



Cedar Grove Historical Society

Where the Past is Present

Canfield-Morgan House - Home of the Morgan Museum
908 Pompton Avenue P.O. Box 561 Cedar Grove, New Jersey
973-239-5414 - www.cedargrovehistoricalsociety.org

If a meeting is cancelled there will be a recorded message at 973-239-5414

January 2011

**Did you know that the first use of
E PLURIBUS UNUM on a coin was when
it graced a copper coin struck by the
authority of the state of New Jersey in
1786?**

**Join us at the next meeting of the
Cedar Grove Historical Society and hear
Ray Williams, a former Cedar Grove
resident, speak on the topic
NJ Coinage 1786-1788.**

**Mr. Williams will have a number of
examples to show and encourages anyone
who owns coins dated before 1792 to bring
them, along with any questions you might
have.**

When: Wednesday, January 26

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Where: Cedar Grove Library

President's Message

Happy New Year to everyone. I hope the holidays were enjoyable and you're ready for a new year. I want to thank everyone who helped with the Holiday Open House, especially Tom Jenkins, Ed Husni, Pat and Lou Fornoff, Peggy O'Connor, Ren Chandler, Jean Jaeger, Julie Ostering and Matt Wilson.

Also thanks to everyone who shared culinary treats to make it especially enjoyable. Once again, thanks to Jennifer Jessen-Foose and the high school students who provided the music for our party.

Mother Nature has been providing us with all kinds of weather and I hope we'll be able to get together for our January meeting. Just a reminder to call the number at the Morgan House to check on meetings in the event of bad weather.

I wish to extend condolences to Chris Werndly and his family on the death of his wife Doris. She will be greatly missed by everyone.

Barbara



The Cedar Grove Historical Society mourns the loss of **Doris Werndly**. Doris passed away on Tuesday, December 21, 2010. She was a long-time member of the society and for many years helped to publish the newsletter with her husband Chris. Doris never seemed to be without a smile and her courage was an inspiration to all of us.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to Chris and all of the Werndly family.

Cedar Grove: Then and Now

The Jacobus House

Roeloff Jacobus built his home on one of the first roads through Cedar Grove. In the mid-1700's when the house was built the road was called Peckman Lane which later was changed to Gould Lane. Today we know the road as Grove Avenue. Mr. Jacobus built his home near the northern end of the road. In the picture below, the small building on the left was used both as a summer kitchen and a smoke house.



The house was built of brownstone quarried in Little Falls. The front of the house had finely cut blocks of stone, but the remaining walls were built of rubble and mortar and stuffed with sand and animal hair for insulation. The house remained in the Jacobus family until the 1880s. At some time the sides of the house were cemented over to provide further insulation.



Although empty for a while, the house is presently being renovated by Gutman General Contracting Inc. They are specialists in historic restorations. When the restoration is finished the house will be put on the market.



Did You Know?

There was no home postal delivery in Cedar Grove until 1949. In order for home delivery to begin the federal government required that a proper post office be built. That post office was built on Bowden Road opposite Rugby Road. Home mail delivery began on November 28, 1949.

SOCIETY HAPPENINGS

The Cedar Grove Historical Society's annual Holiday Open House was held at the Morgan Museum on Sunday, December 12, from 2-4 p.m. This year the open house was included in Essex County's Historic Holiday House Tour which resulted in many new visitors to the museum.

It was the twelfth of December in 2010 and the Cedar Grove Historical Society was partying again.



The house was dressed in its holiday best, waiting to welcome its very first guest.



The table was set with tasty treats galore, just waiting for someone to open the door.



The high school musicians were ready to play, and help make all have a glorious day.



The mayor joined in the feasting and fun, and then wished Happy Holidays to everyone.



Some sat and relaxed and to the music they listened, as the tree alongside them so brightly glistened.



Trustees Linda and Julie happily smiling here, wish you all Happy Holidays and see you next year!

Future Events

January 1 2011 Membership Drive begins. **Don't forget to renew your membership.**

January 26 General Meeting
N.J. Coinage 1786-1788

February 23 General Meeting
The Music of the 1950s

March Annual Fundraising Drive

Fund Raiser

The historical society has an opportunity to be part of a fund raiser which requires members to sign up with an alternate electric energy supplier. There is no expense to you and you can opt out of the program at any time. However, the society could receive two dollars a month for every member enrolled. President Barbara Young needs to hear from you to see if this is worth pursuing. Leave a message at the house (973-239-5414) or see Barbara at the next meeting if you wish to sign up.

MEET OUR MEMBERS

by Peggy O'Connor



Irene "Ren" Chandler is one longtime resident who will admit to a preference for the "old days." One of her earliest experiences in town was attending the Fourth of July, 1942, Firemen's Picnic, held on the field now occupied by Washington Academy. Ren was a Bloomfield resident who had been invited to the picnic by Ted Chandler. They had met at Bloomfield High, where he and other Cedar Grove residents then attended high school. Ren and Ted married in 1945 and moved into an apartment in the center of town on Pompton Avenue. After Ted's service in WWII, the Chandlers built a home on Brookhill Place. With the help of friends and family, they picked up their "house kit" from the train station and literally built the ranch home where Ren still lives.

The Chandlers were immersed in Cedar Grove life. Ted's T.V. Service was run from town for over 30 years; Ren was a cosmetologist and buyer for Plains Pharmacy at the corner of Pompton Avenue and Bowden Road; and their daughter Bonnie attended Cedar Grove High School. Ren's banking career began at Cedar Grove National Bank (now PNC Bank.) She was a bank officer when she retired, and continues to perform accounting services for some former bank clients.

Ren became active in the Historical Society about twenty years ago, bringing her banking acumen to the role of Treasurer. She is proud to be the oldest current member of the Ladies' Auxiliary of VFW Post 6255, where she was once a Color Guard. Landmarks she remembers which are no longer standing are the Dutch House, two former Post Offices, the butcher shop, diner and Stop and Shop (now Major Hardware.) Like her contemporaries who have lived here for decades, Ren remembers the celebrities starring at the Meadowbrook, in particular Frank Sinatra and Helen O'Connell.

Visitors to her Brookhill home admire Ren's park-like property, which she lovingly tends herself. Her free Saturdays are spent with pal Edna as they seek treasures in western NJ and eastern PA flea markets

Delegate Sought

The Cedar Grove Historical Society belongs to the West Essex League of Historical Societies which consists of delegates from the Caldwells, Verona, Roseland, Livingston, Essex Fells, Fairfield and organizations of similar interest from these towns. The purpose of the League is to assist, coordinate and otherwise support through mutual cooperation the members in furthering their activities in all aspects of local history.

The League meets four times a year (March, June, September and November) at various sites in the West Essex area. It is currently considering projects involving digitalization of area newspapers, historic markers, passports for school children to West Essex sites, historian of the year and core curriculum collaboration.

If you would be interested in any of the above areas and are available to attend meetings, please contact Barbara Young so Cedar Grove can be represented.

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Canfield/Morgan House - Home of the Morgan Museum
Open Each Wednesday from 10-12 a.m. or by reservation.
Call 973-239-5414 or email jeanjaeger@optonline.net to arrange a tour for your group.

General Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month except for November, December, June, July and August.
The meetings are held at the Cedar Grove Library on Pompton Avenue and begin at 7:30 p.m.

Officers

Trustees

Trustees

President:	Barbara Young	Linda Dye	Juie Ostering
Vice-president:	Peggy O'Connor	Ed Husni	Chris Werndly
Secretary:	Jean Jaeger	Phil Jaeger	Cheryl Woomer
Treasurer:	Ren Chandler	Tom Jenkins	John Young
		Merrily La Scala	

Newsletter editor, Jean Jaeger, can be reached at jeanjaeger@optonline.net
Comments and story suggestions gratefully accepted.