



# Gem of the Mountains

The Newsletter of the Boonton Historical Society and Museum

January 30, 2005

210 Main Street, Boonton, New Jersey 07005 ♦ (973) 402-8840 ♦ www.boonton.org ♦ tmscozz@aol.com

## AFTERNOON TEA A SUCCESS!

The weather may have been cold, but the spirit was congenial at the Victorian Teas held at the Boonton Museum in October and November.

Dr. Taylor and his wife greeted the guests, some of whom were decked in Victorian costume. Music played in the background of a room decorated in burgundy and lace drapes, portraits, paintings, silver sets and flowers. Irish serving maids and matrons bustled about taking orders of a variety of teas, sandwiches, scones and sweet dainties to the tables.

Dr. Taylor and his wife strolled from table to table imparting family history, reciting the poetry of Walt Whitman and leading a sing-along. The fictitious Cousin Harriet amazed the guests by reading tea leaves with accurate predictions.

The years of Taylor residency in the house were revived and it was easy to imagine the family, at the turn of the century, gathered in their living room, enjoying conversation and sipping tea in the days when the Morris Canal slipped past their windows.



The event was so popular, the Historical Society is scheduling the teas again in 2005. We recommend you make your reservations early, as this year the teas were a complete sellout!

## HOUSE TOUR 2005!



Save the date!

On Saturday, May 14, the Boonton Historical Society will hold a House Tour from 11:30 to 4 p.m., featuring a variety of homes dating from circa 1900 to 1985.

Maps and tour passes will be distributed at the Boonton Museum, 210 Main Street, the first stop on the Tour. An optional light brunch will be served from 10:30 to noon.

Tickets purchased prior to May 14 are \$20.00. Tickets purchased on the day of the House Tour will be \$25.00. Reservations must be made for the brunch at an additional cost of \$3.00.

If you would like to have your home considered for this event, we are particularly interested in homes in the Flats. We also have a need for volunteers to assist host families, greet visitors, point out features of interest and generally maintain an orderly flow of traffic in and out of each home.

For more information concerning reservations, volunteering to assist with the tour or to have your home considered for the tour, please contact: Pamela Hance (973-299-9224, pamh@surfbest.net), Jennifer Coultas (973-316-0976, Coultas@att.net) or Edward Marlatt (amarlatt@att.net).

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Would you be interested in working with the Boonton Historical Society and Museum? We are reaching out to people who have shown an interest in our town's history or expressed a desire to get more involved with the Society. The activities of our Society continue to grow each year, and we are always looking for more people who can help make those things happen.

Some of the activities that we need assistance with are:

- Repacking the items in our collection in archival boxes.
- Maintaining a scrapbook of the newspaper publicity that we receive.
- Developing age-appropriate materials for students to accompany our permanent and changing exhibits.
- Researching information for upcoming exhibits and evening programs.
- Writing narrations to accompany slide presentations.

*Continued on next page...*

**FEATURED VOLUNTEER: ERIC WALLIN**

“Indispensable” is word that comes to mind when one thinks of the many areas of volunteer service in which Eric Wallin has performed for the Boonton Historical Society.



Known familiarly as “The Computer Guru”, Eric built and maintains the Society’s computer system. He designed the new format for the Newsletter and

oversees its printing. As a trouble- shooter, he has solved countless problems, often long after working hours.

Eric lists as his hobbies: designing and constructing musical instruments, playing electric and acoustic guitars and basses, designing speakers, building furniture, and hiking the Appellation Trail and its side trails.

He was born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and moved first to Michigan and then to Virginia where he graduated from the University of Virginia with an MSEE. He is currently a Member of Technical Staff at Lucent Technologies, where he designs the digital portion of various DSL line cards. He holds a patent in PLL design, and has been published in Computer Music Journal.

Eric is married to Tammie Holloway who is our gift shop manager at the museum. They live in Boonton where Tammie teaches private piano.

**FEATURED HISTORIC HOME**

Known as the John Carson House; this house, located on Church Street, was built about 1867. John Carson was a Scottish mason and built the house on land purchased from Fuller and Lord, the owners of the local iron works. He constructed a number of other structures in Boonton, including the landmark stone Arch Bridge over the Rockaway River, still in use today by hikers in Boonton’s Grace Lord Park. Carson died tragically of injuries incurred while working on the bridge only a year after he built this handsome house.

Surrounded by a granite and pudding stone wall, the house is a good example of the Italianate “cube” style. The decorative double front porch is Queen Anne in style and probably not original to the house. The dwelling exhibits a plain cornice, arched lintels and a large overhanging hipped roof.



Recently purchased by Marilyn Cervino and David Woodhull, the house is undergoing a complete restoration. David grew up on Church Street and always admired the house. When it came on the market recently, he fulfilled his dream of some day owning it.

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**, continued from front page...

Do any of these activities sound like something that you could help with? Is there something that you have in mind that we haven’t mentioned?

We would like to open the museum from 7:30–9:30 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month to allow our volunteers a chance to meet and work together. The first “work session” will be February 28, 2005. On that night, there will be an introduction to, and demonstration of, the activities that are listed above. We would be so happy to see you there. If you would like to bring along a friend who is also interested in history and the society, please do.

Please call to RSVP or if you have any questions or comments. 973-335-2666 (Monica Scozzafava).

Looking forward to seeing you on February 28th at 7:30 pm.

Sincerely, **Monica Scozzafava**

## - 2005 Calendar Of Events -

### EVENING PROGRAMS

**February 16**    **George Washington: The Man Nobody Knew**                      **Boonton Town Hall**                      **7:30 p.m.**

George Washington, portrayed by Dean Malissa, looks back on a lifetime of achievement following his first term as president. He anguishes over the effect his absence would have on his family should he consider running for a second term.

**March 14**            **Archaeology: History in the Dirt**    **Montville Library**                      **7:30 p.m.**

This is a joint program with the Montville Historical Society. Dr. Meta Janowitz, a local archaeologist, discusses the various methods employed in discovering our past "in the dirt," as well as many interesting finds in our local area.

**April 20**            **Favorite Food and Libations of Presidential Families**    **Boonton Town Hall**                      **7:30 p.m.**

Judith Krall-Russo, food historian, discusses the favorite foods and beverages of past presidents and their families.

**November 16**    **The Annual Membership Meeting**    **Boonton Town Hall**                      **7:30 p.m.**

Program to be announced

### WALKING TOURS

**Saturdays; suggested donation \$5.00**

April 16	Morris Canal and Ironworks	Meet at the boardwalk on Main Street	10:00 a.m.
May 7	The Park	Meet at the gazebo in Grace Lord Park	10:00 a.m.
July 9	Main Street	Meet at Canalside Park overlook	10:00 a.m.
August 13	Historic Residential District	Meet at the boardwalk on Main Street	10:00 a.m.
September 10	The Park	Meet at the gazebo in Grace Lord Park	10:00 a.m.

### CHANGING EXHIBITS

**Museum is open Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m. and by appointment. Free parking in the rear of building.**

February 5 thru June 4	Handmade Quilts
June 11 thru October 8	To be announced
October 15 thru February 11/06	To be announced

### OTHER EVENTS

**May 14**                      **House Tour**    **Around Boonton**                      **Noon to 4 p.m.**

The tour will feature some of the unique homes and gardens in Boonton

**Oct 29 & Nov 19**    **Afternoon Tea at the Museum**                      **210 Main Street**                      **12:30 & 3 p.m. seatings**

We are repeating the very popular afternoon teas from last year. Your ticket will offer you the chance to sip tea and delicately nibble scones with clotted cream. The downstairs floor of the museum will be transformed into a Victorian tearoom.

**December 3**            **Holiday Open House**    **210 Main Street**                      **1 to 4 p.m.**

Come and enjoy the good treats, good music and good people as we usher in the Holiday Season!

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

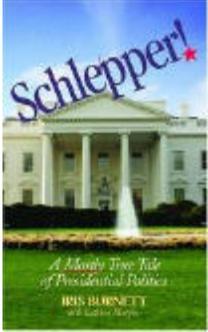
#### Officers

President	Monica Scozzafava
Vice President	Jennifer Coultas
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#### Trustees

Andrew Barlak	Lloyd Charlton	Elizabeth De Vincenzo	Ellen Dixon
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# New Gift Shop Items



## New Book!

### **Schlepper! A Mostly True Tale of Presidential Politics**

*Schlepper* is a smart, funny take on the reality of contemporary presidential politics, with the names changed to protect the Schleppers (some familiar local Boonton names!)

Written by former Boonton resident *Iris Burnett!*

## New Boonton Historical Society Pens!

Ballpoint with large grip and flag motif!



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

### CANCELLATIONS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

If it is necessary to cancel an evening program or close the museum because of bad weather, we will inform you in one or all of these ways:

- A message will be left on the museum message line (973-402-8840).
- A notice will be sent to the local radio stations (WMTR / WDHA).
- A sign will be posted on the door of the building where the event was to be held (Town Hall / Museum).



Here's hoping for an easy winter!

### HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Renewals were due in November. We don't want to take your name off our mailing list, so if you haven't done so, please send in your dues with the form below. We welcome new members as well!

#### MEMBERSHIP FORM

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

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: **Boonton Historical Society and Museum (attn: Gail Yorkston)**  
**210 Main Street Boonton, New Jersey 07005**