sent."

**Send Feedback:** Next to the **Email** button on every page is a button that allows you to send an e-mail message directly to the Museum with your comments, research inquiries, or any helpful information you may have about people, places, or dates regarding

the record that you are viewing. Enter your e-mail address and your message. Click on the **Send** button at the bottom. With a "Message sent" acknowledgment, the site will return you to the record page.

**Order Image:** This button appears below every image in the catalog. It leads to an order form with instructions for purchasing a print for personal use of the image selected. It displays typical pricing, such as \$10 for a high-quality 8" x 10" digital color print or \$20 for an 11" x 17" print, tax and postage not included. The form also notes that prints will not have the watermark seen in the online images. (Note: You can print the records and images yourself from the catalog, but online images are smaller and lower-quality than the prints that can be ordered.) The form displays a thumbnail version of the image and creates a subject line for the e-mail with the image file number. Complete the form and click the **Send** button. You do not need to enter any related information from the record. You will see an acknowledgment and be returned to the record.

If your e-mail program does not operate these buttons properly, call us at 201-656-2260, or send a message



*This diagram shows locations of the new buttons and their corresponding windows for a sample On-Line catalog photograph record.*



identifying your e-mail program to collections @hobokenmuseum.org. These contacts are at the bottom of every screen in the catalog.

The catalog is an ongoing effort and we hope to add hundreds of items and thousands of images every year. As a place for personal enrichment and a community resource for local history, it is an important part of the Museum's mission. We look forward to reading your comments.



*"Experience the Difference"*

1114 Washington Street  
Hoboken  
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## Year In Review, 2008

In 2008, the Hoboken Historical Museum kept up a busy schedule of fascinating talks, book launches and signings, fun family events and concerts, educational programs, and new publications. Museum director Bob Foster and a creative crew of part-time staff coordinated several new special events, exhibits and publications last year. New events offered something for everyone, whether it was a talk by the chairman and CEO of John Wiley & Sons, a celebration of Frank Sinatra's birthday, a staged reading of a play about blue collar Hoboken women in the '60s, or a documentary film about the New Jersey/New York waterfront, among others.

The Museum's trustees, with the support of more than a hundred volunteers, worked hard to plan and organize a growing roster of much-anticipated annual community events such as the Great Hoboken Auction, the Secret Garden Tour, the Hoboken House Tour, Baby Parade, and Heirloom Tomato-Tasting Festival, to name just a few.

Our Upper Gallery showcased six exhibits by local artists and photographers, while our education program involved hundreds of kids and families in educational sessions and fun projects, such as the postcard design contest, "Greetings from Hoboken." And our collections manager added several new user-friendly features to our online catalog (details on page 3).

If you missed any of these events and want to be sure to catch them this year, sign up for our e-mailed news service on our website, [www.hobokenmuseum.com](http://www.hobokenmuseum.com). Following is a recap of highlights from 2008.

### Main Gallery Exhibits and Related Events

The year opened with an exhibit of nearly 400 vintage postcards, *Greetings from Hoboken: A Postcard History*. The city's first growth spurt dovetailed nicely with the "Golden Age of Postcards," from the 1890s to the 1920s, resulting in a rich documentary record of the new buildings, parks and news events that tell the story of the city's prosperous early years. The Museum sponsored a postcard contest that generated several new designs, both photographs and drawings, now available as souvenirs in our gift shop.

In March, Peter Wiley, chairman and CEO of John Wiley & Sons, spoke about the remarkable history of the global publishing company, which moved its headquarters to Hoboken in 2002 and celebrated its bicentennial two years ago.

Then in September, the Museum opened the exhibit *Heaven, Hell or Hoboken: A City Transformed by World War I*, which was rich in artifacts such as recruiting and savings bond



posters, news clippings and newsreel video footage, and a real uniform, helmet and rifle with bayonet. Three historians brought the period to life: Dr. Christina Ziegler-McPherson, who wrote the text for the exhibit, spoke of the impact on Hoboken of the government's seizure of the shipping piers to serve as a port of embarkation in her talk, "Volunteers or Volunteered? The Hand of Government in WWI." Ann Hagedorn, author of *Savage Peace, Hope and Fear in America, 1919*, spoke about the social impact of the country's effort to scale up its military/intelligence capabilities; and Chad Millman, author of *The Detonators, The Secret Plot to Destroy America*, shed light on the sabotage plot that set off a massive explosion on Black Tom Island off the Hudson County waterfront.

### Celebrating the Arts: Upper Gallery Exhibits, Film Series, Special Events



The Upper Gallery is a rare space for artists and photographers working in Hoboken to display their works. The year opened with *The Waterfront as Muse: 1960s Photographs* by Guy Ciarcia, a series of evocative color slide images rediscovered by the artist/photographer, who grew up in Hudson County. Then, Hoboken's buildings and residents were juxtaposed in surprising combinations in the sharp digital photographs taken by visiting museum graduate student Arturo Portillo, in *Open Windows: 12 Views of Hoboken Places and Faces*. In May, local artist Tim Heins painted scenes of the Jersey City skyline from his studio on the southern border of the city in *Cityscapes, A View from Neumann*, views that are endangered by development plans.

In the summer and fall, the Museum featured art submitted to the postcard contest by local students in *Greetings from Hoboken's Kids!*; and images and poems created in a special project by Wallace School fifth graders in Kathy Temple's class, *Come Fly with Me: Urban Birds of Hoboken*. Finally, the year

closed with *Suspended in Time: Works on Glass*, showing images by McKevin Shaughnessy of six iconic local businesses with long histories.

The Museum hosted other artistic endeavors, including films, book readings and dramatic works, as well as tributes to a certain famous singer. In February, the Museum once again hosted the Black Maria Film Festival, and in April screened *City of Water*, a documentary made by the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance about recreational uses of the New Jersey/New York waterfront. In June, local writer Christian Bauman read an excerpt from *In Hoboken*, a novel set in the vibrant mid-1990s music scene. Local playwright Louis LaRusso was remembered in October with a staged reading of a play about blue-collar Hoboken women, *Flora Dora Girls' Weekly Sewing Circle*, by a local women's art collective, Gaia.



Local artist Alison Josephs and author Maureen Sullivan held a reading and signing for their children's book *Ankle Soup*, a dog's-eye view of New York at Thanksgiving.

Three events celebrated Hoboken's most famous native son, starting with a reading from an anthology of Sinatra-inspired poetry called *Sinatra...but buddy, I'm a kind of poem*, in May. And around his birthday, Dec. 12, author Tom Santopietro visited for a launch party for *Sinatra in Hollywood*, an exhaustive account of his film career, and noted interpreter Greg Wilder presented a performance and remembrance of his musical legacy, *Sinatra, A Fan and His Music*.

### Chapbooks and Other Publications

The Museum added another four publications to its bookshelf last year: three oral history chapbooks and another full-length book, *Greetings from Hoboken, A Postcard History*, which reproduces nearly 400 images from the exhibit of the same name. The chapbooks showcase the recollections of three diverse Hobokenites in beautifully designed booklets packed with photos and anecdotes: *Always Helping People: Recollections of Evelyn Smith*, about her parents who were civil rights and trade union activists; *A Nice Tavern, Remembering the Continental Hotel and the Union Club*, *Recollections of Paul Samperi*, whose father rose from dockside flower-seller to owner of Hoboken's most prominent hospitality institutions; and *The Fruit Truck, Recollections of Domenick Amato*, one of the many produce vendors that used to dot the cityscape.

### Kids & Family Programs

Last year, education director Sherrard Bostwick helped bring history to life for hundreds of local children by coordinat-



ing dozens of school group visits through the main and upper gallery exhibits; two family concerts, one in the spring and another during the Christmas/Hanukkah season; 12 Uptown Storytime sessions, as the popular program expanded in the fall to twice a month; and a Family Fun Day featuring an art workshop led by Raymond Smith that contributed many entries to the "Greetings from Hoboken" contest and 2009 wall calendar.



### Festivals, Tours, Parades

Hoboken has a proud history of festivals and events that knit the community together, and the Museum is proud to continue that tradition by planning and hosting many of today's popular ones. Some are fundraisers for the Museum; others are simply a fun way to keep Hoboken's past alive. All of these events are organized by committees of our trustees or by friends of the Museum, run by a small army of volunteers.

In October, we hosted the 2nd annual **Heirloom Garlic-Tasting Festival**, featuring exotic varieties trucked in by farmers

### 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 closing reception for *Heaven, Hell or Hoboken: A City Transformed by WWI* and *Suspended in Time: Works on Glass*, **Sunday, Jan. 25, from 1 to 3 p.m.** at the Museum. Interested potential volunteers are welcome as well.