

ENGLEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY - NEWSLETTER - APRIL, 2011

Award Dinner Well Attended

On April 13, 2011, the Annual Award Dinner of the Englewood Historical Society took place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The honoree was Peter French, owner of the De Mott House, 488 Grand Avenue, who operates his business, the French Color and Fragrance Company, on the premises. The De Mott House is believed to be the oldest building in Englewood, with a portion dating from the mid 18th century. The award, a bronze plaque, was presented to French by long-time EHS Board member Phyllis Breen.

In addition, Douglas De Mott, a dentist practicing in Tenafly, spoke about the history of his family which formerly owned the house. He traces his ancestry to Matthais De Mott, a French Huguenot who settled in "The English Neighborhood" in the seventeenth century.

As is its custom, the Society also presented a plaque to replace a certificate given to an earlier award recipient. The 1989 Award had been presented to Charles Osgood Wood Jr, then owner of the J Wyman Jones House at 59 Walnut Court. The current owners, Ray and Kelly Spitzley, were presented with a bronze plaque by Dr Will Lee. Lee pointed out that Jones is considered by many to be the "father" of Englewood, having been instrumental in building the railroad and acquiring the land which enabled our founding in 1859. The house, named by him "Erdenheim," was originally set in a 40-acre estate.

Englewood Mayor Frank Huttle III presented congratulatory proclamations to both plaque recipients. EHS President Norman Davis finished the program with a brief history of the office of Mayor in Englewood, with comments about some of the more notable occupants of that position, including former mayors Ned Feldman and Sondra Greenberg, who were in attendance.

On September 15, 2010, the EHS sponsored a program by Bergen Family Center President Mitch Schonfeld entitled "Over a Century of Caring, From the Civic League to the Bergen Family Center." What is now Bergen Family Center was founded in

Lee to Speak on Englewood Architecture

The next public program to be sponsored by the EHS is an illustrated lecture by Dr Will Lee, Chair of Englewood's Historical Preservation Advisory Committee, entitled "Architectural Styles in Englewood from the Revolutionary War Until Now." It will take place on Wednesday, May 11, 2011, at 7:30 PM, in the Mackay Room of the Englewood Public Library. Lee will show examples of the many styles of architecture which are visible as one drives or walks along our streets, from the early Dutch stone farmhouses to the nineteenth century Victorian Gothic, Second Empire, Queen Anne and Shingle style houses, to the various early twentieth century, post World War II, and more modern styles.

Hospital History Presented

On May 5, 2010, the EHS sponsored a program entitled "Englewood Hospital and Medical Center: a Treasure in Our Community" presented by eminent local attorney Michael L Prigoff Esq. Prigoff is the senior partner of Lebson, Prigoff & Baker LLP, which had represented the Hospital for more than 55 years.

Englewood Hospital accepted its first patient in 1890. The original wooden building had 12 beds and cost \$5,000 to build. 120 years later, according to Prigoff, "Englewood Hospital and Medical Center is arguably the most important institution in the Greater Englewood area, impacting the lives and well-being of all residents." With slides, Prigoff illustrated the several phases of growth over the years, including the recently opened new emergency room facility.

Bergen Family Center History

1898 by the Englewood Woman's Club, and has been an integral part of our history since then. Memorial House, later Community House, located at the corner of Englewood Avenue and Armory Street, has been for decades an Englewood

landmark. Under the leadership of Mitch Schonfeld since 1992, with a prestigious Board of Directors, Bergen Family Center has grown into one of the most valued and prominent social service agencies in Bergen County, providing needed services to seniors, children and families.

Dutch Houses and Their Construction

On November 3, the EHS presented an illustrated lecture by noted historian Tim Adriance, who is a leading authority on early architecture and history in Bergen County and adjacent areas. He is known as the foremost expert on Bergen County's unique Dutch Stone Houses. He owns and operates Bergen County's only historic restoration and consulting firm.

Adriance demonstrated the building methods and special features of these early houses, and included as illustrations several of the old farmhouses which have been preserved in Englewood along Grand Avenue and Liberty Road. The De Mott House at 488 Grand Avenue, which received the 2011 EHS Preservation Award, was one of those pictured.

Dwight Whitney Morrow

On January 5, 2011, EHS President Norman Davis presented a Power Point program entitled "Dwight Whitney Morrow - Englewood Icon." Arguably the most prominent person ever to make his home in Englewood, in Dwight Morrow's remarkable career he served as partner in a prestigious law firm, partner in the legendary J P Morgan banking firm, ambassador to Mexico, United States Senator, and in numerous public service and philanthropic roles. He remained close to his Amherst College classmate and friend, Calvin Coolidge, who was elected Vice President of the United States in 1920 and succeeded to the Presidency on the death of President Harding. In 1929, his daughter, Anne, married the famous aviator Charles Lindbergh in the new Morrow mansion on Next Day Hill after one of the most publicized courtships of the era. Englewood's new high school, being planned at the time of Morrow's sudden death in 1931, was named after him.

Englewood in 1980 - A Retrospective

On March 2, 2011, the EHS presented a slide show, entitled "Welcome to Englewood" of 1980 photographs taken by distinguished local photographer Rhoda Sidney. The show was intended at the time as a promotional piece for the City. Following the slide show, Englewood's Mayor in 1980, Sandy Greenberg, and EHS President Norman Davis, led a discussion of some of the important community concerns in 1980, including Englewood's potential role as a County cultural center, development options for the former Englewood Golf Course, and the newly created municipal position of City Manager.

Membership

Membership in the Englewood Historical Society is open to all who share our goal of increasing awareness of Englewood's history. For more information, email EHS President Norman Davis at normandavis437@gmail.com or telephone him at 201-567-8857.

Englewood Historical Society

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