



# Turkey Tracks

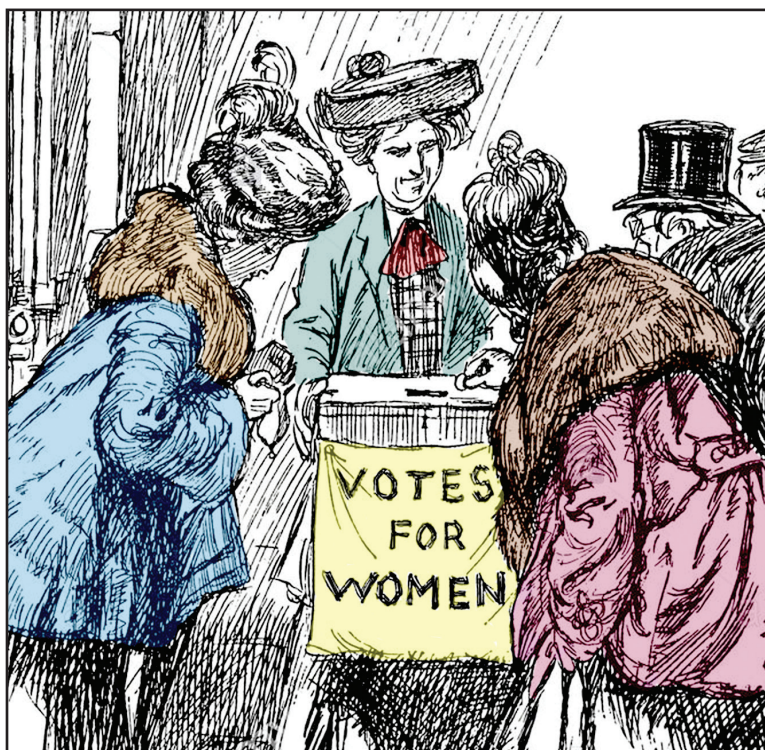
Newsletter of the New Providence Historical Society

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March 2020

## Women's Suffrage at 100



The women's suffrage movement to win the right to vote for women in the United States was a decades-long fight. It took activists and reformers nearly 100 years to win that right, and the campaign was not easy. Disagreements over strategy threatened to cripple the movement more than once. Finally on August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, enfranchising all American women and declaring for the first time that they, like men, deserve all the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

Historian Linda Barth, author of *Alice Paul, Champion of Women's Suffrage*, will share details above this vital civil rights struggle which deeply affected half of the population at our Annual Dinner at Chimney Rock Inn in Stirling, NJ on April 16, 2020. See page 5 for details.

## Turkey at 300!

In 2020, New Providence is celebrating its 300th anniversary. In honor of this commemorative year, a range of events have been planned. See page 3 for details.



May 2, 2020

# *President's Letter*

In 1664, the land we live on was purchased from the Leni Lenape Indians. In 1720, the first European settlers arrived in what became known as "Turkey," named for all the wild turkeys in the area. Since then, there have been many changes, including the borders and the name. This year is the 300th anniversary of the founding of New Providence, our home and community. Accordingly, there will be numerous events to celebrate.

On Thursday, April 16th, we will have our Annual Dinner at the Chimney Rock Inn with our speaker, author and historian Linda Barth, who will speak on the 100th anniversary of Women's Suffrage in America. Some people may remember her previous presentation on the D&R Canal. Please join us whether you're a member or not. (See details on page 5.)

On Saturday, May 2nd, we will again hold the Salt Box Craft Fair on the grounds of the Salt Box Museum. In addition to our treasure tables, we will have craft vendors and a bake sale. New Providence Garden Club will have their plant sale, as usual. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to stop by for some bargains and treasures. We also need items to sell and volunteers to sell them!

The Society is creating a set of landmark plaques for three historical sites in town: the Salt Box House, the Presbyterian Church and the old New Providence Academy. Special thanks to Kerry Lee for spearheading this historic initiative.

This spring, we will again conduct tours at the Salt Box Museum for students of New Providence. Our partnership with the school system has been very successful and quite gratifying. The Salt Box Museum is even part of the school's history curriculum. Special thanks to Byron Tracy, Head of the Department of Social Studies and World Language.

In addition to Society events, the town's Tricentennial Committee has planned several events for the special anniversary year, which are outlined on page 3.

There's always lots to do in the society. However, this year with the 300th anniversary celebration of New Providence, there's even more assistance needed. In addition, Gail Souren, who has served so well as treasurer, is retiring. So, we are in particular need of a new treasurer. If you're interested in being part of this historic celebration or our ongoing activities, please give us a call at 908-665-1034 or come to our monthly society meetings, where future activities are planned. Bring your ideas and energy. There are a wide range of things to do. Whatever your talents, we can use them. Get in on the fun!



Linda Kale  
President



# New Providence Celebrates 300 Years

To commemorate the amazing 300-year milestone, the following events have been planned by the Tricentennial Committee:

## Tricentennial Kickoff Gathering

**February 22, 2020, 6:30pm– 9:00pm, DeCorso Community Center**

Meet and greet folks involved in the events planned for celebrating the New Providence Tricentennial. Partake of light refreshments donated by some of New Providence's best shops and restaurants. Learn how our town grew and evolved into the great town it is today. Talk with the Mayor, Council Members and others dedicated to helping New Providence grow and prosper.

## Turkey Dinner at the Presbyterian Church of New Providence

**April 25, 2020, 6:00pm – 8:30pm**

To honor the original name of our town when settled 300 years ago, the Committee is planning a catered turkey dinner to be held at the site which gave New Providence its name. Reservations can be made beginning on February 22 at the Kickoff event or by email: [Tricentennial@newprov.org](mailto:Tricentennial@newprov.org) or by calling Borough Hall. Seating is Limited! Reservations will be taken on a first come first served basis.

## Memorial Day Parade

**May 25, 2020**

Our Tricentennial Group will take part in the annual Memorial Day parade, honoring community members and others who have been serving our country from 1720 through 2020.



## Heritage Day

**June 14, 2020**

Celebrating the history of New Providence from Turkey to today with food, music, contests, games and more. Heritage Day will end with a "Flag Retirement Ceremony" at the American Legion Post 433 on Elkwood Avenue. Many volunteers are needed, both individuals and local organizations.

## Celebration and Fun Day

**September 26, 2020, 11:00am – 3:00pm**

On the grounds of New Providence High School. What better way to celebrate New Providence's birthday than an old fashioned community carnival. The Tricentennial proposed a fun-filled, family orientated afternoon featuring inflatable rides, games, crafts, fun foods, (popcorn, cotton candy, ice cream), recreational activities, music and entertainment, and possibly an educational Colonial encampment.

Anyone interested in volunteering for any of these activities should email [Tricentennial@newprov.org](mailto:Tricentennial@newprov.org).

# 2020 Calendar for Upcoming Historical Society Events

March 19, 2020	Thursday	Society Meeting, Mason Room, 7 PM
April 5, 2020	Sunday	Open House at the Salt Box Museum, 1-3 PM
April 16, 2020	Thursday	Annual Meeting & Dinner, Chimney Rock Inn
May 2, 2020	Saturday	Salt Box Craft Fair, 9 AM - 3 PM (Raindate: May 9)
May 21, 2020	Thursday	Society Meeting, Mason Room, 7 PM
June 7, 2020	Sunday	Open House at the Salt Box Museum, 1-3 PM
June 18, 2020	Thursday	Society Meeting, Mason Room, 7 PM
July 5, 2020	Sunday	Open House at the Salt Box Museum, 1-3 PM
August 2, 2020	Sunday	Open House at the Salt Box Museum, 1-3 PM
August 20, 2020	Thursday	Society Meeting, Mason Room, 7 PM
September 19, 2020	Saturday	New Providence Book Festival on the Museum grounds

Other events may be added, so check our calendar at [www.newprovidencehistorical.com](http://www.newprovidencehistorical.com).

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## Member & Resident Notes:

Please welcome new Society members, **John O'Brien**, **John T. Sponauer**, **Geraldine Spencer**, **Diane Carty** and **Carol Bentley Vroman**.

**Ernest "Ernie" Gonczlik** (89) passed away on Sept. 30, 2019, in Belmar, N.J. He was an engineer and a Korean War veteran. In the early 1970s, he co-founded the non-profit recycling service in New Providence.

**F. Chandler "Chan" Coddington** (87) passed away on November 16, 2019. He was a businessman and community leader, as well as being descended from the family which founded the Coddington greenhouses.

**Carl R. Schultz** (76) passed away on December 1, 2019. He was the great grandson of Carl H. Schultz, the "Mineral Water King" and founder of Murray Hill. He had donated numerous historical documentation to the society.

**Percy "Skip" Jarvis Jr.**, passed away on December 1, 2019. He was an attorney at Jarvis, Lorentz & Wood.

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## The Changing Face of New Providence

**Harlee's Tap & Grill** opened on 9/9/2019 at 1260 Springfield Avenue. Previously at this site were Dascolls Pharmacy, Burger King, Chen's and Dim Sum Villa.

The house and shop at 1286 Springfield Avenue (right) has been demolished. A commercial building is being built in its place.

New Providence Gardens, the apartment complex on Gales Drive, has been renamed **Haven**.

The **Astrology Boutique** has opened on the ground floor at 1308 Springfield Avenue. Previously, the astrologer was on the second floor. This building has been the original New Providence Firehouse.

**Feathers**, the hairdresser at 1274 Springfield Avenue, is being replaced by **YK Salon**.

**New Providence Florist** at 44 South Street has closed. Owner Charles Hovanec maintained the seasonal wreaths on the door of the Salt Box Museum. We thank him for his kindness and will miss him.





# Salt Box Craft Fair - Saturday, May 2nd

The Salt Box Craft Fair is scheduled for May 2nd from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. with May 9th as the rain date. Proceeds from the fair support the Society's scholarship program and maintenance of the museum. Any vendors interested in renting space at \$25 per eight-foot space should call 908-665-1034. (Vendors are responsible for supplying their own table and chairs.)

**Donations:** Please call 908-665-1034 to arrange for a drop off time for any items to be donated for our Society's "Treasure Tables." We would appreciate having these items by April 25th, so they can be priced in time for the sale. Once again, we need and request your support.

Members, please mark your calendar for baking, pricing, selling, set-up, clean-up and hosting at the Salt Box Museum.

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**Proposed Trustees - Class of 2020: Kerry Lee, Margaret Maurer and Barbara Pape**

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## Membership Renewal Application

Our annual dues run from April 1st to March 31st, our fiscal year. Please fill in the requested information and mail your check to Margaret Maurer's attention at the Memorial Library address, New Providence Historical Society, 377 Elkwood Avenue, New Providence, NJ 07974. This will enable us to keep our membership and mailing lists current. Lifetime Members, please submit any change in address, phone, email, etc., using this form. Be sure to include your preference for Mr., Mrs., Ms., or Mr. & Mrs. Membership dues provide the main income to support Society mission and activities, we rely on your renewal.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Memberships (Many corporations will match contributions.)

Individual \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Business Sponsorship \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

I will volunteer to help:

Computer \_\_\_\_\_ Research \_\_\_\_\_ Museum \_\_\_\_\_ Salt Box Craft Fair \_\_\_\_\_ Writing \_\_\_\_\_

Clerical \_\_\_\_\_ Grounds \_\_\_\_\_ Restoration \_\_\_\_\_ House Tours \_\_\_\_\_

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## Reservations for Annual Dinner

**Chimney Rock Inn, 342 Valley Road, Gillette, NJ 07933**

**April 16, 2020, Hors d'oeuvre at 6 PM, Dinner at 7 PM, Cash Bar.**

Number of reservations: \_\_\_\_\_ @ **\$38.00** for NP Historical Society Annual Dinner

Amount of Check \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Please make check payable to **NP Historical Society**. Reservations must be received by **April 20th**. Checks for dinner and membership may be combined. Send checks to the Mason Room, New Providence Memorial Library, 377 Elkwood Avenue, New Providence, NJ 07974, c/o Margaret Maurer.

## New Providence Historical Society Officers & Committees

President	Linda Kale
Vice President	Rick Anderson
Corresponding Secretary	Carol Smith
Recording Secretaries	Kerry Lee
	Sara Jane Vignali
Treasurer	Gail Souren
Displays	Barbara Pape
Grounds & Property	Rick Anderson
Annual Dinner Coordinator	Kerry Lee
Membership	Margaret Maurer
<i>Turkey Tracks</i> & Website	J.R. Bale
Computer Archivist	Colin duSaire

## Trustees

Rick Anderson, Patrick Anelli, J.R. Bale,  
Linda Kale, Margaret Maurer, Barbara Pape,  
Gail Souren, Carol Smith, Sara Jane Vignali



## Museum Hours

March to November  
First Sunday of each month  
1 - 3 PM  
Or by appointment  
Telephone: 908-665-1034

## Mason Room Hours

Tuesday Mornings  
10 AM to Noon  
Telephone: 908-665-1034

## Website:

[newprovidencehistorical.com](http://newprovidencehistorical.com)

*Turkey Tracks* is available in print  
and on the website in PDF form.

## Facebook Page:

[facebook.com/NewProvidenceHistoricalSociety](https://facebook.com/NewProvidenceHistoricalSociety)



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Memorial Library  
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