Madison Historical Society

Madison, N.J



September 2021 Newsletter 1st edition 2021-2022

The Madison Historical Society Presents Via Zoom



If you are interested in participating in either or both of these presentations, please contact the Madison Historical Society at <u>historicalsociety@rosenet.org</u> or the contact page on the society's web site. We will need your email address to send you an appropriate link to join the Zoom presentation.

2 Historical Society Officers

President Virginia Laughlin Vice President Dave Luber Corresponding Secretary Herman Huber **Recording Secretary** Anne Meyer Treasurer Jim Malcolm Custodian Kate Malcolm Historian Nikolina Uzicanin **Membership Chair** Judy Seery **Museum Chair** Susan Simon **Newsletter Editor** Doug Simon **Trustees** Nancy Adamczyk Linda Connors Howard Craig Robert Dunne Rebecca Fields Johanna Glazewski Laurie Hagerich Noreen McManus Susan Simon Dorothy Pietrowski

(Emeritus)



Message From President Virginia Laughlin

Welcome back to a new year at the Historical Society. I would like to introduce myself as the new President of the Society. I have been a volunteer since 2012, working in the office clipping and filing news articles and preparing the hospitality table at our program events. More recently, I joined the board as Recording Secretary and was Chair of the Historical Plaque Program.

Although I have lived in Madison for nearly 30 years, I continue to be amazed by the rich history of this town. I look forward to leading the Society on the many projects already initiated and others to come.

While our committees continue to work on various ongoing projects such as the Madison history book *Portrait of the Rose City: A History of Madison, New Jersey* and the Historical Plaque Project, we are also gearing up for the 100th Anniversary of the Historical Society in 2022 and the 250th Anniversary of the Revolutionary War in 2026. And we are pleased to welcome back Bottle Hill Day on October 2nd! Look for the Historical Society booth in its usual spot on Waverly Place and stop by to say hello. We are planning an interesting photo display taken from our most recent project "Then and Now".

But the most exciting news of all is that our Museum Committee has been diligently working on a plan to finally bring an historical museum to Madison. After many years of searching for an appropriate home to display our archives and collections, we are very close to leasing space in what will be the newly renovated east wing of the Hartley Dodge Memorial. Much help will be needed to bring this project to fruition, and I encourage all who are interested to contact us to get involved.

I look forward to a busy year of interesting programs, completing projects and developing new ideas.

New Benefit for Members



Members of the Madison Historical Society receive a new benefit beginning this September. A 10% price reduction on all society items for sale will go into effect for society members. Items for sale with their full prices are noted on page 7 of this newsletter.

More on Our Speakers Dr. Raymond Doswell

Dr. Doswell holds a Ph.D in Education from Kansas State University, an M.A. in History from University of California, Riverside and a B.A. from Monmouth College in History.

Now serving as Interim President of the Negro League Baseball Museum in Kansas City Missouri,, he is responsible for care and maintenance of the museum's

artifact collections, archives, photographs, books, audio and video materials as well as permanent exhibit operations. He was also responsible for the development and management of the

Negro League Baseball Museum web site and social media activities. He assists with the coordination and management of major media events and served as museum spokesman for programs with C-Span, PBS, CBS News, ABC News, CNN, ESPN Sports Century, Showtime Entertainment, Canadian Broadcasting Company, BBC, Japanese Television and many others.

Louis Picone

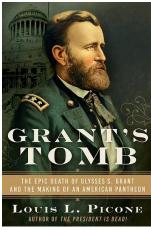


Louis L. Picone is the award-winning author of <u>Grant's Tomb: The Epic Death of Ulysses</u> <u>S. Grant and the Making of an American Pantheon, The President Is Dead! The</u> <u>Extraordinary Stories of the Presidential Deaths, Final Days, Burials, and</u> <u>Beyond</u> and <u>Where the Presidents Were Born: The History & Preservation of the</u> <u>Presidential Birthplaces.</u>

Louis is a member of the Authors Guild, Mensa International, the American Historical Association, and is also a trustee on the board of

the Grover Cleveland Birthplace Memorial Association in Caldwell, NJ. He holds a Masters in History and also teaches at William Paterson University.

Louis has spoken widely on the topic of the presidents and the places we commemorate them, including the White House Historical Association, James A. Garfield National Historic Site, and the international conference "U.S. Presidents and Russian Rulers" at the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow. After the passing of President George H.W. Bush, Louis was interviewed by the BBC, NPR, *Washington Post*, and *New York Times* to discuss the former president's legacy and the history of presidential funerals. He has also appeared on the television program "American Mystery" on the Travel Channel to discuss the mystery of JFK's missing brain



Joint Meeting with the North Jersey Civil War Round Table on the 15th Amendment

On November 15, 2021 there will be a joint meeting of the Madison Historical Society and the North Jersey Civil War Round Table and will feature a Legal Presentation: the 15th Amendment. It will be held in Chase Room of the Madison Public Library at 7:16 PM.



Spotlight on History Drew University, Madison, and Rock Music: Perfect Together

by Herman Huber

When Elton John sang, "I remember when Rock was young, me and Susie had so much fun,"¹ he could have been describing the music scenes in Drew University's Baldwin Gym in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Students and Madisonians were in the right place at the right time when "College campuses across the country were essential for the growth of popular music, and of rock music in particular..."² Many bands and solo performers (folk, folk-rock, rhythm and blues, and rock), soon to be famous and expensive, made their way to Drew University to play in the poor acoustics ("Like a subway tunnel at rush hour")³ and uncomfortable seating at the 1500 seat gym. Students didn't seem to mind.

In the late 60s, revolutionary changes were taking place in American culture, including (trivial by current sensibilities) Captain Kirk's then norm-shattering interracial kiss with the Enterprise's Communication Officer, Lt. Nyota Uhura.⁴ Rock music reflected the counterculture of those turbulent times.⁵ Beginning with concerts such as *Chad and Jeremy* in September 1966, organized by Social Committee chair student Glenn Redbord, Drew hosted many musicians during Rock's heady college campus days. There followed among others the *Young Rascals* (February 1967), *The Animals* (March 1967), *Lovin' Spoonful* (May 1967), *Judy Collins* (September 1967), and the *Four Tops* (November 1967).

Subsequent years through 1971 saw campus concerts by *The Who (pre-"Tommy")*, *Iron Butterfly, Blood Sweat and Tears, Chuck Berry, Mountain, Allman Brothers, Gordon Lightfoot, Carly Simon, The Byrds, The Flying Burrito Brothers, Frank Zappa and the Mothers of Invention, Pete Seeger, Jefferson Airplane, Van Morrison, Livingston Taylor, and Richie Havens.*

After 1971, rock concerts by up and coming future Rock and Roll Hall of Famers slowed way down, though some luminaries of other genres still appeared on campus. These included *Billy Preston, John Sebastian, Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes, Harry Chapin, Eddie Rabbit* and *R.E.M.*⁶ Eventually, even *Bob Dylan* and *Jewel* (who opened) couldn't resist a visit in April 1996 and B.B. King came 2 years later. These took place in the Simon Forum and Athletic Center, which opened in 1994. Remarkably, at least 15



of the performers who played at Drew over the years, ultimately were inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland.⁷

The Drew Acorn, the student-run newspaper, provided blow-by-blow descriptions of each of the concerts, highlighting the highs and lows. After the concert by Judy Collins, the writer stated, "There is something special about Judy Collin's (sic) voice that comes in and gets me inside where I live." Yet, "…her guitar playing was on the unpracticed side." The audience gave her a standing ovation.⁸

The Four Tops created "an electrifying swoon.... An undulation of soul could be felt in the audience. The effect was an excitement which made those more receptive people in the audience unable to restrain themselves any longer. In other words, they danced." Can you imagine! ⁹ Frank Zappa and the Mothers of Invention didn't fare as well. Citing the unsophistication of the many "teenie boppers" in the audience, and Zappa's misreading and misunderstanding of the audience and where they were

playing, the Acorn labeled the concert a "fiasco." Zappa's "...stream of invectives about New Jersey and how terribly provincial we are here, dripping with contempt about teens and boys and girls," did not endear him to his audience. By the end, "...communication between Mothers and kids had deteriorated beyond belief, everyone was hostile, the artists walked off the stage before they were through, someone turned in a phony fire alarm...."¹⁰



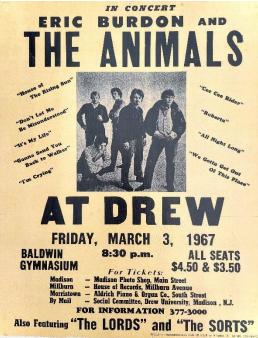
One of the more interesting appearances that tied Madison and the performers together occurred between Jefferson Airplane (the band), the Jefferson Airplane airplane, and Madison's notorious "Hippie House." In 1968, when the band appeared at the Fillmore East concert hall in Greenwich Village, the Fire Marshall ordered them to remove their life-size replica of a WWI fighter biplane, which had served as a publicity gimmick outside the theater. The enterprising residents of the Hippie House at 47 Madison Ave., attending the concert and knowing a good deal when they saw one, brought the psychedelic colored plane home to Madison in July. It proudly sat on the front lawn of the house, until burned by vandals. However, eviction from their mansion was imminent, as residents often made complaints.

When Jefferson Airplane held their concert at Drew in October, Grace Slick herself, "...announced their [the Hippies] plight to the audience and passed the basket to help out with their legal troubles. The effort

apparently raised a couple of hundred dollars," ultimately to no avail. ^{11, 12, 13, 14} Concert Chairman Greg Granquist brought along his parents to the concert and his father told him it was the first time he had heard anything in his right ear in seven years. On another good note, Granquist later announced that both of the shows, with a total attendance of 3600, was the first concert at Drew to make money (\$400). [Yet, see Redbord's comment that the Social Committee made money and left a surplus earlier].¹⁵ It also demonstrated the viability of two-show concerts.¹⁶

While The Who played to an enthusiastic crowd in 1968, the event lost about \$1500. "I believe Pete Townsend smashed a guitar at the close. Drew was fortunate to have the group. It was like buying shares of Microsoft in 1985." And then there was the night when an Iron Butterfly band member, immobilized by an LSD stupor, was unable to make it out of his hotel room. While the organizer (Granquist) scrambled to get the opening local teen band to play on, and on, the audience mood became ugly and raucous, yelling, stomping their feet, booing, and pelting him with objects. Hours after the band was to have played, the physiological miracle of metabolism revived the band member and the show began at 11:30pm. The concert was saved.¹⁷

Bob Dylan's concert in 1996 brought a large legion of Drew graduates, his "older generation of fans," from far and wide. He played in the recently opened Simon Forum and Athletic Center to 4,500 adoring fans who paid \$12 a ticket, and whose comments afterwards included, "He is a god," "A visionary," and "Dylan rules; he kicks ass!" One reviewer admitted, "My worst fear about the concert was that he might sit there and wail on about blowing in the



wind and how times are changing. I think Dylan realizes, though, in 1996 nothing much is changing save cable television and the Internet."¹⁷

Before rock performers filled large venues and arenas, they played the college circuit, ironically sowing the seeds of a new business model that soon shut the colleges out. Small venues closed, consolidated music companies gained control of concerts, and costs skyrocketed. While college campuses once played a central role

in the evolution of rock music and culture, as Dr. James Carter, Drew University history professor summed it up, "...the business of rock music had changed, and this altered rock music culture in significant ways. But during those few years following 1966, the college campus provided the social and physical space for the growth and evolution of rock music culture."¹⁸ And Drew University in Madison, NJ was right in there.

Citations:

- 1. Elton John and Bernie Taupin. Crocodile Rock, 1972.
- 2. Carter, James. "Campus Rock." Journal of Popular Music Studies, Volume 32, Number 3, 2020, p. 51.
- 3. Hinckley, David. https://Drew.edu/news/2016/04/14/when-rock-ruled. Retrieved May 5, 2021.
- 4. Walsh, Kenneth. The year that changed America forever. *US News and World Report*. December 31, 2017.
- 5. Carter, James. "Campus Rock." Journal of Popular Music Studies, Volume 32, Number 3, 2020, p. 53.
- 6. https://Drew.edu/news/2016/04/14/when-rock-ruled. Retrieved May 5, 2021.
- 7. https://www.rockhall.com/inductees. Retrieved May 19, 2021.
- 8. Peterson, Penny. "I like Judy Collins' voice." Drew Acorn, October 6, 1967.
- 9. Manson, Robert. Tops turn audience on "Full." Drew Acorn, November 10, 1967.
- 10. Barrabee, Bruce. Nobody got what they expected, not even Frank & the Mothers. *Drew Acorn*, February 21, 1969.
- 11. JMarlonCarter.com/hippie-house/. Retrieved May 6, 2021.
- 12. Madison Hippies Get Howe Warning. Madison Eagle, August 15, 1968.
- 13. Jefferson 'Airplane' finds home in Madison. Madison Eagle, July 25, 1968.
- 14. Ransom, Mark. Airplane, Opera excel; crowd "painfully quiet." Drew Acorn, October 11, 1968.
- 15. Carter, James. "Campus Rock." *Journal of Popular Music Studies*, Volume 32, Number 3, 2020, p. 61.
- 16. Granquist: concert a first. Drew Acorn, October 11, 1968.
- 17. Masso, Richard. Dylan concert provides for memorable experiences. The Acorn, April 19, 1996.
- 18. Carter, James. "Campus Rock." *Journal of Popular Music Studies*, Volume 32, Number 3, 2020, p. 71. Poster photos courtesy of Blair Conley and Corinne Tocmacov.

2021 College Scholarship Award for History

The Madison Historical Society recently presented its annual History Scholarship to Michael Hans Scheier. Michael is the son of David and Kathleen Scheier of Madison. He is a 2021 graduate of Madison High School where the history teachers selected him as the scholarship recipient. While at Madison High School, Michael was the captain of the golf team, a hockey player and a member of the Investment Club and Key Club. He participated in the Harvard Model Congress and Junior State of America.

Michael is most interested in periods of history such as the 1920s and late 1960s that reflect great cultural change. As he noted those periods, "help to bring history to life by showing how people's perceptions of themselves and the world around them were rapidly shifting, rather than just being about political developments." Michael will be attending UCLA majoring in economics. He hopes to pursue a career in venture capital.



Michael Scheir receiving scholarship award from Society President Virginia Laughlin accompanied by Michael's parents David and Kathleen.

MADISON HISTORICAL SOCIETY – ITEMS FOR SALE

Books:

BOOKS:	
BOTTLE HILL AND MADISON by William Parkhurst Tuttle	\$30.00
CARING FOR YOUR HISTORIC HOUSE by Heritage Preservation & NPS	\$15.00
CIVIL WAR JOURNAL OF PRIVATE HEYWARD EMMELL by Jim Malcolm	\$20.00
COLLEGE OF SAINT ELIZABETH by Sister Mary Ellen Gleason, et al.	\$20.00
CROSSROADS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: A Guide to New	
Jersey's American Revolutionary War Sites	\$ 5.00
DREW UNIVERSITY by John T Cunningham & Regina Deverio	\$20.00
GOLDEN AGE OF DOG SHOWS, Morris & Essex Kennel Club	\$40.00
HIDDEN NEW JERSEY by Linda Barth - Soft= \$ 8.95 / Har	:d =\$17.95
HISTORY OF INVENTING IN NEW JERSEY by Linda Barth	\$20.00
IMAGES OF AMERICA –	\$20.00
CHATHAM & CHATHAM TOWNSHIP by John T. Cunningham	
CRAFTSMAN FARM by Heather V. Stivison	
FLORHAM PARK by John T. Cunningham	
MADISON by John T. Cunningham	
MANSIONS OF MORRIS COUNTY by John Rae	
MORRISTOWN by Joan M. Williams	
SUMMIT by Patricia E. Meola	
LINCOLN'S WHITE HOUSE SECRETARY edited by Harold Holzer	\$39.95
MADISON, THE ROSE CITY: A NEW SPRINGTIME ed. Woody Kerkeslager	\$20.00
MEMORIES ENTWINED WITH ROSES by Ruth Churchill	\$15.00
POSTCARD HISTORY SERIES: Morristown by Bonnie Lynn-Nadzeika	\$20.00
NEW JERSEY GOES TO WAR: Biographies of 150 New Jerseyans	
Caught Up in the Civil War edited by Joseph G. Bilby	\$20.00
ST. VINCENT MARTYR PARISH, 200 YEARS OF HISTORY by Michael P. Riccar	ds \$25.00
THE UNCERTAIN REVOLUTION by John T. Cunningham	\$27.00
Maps:	
1910 ATLAS OF MORRIS COUNTY by A.H. MuellerMembers	\$115 each
MADISON PLATES 3, 4, 5: Approximate size 22" x 31" Non Members	\$125 each
<u>Miscellaneous:</u>	
Christmas Ornament: Historic Sayre House or Luke Miller House 2 for \$15.00	\$10.00
Note Cards: Hartley Dodge Memorial (Pack of 4)	\$ 3.00
Photo Prints: Historic Madison, 7 different views	
\$30.00@	
Postcards: Historic Madison \$1.00 each or Set of 4	for \$ 3.75
Tote Bag: Rose City	\$10.00
Madison Historical Society DVD's \$1	0.00 each
* Black Church History * Transportation	

- # Black Church History* Transportation* Italian History in Madison* Vietnam Oral History Project (with booklet)* History of Roses* The War Years, On the Home Front 1940-1955
- USED BOOKS: VARIOUS TITLES, ALSO FOR SALE AT DISCOUNTED PRICES.

The Madison Historical Society

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 148, Madison, 07940. Office located in the Local History Center of the Madison Library
Office Phone: 973-377-0722 x8
Office Hours: Due to covid, appointments are required when the office is open on Thursdays.
Contact: President Virginia Laughlin, 973-593-4875
Web: www.madisonnjhistoricalsociety.org
Email: historicalsociety@rosenet.org