

# **ENGLEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY - NEWSLETTER - APRIL, 2012**

## **Award Dinner to Honor Homans / Graham House**

On April 18, 2012, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, the Englewood Historical Society will present its 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Award in the form of a bronze plaque to the Dwight-Englewood School for its preservation of the Homans/Graham House at 81 Lincoln Street, now housing the School's administrative offices. Accepting the plaque will be Board President Dr. John Hajjar and School Head Dr. Rodney de Jarnett. Joan Van Alstyne Johnson will share with the gathering her reminiscences of visiting her maternal (Graham) grandparents in the building, which dates from the 1860's and is one of Englewood's earliest and most distinguished historic sites. It was built for Isaac Smith Homans, who along with his two sons, Isaac Smith Jr. and Sheppard, was a major landowner and prominent citizen of early Englewood. It was acquired by George D. Graham in 1912.

The Society will also present a plaque to 2003 awardees Stephen and Gordon Javna for their sensitive adaptation of several historic buildings in Englewood in past years. It is planned to install the plaque at an appropriate spot on the redeveloped office property at 163-181 Engle Street. The Javnas, father and son, currently reside in Oregon. Mayor Frank Huttler III will give a proclamation to the awardees.

Tickets to the dinner are \$55. For further information contact Society President Norman Davis at 201-567-8857 or [normandavis437@gmail.com](mailto:normandavis437@gmail.com).

## **Samuel Lee Documents Black History**

On January 4, 2012, Digital Media Consultant Samuel Lee presented a program entitled "Encounters in Black Traditions." A native of New York City, Lee has extensive experience in recording African-American life. He became interested in Englewood's Fourth Ward and has been recording stories here since 2005. After discussing his own

life and career, he showed a recorded interview with 91-year-old Mrs Edna Dobbins Floyd, remembering injustices she suffered growing up here in the 1930's. He also showed scenes from Englewood's Juneteenth celebration, held here for the first time in 2011. This celebration, dating from 1865, commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. EHS Board member Thomas Monroe assisted in the presentation.

## **Englewood's Bloodless Revolution**

At the Englewood Historical Society's Annual Meeting on March 7, 2012, EHS President Norman Davis presented a program entitled "Englewood's Bloodless Revolution." Davis outlined the major changes which took place following the influx of new people to Englewood after World War II. He described the growth of the interracial local Democratic Party, and its eventual success in the crucial elections of 1967 and 1971, ending decades of Republican control. He pointed out the importance of the 1967 "racial disturbance." The most important issue of the period was finding a solution to the City's substandard housing problem in the Fourth Ward. The program eventually agreed and implemented so divided the local Republican Party that it lost power permanently.

Davis also pointed out the significance of electing Bergen County's first African-American mayor in 1971 and of the inclusion of African-Americans in the City's power structure for the first time. He finished with a list of individuals who played a role in these events, most of whom he had known personally, and a few of whom are still resident in Englewood. Members of the audience contributed their own memories of the eventful period.

## **Genealogy Program**

On September 7, 2011, Barbara L de Mare Esq, EHS Board member, practicing attorney, and professional genealogist, gave a talk entitled "Finding Your Roots: Starting the Quest and Beyond." Barbara, who is genealogy consultant for the Daughters of the

American Revolution, spoke of the many sources available to persons who seek to learn more about their ancestry. These include birth, marriage and death certificates, census returns, obituaries and funeral home records, tombstones, courthouse records of deeds, wills and probate documents, naturalization records, and online ancestry sites. She gave advice to members of the audience who had specific questions.

## Quilting Program

On November 16, 2011, the EHS sponsored a program entitled "A Short History of Quilting" by Marianne Honey, Northvale artist and history teacher at Dominican College. As Ms Honey pointed out, "although many cultures have quilted beautifully throughout human history, patchwork quilting is today recognized around the world as a particularly American art." She shared with the audience many items in her extensive quilt collection and talked about the evolution of this art from colonial times. Audience members displayed favorite quilts from their own collections.

## Our Website

The public may not be generally be aware that the Englewood Historical Society has a website which has been provided to us by the Englewood Public Library. You can find us at [englewoodlibrary.org/archives](http://englewoodlibrary.org/archives). The website contains our newsletters starting in 2008; a list of prominent people who have lived in Englewood; a list of important dates in Englewood's history; a list of the mayors of Englewood starting in 1899; a list of EHS Annual Award recipients starting in 1986; and the text of a talk first given in 2006 by EHS president Norman Davis about Englewood's most famous resident, Dwight Whitney Morrow. The EHS welcomes suggestions for additional information which might be included on the site. In particular we would like to know of prominent people we may have omitted from our list.

## Opportunities to Help

The EHS is seeking persons who may be interested in working on projects now being considered. These

include 1) history prizes and/or scholarships, 2) Englewood History Month, 3) planning bimonthly information programs, 4) planning historical tours. Send an email to [irmarinac@aol.com](mailto:irmarinac@aol.com) if interested

## Annual Meeting Elects Board

Every two years, the officers and board of the Englewood Historical Society are elected by the membership. The Society's Nominating Committee recommended and the membership approved the following slate at the Annual Meeting on March 7, 2012:

### Officers:

President	Norman Davis
Vice President	Beverly Mitchell
Recording Secretary	Natalie Beaumont
Corresponding Secty	Frances Whelan Chartrand
Treasurer	Cynthia Golbe

### Board Members:

Natalie Beaumont  
Bobbie Bouton-Goldberg  
Philip Chartrand  
Frances Whelan Chartrand  
Norman Davis  
Barbara de Mare  
Cynthia Golbe  
Sondra Greenberg  
Vreni Hartwig  
Will Lee  
Sheldon Liebowitz  
Beverly Mitchell  
Thomas Monroe  
Olga Mosciaro  
Irmari Nacht  
Charlotte Bennett Schoen  
Frances Wilson  
Frances Christopher (hon)

Elected for the first time were Cynthia Golbe (Treasurer), Thomas Monroe, and former Councilwoman Charlotte Bennett Schoen. Framed certificates of appreciation for their many years of dedicated service were awarded to retiring Board members Phyllis Breen and Betty Grossman.