



# Cedar Grove Historical Society

Where the Past is Present

Canfield-Morgan House - Home of the Morgan Museum  
908 Pompton Avenue P.O. Box 461 Cedar Grove, New Jersey  
973-239-5414 - [www.cedargrovehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.cedargrovehistoricalsociety.org)

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

January/February 2012

## General Meeting

Wednesday

February 22, 2012

Cedar Grove Public Library

7:30 p.m.

## Grover Cleveland's Wedding



Sharon Farrell, director and curator of the Grove Cleveland Birthplace State Historic Site in Caldwell will present a program about Grover Cleveland's marriage to Frances Folsom. They were married in the Blue Room of the White House on June 2, 1886.

## Upcoming Events

March 28: Cedar Grove Then and Now

April 25: New Jersey Coinage 1786-1788

May 23: Dining with History

June 9: Field Trip: The Hermitage in Ho-Ho-Kus followed by lunch at the Ho-Ho-Kus Inn and Tavern

Included with your newsletter this month you will find a revised copy of the Society's Bylaws. The revisions are printed in **bold**. Please review the revisions which will be presented at our General meeting on February 22. A vote will be taken at that time.



## Sean Romeo Makes Donation to the Historical Society

Sean Romeo, a member of Boy Scout Troop 65 of Cedar Grove has attained the rank of Eagle Scout. For his community service project Sean chose to refurbish sixteen benches at Morgan's Farm that were in serious need of repair. After receiving permission from Town Manager Tom Tucci to execute the project, Sean reached out to local businesses to help defray the cost of the project by sponsoring a bench. He also managed a car wash with the aid of his fellow troop members and received donations from local residents. John Ostering, owner of United Support Solutions, graciously donated his company's time and manpower to sandblast, refinish and powder-coat the frames and Jerry Guarino, owner of Major Hardware graciously donated the hardware needed to complete the project. With the help of his fellow troop members, his troop leaders, his father and other volunteers the benches were disassembled and then reassembled when the frames were completed and the weather resistant plastic materials for the slats were ready.

Because of the generosity of many local businesses and individuals, Sean was able to donate his extra funds to the Cedar Grove Historical Society. He presented a check for approximately \$1200 to President Chris Werndly at the society's annual Holiday Open House held on December 11 at the Morgan Museum. The society will use the money to further improve the grounds around the museum.

# Cedar Grove: Then and Now

## The Cedar Grove Postal Service

Cedar Grove's second post office, which was discussed in our previous newsletter, was located at the corner of what is now Pompton Avenue and Little Falls Road. The building that housed both the post office and Edwin E. Taylor's store was destroyed by fire in the late 1890s and its replacement was built on the same spot.



Cedar Grove's third post office shown here after 1910 when the store had been sold and the post office moved to a new location.

When this store was later sold it became Cedar Grove Center Store and the post office was moved to a small building adjacent to the store. This building had been erected in 1900 by a Mr. Decker as a butcher shop and had originally been located in what is today the center of Cedar Grove where Bank of America is now located. When the butcher shop was sold it was put on a flat wagon and pulled by six horses down Pompton Avenue to Bowden Road and then to Little Falls Road up to Pompton Avenue, a distance of over a mile.



This former butcher shop became Cedar Grove's fourth post office. The building was used as a post office from 1907 to 1913.



The third and fourth locations of the post office. The building on the left is where the third post office was located and then moved to the building on the right.



This is same location today. At the present time the building is vacant.

### Did You Know?

In the 1930s and 1940s the major networks often featured late night big band concerts from nightclubs and hotels throughout the country. These programs were often broadcast from the Meadowbrook in Cedar Grove. For this reason the Meadowbrook became well known throughout the United States earning a place in the hearts and minds of America's youth.

During World War II Tokyo Rose broadcast propaganda on a Japanese radio station. In an attempt to demoralize the American armed forces she announced that the Meadowbrook had burned down.

## Society Activities

### Annual Holiday Open House

The Historical Society's Annual Open House was held at the Morgan Museum on Sunday, December 11. As in years past choral music students from Cedar Grove High School under the direction of Mrs. Jennifer Jessen-Foose entertained our guests with wonderful holiday music. An array of holiday treats were donated by members and friends.

Our Open House was held in conjunction with the Essex County Historic Holiday House Tour, which brought many new visitors to the museum. The Essex County Tour is a two-day affair, so the museum was also open on Saturday, December 10. Chris Werndly, Julie Ostering and Jean Jaeger gave tours to the many visitors that came to the museum that day.



Mrs. Jessen-Foose leads the students.



Wonderful things to eat!



Enjoying the concert



President Chris Werndly plays the trumpet.



See anything that you like?



The joyful sound of youthful voices!



Councilman and Mrs. O'Toole joined in the festivities.



Deck the Halls!



Trustee Tom Jenkins greets our guests.

If you would like to view this newsletter in color just go to our web site at [www.cedargrovehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.cedargrovehistoricalsociety.org).

## Meet Our Members

by Peggy O'Connor



**Julie Vincent Ostering**, recently elected for a three-year term as a Cedar Grove Historical Society Trustee, moved to town with her family from Missouri when she was five years old. Her mom, Lynn, came from Lake Mohawk in Sparta, NJ, but her father, Jay, worked in New York City so they chose Cedar Grove as a better commuting option. Jay got on the train to New York at the station near the bridge that crossed Pompton Avenue. If Julie's father's name rings familiar, it is because Jay Vincent was mayor of Cedar Grove in the 1970s.

Julie walked to Leonard R. Parks grammar school, returning home for lunch most days. One day a week was special because she could have lunch at either Poppa Tony's or Friendly's. (It could be done with just \$1.00!) At Memorial High School, Julie was a twirler. She recalls the heavy wool outfits the twirlers wore while marching in the Memorial Day parades. It was in high school that Julie met her future husband, John Ostering, who is now a business owner in Cedar Grove.

At Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania, Julie obtained her business degree. She worked in the retail industry at J.M. Towne in Caldwell, then becoming a buyer for Sterns where she worked for seventeen years finishing her career as a buyer/planner at Linen 'n Things where she worked for seven years. Since then Julie has enjoyed her volunteer activities. She has worked diligently at the Morgan Museum with Janet Spong inspecting and repacking the textile collection. During the Farmers' Market this past summer, Julie opened the house each week and gave tours for the public. Julie also finds time to work two days a week at the Human Needs Food Pantry in Montclair.

Some of Julie's special childhood memories include skating on Bowden's Pond and warming her feet in the Lion's Den, going to the town pool and movie nights in the park. Julie and her friends frequented Cinema 23, the Cedar Grove Inn, Charlie Brown's and White Castle. She remembers shopping at Newberry's and Plains Pharmacy. getting ice cream at Taylor's Dairy and eating her favorite Pizza at Sal and Lisa's.

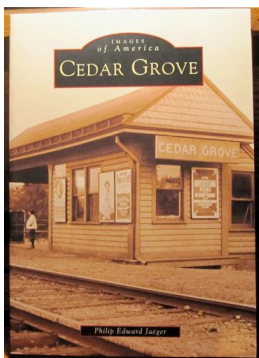
Julie and John are currently residents of Verona.

### Items for Sale

The Cedar Grove Historical Society has the following items for sale All proceeds go to help the work of the society.

1. **Cedar Grove** by Cedar Grove Historical Society Trustee Philip Jaeger for \$20. There is a limited supply available.
2. **Panther birdhouses** for \$20.
3. **Bundles of seasoned firewood** for \$5 a bundle

Please email Julie at [2JVO@comcast.net](mailto:2JVO@comcast.net) or call 973-857-1968.



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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](mailto: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, January, June, July and August. The meetings are held at the Cedar Grove Library on Pompton Avenue and begin at 7:30 p.m.

#### Officers

President: Chris Werndly  
Vice President: Jean Jaeger  
Secretary: Jean Jaeger  
Treasurer: Ren Chandler

#### Trustees

Linda Dye  
Ed Husni  
Phil Jaeger  
Merrily La Scala  
Rose Marie Partington  
Peter Nilan  
Julie Ostering  
Dean Kovatis  
Tom Jenkins

Newsletter editor, Jean Jaeger, can be reached at [jeanjaeger@optonline.net](mailto:jeanjaeger@optonline.net)  
Comments and story suggestions gratefully accepted.