



# Milestones

HARRISON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEW EXHIBITION OPENS COMMEMORATING THE 2021 TORNADO

On September 1, 2021, a tornado of historic magnitude tore through Mullica Hill, leaving jagged scars through Harrison Township's beautiful landscape and destroying homes and properties. Although the community has begun to heal and rebuild, evidence of the tornado's path bears witness every day to the destruction that it caused.

Recognizing the significance of these events, the Harrison Township Historical Society sponsored an oral history project to record the experiences of affected residents, first responders, local officials, and volunteers. With support from the Gloucester County Cultural and Heritage Commission at Rowan College of South Jersey in partnership with the New Jersey Historical Commission/Department of State, the Society engaged the services of Melissa Ziobro, Specialist Professor of Public History at Monmouth University, to design and conduct the interviews.

With close to 20 years of experience with oral history, she currently serves as the President of Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region and was eminently qualified to carry out this important work.

Twenty-one interviews were conducted, which formed the basis for this Fall's featured exhibition, *Tornado*. The story of this unprecedented event is told through the voices of those who experienced the storm and its aftermath. Narrators and members were invited to a private preview and reception on Sunday, September 25th and the response was gratifying. Many commented how they were moved by the installation and inspired by the community's work to rebuild. A lecture about the project by project historian Ziobro followed at Richwood Academy Cultural Center. The live audience was joined by on-line viewers during and following the program and to date the presentation has been seen by over 300 people. The exhibition opened to the public on Saturday, October 1 and will continue on view on weekends, 1-4 PM.



*The opening reception attracted an appreciative audience.*



*The reception's guests included several of the narrators whose stories are featured in the exhibition. The installation includes an area for gallery visitors to add their own memories of the storm.*

# Tornado



**HARRISON TOWNSHIP  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
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**Follow us on Facebook**

**Old Town Hall Museum (1871)**

62-64 South Main Street, Mullica Hill, NJ

**Richwood Academy Cultural Center (1870)**

836 Lambs Road, Richwood, NJ

**OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE BOARD**

*President: Robert Schumann*

*Vice President: Dave Tinney*

*Recording Secretary: Paul Davis*

*Corresponding Secretary: Claire Bartholomew*

*Treasurer: Barbara Ridgway*

*Harrison Township Committee Liaison:*

*Michelle Powell*

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*Leona Ballinger, Paul Davis, Donna Grasso,*

*Robert Greene, Karen Heritage,*

*Maier Hitchner, Jeff Jacques, Chris Knisely,*

*Cindy Madara, Dollie Mann-Wells,*

*Maxine Mino, Alice Montagnoli,*

*Richard Ridgway, Mary Snively, Judy Suplee,*

*James Turk, Michele Vallone, Marion White,*

*John Williams*

*Executive Board meetings are the  
second Wednesday of each month,  
7 pm, except July and December,  
at Richwood Academy Cultural Center.  
Members and the public are welcome  
to attend.*

**THANK YOU  
NARRATORS AND CONTRIBUTORS TO THE  
TORNADO PROJECT**

**Narrators**

Matthew Cardile  
Dennis Chambers  
Ronald Cundey  
Julie DeLaurentis  
Marianne Eachus  
Leonard Grasso  
Mark Gravinese  
Shannon Lynch  
Louis Manzo  
Steve & Isabella Moraca  
Matthew Nealy

Missy Peretti  
Ken Powell  
Janice Dugan Roller &  
Matthew Roller  
Kara & Anthony Sacco Family  
Kristin Skrobanek  
Maria & Tim Steuber  
Jonas Smucker  
Ashley & Troy Thomas  
Joanne & Mike Trazzera  
Bud Verfaillie

**Contributors**

Ethan Bathurst  
Alice DiFabio  
Harrison House  
Harrison Township  
Tornado Talk

**Consulting Historian**

Melissa S. Ziobro, Monmouth University

**Exhibition Committee**

Donna Grasso  
Jeff Jacques  
Chris Knisely  
Michelle Powell  
Richard Ridgway  
Robert Schumann  
James Turk

**WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS**

Maxwell Collins  
Peter Gabriel  
Joan Egerton  
Valerie Grasso  
Melina Madara  
Dollie Mann-Wells

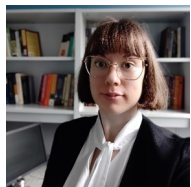
**IN MEMORIAM**

Philip Mino  
Kenny Patel  
Diane Wohlrab

## FALL BRINGS NEW SERIES OF LECTURES AND CONCERTS TO RICHWOOD ACADEMY CULTURAL CENTER

The Society is very pleased to present another exciting program series this Fall. In addition to provocative presentations on medicine and climate change, we continue our partnership with Rowan University's College of Performing Arts featuring the faculty and the college's emerging young artists. Presentations all take place on Sunday afternoons at 3 pm and are free of charge in person and on-line at the Society's public Facebook page. Register for a free ticket at our Facebook page to attend in person or view online at the same site where programs are also archived for subsequent viewing. You do not have to have a Facebook account to access our page.

Plan to join us for these exciting events!



**October 9, 3 PM *Modernizing Medicine: Patients, Physicians, and Medical Institutions in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Delaware River Valley.*** Dr. Nicole Schroeder, a historian and educator at Kean University, dives into the world of 19<sup>th</sup> century medicine and the nationally prominent role played by local institutions.



**October 23, 3 PM *Rowan Percussion Ensemble in Concert.*** Directed by Dr. Fabio Oliveira, the Ensemble performs a program of classical, popular, folk, and contemporary music featuring the resonant sounds of the concert marimba.



**November 6, 3 PM *Climate Change in South Jersey.*** Meghan Wren, NJ Office of Planning Strategy, discusses the ramifications of climate change being experienced today and explores ways to reduce the threats to historic assets, important places and vulnerable populations.



**November 20, 3 PM *Timothy Schwarz in Concert.*** Rowan University's Head of Strings presents a fascinating recital program that combines old European masters with new and vibrant works by living American composers.



**December 4, 3 PM *Voices on a Sunday Afternoon.*** The Rowan University Opera Company will be performing selections from opera, art song and musical theater under the direction of Professor Marian Stieber – a grand finale for the Richwood Academy Cultural Center's 2022 Program series!

*Melissa Ziobro's lecture, "I Looked Up and There Was the Sky: The 2021 Mullica Hill Tornado" kicked off the Fall season at the Academy.*

*Her lecture can be viewed at the Society's public Facebook page, as are all the Cultural Center's programs.*



## GHOSTS WALK AGAIN ON MAIN STREET



*Ghost Tourists enjoyed the photo-op cutout created by Lynne Perez, Mullica Hill Art Center.*

Not unlike the Asparagus Festival in the Spring, rain threatened the 2022 Mullica Hill Ghost Walk, however, the weather cleared enough for this ever-popular event to proceed. Once again hundreds of visitors descended upon the town ready and eager to hear eerie tales about the village's past inhabitants. Interpreters performed at 9 sites through the Historic District, stretching from Old Town Hall to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Blueplate sponsored this year's tour and the event's headquarters was set up in the restaurant's outdoor dining pavilion where day of tour tickets and Ghost Walk T-Shirts and Glow-sticks were available. We are grateful for Blueplate's support!

### **THANK YOU, GHOST WALK VOLUNTEERS!**

#### **2022 Ghost Walk Committee**

Bob Schumann, Paul Showers, Dave Tinney,  
Jeff Jacques, Chris Knisely

#### **Ghost Walk Sponsor**

Jim Malaby—blueplate

#### **Guides and Interpreters**

Joe Arne, Roger Baker, TJ Coakley,  
Julie DeLaurentis, Camryn Hacker-Slim,  
Vasil Hnatyshin, Doug Hogate/JUMPS Paranormal  
Team, Gloria Horvay, Jeff Jacques,  
Dick McDermott, Lawrence Moore,  
Rev. Sharon Patterson, Lynne Perez,  
Valerie Ricciuti, Rachel Rowe, Ashley Sabbath,  
Corrin Sellen, Paul Showers,  
Andy Siganuk/12th NJ Volunteers, Joy Skow,  
Curt Suplee, Gwendolyn Timberman, Dave Tinney,  
Erica Walker

#### **Volunteers and Contributors**

Joan Boarts, Paul Davis, Joan Egerton,  
Donna Grasso, Karen Heritage, Bob Horvay,  
Maxine Mino, Marge Scerbo, Barbara Showers  
Harrison Township Police Department  
Harrison Township Public Works  
Mark Gravinese, Township Administrator  
Anthony Romeo/Naples Ristorante-Pizzeria-Bar  
Lisa Rysinger/VIDE Productions

### **TRICK-OR-TREATING FOR A GOOD CAUSE**

The first Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF was held in the Bridesburg neighborhood of Philadelphia on Halloween 1950. Inspired by a UNICEF booth collecting donations for undernourished children, Mary Emma Woodruff Allison (who hailed from Deerfield, Cumberland County) thought that instead of trick-or-treating for candy, children could collect donations door to door and send the money to UNICEF. By the 1960s the program had expanded throughout the country and schools became involved, handing out little orange boxes for their students to use to collect donations.

In the 1950s Mullica Hill resident Edward Colson began Harrison Township's involvement in the program. He and his family prepared the little orange collection boxes, including putting the string through the lid, which allowed the box to hang around a child's neck, thus keeping hands free. Mr. Colson delighted in dressing up in homemade costumes and hosting the neighborhood children at the Grange Hall, where they would register, pick up their boxes and go throughout town, collecting donations. The adults in the community always made sure that the children received candy for themselves as well as the money that would be given to UNICEF. After trick-or-treating, everyone returned to the Grange Hall, where they dropped off their boxes and enjoyed an evening of party games, including bobbing for apples, all planned and hosted by Pat Estilow.

*(continued next page)*

## HAIL AND FAREWELL

This year's annual meeting marked the retirement of two long-standing members of the Society's Board. Alice Montagnoli served on the Board for 25 years and was an active volunteer wherever needed. Suzanne Grasso was a past president of the Society, and was editor of *Milestones* for many years. She served on the Board for 15 years and was an active member of the Collections Committee, setting up the Society's reference filing system among other things. We are grateful to both Alice and Suzanne for their dedicated years of service.

A graduate of Tennessee State University, Dollie Mann-Wells was born and raised in Tennessee. After graduation she became an editor for a major business magazine in Denver, CO. Recruited by an international cosmetics company she remained with them for approximately 8 years. She then relocated to Philadelphia, got married and began her family. When her son started preschool, she became a NJ Certified Substitute Teacher in 2003. After working in various school districts, she became a classroom management trainer and recruiter. After a term as Administrator with the Trenton Board of Education, Dollie decided to focus on her local school district as a Substitute Teacher here in Harrison Township. Having great compassion and passion for the elderly community, she's also become a companion and personal assistant for several seniors. She is a founding member of the Harrison Twp IDEA Board, GCFL, Garden State Survivors, Girl Trek, Christian Stronghold Church, and Tennessee State Alumni Association, NE Region. Dollie is pleased to become a member of the Board, stating, "Becoming a member of the Historical Society, I'll bring more ideas and topics to the organization, encourage more people to join and increase diversity of all families represented here in Mullica Hill, and lastly broaden the knowledge and history of ALL who helped build our town and helping to build it forward."

*(Trick-or-Treating continued)*

After Edward Colson passed away in 1965, his wife Irma carried on with the program through the early 1980s. In the 1990s teacher AnnaMarie Mason resumed the tradition with the kindergarten classes at Harrison Township School, and teacher Colleen Illi carried on until extra activities were dropped because of the COVID pandemic in 2020.



*UNICEF Ephemera, HTHS Collection*

*Gift of Peggy Colson Warner*

Special thanks are extended to Peggy Colson Warner for her memories of her father Edward Colson and Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF in Mullica Hill. If anyone has memories and/or photos of this event in the Township, from any decade, the Society would be thrilled to know.

Karen E. Heritage

Jeffrey D. Jacques has been a resident of Gloucester County for the past 35 years, and the last 24 right here in Mullica Hill. He is a veteran, and during his time of service provided support for the advanced aircraft deployed by the US Marine Corps. After discharge, he spent 30 plus years in the high-tech sector for various companies before retiring in 2015 from Cisco Systems.

In 2016, He was elected to Township Committee for a 3-yr term. During that term on the Harrison Township Committee, he was liaison to the following boards and commissions: The Veterans Commission, Environmental Commission, Mullica Hill Business Association, Historic Preservation Commission, Harrison Township Historical Society.

Jeff currently serves as Chair of the Environmental Commission, sits on the Historic Preservation Commission, is a member of the Historical Society, the Knights of Columbus and the Rotary Club of Mullica Hill. His interest in the history of our town and area was cultivated during his time on Township Committee and the liaison positions he held. That experience has motivated him to accept a deeper role with the Historical Society.

Welcome, Dollie and Jeff! The Society looks forward to working with you these coming years.

## THE FIVE POINTS CORNET BAND: DISCORD AND HARMONY

In the 19th century brass bands became a familiar feature of American popular culture, inspiring admiration and patriotism. Musical ensembles popped up all over America, and Old Harrison Township was no exception. Mullica Hill, Harrisonville and Five Points (now Richwood ) all boasted having a community band. As noted in the September 27, 1883 edition of the *Gloucester County Democrat*:

*The Harrisonville citizens are already proud of their new Cornet Band, They play seven or eight pieces, in about as many lessons, among which are "Sweet Bye and Bye," "I'm a Soldier," "Lone Starry Hours," "Little Birdie," etc.*

Bands performed at festivals at home and in neighboring towns, oftentimes to raise funds for music and uniforms. They also were recruited to play at political campaign rallies.

In 1881, however, harmony among the members of the Five Points Cornet Band was disrupted by a dispute that ended up in court. The July 28 issue of the *Democrat* reported the case as follows.

*Some time ago Mr. Bartine Stratton organized at Five Points a musical band, being aided by a large number of young men of that neighborhood. The band became quite a success and has played frequently at fairs, sociables, etc., and was on the high road to success when dissensions arose over the desire of one party to remove the meeting place of the band from Mr. Stratton's house to an ice cream saloon in the village. The breach widened, and on Monday last culminated in a lawsuit brought by George Nicholson, a member of the band, against two other members named C. B. Hendrickson and Ferd. Thoma, to recover a tuba horn held by the latter, who was the property man of the band. The horn belonged to the organization generally, and the defendants not only alleged their rightful possession under the Constitution and By-Laws of the band, but their counsel showed clearly by decisions of the Supreme Court that "recover and conversion," (the title of the suit), could not be maintained, unless there had been actual destruction, by one joint owner against another. The suit occupied all the afternoon and attracted the attention of about one hundred and fifty auditors, who howled and jeered, according as "their side" went up or down in the argument and testimony. Pandemonium prevailed for a time, which the learned Squire (J. S. Rulon, Esq.) did not seem to hear, however. The jury brought in a verdict for \$25 against the defendants, and they have appealed to the Court of Common Pleas. The lawyers engaged were Belmont Perry and R. M. Ware.*

The outcome of the appeal was not reported, but it appears that the band reorganized in October of that year, as evidenced by the date on the band's bass drum in the Society's Collection. Two years later the Five Points correspondent declared that "the Band is one of the finest in the State, both in instruments and music, and we hope that the candidates will give the boys a trial in the coming campaign." Clearly harmony had been restored.



*Five Points Cornet Band Bass Drum, c1880. The inscription states that the group was organized in October 1881, after the dispute was decided in court.*

*Gift of Richwood Academy Association*

*The Five Points Cornet Band was apparently reorganized by Thomas Munyan, who played the cornet. Its members included Charles Munyan, trombone, and George Nicholson, bass horn, as well as Charles Henry Nicholson, Commodore Zane, and an unspecified member of the Heritage family.*

*Photo courtesy of Karen E. Heritage*

**Dramatic Entertainment!**

THE MEMBERS OF  
THE MULLICA HILL CORNET BAND  
Will play the Drama, in two acts, entitled  
**THE FALSE FRIEND,**  
IN THE TOWN HALL, MULLICA HILL,  
*Saturday Even'g, Feb'y 23, '84.*

CAST OF CHARACTERS.  
CHAS. NICHOLSON, Eng. gentleman, C. E. Shute  
WM. MARLBOROUGH, a villain, J. H. Shute  
PAT O'BRIEN, an Irish servant, J. Kirby  
SIR ROBERT LANCASTER, M. Ridgway  
BEN HARRIS, a tool of Marib'gh, E. Schwebel  
JIM LYNX, the detective, J. S. Bath  
ROSE, niece of Sir Robert, Mrs. A. M. Kirby  
POLICEMEN, J. White and A. Bath

The proceeds of the entertainment are for the purpose of procuring uniforms of the Band.  
**Admission, 25c. Children under 12 yrs. 15c.**  
Doors open at 7 o'clock; performance commences at 8, with music by the Band.  
By order of THE COMMITTEE.



## ASPARAGUS FESTIVAL A SUCCESS

Despite the less than perfect weather - rain and drizzle threatened the festivities - the Asparagus Festival was a great success. The tasting event, under the masterful management of chefs Jim Malaby, blueplate, Anthony Marino, Marino's of Mullica Hill and David Wiederholt, 322 BBQ, was a sell-out. In addition to the semi-finalist recipes submitted for the contest, each chef also prepared a signature dish from their restaurants. Tasters voted for their favorite among the recipe submissions. With all the votes totaled the winning recipe was Gina Totten's Asparagus Bundt Cake.

Gina has lived in West Deptford Township her entire life. A graduate of West Deptford High School and Duke University, she worked as a nurse her entire career and now serves as a hospice care quality consultant. She also teaches at Rutgers Camden. Asparagus played a significant role in her family's history - her father and mother met in an asparagus field.

Her winning recipe was created 20 years ago by accident. While preparing a Zucchini Bundt Cake, she discovered that her daughter had eaten the zucchini. So, she threw some asparagus into the food processor and hoped for the best. To this day her family and friends enjoy her specialty. We thank Gina for her participation and congratulate her for winning our first asparagus recipe contest.

Co-chairs Cindy Madara and Dave Tinney want to thank all the volunteers and sponsors who made the festival such a great experience for our guests. Recognizing the event's success, the Board has voted to continue the festival next year. Why not consider joining the committee? Planning has not yet commenced, so there's time to get involved. Just leave a message at 856-478-6673 or hthsmhbj@gmail.com

### GINA TOTTEN'S ASPARAGUS BUNDT CAKE

3 cups flour  
2 cups sugar  
1 tsp. cinnamon  
1/2 tsp salt  
1 1/2 cups vegetable oil  
3 large eggs, beaten  
3 cups of grated, fresh asparagus (about 1 lb)  
1 8 oz. can crushed pineapple  
2 tsps. vanilla extract  
1 1/2 cups chopped pecans or walnuts

#### Directions

Pre-heat oven 350°

Combine 1st five ingredients.

Add oil, eggs, asparagus, pineapple, orange zest and vanilla. Mix well. Fold in pecans. Pour into greased and floured 10" Bundt pan.

Bake 350 degrees for 1 hour or until toothpick comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes, remove from pan. Cool on wire rack.

For Icing, beat cream cheese and sugar in a small bowl until smooth. Add orange zest, vanilla and enough milk until icing reaches desired consistency.

Spoon over cake, allowing to drip down the sides.

16-20 servings

#### Icing

3 ounces softened cream cheese  
2 3/4 cups powdered sugar  
2 tbsp freshly grated orange zest  
2/4 tbsp milk

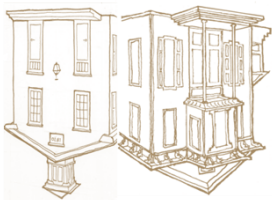


*Dave Tinney presented Gina Totten with the prizes for 1st place recipe.*



**November 26 Main Street Mullica Hill, NJ Rain Date - November 27**

*The Harrison Township Historical Society's arts and history programs are made possible in part by funding from The Gloucester County Cultural and Heritage Commission at Rowan College of South Jersey, in partnership with the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State and the National Endowment for the Arts and the New Jersey Historical Commission/Department of State.*



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