

ENGLEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER - MAY 2014

AWARD DINNER HONORS LIBERTY ROAD HOME

On April 30, 2014, the 29th Annual Award Dinner of the Englewood Historical Society (EHS) was held at the Englewood Field Club. The award was presented to the owners of 403 Liberty Road, Jo Anne and Gareth McCusker. The McCuskers, having been unable to obtain a babysitter, were accompanied by their infant son, Tristan (who behaved admirably throughout). Also present were the previous owners of the property, Peter and Lydia Gonzalez McCree. The house, located next to the Janis Dismus Middle School and pictured below, is a distinguished Mediterranean Style dwelling dating from about 1910.

The evening's program included a brief concert featuring Irish songs played and sung by accomplished Englewood harpist Ardis Cavin. She was followed by former Councilwoman Charlotte Bennett Schoen, who presented checks for \$250 for each of three prize-winning students to history teacher Judy Aronson. (See below). EHS Co-President Norman Davis then shared a brief history lesson with the audience, describing how, early in the American Revolution, in November, 1776, and long before the founding of Englewood, George Washington's troops narrowly escaped disaster as they passed through the area around today's Monument and then along Liberty Road to cross the Hackensack River at New Bridge Landing. Dr. Will Lee discussed the architecture of the McCuskers' house as well as several other historic Liberty Road buildings. Former Mayor Sondra

Greenberg, who has lived in the same house on Liberty Road for sixty years, talked about some of the notable people who have been her neighbors over the years.

EHS PRESENTS HISTORY PRIZES

EHS has been attempting to work more closely with the history teachers in the Englewood Public Schools. This year the theme of the National History Day competition was "Rights and Responsibilities." Across the Dwight Morrow High School/ Academies @Englewood campus, more than 150 students conducted research on a topic of their choice (sometimes with partners) and then turned that research into display boards, informative websites, and 10-minute videos. Projects were displayed at the school's History Fair in December, which was attended by EHS representatives. The top 25 projects were then entered into the Northern New Jersey History Competition at Seton Hall in March. EHS provided gift certificates to help the students to improve their projects.

Two entries, one created by two freshmen, and one by a junior, were selected by the judges to move on to the New Jersey statewide competition. Cohere Elliston and Paula Giraldo, Academies Freshmen, teamed up to produce a video that explores society's views of homosexuality in Colonial New England. They uncovered an astonishing level of tolerance, with laws showing that homosexuality and expressions of transgender were accommodated, and

that homosexuals were not denied rights as might be expected Julia Tache applied the theme of rights and responsibilities to a film about Selective Service. She interviewed relatives and teachers who offered their perspective, and used anecdotes to illustrate differing views of Americans in the Twentieth Century on their duty to serve their country.

AN EVENTFUL YEAR

In the year since our our 2013 Award Dinner, there were other historically noteworthy events.

On June 11, 2013, Mayor Frank Huttle III dedicated a plaque at the corner of Mountain View Road and West Hudson Avenue to football coach Vince Lombardi, who lived at that location.

Lombardi was a teacher and successful coach at St Cecilia High School from 1939 to 1947, his first coaching job, before he went on to be the most famous football coach ever with the Green Bay Packers.

On February 11, 2014, EHS sponsored a program at the Englewood Public Library entitled "Abe Lincoln in New Jersey." Robert Costello, well-known Lincoln impersonator, wowed the audience with his portrayal of our most beloved president, addressing his humble background, his sense of humor, and the real background of the Gettysburg Address. Very knowledgeable about his subject, Costello answered questions from the floor, including an explanation of the events leading to Lincoln's famous Emancipation Proclamation.

MASTER PLAN FINALLY PASSED

After more than a year of work, the Englewood Planning Board has at last approved the latest revision of the City of Englewood Master Plan. The Plan includes an expanded Historic Preservation Plan Element. It recommends the creation of an Historic Preservation Commission to review all development applications that affect designated historic resources. It also recommends a demolition ordinance that would require that demolition permits for historic properties be referred to the Commission, and would establish a waiting period during which other options could be explored. EHS is hopeful that the City Council will consider and act favorably on these recommendations in the near future.

PENNY COLMAN ADDRESSES ANNUAL MEETING

On March 12 2014, in honor of Women's History Month, distinguished local author Penny Colman gave an illustrated lecture in the Mackay Room of the Englewood Public Library, following the EHS Annual Meeting. Colman, an inspiring speaker and award-winning author of many books and magazine articles, specializes in non-fiction stories about notable women in history. This talk, "Remembering Women Who Made a Difference," was about the markers, monuments, and memorials to women she has photographed around the tri-state area, including Eleanor Roosevelt, Rosie the Riveter, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Susan B Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Colman says "I always have my camera with me ... you never know

when you'll find a little known memorial. In more than twenty years of road trips in search of women's history landmarks, I have photographed stunning statues, moving memorials, gorgeous gardens, important buildings, revelatory plaques, unexpected street signs, and fascinating displays to historic women."

At the Annual Meeting, the following persons were elected to two-year terms as Board Members of the Englewood Historical Society:

Natalie Beaumont
Charlotte Bennett Schoen
Bobbie Bouton-Goldberg
Arnold Brown
Frances Whelan Chartrand
Norman Davis
Cynthia Golbe
Sondra Greenberg
Vreni Hartwig
Will Lee
Beverly Mitchell
Thomas Monroe
Olga Mosciaro
Irmari Nacht

The following officers were elected for two-year terms:

Co-Presidents - Beverly Mitchell, Norman Davis
Vice President - Irmari Nacht
Treasurer - Cynthia Golbe
Recording Secretary - Natalie Beaumont
Corresponding Secretary - Frances Whelan Chartrand

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

The Englewood Historic Society is dedicated to preserving the history of this special community, and to spreading information about our unique heritage. Persons wishing to join in our mission should contact any of the above Board members. Our website, courtesy of the Englewood Public Library, can be accessed at englewoodlibrary.org/archives. Our address is PO Box 8136, Englewood NJ 07631.