



Spring Lake Historical Society, Inc.

Newsletter

May 2022

Vol. 43, No 1

41st Annual

SPRING LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY *HOUSE TOUR*

Thursday, June 9 2022 • 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.



House Tour Ticket Donation: \$45.00

For Tickets on Tour Day

Spring Lake Railroad Station ~ Warren Avenue

(\$40 if tickets purchased prior to June 9, 2022)

For Tickets Prior to Tour Day

Kate & Co. ~ 1100 Third Avenue • Spring Lake Custom Golf ~ 1223 Third Avenue • J. McLaughlin ~ 1306 Third Avenue

For further information please call Spring Lake Historical Society (732) 449-0772

Find us on Facebook and www.springlakehistoricalsociety.org

Spring Lake Historical Society

41st HOUSE TOUR

The Spring Lake Historical Society will hold its annual House Tour on Thursday, June 9th, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The House Tour, now in its 41st year, returns after a two year hiatus due to the pandemic.

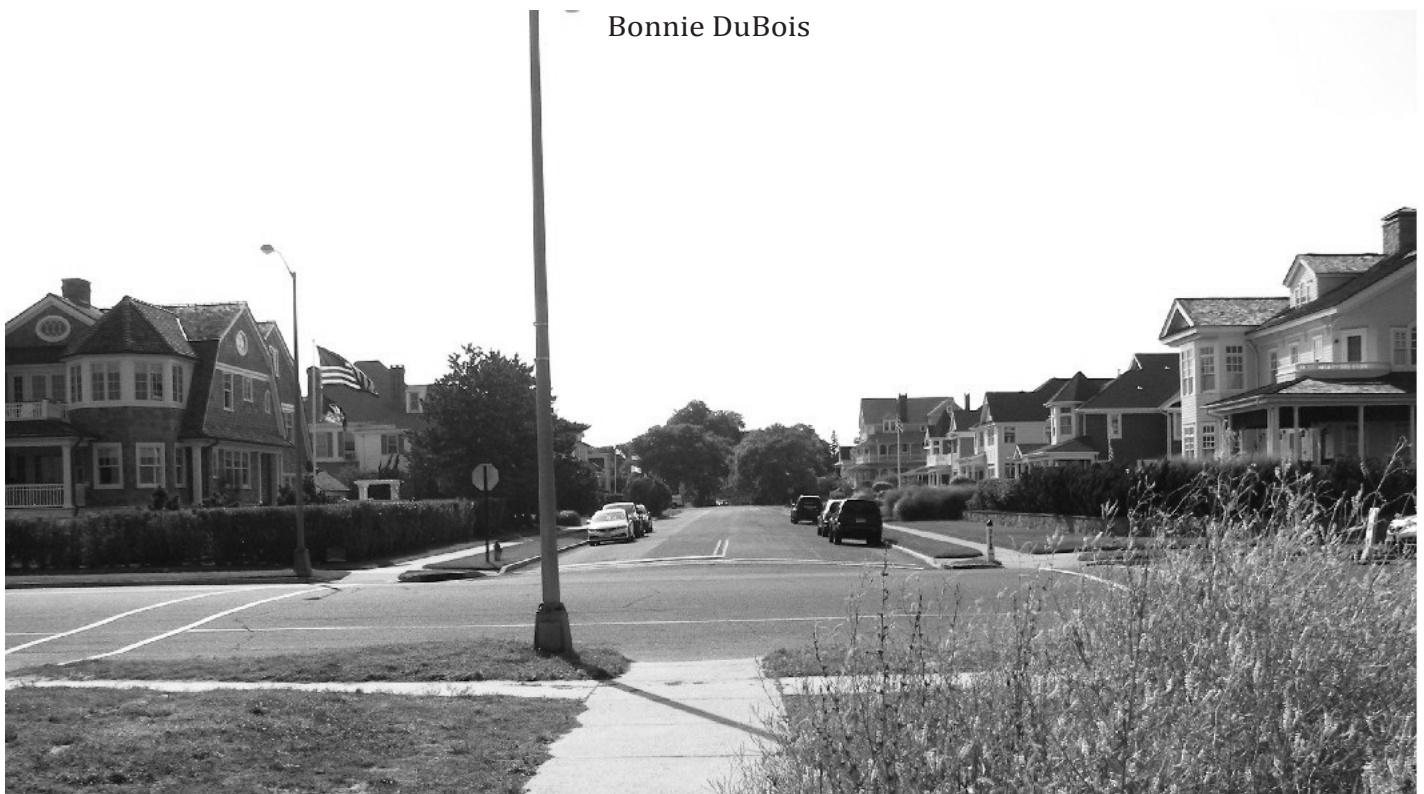
It promises to delight those who appreciate charming, historic, unique styled homes as they date from the end of the 19th century up to 1920. A new contemporary home completes the six home sites to be toured. The more public sites to visit include Walden-on-the-Pond, an historic B & B and a visit to the Third Avenue Chocolate Shoppe, a confection shop in an old historic building in the downtown area that was formerly a Tire Repair shop. Ticket holders will be given a free chocolate on tour day. Along the ocean front, please visit the newly rebuilt South End Pavilion Pools & Lockers area. The Historical Society's Museum will be open for viewing with its Main Gallery's permanent collection and its Changing Gallery featuring Hidden Treasures, Spring Lake Established 1892, Saluting the Mayors of Spring Lake and the Department of Public Works.

Tickets are \$40.00 if purchased prior to Tour Day. On Tour Day, they will be \$45. They are available for purchase at the following shops in downtown Spring Lake: Kate & Company at 1100 Third Avenue, J. McLaughlin at 1306 Third Avenue and the Spring Lake Custom Golf Shop at 1223 Third Avenue.

Reservations for the tour can be made by calling the Museum at 732-449-0772, emailing us at slhs703@optimum.net or Eventbrite on our website, springlakehistoricalsociety.org. Tickets will also be available on the day of the tour at the Spring Lake Train Station, Warren Avenue, where coffee/refreshments will be served starting at 10:00 a.m.

The Historical Society looks forward to seeing many tour goers at the House Tour and it is strongly suggested that you start your day early so that you have time to see everything.

A Walk Down Mercer Avenue



Continued on page 3

From the collection of John Russell
(1895 photograph of Mercer Avenue)



I have often walked down this street before, because standing proudly along the avenue, are stately homes which have weathered more than a century of storms crashing in from the sea, have resisted the fad to be new and modern, and have retained their original elements with dignity and grace. When built, these homes featured the very best that skilled craftsmen could create. Today, many of these features have been lovingly preserved and restored by the people who have taken on the responsibility of stewardship. If the families who called Mercer Avenue home in the 19th century could visit today, they would not need to ask for directions. Much of the original Mercer Avenue still exists. They could look down the Avenue and find home.

If we could travel back in time one hundred twenty-seven years, this is what we would see looking down Mercer Avenue from the ocean to the lake. The two homes facing the ocean are now gone, but most of the homes pictured here, are still part of Spring Lake.

(7 Mercer Avenue)



This home was built in 1889 for William Hardcastle Browne of Philadelphia, an eminent lawyer and a widely known author of legal and light literature.

Browne's most notable legal case was his opposition to the Mount Moriah Cemetery Corporation which had refused to permit the body of a wealthy black man to be buried in its grounds. William Browne argued for the deceased and won.

Mr. Browne enjoyed playing cricket and was the director of the Belmont Cricket Club of Philadelphia. He was

also active in politics and interested in the reform movement. He wrote and had published at least 17 books.

The Browne family enjoyed their summer home at 7 Mercer Avenue for many years. A dominant feature of this home is its porches on the first and second floors, which take full advantage of the breezes off the Atlantic.

(11 Mercer Avenue)



Built in 1893, this colonial revival summer cottage was built for Rufus E. Shapley, another prominent lawyer from Philadelphia and his wife Annie McCord of Pittsburgh. This home featured many "healthful" porches including sleeping porches. Sleeping porches were very popular at the turn of the last century. Usually built adjacent to a bedroom in the days before air conditioning, they offered a comfortable place to sleep on sweltering nights. Health professionals, of the time, advocated sleeping outdoors as a way to bolster the immune system.

In 1895, this home was advertised for rent in the Philadelphia Short Lines booklet on Spring Lake. Among the amenities listed, were a gas machine and a tank room. Gas machines provided gas lighting for homes and allowed upper class Americans to enjoy living in the countryside without giving up any modern comforts of the city. The tank room was the source of running water in fashionable homes of this era. A large water tank was placed in the attic. There was no household electricity at the time, so the force of gravity operated the system. Gutters were used to fill the tank with rain water. If it was a dry summer, servants with buckets kept the system running.

Shapley was known for his legal expertise, and was also widely known for his political humor. In 1881, he published the widely read satire of boss rule, *Solid for Mulhooly: A Sketch of Municipal Politics Under the Leaders, the Ring, and the Boss*. One Philadelphia reviewer said that the satire's impact on municipal corruption was similar to the impact that Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* had had on slavery.

On the Street Where They Lived

Continued from page 3

From the collection of Anne and Bud Benz
(Hamilton Cottage ca. 1890)



This beautiful 1877 home is one of five frame cottages built in Spring Lake by William C. Hamilton of Philadelphia. The house was constructed from lumber purchased from the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition of 1876. At the close of the Exposition, the buildings were auctioned off. The larger buildings at the Exposition were dismantled and their lumber was sold to developers.

Not only did the lumber for this home come from the Exposition but the inspiration for its design was also an Exposition export. Several English buildings at the Centennial Exposition attracted a lot of notice. They were designed in the then popular English Queen Anne style. As a result of the Exposition, it became a popular style in America during the closing decades of the 19th century. This Queen Anne cottage featured scroll sawn railings, stained glass windows, cast iron crestings, and two wrap around porches.



This is the Hamilton Cottage today. In 1993, Bud and Anne Benz purchased the property. Although the house had been damaged by the December 1992 nor'easter, Anne and Bud wanted to save it. They asked their builder to carefully remove the siding and look for and keep all the original features of the home that could be salvaged. The builder found pieces of the hand carved corbel at the back of the cottage.

Anne and Bud were able to find a craftsman to recreate the corbel and it remains a beautiful feature of the home today. The Benz had hoped to restore the verandas, but the necessary supports were no longer part of the

building. Where the builder was able to find supporting beams, he attached porches. Several of the stained glass windows were also saved.

Today, the house continues to grace the Avenue as a beautiful and gracious home.

(Slide of 103 Mercer Avenue)



This lovely home was built in 1888 for Frederick Anspach, the civil engineer who designed the town plan for Spring Lake Beach. Sadly the home was recently razed and it is no longer part of Mercer Avenue. The footprint of the house and auto barn drawn on the 1905 Sanborn Map of the property matched the house and garage on the property today. Only the roof cap of the tower on the east side of the house has changed. The original hexagonal roof cap was removed sometime during its history.

This home has its original port-cochere. The port-cochere was a feature of larger homes built at the turn of the last century. Usually an extension of the porch, it allowed a horse drawn carriage to pull up to the house protecting the occupants of the carriage from inclement weather. The North Portico at the White House is a port-cochere.

(100 Mercer Avenue)



This beautiful 5 level seaside cottage was built in 1882. There are 17 rooms on the 3 main floors. When the house was built, the cooking was done on the ground level and then sent upstairs, via a dumbwaiter, to the butler's pantry.

This cottage retains all of its original 19th century grandeur. Three families have called it home and these three families have cherished it and kept it as it has always been. James Dougherty of Philadelphia purchased this cottage in October of 1882 and deeded it to his daughter Euretta Kirkbride, wife of Dr. Mahon Franklin

Kirkbride in 1892. Dr. Kirkbride was a Philadelphia psychiatrist and an early pioneer in mental health. The Kirkbride family owned the home through 1936. The house was then boarded up until 1949, when Emory C. Smith and his wife Elizabeth purchased the home. Emory Smith had traveled a lot in Europe. He admired the European reverence for history. Europe preserves its past and the Smiths wished to preserve the home's past. The house had been lighted with gas and the Smiths left all the gas jets in place and kept the original lighting fixtures. They also kept the beautiful chestnut and quarter sawn oak wood paneling in the home just as it was. They did not follow the popular trend of the time of painting everything white to make it look modern. The cottage's present owners also appreciate its beautiful carved wood elements.

(102 Mercer Avenue)



Built in 1882, this was the carriage house for the Kirkbride Cottage and was shared by the cottage located to its west. During the 19th century, the wealthy traveled by horse and carriage. Because of this, there were several livery stables in Spring Lake to accommodate summer residents. Those with the means to own their summer home, had a carriage house to stable their horses and store their carriage. Victorian carriage houses tended to imitate the architectural details of the main house. Today this carriage house maintains its cedar shingle exterior which pays homage to its past.

(106 Mercer Avenue)



Built in 1879 for Frederick Anspach, this lovely Queen Anne style house was purchased by James Dougherty of Philadelphia in 1882. He was Euretta Kirkbride's father and a successful businessman. This was his summer

home. The original elements of this home still grace its exterior. It has a turret, a roof finial, spindles, diamond paned windows, a sweeping veranda, and patterned shingles.

The west side of the house has a tower with a balcony.

James Dougherty was a machinist and iron founder. He manufactured large industrial tools used in railroad work, shipbuilding, and in the operation of mills. He, along with partners Samuel Trusscott and George Wolf, patented the double plate cast iron wheel in 1838 which was used for railroad cars.

During the Civil War, James Dougherty joined the Union League, a patriotic society to support the Union and President Abraham Lincoln. When General Lee marched into Pennsylvania, he answered the governor's call for more troops and raised a company from his industrial works. He was interested in reform. He supported the Philadelphia House of Refuge, the first institution in Pennsylvania established to reform wayward and delinquent boys and girls. He also supported the Franklin Institute which was dedicated to science education.

(110 Mercer Avenue)



Built around 1888, this home became a resident of Mercer Avenue sometime between 1895 and 1905 when it was moved from Sussex Avenue.

This home is an excellent example of forethought with an awareness of the home's proximity to the sea. The basement is 6 feet deep and then rises another three feet above the ground. The basement acts as a containment area that can hold massive amounts of water forced inland as a result of storms raging in from the ocean.

This home's inspiration came from the Parisian skyline. The Paris Exhibitions of 1855 and 1867 popularized this style. Its mansard roof which became very popular in the United States following the Civil War, has two slopes. This roof design was first introduced by French architect Francois Mansart. It is both decorative and useful, for it provides more interior space than a peaked roof. The homes' dormer windows were another space adding feature and another of Mansart's designs. He realized that attics could become sleeping areas if he could find a way

On the Street Where They Lived

Continued from page 3

to introduce light and ventilation into the area and not exceed Parisian height restrictions. The name of the windows come from the French verb to sleep, "dormir".

At one time in its history, this home belonged to Dr. John Durst. He replaced the door which originally opened on to the balcony with a stained glass window which records, in glass, the birth dates of Dr. and Mrs. Durst and their three daughters. Those who have called 110 Mercer Avenue home since Dr. Durst's residency, have preserved this piece of Durst family history.

(116 Mercer Avenue)



Built in 1882, this was the home of Dr. William Wesley Keefer, a Philadelphia druggist and physician, and his wife Jane. Dr. Keefer appears to have been related to Matthew Baird, whose widow Anna Baird built Hastings Square which became the Essex and Sussex Hotel. It was probably Anna Baird who first interested the Keefers in Spring Lake.

Following America's Centennial celebrations in 1876, there was a new pride in America's past and a renewed interest in colonial architecture. Palladian windows, columns, and classical detailing such as swags were favored by the wealthy. All the rich architectural details of this home have been preserved by the owners. This is the second home on Mercer Avenue that they have preserved.

(Swanhurst)



This Neoclassical estate has graced Mercer Avenue since 1896. Ideally situated between the ocean and the lake, this home was constructed to enjoy cooling cross breezes. This was the summer home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Clifton Jenkins, of Pittsburgh. A graduate of Harvard Law School, Mr. Jenkins entered the family business, a wholesale flour and grocery firm in Pittsburgh, in 1894. Its large warehouse supplied Pittsburgh, all of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, central Ohio, Maryland, and West Virginia.

The present owner of this home, grew up in Spring Lake and has undertaken the restoration of this beautiful home. The windows of the house are all original. All have been restored, painted, and the brass fittings polished. The double hung sash windows operate with the original chains.

All of the original woodwork has also been restored. The home has a ladies' parlor and a men's parlor. Victorians did not embrace the open concept in home design. They believed that each room should have a specific purpose. The home also has separate ladies' and men's dressing rooms located off the bedrooms. Bedrooms were for sleeping. Dressing rooms were for changing your clothes, which in Victorian times, was done frequently.

Thank you to the following people who helped uncover and preserve the history of Mercer Avenue:

Patricia Florio

Dorothy Lau

Eileen McLaughlin

Tom Rusoff

John Russell

The Spring Lake Historical Society

Anne and Bud Benz

Nanette and John McMahon

and to Jason DuBois for the restoration of historic photographs and the formatting of this guide

Remembering Dr. Walter Judge



Dr. Walter Judge was in many ways bigger than life. He was tall, an athlete, outspoken, involved in the Community, and a very skilled Endocrinologist. He was born at Ann May Memorial Homeopathic Hospital on Vroom Avenue, Spring Lake on August 11, 1927. Dr. Judge married, had children, and never lived anywhere else except to go to college, medical school, and military service – a true lover of Spring Lake.

Walter's roots go back to his grandfather, Frank Judge, who came to Spring Lake Beach in 1911 to become the first Water Works engineer. Frank could be considered part of the beginning of the Department of Public Works. The Borough built the house at 501 Fifth Avenue as a residence for the overseer because twenty-four hour oversight of the Water Works was necessary. Many years later, Dr. Walter Judge would give his service to Spring Lake Borough, serving as councilman for twelve years and a Fire Department volunteer among other jobs. Service to the government of the town and involvement in the community continues with Walter's children's.

My personal connection with him was through the Historical Society. He was always a good reference for historical information and an artifact donor. Walter authored several short books about the history of "Spring Lake-by-the-Sea", including the Morro Castle tragedy of 1934 and his musings of his philosophy blended with the history of Spring Lake. I did experience his outspoken manner when he insisted that a life vest from the Morro Castle ship wreck be hung up in the Permanent Gallery. It could not be accommodated since there was one in the exhibit already so he retracted the offer, took it back, and that was the end of that. In a good way, his strong personality and prominence in Spring Lake will certainly be missed.

Barbara Kolarsick-Harrigan, President

A Tribute to Elizabeth Finnerty



My good friend, “Liz” Finnerty, was such an asset to the Spring Lake Historical Society during her many years of service and commitment to the organization. She was there at its beginning in 1977 its incorporation in 1979, and served as President in 1978-79.

Liz was a very busy lady elsewhere, too! She was the school nurse at Pt. Pleasant Beach High School at which she excelled and gave much assistance to those students who were in need of support and attention. Liz and Anne, her sister, conducted a Home Nursing Registrar business that matched qualified caregivers to people with health issues requiring their aide. Liz’s mother, also Anne, and her sister, Anne were her companions at home, and later relied on Liz to care for them.

My close relationship and experience with Liz came when I was voted in as President of the Historical Society in 1986. I was very new to the town and to the SLHS, but with the support of the Society Board, we embarked upon a 5-Year Plan to make a “first class museum” in the space where the display cases and amateur exhibits existed on the 2nd floor of Borough Hall. This manifestation would be the Society’s gift to the people of the town for its 100th birthday in March of 1992. (And that came to be!)

A plan like that takes money, though, and in this case, lots of it – hiring a New York professional designer being the biggest expense. Liz was the Ways and Means Chair and that’s when I found out what she really could do, plus she believed our Museum should be top notch to represent the history of beautiful Spring Lake. However, for five years of non-stop work, she sold expensive 50/50 tickets each year to be raffled. She sold them on Third Avenue corners, tail gate parties at Giant Stadium, and phone calls. She initiated Fr. Alphonse Concerts (the SLHS was Father’s first organization to sponsor the orchestra) and the successful Christmas concerts were held annually. Liz worked tirelessly on the House Tour including, in those days, a luncheon that was a nightmare to coordinate, but did bring in extra money. The tours were always successful. Organizing fund raising bus trips to NY plays and museums continued through all these years until the last several when Liz’s health became an issue.

On a personal note, I was happy to be included in her life. She reached out to me, especially when my husband passed away. Liz’s home was also open to others with parties and meals for neighbors and friends. I can remember summers relaxing on the front porch, just visiting and enjoying ourselves. I am humbled and privileged to have been part of her life in that way and through our work together in the Spring Lake Historical Society.

Barbara Kolarsick-Harrigan, President

Elizabeth Marie Finnerty's early years were spent in New York and Jersey City, at the Academy of St Aloysius for 12 years, then across the Hudson to St. Vincent's School of Nursing. After receiving her degrees, she became a teacher at her beloved St Vincents. During these years she was active in volunteer work as President of The Junior Service League of Hudson County and The Hudson County Mental Health Association.

Summers were always in Spring Lake, so when a position was offered to her as the School Nurse of Point Pleasant Beach High School, a positive response was easy. She settled in with her Mother and sister Ann at the family home in Spring Lake.

The year was 1974 plans were underway for Spring Lake's celebration of our Nation's Bicentennial. Liz joined the Choir, along with committees studying the history of Spring Lake. These committees became the foundation of the Historical Society. Soon a Museum was planned and Liz was active in raising these funds. The 50/50 was her favorite. Her Trips were renown. We went to museums in NewYork, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Broadway Shows, Metropolitan Operas, of course all with fine dining. Yes it was to support the Society, but many of us would not have these lovely experiences without Liz. She was the Society's Parliamentarian and Ways & Means Chairman for many years in addition to being President.

Her dedication to the Society pales compared to her love of Nursing. She cared for the students of Point Pleasant Beach for 40 years, but she cared for her family, friends and acquaintances for a life time. So many of us have reached out to her whether ill or burdened. She would find a doctor, drive you there around the corner or through the tunnel. Many may recall having a death in the family, the next day dinner for all would arrive from Hincks Farm Market.

She generously gave Spring Lake her best. She is dearly missed.

Judie Brophy



The Docent

What's a museum without docents? Take the Spring Lake Historical Society Museum, for instance. It's filled with facts, artifacts, exhibits, literature, folklore – truly an invaluable collection, a treasure! But what good would it be without its docents?

Who would open it up, and who would greet visitors as they arrived? Who would show them around and explain the two galleries? Who would invite them to enjoy the Spring Lake video? Who'd answer their questions, or offer to arrange for answers? Who would keep track of the number of visitors that stop in? Who would thank them for their interest in Spring Lake's history and for visiting the Museum?

Indeed, the Museum is a collection of important materials and sources, sitting there atop the Municipal Building on Warren Avenue, until the docents arrive to open it to the public every Sunday and Thursday (Tuesdays and Thursdays during the summer months) Our docents bring it to life and contribute personality. As someone famous once said, "Museum and Docent: perfect together!"



Become a Spring Lake Docent

The Spring Lake Historical Society has a few openings for the position of Docent. The work consists of welcoming visitors to the Museum, showing them what is available and how it is laid out, and offering a friendly, helpful presence as they explore. The Museum is open two hours each on Sunday afternoons and Thursday mornings.* A Docent is usually needed to serve once a month on either of those days. Please consider joining us in promoting and maintaining the history of a great town. Call the Museum at 732-449-0772 for more information.

*Please note: We are following a different schedule for the summer months (June, July, and August, 2022). During these months, the Museum will be open to visitors on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 – 12. Sunday openings will resume in the fall.

Marie Curry

Condolences....

The Spring Lake Historical Society extends condolences to the families of the following:

Mary "Mimi" Booth
Evelyn D. Erbe (*Member*)
Elizabeth Marie Finnerty
(*Life Member, former President of the SLHS*)
Jane C. Hall (*Yorio*)
Betty Lou Lindsay (*Hollday*)
Margaret J. "Peggy" Manzi
Margaret Mary Minnefor
William Wesley Sharp
Georgetta "Georgie" Alesio
George E. Boyle
Dr. Walter Judge (*Member*)
Dr. Raymond Hanbury (*Member*)
Barbara McKnight Benhan (*Life Member*)
Barbara Morrison (*Member*)
John T. Pandolfe, Jr. (*Member*)
Eileen Walker (*Life Member*)
John "Jack" D. McMenaman (*Life Member*)
Marguerite K. Reilly (*Life Member*)
Diane Taylor
Margaret Mary Jones
Ann Gale
Robert K. O'Leary
Angelina Danna
Lucille Sharp
Frederick V. Scheel
Harriett Y. Loftus
Margaret A. Burke
Anthony Colao



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For Current Members: Please update your e-mail address with the Society and send to slhs703@optimum.net

Spring Lake Historical Society, Inc.
 P.O. Box 703, Spring Lake, New Jersey 07762
 New Renewal **MEMBERSHIP**

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 General: \$35 Date _____ Life: \$1,000

- OFFICERS**
- President.....Barbara Kolarsick-Harrigan
 - Vice President.....John McGlinchy
 - TreasurerRobert Drashoff
 - Corresponding Secretary.....Stephanie McMurray
 - Recording SecretaryPriscilla Reilly
 - Trustees.....Bonnie Dubois, Carole Morris and Marie Curry
 - Newsletter.....Marie Curry, John McGlinchy, Dorothy Lau, Bonnie Dubois, Barbara Kolarsick-Harrigan, Stephanie McMurray



MUSEUM HOURS
 Tuesdays 10 a.m. - 12 Noon
 Thursdays 10 a.m. - 12 Noon
 423 Warren Ave., Spring Lake, NJ
 (Second Floor)