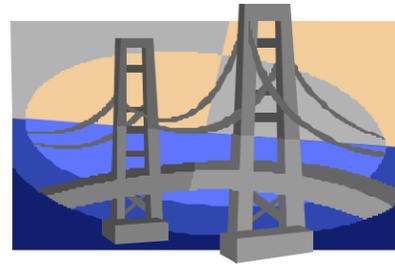


New Gift Shop Items



Bridging New York - VHS Tape!
PBS Great Projects series,
The Building of America

Six Bridges: The Legacy of Othmar Ammann
By Darl Rastorfer
A Great Book of Pictures and History!

Now on DVD!

- "Scenes of Boonton Past" \$10 -

Includes:

Miss Boonton / Kiwanis
Ice Harvesting
Russ Conn



- The Gift Shop is open Saturdays from 1 to 4 pm or by appointment -

Gem of the Mountains

(The Newsletter of the Boonton Historical Society and Museum)

February 2004

volume 5 No 1

210 Main Street Boonton, New Jersey 07005
www.boonton.org 973 402-8840

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Monica Scozzafava is named President

Monica Scozzafava, our new president, comes to us with a wealth of experience, having served on the Board of Trustees for several years. She and her mother, Evelyn Eckardt (who also served as president), assembled and installed Boonton's permanent exhibit, a project that spanned many years. We feel most fortunate to have one so qualified as our leader.

A Message from the President...

It's a new year, and we are off and running. Our evening programs and walking tours remain popular, so we will happily continue to offer them. All evening programs will be held in the Town Hall, but the walking tours will have different meeting places depending on the tour. Check the 2004 Calendar of Events to be sure you are in the right place.

We would like to try something new this year with our Faesch Silver Exhibit. Our plan is to transform our changing exhibit room into a dining room. The Faesch pieces will be displayed on a formally set table. We will need tables, lace curtains, china, crystal and anything else that would enhance the setting. If you can lend any of these items from mid-October until the end of January 2005, we would be happy to have them.

We would also like to provide more opportunities for people who are interested in Boonton's history to get involved in preserving or presenting it. For instance, we hope to schedule a session to work on the maps in our repository at the museum. Some need to be removed from frames and all need to be placed in folders in our map case. There will be more details in our upcoming newsletters and evening programs. Please join us.



High Tea at the Museum...

In conjunction with the exhibit on the Faesch Silver Collection, which will run from October 16 until January 29, 2005, visitors will be offered the opportunity to enjoy a tea complete with scones with clotted cream. Tea will be served at two seatings at noon and 2 p.m. on October 30th, November 6th, November 13th and November 20th. The downstairs floor of the museum will be transformed into a Victorian tearoom. More about this event in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Your 2 Cents Worth is Priceless...

We'd like to hear from you! Have you any suggestions or comments? In our next issue, we want you to have the chance to speak out. Send your opinion to The Boonton Historical Society, 210 Main Street, Boonton, NJ 07005 - Attention: Newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sad, but true...

If you haven't renewed your membership to the Boonton Historical Society, this Newsletter is the last mail you will receive from us. We don't want to take you off our mailing list, so please take a minute and fill in the form below:

Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Individual \$15: Family \$20: Senior/Student \$10: Life \$200: Business \$25:

I would like to be contacted to serve as a volunteer: Yes No

Make check payable to: **Boonton Historical Society and Museum**

Please mail to: **210 Main Street Boonton, New Jersey 07005 (attn: Gail Yorkston).**

An interview with retiring President, Ed Marlatt

Q: When you took office in 2001, what were your greatest challenges?

A: The historic town of Boonton was beginning to rejuvenate. Several dedicated people were working hard to keep the Society going. They wanted organization, new ideas, resources and volunteers. After saving the historic John Taylor building from demolition, a lot of renovation work was needed.

Q: The Society's accomplishments during your term as president have been many. Can you list some of them?

A:

- Educational visits to the museum were organized for students and scouts.
- A schedule of changing exhibits was instituted.
- The gift shop was expanded.
- Funds from the town, state government, private contributors and grants were raised.
- Visibility was increased through publicity, public relations, human relations and word-of-mouth.
- There is a good relationship with the town residents and officials.
- Membership and volunteerism has increased.
- The building is well under way with renovations and has new heating and cooling systems.

Q: What do you see as goals for the Boonton Historical Society and Museum?

A:

- The computerization of archives.
- Expanding the museum to another floor.
- Completing the permanent exhibit.
- Making the building accessible to the elderly and disabled.



Thank you, Ed, for a job well done. We are delighted you will be staying on as a member of the Board of Trustees.

Featured Volunteer, Marie DiEduardo

Chances are, if you come into the museum on Saturday, you will find Marie behind the desk in the gift shop or greeting visitors in the hallway. She is one of the museum's loyal volunteers.

Volunteer, world traveler, survivor are words that describe Marie.

Born and raised on a farm in Keyport, NJ, which is now the site of the Garden State Art Center, Marie moved to Boonton after her marriage. She and her husband lived on Grant Street in a home purchased by her father for \$2,200 in 1940. After her father's death in 1944, the DiEduardo's decided to try farming for a year and moved with their children to Keyport.

Tragedy struck a year later when Marie's husband was killed instantly, at the age of 27, while unloading a caterpillar tractor a neighbor had borrowed. The farm was sold and Marie moved back to the house on Grant Street with Joseph, age 5, Benny, age 4, Louisa, age 3, and Patricia, age 1.

When her youngest child started school, Marie began working at Boonton Handbag and was employed there for twenty-seven years. After the factory closed, Marie found she had "plenty of free time to see the world".

Her travels have been extensive. She has been to every continent and done everything from going on an elephant hunt in India to cuddling a Panda in Australia. Often Marie will entertain other volunteers and visitors with stories of her experiences. Although Saga Holiday, the service Marie used to make her traveling arrangements, closed after 9/11/01, she is hopeful that she will see more of the world.

The Boonton Historical Society and Museum feels most fortunate to have Marie as a member of their dedicated corps of volunteers.



Featured Historic Home: The Florence Knowles House

This spacious home was built in 1911 on Cornelia Street for Dr. and Mrs. Frederick Knowles. After Mrs. Knowles' death, it was sold in 1923 to Dr. Joseph Bider, who lived and practiced there for seventy years. When the present owners, George T. Hill and Jayme Januszanis, bought the house in 1993, Dr. Bider's office and waiting room were intact.

The prominent twin turrets with copper finials, a columned front porch, a second story balcony and pyramid roof with dormers validate the late Victorian style. Inside the vestibule showcases stain glass windows and a mosaic floor. The parlor and dining room have dark oak woodwork, ornate columns and back-to-back fireplaces.

The house is filled with furniture and objects suitable to the period in which it was built. Certain antique pieces have been in the home for over sixty years, while others have been purchased over the last few years at auctions and from local antique shops.

The present owners have created an exquisite water garden in the enclosed back yard, which was carefully planned to make the best use of a relatively limited space and affords privacy in the midst of a busy neighborhood.

Another "Level" of Active Member...

Sometimes our schedule is just too frantic to make a long time commitment. Occasionally, however, we may find there is a little free time, and we have the urge to get involved in something new and different.

The Historical Society is always interested in a volunteer who is available for "a one shot deal". Presently, there are a few interesting projects on the docket that require volunteers for a limited time and at the convenience of the individual. Here are a few:

Sewers: to machine stitch linens for the Faesch exhibit

Database Entry: to help computerize records

Archivists: to catalogue acquisitions and to work on maps in the repository at the museum.

If you find there is a specific exhibit that interests you and you would like to be a part of the team that makes it a reality, or if you would like to devote some time to finishing the permanent exhibit, please let us hear from you.

2004 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Evening Programs – 7:30 at the Boonton Town Hall

January 21	Climbing and Photographing Bridges
March 17	Boonton's Main Street Program
April 21	Building the New Washington Street Bridge
November 17	Annual Membership Meeting and "Slides of Boonton" Program

Walking Tours – 10:00 a.m.

April 10	Morris Canal and Ironworks – Meet at the boardwalk
May 8	Vaux and Olmsted – Meet at the gazebo in Grace Lord Park
July 10	Main Street – Meet Canalside Park overlook
August 14	Historical Residential Area – Meet at boardwalk
September 11	Vaux and Olmsted – Meet at gazebo in Grace Lord Park

Changing Exhibits – The museum is open from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturdays & by appointment.

Until February 7	Othmar Ammann: Bridge Builder
February 14 to June 5	Boonton's Main Street Program
June 12 to October 9	Churches, Temples and Mosques of Boonton
October 16 to January 29	Faesch Silver Collection
December 11	Holiday Open House

Board of Trustees

The following slate was presented and approved at the annual membership meeting in November:

Officers:

Monica Scozzafava, President

Treasurer: Susan Thomas

Jennifer Coultas, Vice President

Recording Secretary: Jayme Januszanis

Corresponding Secretary: Claire Hance

Trustees:

Andy Barlak

Ellen Dixon

Pam Hance

Gail Yorkston

Lloyd Charlton

Herb Goldenberg

Tammie Holloway

Liz DeVincenzo

Candace Grant

Ed Marlatt

Appointed to the Nominating Committee:

Herb Goldenberg, Pam Hance and Tammie Holloway