

Trenton Museum Society
P.O. Box 1034
Trenton, NJ 08606

**The Trenton Museum Society
welcomes your membership!
Why not ask a friend to join!**

Senior/ Student — \$30
Individual — \$45
Family — \$65
Patron — \$125
Donor — \$250
Sponsor — \$500
Benefactor / Corporate — \$1000

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____
as 2005 - 2006 Membership Dues

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

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EXHIBITIONS

March 5 - April 24, 2005

***Delores D'Achille, Salomon Kadosche,
David Rivera & James L. Gafgen***

April 30 - June 12, 2005

Ellarslie Open XXIII

Opening Reception: Saturday, April 30 from 5 to 8 p.m.

H. M. SZENES MUSIC SERIES

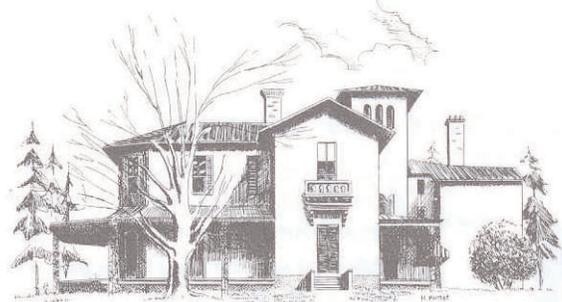
Friday, April 15 at 7 p.m.

Fred Miller presents "Cole Porter: Lectures in Song"
Concerts are \$15 for members; \$20 for non-members

EXTENDED MUSEUM HOURS

NEW!

*To better serve the community, Ellarslie will now be open
the second Friday evening of every month from 5 to 7 p.m.*



The Ellarslie Muse

A Newsletter for Members of the Trenton Museum Society

Spring 2005

AREA BLUES MUSICIANS Rock! ELLARSLIE AT BLUES EXHIBIT FINALE

By Patricia Rodeawald



Sandra Di

Wow! That's the only way I can describe the blues extravaganza that closed the "Blue Notes" exhibit at the Trenton City Museum. One blues aficionado called it the best performance of music he'd ever seen - and he's seen a lot of blues.

Where to start? First, with the best blues guitarists in the area - Paul Plumeri and Joe Zook. And who thought of Ernie White as a blues guitarist? But there he was jamming. Vocals by Sandra Di, John Golden and many more alternately rocked and soothed the house. A father/son performance by Larry and Danny Fox showed what good genes can do. And two appearances by students from the Martin Luther King Middle School were stirring. I wonder if this opportunity to play to a packed house will set one of these talented youngsters on the road to a career in music. If nothing else, it must have inspired confidence and pride.



Ernie White & John Golden

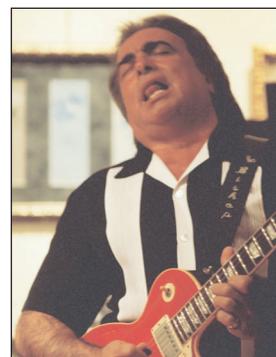


Children from Martin Luther King Middle School

The museum was packed, with the crowd filling every room of the sold-out space. The concert was the official close of the blues exhibit that opened in October, in conjunction with McCarter Theatre Center's production of Zora Neale Hurston's play "Polk County." Even Hurston

buffs learned new things about the author and folklorist in the exhibit curated by Trenton Museum Society president Stephanie Morgano. And the "Trenton Blues" side of the exhibit, curated by museum Director Brian O. Hill, was a walk down memory lane for any blues fan from the greater Trenton area.

Museums generally have an image of being stodgy, academic places. The mission of the Trenton Museum Society is to celebrate the area's art and introduce the community to the joy of art in its many forms. Over the past year, the museum has showcased painting, sculpture, ceramics, food, wine, chocolate, music and more. The Museum Society has welcomed many new members over the past year, and we believe much of this growth is due to the open approach we've taken to presenting 'art.'



Paul Plumeri



Guy DeRosa, John Sopko, Mario DiBartolo and Dave 'The Professor' Orban

Put simply, the museum is a fun place to be, whether it's an art opening, a concert or a wine-tasting dinner. This event brought much of the best of Trenton together. The Museum Society looks forward to more such events, and we hope the Trenton community will come out and join the fun.



Paul Plumeri (left), Joe Zook (right) and friends belting out the blues!

THE ELLARSLIE MUSE

is a publication of the
Trenton Museum Society
P.O. Box 1034
Trenton, NJ 08606
(609) 989-1191

TRENTON MUSEUM SOCIETY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Director, Trenton City Museum - Brian O. Hill

MISSION OF THE TRENTON MUSEUM SOCIETY

The Trenton Museum Society is a volunteer, non-profit organization which supports Ellarslie, the Trenton City Museum. This museum was established to collect, conserve, and display tangible items that represent the culture and traditions of all Trentonians. Collections, changing exhibitions and public programs are supported by the museum to advance the historical and cultural significance of Trenton, its people and its industries. The Trenton Museum Society supports the acquisition and conservation of the permanent collection and originates programs to sustain and nurture the cultural life of Trenton and its artists and to foster aesthetic awareness in fine and decorative arts.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Greg Baber Jennifer Concha Eric Mooney
Stephanie Morgano Patricia Rodeawald
Staff Photographer: Bob Heil



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Trenton Museum Society



DIRECTOR'S LETTER

It has now been seven wonderful years since I was fortunate enough to be appointed the Director of the museum and for me, the Ellarslie Open is the most exciting event in the exhibition schedule because of the volume of artists and work that goes through the museum. It has allowed me the opportunity to become familiar with many of the local artists, en masse.



Brian O. Hill, Director
Trenton City Museum

Back in 1999 when I hung my first "Open," two of the artists were Salomon Kadosche and Delores D'Achille. When I saw their work I simply fell in love with both of them. They employed a classic use of color, light and texture, masterly applied with a gentleness that has long disappeared from the contemporary art scene...until I saw David Rivera's work in the Ellarslie Open in 2001. David was the only person to qualify four paintings in the history of the Ellarslie Open. I then knew what I needed to do and combined these three wonderfully talented painters with the local sculptor, James Gafgen. James did the statue of Sam Plumeri in front of the Trenton Thunder baseball stadium, the Illinois Korean War Memorial and most recently the statue to Robert Morris, signer of the Declaration of Independence, in Morrisville, PA. These four complement each other very well, and they all deserve the accolades that they are going to receive.

"The Classics" return to Ellarslie Mansion through April 24 when the Ellarslie Open brings us full cycle in the 23rd annual exhibition. Our awards sponsors, over the years, have been Joseph Teti and Triangle Art, The Trenton Artists Workshop Association, Artifacts Gallery, Café Ole and the Gallery on Lafayette. Other awards include the Directors Award, the Museum Society Purchase Award as well as the Ben Whitmire Purchase Award. I look forward to seeing you all at the last two shows of this season and thank you all for making the Trenton City Museum a great place to work.

MUSEUM HOURS

Tuesday - Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Second Friday - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Sunday - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Closed Mondays and major holidays

Phone: (609) 989-3632 Website: www.Ellarslie.org
Fax: (609) 989-3624 E-mail: TMS@Ellarslie.org



The Trenton City Museum at Ellarslie is owned by the City of Trenton, Douglas H. Palmer, Mayor; Maintained and Operated by the Department of R.N.R.&C., Francis E. Blanco, Director with additional support from the Trenton Museum Society which is funded in part by the NJ Commerce & Economic Growth Commission, the NJ State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and the M.C.C.&H.C.

Pictures From an Exhibition

Susan Kiley
My Father's Totem



Anthony Colavita
Fragments



Art Teachers' Art
Show dates: 1/8/05 to 2/27/05

H. M. SZENES MUSIC SERIES AT THE TRENTON CITY MUSEUM



Sara Kohane and Robert Bullington



Rollin Wilber

The Trenton Museum Society offered two performances as part of the H.M. Szenes Music Series. The first was *An Afternoon of Art Song* presented on February 6th and featuring Robert Bullington (baritone) and Sara Kohane (piano) performing the music of Robert Schumann and Ralph Vaughan Williams. On March 6th, Rollin Wilber, composer, private teacher and concert performer, performed Bach, Debussy, Chopin and others in an intimate afternoon of lovely music.

Fred Miller appears at the Trenton City Museum on Friday, April 15th at 7 p.m. with a performance of *Lectures In Song: Cole Porter*, a 75-minute musical and anecdotal overview of one of America's great songwriters. This event follows Mr. Miller's sold-out Ellarslie performance of *George & Ira Gershwin - A Lecture in Song* in 2004. Mr. Miller's personal and professional odyssey in popular American music dates back to hearing Ella Fitzgerald sing Cole Porter. Over the last twenty years, his enthusiasm has found expression in production, direction, and performance of Broadway, Operetta, and Americana classics in dozens of cabarets and concert recitals throughout New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania.

Concert tickets are \$15 for members; \$20 for non-members.

The Rollin Wilber and Sara Kohane / Robert Bullington performances were made possible through the generosity of Ted Boyer and Jane Rohlf

WE NEED YOU!

WANTED

The Garden Committee is seeking donations of perennials to plant in Ellarslie's front garden. If you can help, please call 609-989-1191 and leave us a message.

WANTED

The Education Committee is seeking a small camcorder to document student puppetry sketches for the "Peacemaking with Puppets" project. If you can 'lend a lens,' please call 609-989-1191 and leave us a message.

WANTED

TMS is currently looking for volunteers to help with all aspects of the Society. If you are interested in becoming part of our Volunteer Registry, please call 609-989-1191 and leave us a message.

TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT: Beverly Mills



Beverly Mills, a Pennington resident, is a member of the Hospitality and Education committees of the Trenton Museum Society. Like many trustees, she is using her talents to help the museum, as well as fulfill some personal interests.

With 15 years experience in the food-service industry, Beverly is well-suited to the Hospitality committee, which manages catering for all Museum Society events. Beverly landed in the food industry unexpectedly.

She was studying for her degree in Fine Arts at The College of New Jersey and took a job with a well-known local caterer, *Claire's Cuisine*, for a regular income. She discovered she enjoyed the business, and after graduation she split her time between freelance graphic art and catering - only to find she enjoyed catering more than art. She and a partner bought *Claire's Cuisine* and eventually opened a retail and catering enterprise, *Flavors Café* in Pennington. In 2000, she gave up the retail part of the business and took on two more partners, who together opened *Four Girls* catering, which won the YWCA Award for Organizational Excellence. Despite much success, the stress and the physical nature of the business took its toll, and Beverly bowed out of the business. She is now in charge of marketing for a Pennington day spa.

Beverly always had a connection to Trenton because her grandmother was a hairdresser in the city and was one of Trenton's leading African-American businesswomen in the 1950's. Beverly had visited Cadwalader Park often, knew about Ellarslie, and wanted to be a part of it.

After joining the board, Beverly developed a desire to help expose Trenton's youth to the cultural experiences available in the area, so she became a member of the Society's Education committee. Beverly remembers working in the museum store (*Molly's the Shop at Ellarslie*) one Sunday afternoon when a girl about four years old walked in with her grandmother. "The girl called the museum her 'pretend house,'" says Beverly, "She said, 'this is what my house is going to look like when I grow up.'" I never forgot that encounter - the museum was a little oasis for this girl. That's when I got involved in the Education committee."

Like many other trustees and members of the museum, Beverly is surprised that so few people in the area are aware of it. She hopes her work with Trenton youth will help a new generation appreciate the museum and art in general.

Beverly and the members of the Hospitality and Education committees are always looking for volunteers. If you would like to get involved, contact the Trenton Museum Society at 609-989-1191.

Pictures From an Exhibition



Dallas Piotrowski and Harry I. Naar
Show dates: 11/13/04 to 1/2/05

A Season to Remember

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Morgano, TMS President

Last summer, the Board of Trustees of the Trenton Museum Society spent countless hours planning what was to be known as *A Season to Remember*. The chairwomen of the Community Events, Public Relations and Hospitality committees took on the task of planning and executing what was shaping up to be one of the most ambitious calendar of events the Museum Society has ever programmed.

We, as a Board, hoped to present a year of programs and events that would pique the interests and appetites of all our members as well as the public at large. We *hoped* that this year was going to be GREAT! Now that Spring is finally here, I have the time to pause for a moment to evaluate the progress of our great hopes and what I see is a year that can be summed up in the single word - SPECTACULAR!

We started the season off with a five-week wine tasting series that sold out just days after The Trenton Times featured our event on the front page of the Food section in an article entitled, *Artful Setting for Ellarslie Wine Classes*. In the midst of our huge wine tasting series, the Museum opened *Blue Notes: Chronicling the Blues from Polk County to Trenton* promptly followed by the concert *A Night of the Blues* which featured performances by Joe Zook,

Steve Guyger, Doris Spears, Georgie Bonds and James Cheadle. And what a night it was! The evening of October 8th was the first time the roof was blown off of Ellarslie, and once the dust and debris had settled, the powers-that-be decided it was time to start planning a second night of the blues. With Joe Zook and Paul Plumeri headlining the event, we hosted concert #2 - *An Evening of the Blues* on January 21st to a record sold-out crowd. Not only was the roof blown off again, but by the end of the night, the windows and walls were missing too. Lastly, to round out the season, the highly anticipated and much talked of 2nd Annual *It's All About Chocolate - Again!* chocolate tasting was attended by a crowd numbering close to 200.

Looking back, I can't begin to fathom how a volunteer group of 27 Trustees created, what I feel has been, the most spectacular year the Trenton Museum Society has ever experienced. As I contemplate *A Season to Remember*, I realize that we, the Trenton Museum Society, didn't create this spectacular year all on our own; we did it with help from a lot of our friends!

The Museum Society wishes to sincerely thank the following "friends" for their time, dedication, support and generosity in making this past year such a success.

THE ELLARSLIE WINE EXPERIENCE

Marc Sengin
 Joe Grinbaum
 Lenox, Inc., Lou Fantin, Lori Delany
 Carol Hill and Trenton Printing
 Susan Sprague Yeske
 Community Events Committee
 George Barker
 Shawn Lawson
 Michelle Cimiluca for her generosity
 Bob Merkle and Olsson's Fine Foods
 Panera Bread, Princeton

Marc Sengin discusses the wine being served with each course.



Peter and Elizabeth Yull enjoy a dance between courses.



Shawn Lawson of Soufflé Catering at work on the wine tasting dinner.



A sell-out crowd enjoys food, wine and music.

Staff members of Lenox (who graciously donated dinner place settings) with museum director, Brian O. Hill.



FOR TAKING A CHANCE AND LOANING YOUR CHINA TO "THE CAUSE"

Carolyn Stetson
 Brian O. Hill
 Jennifer Concha
 Christiana Foglio-Palmer
 Susan and Nicola Fiscarelli
 Eliz and Peter Yull
 Rhett Pernot

“BLUE NOTES” AND BLUES CONCERTS



Joe Zook
 Deborah Raven
 Philip McAuliffe
 Gary Sareztsky
 Ron Kramer
 McCarter Theatre
 The Zora Neale Hurston Trust
 Lucy Hurston
 Victoria Sanders and Associates
 Library of Congress
 Rollins College
 University of Florida

DeLorenzos Image Factory
 Doris Spears →
 Georgie Bonds →
 Steve Guyger
 James Cheadle
 D.D. Worek
 Ernie White
 Billy Holt
 Angelo Di Braccio
 Rick Lawton
 Tom Reock



Danny and Larry Fox
 Chris Musica
 Tom Verdi
 Russ Taline
 Sandra Di
 Rick Pogany
 Guy DeRosa
 "Cap'n " Harry Chapman
 MLK Middle School and
 TCHS 9th Grade Annex Band
 FD Subs
 Beth Feltus *(for doing too much!)*



Charlene Cothran looks on as Lucy Anne Hurston signs a copy of her book about Zora Neale Hurston, "Speak, So You Can Speak Again".

John Sopko
 Bobby Merc
 Greg Simon
 Mario DiBartolo
 Mikey jr
 Dave "The Professor" Orban
 Rick Baldassari
 Tony "Mojo" Buford
 Frankie Boy Pinto
 John Gulden
 Ed Wilson



Steve Guyger, James Cheadle and Joe Zook rock the house at the opening of the Blues exhibit.

H.M. SZENES MUSIC SERIES

Jane Rolf and Ted Boyer for their generosity
 Gail Szenes
 Carolyn Stetson

OPENING RECEPTIONS

Joe and Marnie Derrico
 Revere Ristorante Italiano and Staff
 Peter Wagner *(for always lending a needed hand)*
 Susan Fiscarelli and the Hospitality Committee
(for making the rest of us look good!)

“IT’S ALL ABOUT CHOCOLATE - AGAIN!”

Joanne Reilly ~ Sweety Peety ~ Susan Sprague Yeske
 & Pat Rodeawald and Beth Brody
(for an outstanding job on publicity!)



Guests, including young Master Hank Taylor, enjoy the elegant ambience and delicious goodies at the 2nd Annual chocolate tasting event.