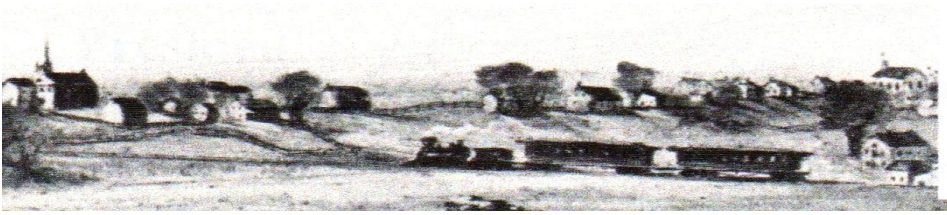
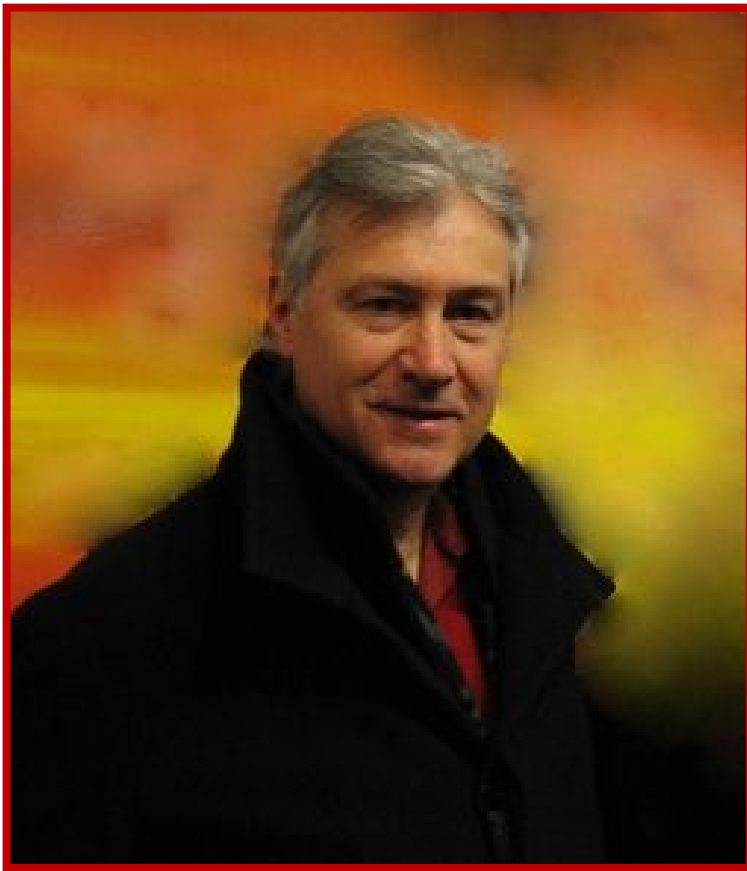


# Madison Historical Society

Madison, N.J



April 2015  
Newsletter  
4th edition,



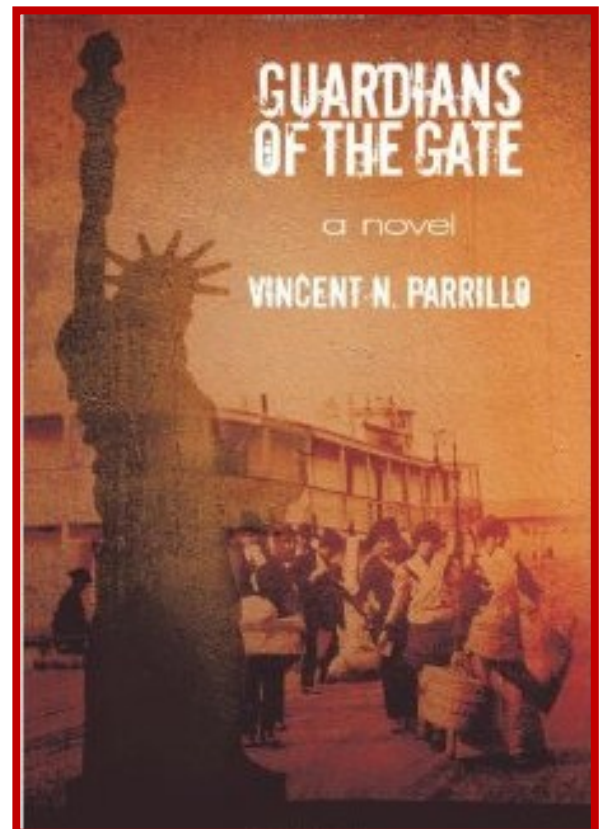
The Madison Historical Society  
Presents

**Vincent N. Parrillo**

Author of *Guardians of the Gate*

Speaking on:

**“The Ellis Island  
You Don’t Know”**



**Saturday April 25**

**1:30 - 3:00 PM**

**Chase Room**

**Madison Public Library**

(For more on Vincent Parrillo see p. 3)

## Historical Society Officers

### **President**

*Linda Connors*

### **Vice President**

*Jim Malcolm*

### **Corresponding Secretary**

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### **Recording Secretary**

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*Judy Seery*

*Stu Shippey*

*Susan Simon*

### **Newsletter**

*Doug Simon*

## Message from President Linda Connors

When people are asked to identify what makes Madison a special place, the answer often is, "Madison's spirit of volunteerism." Some organizations, such as ours, are entirely volunteer as is the Madison Volunteer Ambulance Corps. But even those that rely on a nucleus of paid staff, the Fire Department for example, could not accomplish their mission without the efforts of many volunteers. All these organizations rely on the dedication of volunteers, and, as a result, we all benefit.

The Historical Society has a core of dedicated volunteers, persons who care deeply about the society and our town. But it is a small core now faced with a new challenge. The east wing of the Hartley Dodge Memorial, the old court wing, will be renovated. The new space will house the Madison Local History Museum, something your society has been working towards for many years. Now all of a sudden, it will happen quickly. A wonderful opportunity and, more immediately, a tremendous challenge. How should the museum be organized, the space configured? These are just a couple of the many issues that need to be tackled.

As dedicated as our volunteers are, the cadre is too small to take on all these issues. I appeal to you as supporters of the Madison Historical Society to step up now. Indicate your willingness to volunteer, your interest, the time you could devote. The Society, you, and Madison will be all the richer for it.

## Society Membership

As of mid March 2014 Madison Historical Society membership stood at 109 memberships representing 159 people. If you have relatives or friends who are interested in becoming members, please have them contact the society at P.O Box 148, Madison, 07940 or by phone or email at 973-377-0722 or historical [society@rosenet.org](mailto:society@rosenet.org). Before making a decision on membership, prospective members are welcome to visit our office at the Madison Public Library and are certainly welcome at any of our programs which are open to the public.

## An Apology

The Madison Historical Society and the editor of the society's newsletter would like to extend an apology to the family of Mayor Robert Conley. In the February newsletter that was mailed out to society members, the Conley family name was misspelled. Fortunately, we were able to correct it for the email edition and the newsletter posted on our website. Once again our apologies.

## Vincent N. Parrillo

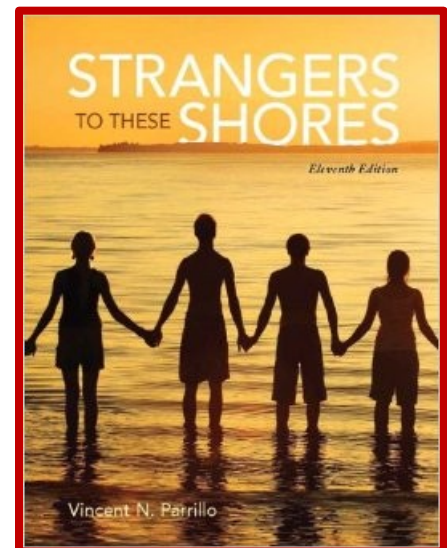


On April 25, 2015, Vincent N. Parrillo will be speaking in the Chase Room of the Madison Public Library on “The Ellis Island You Don’t Know.” Dr. Parrillo, was born and raised in Paterson, New Jersey and is currently Professor of Sociology at William Paterson University and Director of Paterson Metropolitan Region Research Center. He is the author of seven books including *Strangers to These Shores* 11th edition (2014), *Cities and Urban Life* 6<sup>th</sup> edition with John Macionis (2012), *Guardians of the Gate* (2011), *Understanding Race and Ethnic Relations*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition (2010), *Uncertainty and Insecurity in the New Age* (Calandra, 2009), and *Diversity in America*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition (2008). He is also the executive producer and writer of three award-winning PBS

television documentaries: *Gaetano Federici: the Sculptor Laureate of Paterson* (2013); *Smokestacks and Steeples: a Portrait of Paterson* (1992) and *Ellis Island: Gateway to America* (1991). His scholarly articles have appeared in numerous journals and published in nine languages.

Professor Parrillo received his B.S. degree from Seton Hall University, his M.A. from Montclair State University, and his doctorate from Rutgers University. At William Patterson he teaches undergraduate courses in Minority Groups in America, Urban Sociology, Sociology of Socialization, Social Problems, Ethnic and Racial Conflict Resolution and graduate courses including Racial and Ethnic Experiences and Sociology of Intercultural Communication. In 2013 he was the recipient of the William Paterson University Faculty Achievement Award for Scholarship and Creative Expression. His current research took him to Albania and Bosnia in 2012, to Kazakhstan in 2013, and Romania and Poland in 2014. He is a past vice president of the Eastern Sociological Society and the past ESS Robin M. Williams, Jr. Distinguished Lecturer.

A man of many talents, Professor Parrillo is active in regional theater as both an actor and director. In 2002, he directed a cast of Broadway stars in a staged reading of the rock opera *Hamlet* at the Lamb’s Theatre in New York City and in 2005 he co-produced its world premier in Prague. He directed the musicals *Kiss Me Kate* in 2014 and *I Love You, Your Perfect, Now Change* in 2013 for the Players guild of Leonia.





## Dinner to Feature Sojourner Truth Reenactment

The annual Madison Historical Society dinner will be held at the Madison Hotel on May 21, 2015. The evening's program will feature Dr. Daisy Century who defines her role as a Historical Interpreter. In her performances she becomes that character. She dresses like that character and weaves their story to the audience from birth to death. She engages the audience through every phase of their life. For this occasion, Dr. Century will be reenacting the life of the African-American abolitionist, Sojourner Truth (See below).

Dr. Daisy Century earned her B.A. in Biology at Clafin University, her Masters in Science Education from South Carolina State and her Ed.D. from Temple university.



Dr. Century contacted the American Historical Theatre and auditioned for AHT founders Pamela and William Sommerfield in 1999 and since then she has appeared in venues that include the National Defense Organization, Belmont Mansion, National Archives, Sojourner Truth House, Theodore Roosevelt National Historical Site, the Helicopter Museum and numerous schools, libraries, museums and historic sites throughout the United States.

## Who Was Sojourner Truth?



Sojourner Truth was an African-American abolitionist and women's rights activist. Sojourner was her self-given name. She was actually born into slavery in Ulster County, New York, as Isabella Baumfree. In 1826 she escaped to freedom with her infant daughter. Her parents were James and Elizabeth Baumfree. James had been captured from the Gold Coast, modern-day Ghana. Elizabeth, known as Mau-Mau Bet was the daughter of African slaves from the Coast of Guinea.

Around 1815, Truth fell in love with a slave named Robert, but Robert's owner, a man named Catlin, forbade the relationship and savagely beat Robert and Truth never saw him again. Later he eventually died from the injuries he suffered from the beating. Truth was forced by her owner, a Johyn Duman of West Park, New York, to marry an older slave named Thomas. With Thomas she had five children.

On June 1, 1843, Truth changed her name to *Sojourner Truth* and told her friends: "The Spirit calls me, and I must go." She became a Methodist, and left to make her way traveling and preaching about the abolition of slavery. In 1844, she joined the Northampton Association of Education and Industry in Northampton, Massachusetts. Founded by abolitionists, the organization supported women's rights and religious tolerance as well as pacifism. There were, in its four-and-a-

half year history, a total of 240 members though no more than 120 at any one time. They lived on 470 acres, raising livestock, running a sawmill, a gristmill, and a silk factory. While there, Truth met William Lloyd Garrison, Frederick Douglass, and David Ruggles. In 1845, she joined the household of George Benson, the brother-in-law of William Lloyd Garrison.

In 1851, Truth joined George Thompson, an abolitionist and speaker, on a lecture tour through central and western New York State. In May, she attended the Ohio Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio where she delivered her famous extemporaneous speech on women's rights, later known as "Ain't I a Woman". Over the next 10 years, Truth spoke before dozens, perhaps hundreds, of audiences. From 1851 to 1853, she worked with Marius Robinson, the editor of the *Ohio Anti-Slavery Bugle*, and traveled around that state speaking. In 1853, she spoke at a suffragist "mob convention" at the Broadway Tabernacle in New York City; that year she also met Harriet Beecher Stowe. In 1856, she traveled to Battle Creek, Michigan, to speak to a group called the Friends of Human Progress. During the Civil War, Truth helped recruit black troops for the Union Army. Her grandson, James Caldwell, enlisted in the 54th Massachusetts Regiment. In 1864 truth was employed by the National Freedman's Relief Association in Washington, D.C., where she worked diligently to improve conditions for African-Americans. In October of that year, she met President Abraham Lincoln. In 1865, while working at the Freedman's Hospital in Washington, Truth rode in the streetcars to help force their desegregation. Truth died on November 26, 1883, at her home in Battle Creek, Michigan. More than 3,000 people crowded into the Battle Creek Tabernacle to pay their last respects to the black heroine.

## Society Museum Closer To Reality

For years, the Madison Historical Society has been looking for a space for a museum. Finally, it seems that we may have found one. The society is now working with Borough officials on plans for renovation of the East Wing of the Hartley Dodge Memorial Building with intention of establishing the museum on the first floor where the old court room was located. Among the items that might be displayed in the museum, the Society has in storage a beautiful linen press that was built by Caleb Burroughs in 1835 at his furniture making store and funeral home located on Main



Street. We have a rocking chair that once belonged to Anna Maria Brittin, made between 1830 and 1840. We have a document written and signed by 124 of the citizens of Madison in the 1840s asking William Gibbons to establish a boarding house in the village. You would recognize the names as streets and houses in the borough that are named after them: Albright, Sayre, Britten, Miller, Burnett, Genung, Bruen,

Sampson, among them. And we have several pieces of furniture from the estate of one of Madison's most famous citizens, William Stoddard, Asst. Secretary to President Abraham Lincoln. These are just some of the many artifacts in our collection that the citizens of Madison will be able to enjoy once the museum is open.

## Events and Items of Regional Interest

**Monclair Historical Society, Historic House Tours, April 12, 2014 and April 26, 1:00-4:00 pm, Crane House and Historic YWCA, 110 Orange Road – Montclair.** Step back through over 200 years of American history at our historic properties. While at the Orange Road site, visit the newly reinterpreted Crane House to reflect the YWCA period from 1920-1965, check out the farm and meet the chickens, and visit Carolina Capehart demonstrating in the hearth. Open from 1 to 4 pm. Free will donation. Free admission for members.

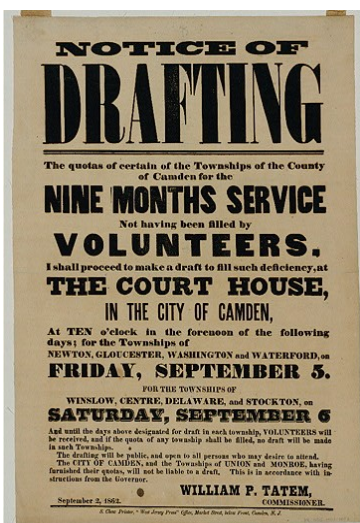
**New Jersey Historical Society, "New Jersey during the Civil War: An American Story" Exhibition at the New Jersey Historical Society Museum, 52 Park Place, Newark, NJ 07102.**

**Museum Hours, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm Tues. – Sat.** It's easy to forget that a war is fought not by armies, but by the people who make up those armies. Wars affect not only those soldiers, but their families as well. These were men and women with thoughts and feelings, hopes and dreams. What did the war mean to them? What was their perspective, their experience? Put yourself in their shoes while looking at their belongings and artifacts in this exhibition. This exhibition features New Jersey stories that encourage a deeper understanding of the effects of the war on Americans. It consists of a series of photographs, mostly of individual soldiers, paintings, personal gear, uniforms, artifacts from life at home, broadsides and letters of New Jersey soldiers and their families. Letters from New Jersey soldiers provide a unique perspective on events of the war.



New Jersey Zouaves Infantry.

While these soldiers' letters may be difficult to find, letters from soldiers to their loved ones were sometimes kept and cherished for generations and passed on to museums or historical societies. Writing material was sometimes difficult to come by and mail delivery could be quite slow, so news was not always current by the time it reached the recipient. Sometimes letters reached the recipients too late because of casualties from battle and diseases such as Dysentery, Typhoid, Pneumonia, Measles, Tuberculosis, Malaria and even Chronic Diarrhea. Letters provided recipients with both war news and personal information to understand another side of the human perspective to the Civil War.



New Jersey Civil War Draft Notice



## **MADISON HISTORICAL SOCIETY – ITEMS FOR SALE**

### *Books:*

<u>CIVIL WAR JOURNAL OF PRIVATE HEYWARD EMMELL</u> , edited by Jim Malcolm	\$55.00
<u>GERALDINE Rockefeller Dodge</u> by Barbara J. Minick	Hardcover \$20.00 Paper \$10.00
<u>HIDDEN NEW JERSEY</u> by Linda J. Barth, Illustrations by Hazel Mitchell	Hardcover \$17.95 Paper \$ 8.95
<u>BOTTLE HILL AND MADISON</u> by William Parkhurst Tuttle	\$30.00
<u>FROM HERE TO HEAVEN</u> by Thomas Sapio	SALE ITEM! \$12.00
<u>GROWING UP IN THE ROSE CITY</u> by William F. Redmond, II	\$10.00
<u>IMAGES OF AMERICA – MADISON</u> by John T. Cunningham	\$20.00
<u>IMAGES OF AMERICA – CHATHAM TOWNSHIP</u> by John T. Cunningham	\$20.00
<u>MANSIONS OF MORRIS COUNTY</u> by John W. Rae	\$20.00
<u>ST. VINCENT MARTYR PARISH, 200 YEARS OF FAITH</u> by Michael P. Riccards	\$25.00
<u>THE UNCERTAIN REVOLUTION</u> by John T. Cunningham	\$26.95
<u>CROSSROADS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: A GUIDE TO NEW JERSEY'S AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR SITES</u>	\$ 5.00
<u>NEW JERSEY GOES TO WAR: BIOGRAPHIES OF 150 NEW JERSEYANS CAUGHT UP IN THE STRUGGLE OF THE CIVIL WAR</u> edited by Joseph G. Bilby	\$20.00
<u>LINCOLN'S WHITE HOUSE SECRETARY: THE ADVENTUROUS LIFE OF WILLIAM O. STODDARD</u> edited by Harold Holzer	\$39.95
<i>Maps:</i>	
1910 ATLAS OF MORRIS COUNTY by A.H. Mueller	Members \$115
MADISON PLATES 3, 4, 5: Approximate size 22" x 31" each	Non members \$125
<i>Miscellaneous:</i>	
Postcards of Historic Madison	\$1.00 each or Set of 4 \$3.75
Rose City Tote Bag	\$10.00
Hartley Dodge Memorial Anniversary Note Cards (Pack of 4)	\$3.00
Christmas Ornament: Historic Sayre House	\$10.00
Christmas Ornament: Luke Miller House	\$10.00
	(2 for \$15.00)
2008, 2009, 2012 Madison Photos on Calendar by Joe Mezzacca, Jr.	\$ 1.00
<i>Madison Historical Society DVD's</i>	\$10.00
each	
The War Years, On the Home Front 1940-1955	Black Church History
History of Roses in Madison	Luke Miller, Forging History
Vietnam Oral History Project (with booklet)	Transportation
Italian History in Madison, Black Church History	
Historic Photos of Madison, 7 different views	\$30.00 each

## **The Madison Historical Society**

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 148, Madison, 07940. Office located in the  
Local History Center of the Madison Library

**Office Hours:** Tuesday, 10:30 am to 3:30 pm and by appointment.

**Office Phone:** 973-377-0722 x8

**Contact:** President Linda Connors 973-377-8662

**Web:** [www.madisonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.madisonhistoricalsociety.org)

**Email:** [historicalsociety@rosenet.org](mailto:historicalsociety@rosenet.org)