

# Views From The Veranda



## “2016 Preservation Award Meeting”

Monday, May 16th at 6:30pm  
585 Clifton Avenue~Newark, NJ



The Victorian Society of America, Northern New Jersey Chapter, is pleased to announce that it has selected an extraordinary carriage house in the Forest Hill section of Newark for its **Preservation, Restoration, and Adaptive Reuse Award for 2016**. The Carriage House, located at 585 Clifton Avenue, Newark, New Jersey, is owned by Michael Becerra. He purchased the property in 2013 and has worked diligently on the interior to make it what it is today. The outside gardens and lawns also receive great care and have been redesigned by its new owner.

The Carriage House was originally subdivided from the main house, a twenty-five room Georgian Revival Mansion built at the turn of the twentieth century. Mr. Becerra is proud of the work he has done at the property and is pleased to share it as a social center for parties in Forest Hill.

The Forest Hill neighborhood located in the North Ward of Newark, is well preserved; part of the neighborhood is an official U.S. Historic District. From the 1870s to the 1920s, generations of wealthy Newarkers built hundreds of stately homes in the area in various styles, including Beaux-Arts, Victorian, Colonial Revival, Gothic Revival, and Spanish Revival. Along with their mansions, the wealthy of Forest Hill also developed scores of social and literary clubs. Other than the homes, landmarks include the old Tiffany factory.

The 2016 Preservation Award ceremony will be presented on the grounds of the Carriage House on **Monday, May 16th at 6:30pm**. Light refreshments will be served. As a courtesy to our members, our chapter is providing a bus service for those who would prefer to be driven. The cost



of the bus will be \$10 per person and will be leaving from the Montclair Women's Club at 5:00pm. Those who ride the bus will be given a special tour of the Forest Hill historic district by Liz Del Tufo, President of the Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee. For bus reservations, please contact Christina Mayer at 973-744-5916 or email her at [christina.mayer@fmglobal.com](mailto:christina.mayer@fmglobal.com).

Please join us on May 16th as we give much-deserved recognition to this wonderfully restored carriage house!



## Greetings From the President

*Dear Members:*

*Our very informative April meeting featured Amy Wax, architectural color consultant. We learned that historical house colors varied through the decades of the Victorian period. Dark "drab" colors were popular including black trim around windows. With the invention of the "paint can" in Victorian times, painters no longer had to mix the colors with linseed oil on site. We also saw how house and roof color combinations could create radically different appearances in the same structure. Ms. Wax demonstrated with pictures of her own work, many of which were located in Montclair.*

*This is our last issue for our 2015-2016 program year of our award winning newsletter until September.. YES! - Award winning!*

*On June 11, 2016, the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey will award The Victorian Society in America-Northern New Jersey Chapter, Second Place in the Kevin M.Hale Publication Awards for newsletters. The League of Historical Societies represents over 220 organizations throughout the State. The awards ceremony will take place during their Spring meeting to be held in Tewksbury township, Hunterdon County. All our members are welcome to attend. For more information visit the League's website at [www.lhsnj.org](http://www.lhsnj.org). Congratulations to Rose Shaw who richly deserves this award. Rose has consistently produced a top quality newsletter.*

*In May, the VSANNJ preservation award will be given to Michael Becerra for his restoration of a carriage house located in the Forest Hill section of Newark. The event will take place at his gracious home in Forest Hill.*

*Our annual June Garden Party will be held at an enchanted shaded secret location in Montclair. Looking forward to seeing you at all these upcoming events.*



### ***The League of Historical Societies Spring Meeting-Saturday, June 11th, 9am to 4pm***

*will be hosted by the Tewksbury Historical Society and held at the Zion Lutheran Christian Education Building, 18 Miller Avenue in Oldwick, NJ. \$25/person covers registration, continental breakfast, lunch, programs, and guided tours in the afternoon. You can visit the grave of John Honeyman, General Washington's spy during the Revolutionary War, or visit NJ's oldest still active Lutheran Church, as well as see the eclectic architecture of Oldwick's buildings. Send your name, address, email, phone, affiliation(VSANNJ), and \$25 check (payable to the Tewksbury Historical Society) to: THS League Meeting, PO Box 457, Oldwick, NJ 08858, before June 1st.*



### **VSANNJ Chapter Officers and Board Members for 2016-2017**

*Jane McNeill - President*  
*Richard Grossklaus - Vice-President/Preservation*  
*Pat Sanders - Secretary*  
*Kevin Cooney - Treasurer*  
*Christina Mayer - Hospitality/Publicity*  
*Adriana O'Toole - Programs*  
*Judyann Affronti - Hospitality*  
*Catherine Sullivan - Membership*  
*Alice Gibson - Trips*  
*Rose Shaw - Newsletter*  
*Sarah Dunn - Member-at-Large*  
*Maria Carparelli - Member-at-Large*



## In the Limelight: Theodate Pope Riddle & The Hill-Stead Museum

Theodate Pope Riddle (1867-1946) was one of the first American women architects as well as a survivor of the sinking of the RMS *Lusitania*. The only child of industrialist and art collector Alfred Atmore Pope and his wife Ada, Theodate yearned to live on a farm in an era when women of her class were expected to focus on family and social prominence. From an early age, she envisioned a future of living in the country, caring for orphaned children, and building a school. In addition to a career as an architect, Theodate was able to fulfill that dream as well as help in many social causes.

Hill-Stead was Theodate's first complete architectural project, designed as a country home for her parents. Although her parents were well-established in the fashionable societies of Cleveland and New York, she eventually convinced her parents to become landed



gentry in rural Farmington,

Connecticut. Her father purchased the tracts of land on a hill and ultimately amassed 250 acres. Built in 1901, Hill-Stead became a grand country home with adequate space for her parents frequent entertaining and art collection. Novelist and occasional guest, Henry James, described it as "a great new house on the hilltop."

When Theodate died in 1946, her will stipulated that Hill-Stead become a museum as a memorial to her parents and "for the benefit and enjoyment of the public." She called for the house and

its contents to remain intact, not to be moved, lent or sold. This large 33,000 square foot Colonial Revival Mansion and remaining 152 acres is now a National Historic Landmark which offers tours and an array of programs in art, architecture, gardens, and natural science. Impressionist paintings by Mary Cassatt, Edgar Degas, Édouard Manet, Claude Monet and James McNeill Whistler, as well as other outstanding artwork are on display.

Visit Hill-Stead Museum and discover the Pope family's tradition of bringing literary, musical, and educational opportunities to the community. The museum holds concerts, lectures, workshops, family festivals, and the nationally acclaimed Sunken Garden Poetry Festival. All information can be found at their extensive website [www.hillstead.org](http://www.hillstead.org).





Lynn Vergano with her prize-winning  
*The Wild Horses at Corolla, Outer Banks*

Congratulations to our VSANNJ member **Lynn Vergano**, the recipient of the **“Margaret Martin Award for Watercolor”** at the *National Arts Club 117th Annual Exhibiting Artist Members Exhibition*. Her watercolor, *The Wild Horses of Corolla, Outer Banks*, was on display in Gramercy Park, NYC, February 29 – March 26, 2016.

The National Arts Club’s mission is to stimulate, foster, and promote public interest in the arts and to educate the American people in the fine arts. It was founded in 1898 by author and poet Charles DeKay, the literary and art critic for the New York Times.

The Club’s membership has included three U.S. Presidents: Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson and Dwight D. Eisenhower. Among the distinguished painters who have been members are Robert Henri, Frederic Remington, William Merritt Chase and Cecilia Beaux.

Today the National Arts Club hosts both members-only and public events, including exhibitions, theatrical and musical performances, lectures and readings.



**The National Historic Preservation Act** of 1966 is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. This important legislation recognizes our cultural heritage in all its richness and variety. Preserving places like the traditional adobe and stone communities of the Pueblo Indians and related ruins of ancient cultures lets us learn from, and experience, one of the many threads in our American tapestry. Consultation with Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations regarding historic properties of significance to them – particularly sacred sites – has been required since amendments to the law in 1992.

For more information please visit [www.preservation50.org](http://www.preservation50.org).



**THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY IN AMERICA**

[www.VictorianSociety.org](http://www.VictorianSociety.org)  
Northern NJ Chapter  
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*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.*

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82 Union Street is  
handicap accessible

