

Views from the Veranda

The Northern New Jersey Chapter of the Victorian Society in America



Annual Awards Presentation



Monday, May 17th, 2010, 6:00pm

Kip's Castle

22 Crestmont Road Verona, NJ

Our **Twenty-first Annual Preservation Awards** will be held at 6:00 pm on Monday, May 17th at Kip's Castle, 22 Crestmont Road, Verona. The recipients of this year's award include Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., on behalf of Essex County, for the purchase and preservation of Kip's Castle; Paterson Mayor, Jose "Joey" Torres and Careen Lazarus, President of the Eastside Neighborhood Association for the rehabilitation and reuse of the Historic Horse Barn located in Eastside Park, Paterson; and Paterson residents Michael Lemme and John Peretti for the exterior restoration of their home, located at 253 Derrom Avenue, Paterson (located in the Eastside Park Historical District).

Kip's Castle, originally known as "Kypsburg," was constructed over a three-year period from 1902 through 1905 by Frederick Ellsworth Kip and his wife Charlotte Bishop Williams Kip. Frederick was a wealthy textile inventor and industrialist who also published several books related to United States tariff laws. Charlotte is credited with the design of the "Kypsburg" building and grounds, cultivating a renowned octagonal rose garden in the southwest corner of the property. Shortly after Charlotte's passing in 1926, the estate was sold and went through several owners. Thanks to generous grants from the NJ Green Acres Program and the Essex County Recreation and Open Space Trust Fund, the County of Essex, under the direction of its Executive, Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., purchased the Castle in March 2007. The property, saved from development, is now part of the historic Essex County Park System. Kip's Castle is a magnificent 9,000 square foot, 30-room mansion that replicates a medieval Norman castle. The estate spans eleven acres on the ridge of First Mountain, resting in both Montclair and Verona, and provides spectacular views of New York City.

On October 17, 2009 the century old **Historic Horse Barn** located in Eastside Park, Paterson was rededicated. The building fell into disrepair after it was abandoned in mid-century. Much hard work went into completing this important preservation project. Initial funding was begun by the East Side Neighborhood Association, who then approached the NJ Historic Trust and continued the fund raising process through to its completion. Other groups involved in the search for funds included the Passaic County Mounted Police Squad and the Historic Preservation Commission of Paterson, who became the driving force behind the entire project. The City of Paterson and its Mayor, Jose "Joey" Torres, contributed to and provided much

needed support for the project. It is hoped that the Barn will again house the P.C. Mounted Police Squad.

The Eastside Park Historic District, Paterson, is known for its beautiful homes situated on large parcels of land. The district, placed on the National Register of Historic Places on July 7, 2004, includes 710 homes, with only 30 homes rating in the highest "key" category. **253 Derrom Avenue** is included as "key" in the District. Built in 1904 by wealthy silk and dye merchant, William A. Arnold, it is constructed as a shingle style Victorian. The home was purchased by its current owners, Mike Lemme and John Peretti in the 1990's, who have been working on its restoration ever since. During the summer and fall of 2009, the exterior of the home received a major face-lift. Missing shingles, roof tiles and exterior moldings were replaced. Rotted wood and sagging porches were restored. Today the house stands as a wonderful example of the restoration of a private residence. The Eastside Park Neighborhood Association conducts an annual house tour. This year will be no exception. Stay-tuned for the date.

This month's program will be held at the grounds of Kip's Castle. There will be tours of the castle in addition to refreshments provided by Essex County. Shuttle buses will be available at the site to facilitate access to the castle.

Directions to Kip's Castle:

From the Garden State Parkway: Take the Garden State Parkway to Exit 145 for Route 280 West. Proceed using directions "From Route 280."

From the NJ Turnpike: Take the NJ Turnpike to Exit 15W for Route 280 West. Proceed using directions "From Route 280."

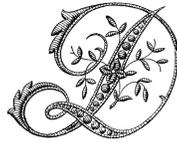
From Route 280: Take Route 280 to Exit 8B. Follow Prospect Avenue/CR-577 NORTH towards Cedar Grove. This road turns into Pompton Avenue/Route 23. Turn RIGHT onto Westover Road. Turn LEFT onto Crestmont Road.

Greetings from the Membership Chair:

Once again a long-time member, Elaine Flint, will be leaving us. Elaine has been a loyal member of our chapter for more than 20 years and has served on the Board for a number of those years. In addition, she has held almost every office, most recently as Preservation Chair. Elaine is moving permanently to Delaware, where she and her husband, John Engstrom, have purchased a house. We shall miss her calm wisdom, but wish her every happiness in her new life.

Catherine

- **Please note the change in venue and time for this month's meeting!!!**
- **May 20th, Spring Chapter trip** will be to Sagamore Hill, the home of Theodore Roosevelt, and the William Vanderbilt Mansion on Long Island. For more information, please call Alice at 973-228-1293.
- **MONTROSE IN MAY**, the successful house tour sponsored by the Montrose Park Historic District Association, will be held on **Saturday, May 15** in South Orange. Tickets may be purchased in advance at South Orange Public Library or on the day of the tour at the Mountain Train Station in South Orange. The tour runs from 11 AM to 4 PM and will feature many unusual Victorian homes in the District. Visit www.MontroseParkSONJ.org for more information.



From The President

We welcome May with great cheer!

This month marks the 191st birthday of Queen Victoria born at Kensington Palace in London on May 24th 1819. Her father died when she was a baby, and she had a sheltered and somewhat sad childhood courtesy of her mother. In 1837, at 18 years of age she became queen. Three years later she fell in love with and married her cousin, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. They had 9 children in 18 years.

Queen Victoria survived 7 assassination attempts, including one where the would-be assassin whacked her on the bonnet with a cane! Albert died in 1861 of typhoid fever, sending heart-broken Queen Victoria into mourning for many years. She returned to public life for her Golden Jubilee in 1887, celebrating 50 years as queen. Her reign lasted 63 1/2 years-- the longest of any female monarch in history. These are but a few highlights drawn from a long and fascinating life.

As May is also preservation month here are a few local historic sites that need help:

- The Brooklyn Navy Yard Admiral Row has a collection of crumbling 19th century houses and a 'long shed', a rare and historic structure that once housed wooden masts. The current status is endangered.
- Ellis Island first began processing immigrants on January 1st 1892, and is now threatened by deterioration and neglect. The Save Ellis Island Foundation is sending out an urgent appeal for donations to rescue the Ellis Island National Monument. Check out their website for more information: www.saveellisland.org
- New York City's Lower East Side is currently on the endangered list and is threatened by development and poor public policy. This area was home to waves of immigrants during the 18th and 19th centuries.
- The Thomas Edison Laboratory has recently re-opened after a five-year restoration. Built in 1887 and located in West Orange, N.J., it was a marvel of its time. While much has been accomplished in terms of preservation, thanks to several million dollars in aid, more work is needed. Contact Friends of Edison for more information at 973-736-2916.

I look forward to seeing you at our May meeting at Kip's Castle....

***Happy birthday to Queen Victoria-- May 24th 1819
Long live the Queen!!!***

Dolly



Historic Walking Tour and Victorian Celebration

On **Saturday, May 15**, there will be an historic walking tour (**10:30am**) and Victorian Day Celebration (**noon to 3:30pm**) at Essex County Anderson Park. This park has recently been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Learn about the founding of Anderson Park a century ago and how it shaped Upper Montclair and led to the formation of other parks in town. Also hear about plans to rejuvenate the park's Olmsted landscape. For the tour please meet at the boulder at the park's northeast entrance, near Bellevue Avenue, east of North Mountain Avenue, Upper Montclair at 10:30 a.m. The Victorian Day celebration, beginning at noon, will include an historic Wheelman display with antique bicycles and tricycles, Victorian lawn games, live music, demonstration cricket game, lemonade and cookies, tree planting and dedication. Light rain does not cancel, but heavy rain reschedules to May 16, same time. All events are free and open to the public. While you are there, look for the NNJVSA table! Sponsored by the Friends of Anderson Park and Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. For more information: (973) 744-8433 or email lisanne@friendsofandersonpark.com.

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