

The Upper Saddle River Historical Society

245 Lake Street
Upper Saddle River
New Jersey 07458



The Hopper-Goetschius House
Circa 1739

UPPER SADDLE RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT

2021

GENERAL

As stipulated in the By-Laws of the Upper Saddle River Historical Society the following annual report summarizing major events and accomplishments of the past year is submitted to its Membership and Board of Trustees. This report shall be available through our website and recapped in the first newsletter of 2022.

REOPENING UNDER COVID

Following a highly restricted 2020 due to Covid we were able to return to largely normal activities in 2021 especially in the second half of the year. On-site events early in the year were still restricted but we were able to maintain a strong community presence by introducing and promoting on-line presentations called “Hearthside History Chats” from February through May. These chats recalled architecture, people, and entertainment important to USR’s past. In June we presented a fashion show of period costumes modeled by our Student Trustees and local children. By July and through the rest of the year on-site events resumed as normal including Summer Sunday’s, a Harvest Festival, Holiday Celebration, and private openings for people with special needs. The Historical Society also participated with a number outside organizations with popular events such as the Bergen County Quilt and Coverlet Show and a variety of other USR events.

Ongoing restoration and maintenance projects at the museum continued throughout the year, as did management and documentation of our inventory.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Restoration of the Out Kitchen, which began in 2020 was completed.
- Restoration of the Butterfly Garden was completed as part of an Eagle Scout project with the assistance of our Trustees.
- A major clean up and clearing of the wood lot behind the rail fence and adjacent to the School House was performed. A dramatic improvement after years of overgrowth, damage from a recent storms and infestation.

ORGANIZATION CHANGES

- Sadly, our dear friend and co-founder Bill Yeomans passed away in November. His position as Vice President of Operations and Planning is open and we are looking for person to fill that role.
- Other positions became open due to individuals stepping down due to work obligations or relocation. We are looking to fill the roles of VP of Events and Assistant Curator.
- Michelle Dugan has stepped down as VP of Membership and that role is being filled by Scott Japko who also manages our Gardens. Thankfully, Michelle will stay on as a Trustee and Volunteer.
- Bucky Rehain has left the Board and we thank him for his many years of service and sharing his knowledge and wit. Bucky will stay on as a Volunteer.
- Ronnie O'Neill has relocated from the area and stepped down as Assistant Curator.
- In June five Student Trustees graduated high school and left our ranks to pursue their bright futures. We wish them well and are confident of their future success.
- In September six new Student Trustees were accepted to the Board and their enthusiasm and energy were immediately felt. We welcome them.

CONCLUSION and OUTLOOK

All finances of the USR Historical Society are invested and secure with minor changes for expenses in 2021. All insurance policies, registrations and certifications are up to date.

This year was filled with enthusiasm and creativity. With the creation of the Hearthside History Chats we expanded our presence by ushering a new way to reach the community. The newly added Fashion Show was also enormously popular and we have received many requests for an encore.

We have also reached a crossroads at the Historical Society. Long time Trustees and volunteers have moved on or are no longer able to participate and our ranks are dwindling. It is important to find talented and energetic new colleagues to share in the enjoyment of our history and educating the public. This will be a focal point for 2022.

In 2021 we lost a great friend and inspiration in William Yeomans. His vision and love for USR and the Historical Society were unique and of enormous importance. His legacy will remain with us in the Historical Society and endure long into the future.

Respectively submitted,

Gaspar Lesznik
President
Upper Saddle River Historical Society