



Spring Lake Historical Society, Inc.

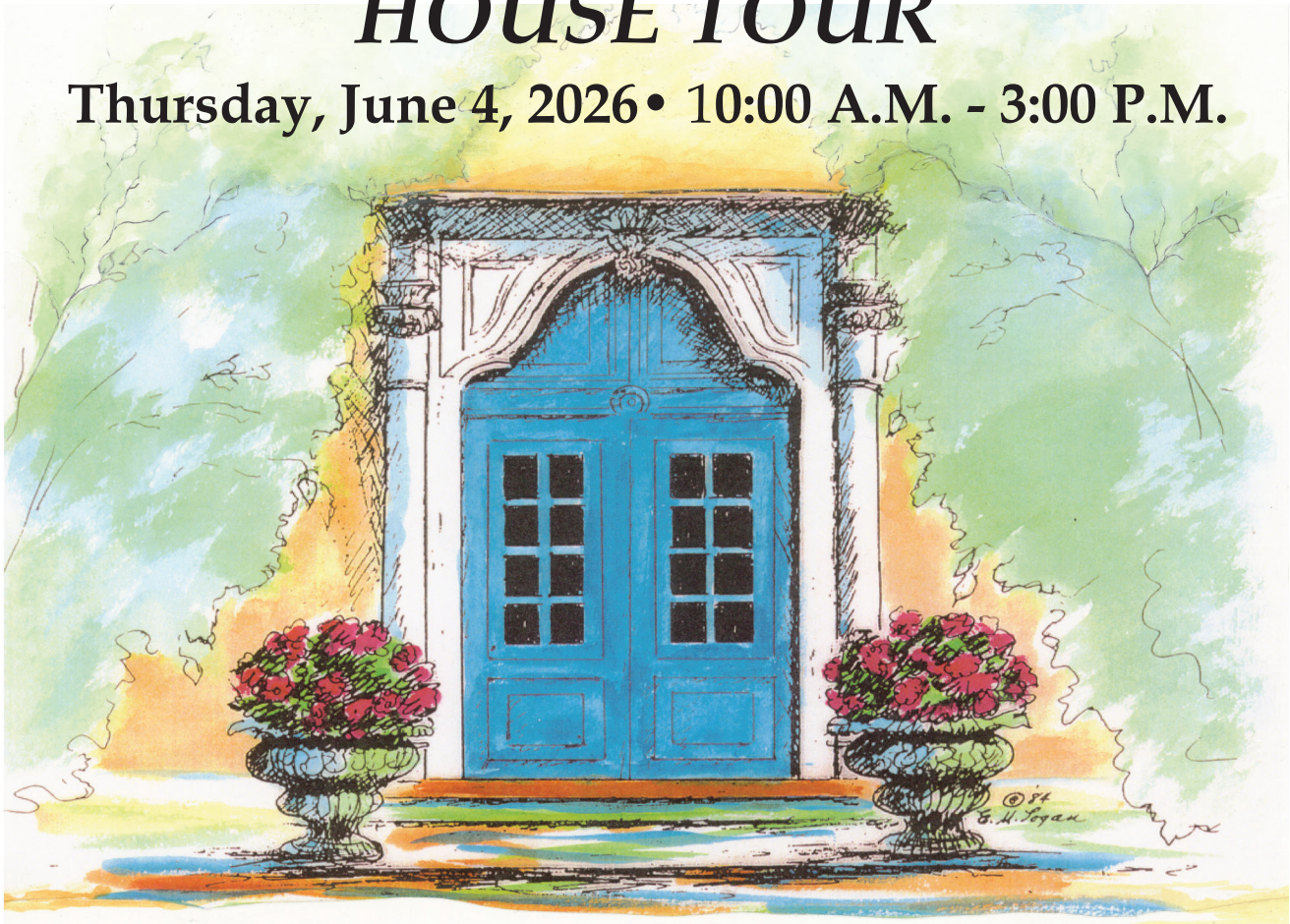
Newsletter

April 2026

Vol. 49, No 1

45th Annual
**SPRING LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
HOUSE TOUR**

Thursday, June 4, 2026 • 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.



House Tour Ticket Donation: \$60.00

For Tickets on Tour Day, Cash or Credit Cards Accepted

Spring Lake Railroad Station ~ Warren Avenue

(\$50 if tickets purchased prior to June 4, 2026)

For Tickets Prior to Tour Day

Kate & Co. ~ 1108 Third Avenue • Bain's SL Hardware ~ 1301 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

Rain or Shine • No Refunds

PAT MANGINI AND THE WARREN HOTEL

BY SCOTT MCMURRAY



Pat Mangini

From her condominium apartment in Spring Lake's historic Essex & Sussex, Patricia "Pat" Mangini can see for ... *decades*.

She glimpses the final years of Spring Lake's grand hotel era as if preserved Brigadoon-style in her mind's eye:

Squinting back into the late 1950s and early 1960s, directly to the north along Ocean Avenue stands the palatial White Caps mansion, the plaster façade of her one-time home glistening like a sun-kissed mirage. Another block to the north and another decade and more back in time, Pat has a clear view of her childhood "home" in Spring Lake: The rambling Tudor-style Warren Hotel and Beach House.

"It was a wonderful way to grow up, a very happy time. Of course, I thought it was normal! So many things to do and life-long friends who would come back to the Warren year after year. After 80 years I still see some of those people!" she reminisced.

The first child and only daughter of Frederick and Amelia Cosgrove, Pat was born in North Jersey in 1937. Frederick Jr. joined the family in 1940. Her father was a partner in several hotels in the region, including the McAlpin Hotel in Herald Square, where the family had a suite of rooms. Young Pat lived the life of the fictional Eloise, ordering from room service with abandon.

In the early 1940s Fred, as he was known, and his partners decided to expand down the Shore and bought the Warren Hotel. Lodgings for summer residents had been offered on the site of the Warren for more than a half century by that time. A four-story hotel building was added to the preexisting Lucas Cottages in the early 1890s.

The original buildings at the corner of Warren and First Avenues were expanded and added to over the years. Tennis courts and a pool were also included on the more than two-acre property. The largest wing of the Warren extended along Mercer Avenue toward the ocean, and the hotel's Beach House stood at the corner of Mercer and Ocean Avenues.

The Cosgroves initially took a four-room suite on the second floor of the Warren for their summer residence. While Fred was the public face of the ownership team, Amelia was actively involved in running the hotel and managing the staff. Within a few years they moved to the Warren year-round, living in the Beach House, which had to be winterized with a furnace installed. During summers, the Warren served luncheon for guests, who were on the three-meal-a-day American Plan, on the first floor and wrap-around porch of the Beach House. The family's first-floor furniture was stored in the basement until the hotel closed for the season.

Some of Pat's earliest memories revolve around the Warren Hotel in wartime. The station wagon Fred drove from Midtown Manhattan down to Spring Lake had wooden sides – nearly all steel having been diverted to the war effort. Her father was anxious that the military might want to follow up on commissioning the Berkeley-Carteret Hotel in Asbury Park for the war effort by doing the same in Spring Lake, but Uncle Sam never rang the Warren or other local hotels.

The military was worried, however, that the array of oceanfront hotels in Spring Lake might provide the enemy, including U-boat commanders, with illuminated landmarks they could use to aid in navigating the New Jersey coast by night. With the Beach House's three and a half stories visible from miles offshore, the family followed strict blackout rules. All shades were drawn before a single light could be turned on.

"Of course, the houses back then weren't lit up like they are today," Pat said. "We had small lamps on side tables. It was like reading by candlelight compared to today's standards." Still, everyone in town and at the hotels obeyed the blackout rules.

Families typically visited Spring Lake's array of summer hotels for two weeks to a month each season in the 1940s and 1950s. Children would grow up alongside the same group of friends. Each hotel had its designated beach and lifeguards, with chairs and umbrellas color-coded: blue for the Monmouth Hotel, green for the Essex and Sussex, and blue again for the Warren.

Lunch at the Beach House was more casual than in the main hotel, where no girl questioned the need to wear dresses. Children and adults could wear swimsuits at the Beach House, as long as they wore a proper cover up. Girls and women actually risked being fined if they left the beach in only a swimsuit – even to walk on the boardwalk!



Ariel View



Dining Room



Front Entrance



Mercer Avenue



Pat and Rocky Marciano

Children's activities at the Warren were organized by age group, with each group led by a junior hostess, a high school student from the area typically. Games on the beach and scavenger hunts lasted for hours. Periodic hayrides were a highlight for all the Warren children as they piled onto wagons loaded with bales of hay and drawn by horses kept stabled in Wall Township. Then there was movie night on Thursdays, and costume parties and regular visits from a turbaned fortune teller.

The hotel was renowned for its end-of-summer amateur talent revue, the Warren Follies. Students and young adults from the area performed song and dance numbers for the guests. Fred Cosgrove served as master of ceremonies.

Adults became the focus of the family-oriented hotel once the children, dressed appropriately, ate dinner early in their separate, smaller dining room and were sent to bed. Drinks at the hotel bar, the pool bar outdoors was favored more for afternoon imbibing, were followed with dinner starting at 8 pm or so in the Molloy Room, the main dining room.

And there was music. Everywhere. Each hotel had its group of live musicians and rarely was a meal or drink offered without someone, typically a man, at least playing a piano. "You forget that was the era before air-conditioning, so all the hotel windows were open. You could walk down the street and hear different musicians playing a different tune from each hotel. It was wonderful," Pat said.

The pianist at the Warren Hotel was a friend of the Cosgrove family named Zez Confrey. He was a household name as the composer of the ragtime-style "Kitten on the Keys" in the 1920s.

Every seaside resort worth its salt has a celebrity story to tell, and the Warren was no exception. A 16-year-old Pat blushed with pride posing next to world heavyweight boxing champ Rocky Marciano on the hotel beach. Movie star Gloria Swanson was a friend of Pat's mother and a Warren guest, and Bob Hope signed the guest register as well.

Local socialites and eccentrics also kept the Cosgrove children entertained. Mrs. George Washington Kavanaugh, a regular in Manhattan society columns since the 1930s, spent her summers in the White Caps mansion next to the Essex & Sussex. Pat remembers giggling at the sight of Mrs. Kavanaugh, always impeccably dressed, catching the Ocean Avenue bus to the nearby Bath & Tennis Club when her chauffeur had the day off. Her husband's sartorial choices turned heads as well. Plagued with foot pain, he painted his white tennis shoes black to match his tuxedo donned for Saturday night formal affairs at the B&T.

After four years in various Catholic high schools and a year and a half at the College of St. Elizabeth in Morris Township, Pat dropped out to marry her husband John Mangini, an Assistant U.S. Attorney in New Jersey, in 1958. "I regretted dropping out, I always was on the honor roll at school, but that's what a lot of women did in those days."

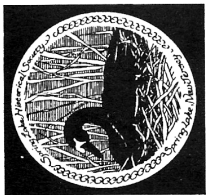
The newly married couple lived for a few years in White Caps, which Fred Cosgrove purchased in the mid-1950s after both Mr. and Mrs. Kavanaugh had passed. The house came furnished with antiques, sparking Pat's lifelong love of antiques as an adult. But it was time for the young couple to move on. They eventually built their own home in Brielle.

The decades passed, tastes and travel changed and many of the Shore hotels fell to the wrecking ball, one by one. The Monmouth in 1975, and later the Warren in 2005. The Essex and Sussex came perilously close to a similar fate, passing in and out of bankruptcy, before being renovated as a senior condominium residence.

What would Pat's parents think of the fact that she eventually moved in down the street at the E&S? "My father would've been thrilled. He always thought of the E&S as a class hotel." Her mother on the other hand would have snarled, "you're giving money to the competition!"

**HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED ABOUT HOW THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BEGAN AND WHO WAS INVOLVED?
WE HAVE REPRINTED BELOW, AN ARTICLE FROM THE NOVEMBER 2002 NEWSLETTER CELEBRATING
THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOCIETY AND HOW IT ALL STARTED**

1977-2002
History



**Spring Lake
Historical
Society**

The Historical Society was formed in 1977 as an outgrowth of the Spring Lake Bicentennial Committee. To celebrate the Nation's 200th birthday, the mayor and council appointed members and furnished seed funds in 1975. The committees' accomplishments were many; a quilt was sewn, 75 vintage home were researched and plaqued, and a local history written and published.

At the end of 1976, the committee members, wishing to continue their activities, drew up a constitution, and thus the Historical Society was born. In 1978, the incorporation was finalized and a temporary "home" was set up on the Essex and Sussex Promenade. In 1979, the mayor and council, who have always been of support, graciously granted use of the third floor of the municipal building as a museum and meeting place.

In 1986, a five-year plan was announced as a major goal to design and build a Changing Gallery and refurbish the Main Gallery. Thanks to the generosity of the people of Spring Lake, state grants and the hard-working Society members, this was accomplished. On March 14, 1992, in conjunction with Spring Lake's Centennial, Mayor Thomas Byrne cut the ribbon and the new home of the town's many treasures was open to all. There were now ample storage areas, meeting, study and research space, a video theatre and the exhibit galleries. Air conditioning was installed. The rest room was updated, and heating, electric and venting improvements were made.

In 1998, an archivist was hired to update and maintain our collections. A computer and scanner were purchased in 1999 to computerize our accessions and photographic collections.

The society has contributed much to the borough during its 25 years. In the past, children's Christmas parties, summer cocktail parties, Christmas concerts and walking tours were held. Continuing activities are local research, public meetings featuring interesting speakers and programs, newsletters and constant improvements to the museum. Annual house tours, theatre trips, sale of history books, cookbooks, other boutique items, donations and membership dues give the society its working revenues. Scholarships are awarded annually. A Historic Sites fund was set up to support the historic churches and other historic sites. A Tile Restoration Fund was set up to replace the decorative tiles at the north end pavilion. The Historical Society, the Borough of Spring Lake, the Preservation Alliance and the general public donated funds. They have not been restored yet, but the molds are all made thus saving these treasures.

We look forward forward to our next 25 years!

By Dorothy Lau

THE BENCHES OF SPRING LAKE

(An Ode to Remembrance)

Along the boardwalk of **Spring Lake**,
there are benches that do not simply rest —
they remember.

Each one bears a name,
etched not loudly,
but with devotion.
A life once lived.
A love once held.
A story entrusted to the sea.

People stop here —
sometimes intentionally,
sometimes because the heart knows before the mind.
They read the plaques.
They whisper the names.
They imagine laughter, footsteps, first mornings,
last sunsets.

And then come the seasons.

At Christmas, wreaths appear —
evergreen, faithful, circular as love itself.
Red bows against winter sky.
Remembrance dressed in hope.

At Easter, flowers return —
soft colors, gentle promise,
life insisting on itself again.

At other holidays,
and on ordinary days that feel anything but ordinary,
someone comes quietly
to straighten a ribbon,
to replace a shell,
to tend what time cannot erase.
These benches are not monuments of sorrow.
They are acts of care.

They say:
You mattered.
You are still part of this place.
Sit. Rest. Remember.

Strangers read these names
and carry them forward,
if only for a moment.
In this way, memory becomes communal,
and love refuses to be private.



*Lalita Surrey, poet and newest member
of the Historical Society.*

Here, grief is not hidden.
It is honored.
Here, remembrance is not frozen in stone —
it is living, seasonal, touched by human
hands.

And so the boardwalk becomes more than
a path.

It becomes a ledger of lives,
a gallery of devotion,
a sacred invitation to pause

Spring Lake understands this quietly:
that beauty is not only what we see,
but who we remember —
and how gently we choose to remember
them.

Lalita Surrey, March 2026

The Spring Lake Historical Society's Annual Meeting



The Historical Society's annual meeting will take place on Thursday, June 25th, 2026 at 7:00 pm in the council chambers of the Spring Lake Municipal Building. At this meeting, officers will be elected and two scholarships will be awarded. The Historical Society will award a \$1000. scholarship to a high school senior who is a resident of Spring Lake and who plans to continue his or her education. The Saklas Family will award the \$1000. Elizabeth A. Saklas Memorial Scholarship to a nurse who resides at the Jersey Shore and who is continuing his or her education in the nursing field.

In honor of America's 250th anniversary, local historian, Mike Rosenfelder, will present "Blood to Glory: the Elias Dayton Powder Horn". Mike Rosenfelder has uncovered the fascinating history of Elias Dayton's powder horn. Elias Dayton began his military career during the French and Indian War and went on to serve during the American Revolutionary War rising to the rank of brigadier general. Following America's independence, Elias Dayton served as mayor of Elizabethtown, NJ and also served in the New Jersey General Assembly.



Courtesy of the Coast Star

COURTESY OF KAREN LASALA

WOMAN'S CLUB TOURS HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Twenty-six members of the Spring Lake Woman's Club visited the Spring Lake Historical Society Museum at the municipal building on Warren Avenue, where many experienced their first tour and were welcomed by Trustees Barbara Harrigan, Stephanie McMurray and Judy Brophy. The museum, which follows the borough's history from the Lenni-Lenape Native Americans to the present day, is largely self-guided, allowing visitors to explore exhibits at their own pace, with photographs, newspaper articles and memorabilia sparking memories of shore visits and an appreciation for the borough's heritage. Several club members purchased items reflecting the town and its natural beauty, and the afternoon concluded with refreshments and conversation, making for a memorable visit.

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, winters and Tuesday and Thursday mornings throughout the summer. 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.

Condolences....

Joseph Lamar Smith, Jr. *(Member)*

John Stephen McGowan

Julia Marie Bergin

Peter Paul Donnelly

Teresa Rigney

Patricia McCarthy Jefferies

Helen R. Mahoney

Eugene P. Campbell

Dr. Robert Henry Hazel, Jr.

Judge Joseph L. Foster

Donald S. Soltys

Shirley Ryan *(active past Member)*

William Gearty *(Member)*

Janis O'Brien

Alfred Joseph Mizhir, Sr. *(Member)*

Francis Xavier Keegan, Jr.

Alice D. Regan

Gregory Joseph King

Nicholas Anthony Mastrorilli, Sr.

Constance McQuade *(Member)*

Lisa Wickham McGrath *(Member)*

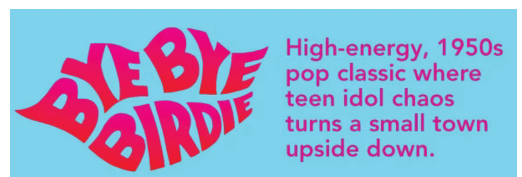
House Plaques



Beautiful Spring Lake Historical Society House Plaques are available if your home qualifies. For more information contact our office at 732-449-0772 or slhs703@optimum.net. The cost of home research fees and the plaque are \$300.

Members Please Join Us for our Fundraising Night at the Community House Theater

On Wednesday evening, August 12th, the Historical Society along with the Garden Club and the Woman's Club will be hosting their annual Theater Fundraising Night at the Spring Lake Community House. Tickets are \$50 for the performance of BYE BYE BIRDIE and a cocktail reception before the show. The reception starts at 6:30 PM and tickets are available from any of the clubs. We would hope every Historical Society member might purchase a ticket and support this event.



OFFICERS

President..... Barbara Kolarsick-Harrigan
Vice President..... John Mulhall
Treasurer Robert Drasheff
Corresponding Secretary..... Stephanie McMurray
Recording Secretary Maureen Mulhall
Trustees..... Bonnie DuBois, Carole Morris and Marie Curry
Newsletter..... John McGlinchy, Bonnie DuBois, Scott McMurray,
Barbara Kolarsick-Harrigan, Stephanie McMurray

Spring Lake Historical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 703, Spring Lake, New Jersey 07762

New **MEMBERSHIP** Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

General: \$35 Date _____ Life: \$500

For Current Members:

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



MUSEUM HOURS

Sundays 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Thursdays 10 a.m. - 12 Noon

423 Warren Ave., Spring Lake, NJ
(Second Floor)

Website: springlakahistoricalociety.org

(732) 449-0772

Spring Lake, NJ 07762

P.O. Box. 703

Newsletter

Spring Lake Historical Society



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