

# Places In Time

## LAWRENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WINTER ISSUE 2007

### Annual Membership Meeting to be Held Sunday, February 25th, 2007 at 2 PM

The Annual Meeting of the Lawrence Historical Society will be held on Sunday afternoon at 2 PM, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007 in the Fellowship Hall of the Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church. The church is located at 2688 Main Street. Ms. Cathleen R. Litvack, a Princeton resident and Executive Director of the Crossroads of the American Revolution, will be the featured speaker.

Ms. Litvack is the first executive director of the Crossroads of the American Revolution Association, which is the managing organization for New Jersey's Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area.

She served on Governor Corzine's transition team as a member of the Environment Policy Group and was appointed by former Governor Codey as a delegate to the 2005 U.S. Cultural and Heritage Tourism Conference.



Ms. Litvack is a former mayor of Princeton Township, an active land preservationist in New Jersey and a trustee and former chairman of the D&R Greenway Land Trust. She is also a founder and former president of the Princeton-Pettoranello Sister City Foundation. In recognition of the latter, she

was awarded the Cavaliere Order of Merit and made an honorary citizen of the Republic of Italy in 2004.

Litvack has extensive marketing experience gained as a partner in Kea Wines, as vice president of marketing for govONE Solutions, LLP in New York and as vice president of J&M Advertising in Princeton. She has been an active participant in New Jersey civic and political life for many years.

### Lawrence Historical Society 2007 Calendar of Events

Saturday, February 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Brearley House Tours*
Saturday, February 17 <sup>th</sup>	Port Mercer Canal House Open House, 1-3 PM Vicki Chirco, Historic Interpreter for D & R Canal State Park
Sunday, February 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Annual Meeting</b> 2-4 PM Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville
Saturday, March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Brearley House Tours*
Saturday, March 17 <sup>th</sup>	Port Mercer Canal House Open House, 1-3 PM Vicki Chirco, Tour Guide
Saturday, April 7 <sup>th</sup>	Walk the Path: Canal House to Brearley House 9:30 AM Brearley Tours*
Saturday, May 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Seventh Anniversary of the Brearley House Restoration</b> Maypole Dance & Morris Dancers 10 AM Brearley House
Saturday June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Brearley House Tours*
Sunday, June 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Garden Party</b> on Canoe the Canal Day 1 – 4 PM Port Mercer Canal House
Saturday, July 7 <sup>th</sup>	Brearley House Tours*
Saturday, August 4 <sup>th</sup>	Brearley House Tours*
Saturday, September 1 <sup>st</sup>	Brearley House Tours*
October Date and location--TBD	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Annual Mary Tanner History Lecture</b> 2 PM
Saturday, October 6 <sup>th</sup>	Brearley House Tours
Saturday, November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Brearley House Tours
Saturday, December 1 <sup>st</sup>	Brearley House Tours
Sunday, December 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Hogmanay</b> New Year's Eve <b>Bonfire</b> 6 PM in the Great Meadow

\* All 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Tours: 10 AM to noon



## Hogmanay Brings A Record Crowd to the Great Meadow

In what is by far and away the most popular event sponsored by the Society, over 500 people showed up for the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Hogmanay Bonfire. Firemaster Joe Logan and assistant Tom Ledwith stacked timber to new heights prior to igniting the 20' high pile of wood. Flames quickly leaped upwards of 60' high as a crowd circled the dancing flames.

As he has for the past six years, Graham Kronk filled the night air with traditional Scottish songs from his bagpipes. As the blaze died down, the crowd and the music moved into a different kind of warmth inside the Brearley House where the multi-talented Mr. Kronk switched to the fiddle. The answer to the question, "How many cars does it take to fill the Great Meadow?" has been answered. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Mike Milewski, Bill McCarroll, Jim Williams, Donald Meisel and Paul Gatterdam, more than two hundred vehicles safely entered and exited without incident.

While Jacqueline Haun, Janet Bickal, Jean Bickal and Laura Nawrocik provided refreshments to attendees, Chantal McCarroll and Carolyn Kozlowski worked in the shop. Thanks to all who made New Years Eve such a memorable holiday.

Tours of the Brearley House are offered on the first Saturday of every month from 10 am to 12 noon. The Port Mercer Canal House is also available for tours. Call Vicki Chirco at 609-924-5705 for more information.

The LHS is always looking for volunteers. If you would like to get involved with the Society, please call 609-896-0782.



## Board Members Nominated...

The LHS Nominating Committee has submitted the name of the following to serve on the Board of Directors for 2007:

William Agress	Carolyn Kozlowski
Ruth Barringer	Laura Nawrocik
Janet Bickal	Chantal McCarroll
Paul Gatterdam	Karen Perkins
Eleanor Horne	Rob Smit
John Halvorsen	Jim Williams
Jacqueline Haun	

A formal vote will be taken at the Annual Meeting.

## Oral Histories to be preserved...

Our friends at PNC Bank Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation have once again awarded the Lawrence Historical Society \$1,000. The funds will be applied toward costs associated with the transcription and publication of a number of oral histories from current and former residents of Lewisville Road. Many reminiscences were recorded some years ago and have been kept in the Winona Nash Room for Lawrence history in the Lawrence Branch of the Mercer County Library. This year they were all re-recorded to current electronic standards by LHS board member Laura Nawrocik. A previous \$2,000 grant from the Lawrence Township Community Foundation will be combined with the new funding to publish the old interviews as well as new ones.

The Society needs gently-used items for the Boutique at the Brearley House. These can be gift items, house wares, jewelry, some clothing, generally anything that is portable. We especially in need of a *gift shop manager*. For more information and to arrange a time to deliver, or to volunteer, call 895-1728 and leave a message.



## A Sobering Autumn...

Members of the Lawrence Historical Society and the greater community were saddened this fall at the passing of two board members—Daniel J. Oberst and Christopher J. Lahoda.

### Daniel J. Oberst

After battling renal cell carcinoma cancer for over 1½ years, Dan died on November 9<sup>th</sup> at the age of 58. A Memorial Service was held in the Edith Memorial Chapel on the campus of the Lawrenceville School on October 18<sup>th</sup> and attended by an overflow crowd of several hundred people including family, friends and co-workers from Princeton University.



Dan served on the LHS Board since 2000 and was the first webmaster for the society. In many ways, he helped bring the LHS into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. He is survived by his wife, Marti Richmond, sons, Caleb and Jesse and daughter Keturah.

The following was posted on the Princeton University website:

“Dan will be remembered as a vibrant, spirited and charming man. He will be missed by all who knew him. His life, and his contributions, will long be remembered. Princeton, Information technology, and all of Higher Education, has lost an important colleague and a cherished friend.

A blog, <http://blogs.princeton.edu/fordan/>, has been established as a way for those who knew and loved Dan to share their memories and to celebrate the life of this very special man.”

The LHS website has been dedicated to the memory of Dan Oberst—[www.thelhs.org](http://www.thelhs.org).

### Christopher J. Lahoda

Chris died on December 9<sup>th</sup> at home at the age of 47. Chris had ALS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. He was devoted to his family, enjoyed reading, cooking, hiking, and exploring history. He was also a published author. This year, his novel, *Burning Answers*, was published by Xlibris Press. Chris is survived by his wife Janet Hubbard and daughters Alice and Helen.



Lawrence Mayor Michael Powers (above left) presents a resolution passed by Lawrence Township Council to Chris earlier this year. It stated the following:

“WHEREAS, Christopher J. Lahoda has served the Lawrence Historical Society as a Trustee and Chairman of the Archeological Committee for the past eight years. He was one of the primary instigators of the joint Lawrence Middle School and Hunter research Archeologists project in the Great Meadow that surrounds the Brearley House. His enthusiasm and hard work made it possible for more than 2000 eighth grade students in the Lawrence Public Schools to work side by side with professional archeologists and gain hands-on experience in the scientific investigation of the history and pre-history of their hometown. Each time a thirteen year old handles a Lenape projectile point or a Colonial pottery shard, his or her pride in our township and interest in its distinguished past is stimulated. Our community is richer for the contributions to its culture made by Christopher J. Lahoda”

Janet Bickal spoke on behalf of the Society at a memorial service celebrating Chris' life on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007. It was held at the Unitarian Universalist Church at Washington Crossing and attended by over 300 friends and admirers.

