

Views From The Veranda

“2014 Preservation Awards”

ValleyArts
Firehouse
Gallery

Thursday, May 15th at 5pm
Valley Arts Firehouse Gallery
580 Forest Street ~ Orange, NJ



The Victorian Society in America, Northern New Jersey Chapter is pleased to present its annual *Preservation, Restoration and Adaptive Reuse Awards Ceremony* which will be held at the Valley Arts Firehouse Gallery in Orange, NJ at 5pm on Thursday, May 15th, 2014. The awards will be presented to [HANDS, Inc.](#)

(*Housing and Neighborhood Development Services*) and to [ValleyArts, Inc.](#) A guided tour of the arts district will begin at 5pm, followed by the award presentation and gallery show opening at 6pm. Light refreshments will be served, and parking is available nearby.

HANDS, Inc. is being awarded for its preservation, restoration and adaptive reuse of many buildings in the Valley neighborhood of Orange and West Orange.

Since 1986, *HANDS* has implemented a neighborhood revitalization effort by targeting pivotal problem properties for development, engaging residents and other stakeholders, leveraging investments of time and funds to create stability and long-term sustainable change. The

stated mission of *HANDS* is to “ensure that the neighborhoods in and around Orange remain good places to raise a family.”

In the Valley area of Orange and West Orange, *HANDS* has expanded their redevelopment efforts beyond dilapidated homes to include long-vacant

and underutilized industrial sites using an art-driven economic development strategy to reinvent a neighborhood. Historically, the Valley area was the hat manufacturing capital of the world, but following World War I, began a steady decline from its industrial heyday. Many formerly vacant and deteriorating industrial buildings that once overshadowed blocks of working class housing have been renovated and are now used by creators,



This 1905 firehouse rehab by *HANDS, Inc* blends historic architecture and modern style. *ValleyArts, Inc* is currently headquartered in the Firehouse Gallery and curates a series of regular art exhibitions.

innovators and artisans. *HANDS* has committed to create 100 Affordable Arts Spaces in the 15 square-block Valley Arts District around the Highland Avenue Train Station.

-continued on page 2

Please note date, time and location change for this month's meeting!!

This Preservation Awards meeting is free and open to the public. Meetings of *The Victorian Society in America, Northern New Jersey Chapter* are normally held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 8pm at the Montclair Women's Club - 82 Union Street - Montclair, NJ. Our program year runs from September to June. Meetings are free for members - Non-members \$5 - Yearly membership only \$25! Any questions please contact Christina at 973-744-5916 or email Christina.mayer@fmglobal.com



Greetings From The President

Dear Members,

Dolly Rosen enthralled us at our April meeting with the history of 19th century confections. The illustrations were amazing, her culinary replicas were deliciously exquisite, and the display of tools used for their creations showed us the complicated process of making these lavish desserts. We also wish to thank our charter member Gerry Lavner for generously donating many books on Victoriana. We held a mini silent auction during the meeting which raised almost \$100 for the VSA scholarship fund!



Dolly's creation of Alexis Soyer's St. James' Cake

There are still many great events to look forward to before our program year draws to a close: the Preservation Awards meeting, Garden Party at the Grover Cleveland Birthplace, and the bus trip to the Lyndhurst and Caramoor Estates. Their magnificent gardens should be in full bloom!

In the May Preservation meeting, we will be honoring not only preservation of buildings, but the rebuilding of a community. The hatting district of Orange once produced over 90% of all hats in the United States. This community literally "touched" almost the entire of population of this country. Kudos to HANDS and ValleyArts for repurposing buildings for artists who "touch our souls."

The Board would like to thank all our members for their loyal support and attendance during this past year. It provides us with incentive to do bigger and better things. I would like to also recognize all the members of the board for their exceptional contributions.

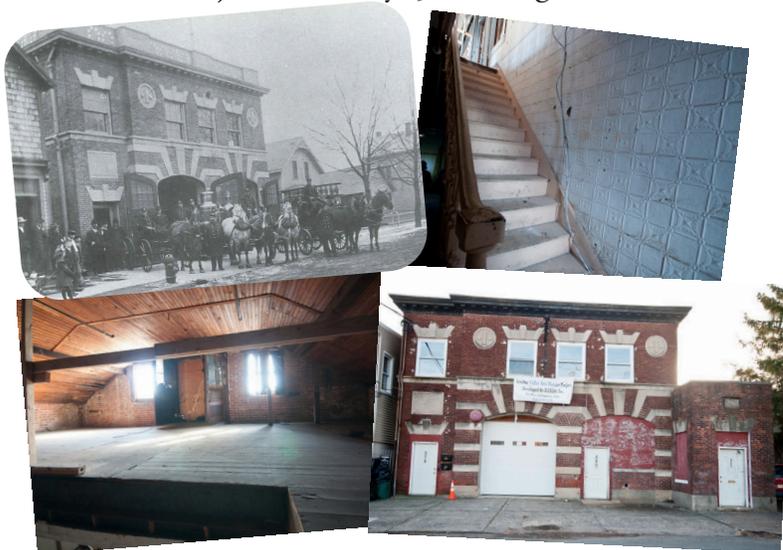


~Jane

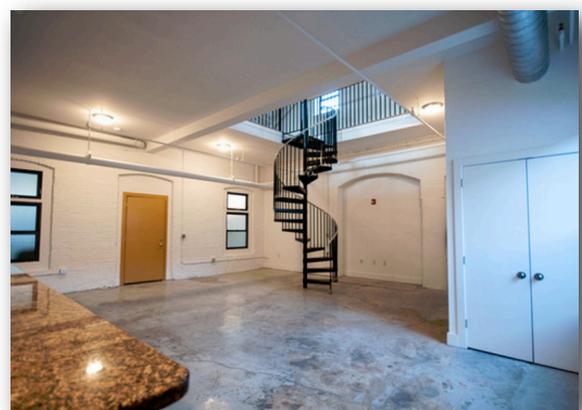
"2014 Preservation Awards" - continued from page 1

The second recipient of the VSANNJ preservation award is presented to ValleyArts, Inc. for its services to artists and creative organizations, engagement with the neighborhood and the founding of the Firehouse Gallery in the Hatting Historic area of Orange, NJ. The Valley Arts District is now home to [Luna Stage](#), [Arts Unbound](#), [ORNG Ink](#), [Firehouse Gallery](#), [Hat City Kitchen](#), [Garden State Urban Farms](#) and many individual artists and creative entrepreneurs.

Please join us on May 15th as we give much deserved recognition to those who are making a difference!



1905 Firehouse on Forest Street-before renovations



The impressive restoration preserved much of the fire station's interior details and now consists of six stylish artist live/work lofts, a cooperative art space and the Firehouse Gallery.

Spring into Summer Events



"To see the Summer Sky, is Poetry, though never in a Book it lie, True Poems flee---"

- Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)

"1930 Magic Lantern Slide Show of Historic Bloomfield"-Tuesday May 27th, 7:30pm In 1930, the Presbyterian Church on the Green presented a magic lantern show of historic sites in Bloomfield. These hand-colored slides have been rediscovered and digitally-enhanced and will be presented with the original 1930 commentary at the Bloomfield Civic Center, 84 Broad Street. See www.bloomfieldhistorical.org for more info.

"VSANNJ Garden Party"-Tuesday, June 3rd, 6pm at the Grover Cleveland Birthplace, 207 Bloomfield Avenue in Caldwell, NJ.

"The League of Historical Societies Meeting" Saturday, June 7th at 9am - Hosted by the Monmouth County Historical Society at the Taylor Butler House, 127 Kings Highway, Middletown. \$25 includes continental breakfast, lunch and lecture. Enjoy the entire day...Monmouth County historic sites will be opened as well as the Jersey Shore. Contact Jane McNeill at 732-832-1878 for registration info.

"VSANNJ Bus Trip" - Thursday, June 26th Visit and experience two magnificent New York estates: *Lyndhurst* and *Caramoor*. Tours of the mansions and gardens, lunch, and an elegant

afternoon tea is provided. \$95 members, \$105 non-members. Send your check payable to VSA/NNJ to: *Jane McNeill, VSANNJ PO Box 717 Montclair, NJ 07042.*

Macculloch Hall Historical Museum:

May 9th - National Public Gardens Day - free admission
Anniversary speaker series on Sundays at 4:30pm:
May 11th - "350 years of New Jersey History, from Stuyvesant to Sandy"

June 8th - "Greetings from the Past: A History of Morristown through Postcard Images"

Booking signings are all on Sundays, 1 - 4pm:

May 18th - "Newark Airport, Teterboro Airport, Morristown Municipal Airport"

June 15th - "Washington Township Images"

June 22nd - "Images of America: Mount Tabor"

June 29th - "New Jersey: A History of the Garden State"

Visit www.maccullochhall.org/events/ for more info and admission fees.

Presby Memorial Iris Gardens:

May 9th - Bloom Season, National Public Gardens Day

May 11th - Mother's Day at Presby-10am

May 17th - Family Garden Party-10am/Live Jazz-4pm

May 18th - TaikoZoku Japanese Drummers-4pm

Visit www.presbyirisgardens.org for more info.

Election of the VSANNJ chapter officers and board members for the 2014-2015 year will take place at the May 15th Preservation Meeting. The following slate is presented for your vote. Additional nominations may be taken from the floor. Officers are for 1 year terms; board members are for 2 year terms.

President:	<i>Jane McNeill</i>
Vice-President	<i>Richard Grossklaus</i> (also Preservation Chairman)
Secretary:	<i>Patricia Sanders</i>
Treasurer:	<i>Kevin Cooney</i>
Board Members:	<i>Adriana O'Toole</i> - Programs
	<i>Eileen Sutera</i> - Archives
	<i>Christina Mayer</i> - Hospitality & Publicity
	<i>Alice Gibson</i> - Trips
	<i>Catherine Sullivan</i> - Membership
	<i>Judyann Affronti</i> - Hospitality
	<i>Rose Shaw</i> - Newsletter
	<i>Andrea Dente</i> - Member-at-Large
	<i>Maria Carparelli</i> - Member-at-Large



In The Limelight: Lives from 19th Century Essex County

Lucy Karr Milburn (1895~1998)



Lucy Karr Milburn was a lifelong activist, Quaker, poet, wife and mother, and a Centenarian. Lucy lived virtually her entire life in the DeGraw Avenue home her parents purchased from the original builder, but her life extended far beyond that house, and she brought the world to her doorstep.

Born in 1895 in the historic Forest Hill district of Newark, NJ, Lucy graduated from Barringer High School in 1913 and from Barnard College in 1917. At Barnard College, she studied biology and botany and was awarded the Herrman Botanical Prize in her junior year. In 1918 she married a childhood friend and neighbor, Richard P. Milburn, and they had two children, Anne and Richard.

Lucy obviously inherited her sense of justice from her mother, Minnie Schneider Karr. Before World War I, they both marched on Washington, DC, with other women's rights groups in support of women's suffrage, and in 1926 Lucy was the New Jersey delegate of the National Woman's Party to the *Mass Meeting for Equal Rights in Industry* at the *US Department of Labor's Industrial Conference*. In the 1920's the Karr-Milburn home in Newark was the *New Jersey Headquarters of the National Woman's Party*.

Lucy's other activities in the civic rights arena included serving as President of the *Newark Interracial Council*. She was one of the founders of the *Urban League Guild* and served as its Secretary. Her accomplishments with those organizations included achieving permission for African-American doctors to practice in Newark city hospitals, and bringing about racial integration of the YMCA swimming pool.

A charter member of the *Montclair Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends*, founded in 1926, Lucy wrote the definitive history of that congregation in 1960. Her work there focused on international exchange students and American Indian affairs.

Lucy Karr Milburn published three collections of her poetry, the last when she was 83 years old. Her poems celebrate the joys of an ordinary life, showing clearly that she was someone who took the time to notice the world outside her window. In one poem she wrote of her love for her Newark home, where she lived into her 90's, and predicted that it would next pass into the hands of a family from Spanish-speaking lands. After her death, her home was sold to the family of Samuel Rivera, who campaigned relentlessly and eventually succeeded in

having the *Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee* erect a plaque in 2008 designating the Karr-Milburn House as a historic site.

Lucy lived the last decade of her remarkable life at a Quaker retirement home in North Plainfield, NJ. She died in 1998 at the age of 103 and is buried at Evergreen Cemetery in Hillside, NJ.

~Catharine Longendyck



THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY IN AMERICA

www.VictorianSociety.org

Northern NJ Chapter

PO Box 717

Montclair, NJ 07042

The VSANNJ is part of the only national non-profit organization committed to historic preservation, protection, understanding, education, and enjoyment of our nineteenth century heritage.

Contact Information:

President: Jane McNeill
732-832-1878

Programs: Adriana O'Toole
973-744-8267
973-650-6039

Membership: Catherine Sullivan
973-762-6453

cicisull@msn.com

Newsletter: Rose Shaw
973-509-5352

19valleyrose@gmail.com



82 Union Street is
handicap-accessible

