

# Views From The Veranda

## "Seeds of Tomorrow: Montclair in the 1890s"



Monday, January 15, 2018 at 8pm  
82 Union Street~Montclair, NJ



The Victorian Society in America, Northern New Jersey Chapter is pleased to present Jane Eliasof, Executive Director of the Montclair History Center, who will speak about how the 1890s in Montclair sowed the seeds for the Montclair we know today. As the population continued to grow, so did the many services, institutions, and clubs that are still with us now.



The *Montclair History Center*, formerly the Montclair Historical Society, is an independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to preserving local history, educating the community about it and its importance, and sharing the stories of the people who have shaped Montclair. In her seven years as Executive Director, Jane has expanded the "stories" the Montclair History Center tells to reflect the rich diversity of the community and to be relevant to the community. Prior to her work at the Montclair History Center, Jane spent more than 25 years designing and writing marketing, educational, and training programs for the healthcare industry. In 2010, she opted to use her expertise to further a cause she has always been passionate about — history and historic preservation.

Please join us on January 15th at 8pm for a fascinating look at how the decisions of yesterday are reflected in the values of the 21st century Montclair.

*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. Meetings are free for members - Non-members \$5 - Yearly membership only \$30! Why not consider joining today or giving a gift membership to a friend? Call Catherine Sullivan at 973-762-6453, or send her your contact info at 9 Vose Avenue Apt 220, South Orange, NJ 07079. If your last name begins with the letters **E, F, G & H**, please bring refreshments to the next meeting. Any questions please contact Christina at 973-744-5916 or at [christinapmayer@gmail.com](mailto:christinapmayer@gmail.com).*





## Greetings from the President

*Dear Members:*

Our holiday party was fantastic. Rachel and Juan gave a marvelous performance of the Argentine tango. Patricia played the piano and entertained us with Christmas songs from around the world and we all sang along. There was plenty of delicious food that was prepared and donated by the Board. I wish to thank all the members of the Board for the effort they put in to make this an outstanding organization.

January's speaker is Jane Eliasof who will lecture on the Montclair of the 1890s and how it gave us the town we know today.

Hope you all brave the frigid weather and join us. See you then. Happy New Year!

*Jane* 



Patricia Brady-Danzig



Judyann Affronti



Rachel Carina and Juan  
Manuel Alessandrini



Montclair Women's Club  
December 11, 2017



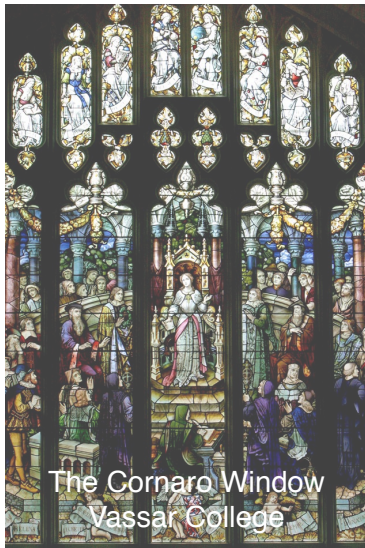
photos by Janet Markman



## Experiencing Historic Hudson Valley

On Thursday, November 2, 2017, our Chapter was once again off for our Fall trip, arranged, as usual, by Alice Gibson and Jane McNeill. Our destination was the Hudson River Valley and our first stop was Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York.

Vassar College, a private, co-educational Liberal Arts college founded in 1861, was the first degree-granting institution of higher education for women in the United States and was one of the “Seven Sisters.” The beautiful 1,000 acre campus and arboretum has more than 100 buildings, including several in the Collegiate Gothic style.



The Cornaro Window  
Vassar College

We toured the new *Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center*, which opened in 1993 and contains thirteen galleries and an outdoor sculpture garden. It has over 18,000 works of art that spans from antiquity to the present day. It includes an entire room of Hudson River School paintings and a large collection of European and American paintings, including Georgia O’Keefe, Pablo Picasso, Joan Miró, Mark Rothko and Andy Warhol.

Since it was a beautiful day, several of us walked across the campus to visit the Chapel and Library. The Vassar Chapel, built in the Norman Revival style, seats 1,400 and is the venue for many traditional campus events such as convocation. The Campus Library is a Gothic style building, constructed in 1905 from Germantown stone. The tower of the central hall showcases five 17th-century Flemish Gobelin tapestries portraying the romance of Cupid and Psyche. In the reading room was the Cornaro stained glass window that almost took my breath away.

As our bus headed north, we enjoyed an ample box lunch including turkey salad, coleslaw, ambrosia and a chocolate chip cookie. Our second stop was *Clermont Manor*, a State Historic Site. It is the earliest surviving Hudson River estate, and between 1728 and 2000 was home to seven generations of the prominent Livingston family.

The most well-known member of the Livingston family was Chancellor Robert R. Livingston, who helped author the Declaration of Independence, administered the first Oath of Office to George Washington in 1789 and became Secretary of Foreign Affairs. He also partnered with Robert Fulton to create the first commercially successful steamboat on the Hudson River, named *The Clermont*. The steamboat visited Clermont Manor on its inaugural trip. The mansion, built around 1740, was burned in 1777 by the British for Livingston’s role in “the rebellion.” Between 1779-1782, it was rebuilt in its current Georgian style. The estate originally encompassed 13,000 acres and now includes only about 500 acres.

After viewing a film on the history of Clermont and visiting the fully furnished mansion, preserved to its circa 1930 appearance, it was time to head home. Thank you Alice and Jane for an interesting and informative day, topped off by the beautiful Fall weather in the Hudson River Valley.



Clermont State Historic Site

by Pat Sanders



## ***Time to Register for Winter/Spring Historic Preservation Classes!***

Have you always wanted to know more about the buildings in your community, or about how historic preservation can strengthen communities, enhance the quality of life, and promote heritage tourism and economic development? Are you looking for the perfect gift for your favorite history geek? This winter/spring, the *Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities (MARCH)* in conjunction with *Rutgers University-Camden* and the *New Jersey Historic Trust*, is offering three continuing education courses and three one-day workshops as part of its certificate program in historic preservation. Take a single class or workshop or work toward a certificate! Anyone with an interest in historic preservation is welcome. Gift certificates are also available (contact [preservation@camden.rutgers.edu](mailto:preservation@camden.rutgers.edu)).

For detailed course descriptions and registration, go to:  
<http://preservation.rutgers.edu/programs/spring-2018-offerings/>

***Materials and Techniques of Historical Restoration and Rehabilitation*** - 10 weeks: Tuesdays, Jan 30-Apr 10, 6:30-8:30pm (no class 3/13) Rutgers Campus Center, Camden \$250

***Preservation Planning*** - 10 weeks: Wednesdays, Jan 31-Apr 18, 6:30-8:30pm, (no class 2/14 and 3/14) Rutgers Campus Center, Camden \$250

***Documenting Historic Buildings*** - 5 weeks: Saturdays, Jan 20-Feb 17, 10am-12pm, various locations \$125

***Preservation in Practice: A Primer for Historic Preservation Commissions and Planners*** - 1 day workshop: Saturday, Mar 10, 9am-4pm, Rutgers EcoComplex, Bordentown, NJ \$75

***Brick, Stone, and Mortar: Their History, Uses, and Repair***  
1-day workshop: Saturday April 7, 9am-1pm, Philadelphia, PA \$40

***Landscapes of Conflict: Battlefield Preservation***  
1-day workshop: Saturday, May 5, 9am-3pm, Princeton, NJ \$75



**THE VICTORIAN  
SOCIETY IN AMERICA**  
*Northern New Jersey  
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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.*  
[www.victoriansociety.org](http://www.victoriansociety.org)

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