

HHHS PasTimes

Howell Heritage & Historical Society

Meetings 4th Friday, 7 pm, Ardena Baptist Church Gym, Adelpia Rd. Howell

June 2025 Newsletter

Message from HHHS President, Jude Meehan

Hello HHHS Members,
As I write this Summer is only a week away and MacKenzie & Ardena are looking good. The Yard Sale has been put off due to Larry being injured. We hope you are better soon Larry!

Over the next year, HHHS will be planning events to celebrate our Nation's 250th Birthday next July. If you have any ideas for events, please let us know. Monmouth County has created an excellent website to showcase all of the events that are being held throughout the county to celebrate America's Birthday. Please visit MonmouthNJ250.org to sign up for their newsletter and discover all of the wonderful events.

We are very fortunate to have so much living history around us here in Monmouth County. If you are a Revolutionary War buff, you are in for a treat with all of the different events and celebrations that will be happening as we honor our Nation.

At our last meeting we discussed the Library element of MacKenzie House. We agreed that the Library Committee will choose their own day to display and help with genealogy research. I am excited to see this happen. Any comments, ideas, etc., please always call me.

Sincerely,
Jude Meehan
(732) 433-3359

Thanks to all of our Society Members who renewed their membership for 2025!

Upcoming Events

MacKenzie House Museum & Library Open House
427 Lakewood Farmingdale Road, Howell
Saturday, June 21 from 1pm to 4pm

Monthly HHHS Society Meeting
Ardena Baptist Church, 593 Adelpia Road, Howell
Friday, June 27 starting at 7pm

Old Ardena School Open House
Preventorium & Old Tavern Roads, Howell
Sunday, June 29 from 1pm to 4pm

The Yard Sale originally scheduled for June has been postponed.

Volunteers Needed at All Events –
Contact a committee member to find out
how you can help

Table of Contents

HHHS News.....	Page 2
HHHS Treasurer's Report.....	Page 3
HHHS Meeting Minutes.....	Page 4-5
HHHS Program Calendar.....	Page 6
HHHS Membership Form.....	Page 7
HHHS Events.....	Page 8-10

Follow us on Social Media for the latest HHHS events!

Facebook

Howell Heritage and Historical Society NJ

Our Website

www.howellheritagehistoricalsociety.org

You can reach us anytime by email:

HowellHeritageandHistoricalSoc@gmail.com

By snail mail:

Howell Heritage and Historical Society

2 Ardmore Road, Freehold, NJ 07728

HHHS NEWS

Meet Our Members

Attending a Society meeting is a great way to meet others with a love of history as well as listening to the unique presentations held each month. In June, we will hear from Leigh Shaffer about researching incoming Local History requests to HHHS.

HHHS Yard Sale

The Yard Sale scheduled for early June has been postponed. Once a new date is selected, we will notify everyone via email.

Questions relating to the Yard Sale can be sent to howellheritageandhistoricalsoc@gmail.com

Cornhole Event at Woody’s – Save the Date!

HHHS will hold a Cornhole Event at Woody’s Roadside in Farmingdale, NJ on Saturday, August 23. Details to follow. Please save the date and plan to attend!

Old Ardena School Update

Ardena School’s next scheduled opening to the public is Sunday, June 29, 2025 (the last Sunday of the month) from 1PM to 4PM. We look forward to welcoming visitors. Come learn about the people who lived, worked, and farmed in Howell. We will have available a game or two, that may have been available at recess to the pupils, 100 years ago. See the class pictures that are up to be viewed, for most of Howell’s pre-1938 schools. Look through the photo album for additional class pictures.

The school committee regularly updates (as we learn more about Howell’s past) the tour presentation that is given when small groups come for a scheduled tour of Ardena. We are always ready to host groups: such as Scouts, Home Schoolers, Camps, or Social Clubs for a tour that can be scheduled any day of the week, at a time convenient for the group and tour guide. Tours can be early or late. They can be scheduled during the Summer, Fall, or Spring. Our building is unheated, so Winter tours are not usually scheduled for January or February. Tours may be arranged by contacting us through by email: howellheritageandhistoricalsoc@gmail.com

For general questions or scheduling of a private tour, the School committee members are:

Anne Hartmann, Debbie Frost, Margaret Winkelman and Vicky Arose

Vicky Arose, HHHS Board Trustee and School Committee Member

MacKenzie House Museum & Library Update

Patriotism was alive and well in May at the MacKenzie Museum. Donna Terkildsen had the pump organ joyfully playing historic patriotic songs. Many guests enjoyed the music and sang along. You may not have noticed, but our local cemeteries were all visited by volunteers in Monmouth County to place flags on every veteran. Many Howell Twp. organizations participated in the Farmingdale Memorial Day Parade, where the streets were lined with excited watchers.

There are more upcoming events planned for MacKenzie that continue to focus on the Patriotic Theme. As you know, June 14th is Flag Day and America will be celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the U.S. Army Grand Military Parade. On June 21, guests at MacKenzie Museum will focus on Our Grand Old Flag, and we will honor our veterans and troops by displaying military flags.

In May, Donna shared the “Grand Old Flag” story, and we sang the words. But, the background story was a bit of a surprise. “You’re a Grand Old Flag” was written by George M. Cohan for his 1906 stage musical *George Washington, Jr.* The original lyric, as Cohen later explained, came from an encounter he had with a Civil War veteran who fought at Gettysburg. The two men found themselves next to each other and Cohan noticed the veteran held a carefully folded but ragged old flag. The man reportedly, turned to Cohan and said, “She’s a grand old rag.” Cohan thought it was a great line and originally named his tune, “You’re a Grand Old Rag.” Many people objected to calling the flag a “rag”, so Cohan renamed the song, ”You’re a Grand Old Flag.”

We hope you’ll join us June 21st as we honor “Our Grand Old Flag.” In July, we will look back at the Revolutionary War Period with a focus on our veterans, and 1776 flags.

Leigh Shaffer, HHHS Board Vice President & MacKenzie Committee Member

For general questions or scheduling of a private tour, the MacKenzie committee members are:

Larry Lastra, Leigh Shaffer and Ron Alessi

HHHS MEETING MINUTES – MAY 23, 2025

SUBMITTED BY: HHHS SECRETARY, DEBORAH FROST

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Jude Meehan
Flag salute and moment of silence by Jude Meehan

Refreshments: Provided by Lynn Barrall

Program Presented: Anniversary of HHHS Inc. Margaret presented "A year in Review" that featured a slide show of our accomplishments and activities! She also mentioned that she set up a YouTube a year ago.

Business Meeting:

Prior Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the April 25th 2025 meeting of HHHS could not be approved as posted in the HHHS PasTimes May 2025 Newsletter pg. 6 Library. Leigh distributed copies of a correction. The agreement referred to in the minutes was between the Howell Historical Society and The Howell Township over 50 years ago. That agreement became null and void 9/24/19. The new resolution of the Township of Howell authorizing the sale of Block 47 Lot 23 to HHHS reads "For the purpose of restoration, preservation, improvement and utilization of the historical site for the benefit of the general public". Frank approved the amended minutes. Bob 2nd

Treasurer's Report: To be voted during June meeting

Committee Reports:

Finance: There has been no update on the previous account.

Fundraising: Margaret said that Ellen got a date from Woody's, August 23rd, for the cornhole event. There is a 2 1/2-hour time frame. Chris will do the set-up and be an impartial judge. The charge is \$100. There will be a lunch meeting if anyone would like to join them.

December fundraiser: Leigh spoke to the secretary at Farmingdale UMC but needs to speak to the pastor. HHHS and Farmingdale Historical Society both agreed to take on refreshments.

Larry asked for volunteers for the yard sale.

MacKenzie House: Jude is looking into help for a water supply for the house. Leigh offered to write a letter to Donna's son concerning the work he is doing and confirmed that our cost would be \$1500. Donna's son would absorb any other costs. Leigh suggested a motion to approve the cost. Jude offered to take away anything that needs to be moved for the project. Jude motioned to approve the \$1500 cost. Catherine 2nd. All were in favor.

Old Ardena School: A flea market was planned for June 7th 2025. Margaret confirmed that the schoolhouse would not be open the last Sunday in May.

HHHS MEETING MINUTES – MAY 23, 2025

SUBMITTED BY: HHHS SECRETARY, DEBORAH FROST

Library: Lynn said she and Ann M met twice within the last 3 weeks. She learned so much from Ann. Lynn spoke about a plan for the format, function, purposes and inventory. She thanked Margaret for typing information into a format. Lynn and Ann are developing a clear library concept that will be helpful in maintaining inventory and references. There will be rules for usage and sign outs. It will not be a lending library. If they wanted to display something interesting they found, they could inform the docents. Library dates could be set, and it could be publicized when they would be there. A genealogy program could be developed. Mini lessons, displays, and a book club were mentioned as possibilities. Ann said the Howell Boosters are very fragile and could tear. They are unique to Howell and she suggested that we should have white gloves. She showed one volume to the Monmouth County Archives. It would cost \$3400 to digitize the volumes and \$4000 to put them on the internet. Another option is to donate the set to the Monmouth County Archives where they would be on a waiting list after a deed book is completed. Jude was in favor of the 2nd option, asked if that is what we wanted to do, and asked for comments from the group.

Donna preferred doing 1/2 first. Ann said donated items would be climate controlled. Leigh said people loved to look at the books and that we have been careful with these items. Frank wondered about damage. Jude asked Lynn if she thought they would be a draw to Mackenzie house and asked if they would ever come back once they were gone. Bob wondered where we would look at the digitized books. Margaret asked what would we do to preserve the books if they stayed. Lynn said newsprint is fragile. Ann said they (newsprint) were made to disintegrate. Frank asked if we could take one issue and scan it and then donate the books. Ellen loves the Boosters and supports the digitized form and donation option. Lynn wondered if we could try to copy one or try to copy some ads. Margaret said that when using a standard printer, those copies would fade. Jude thought funds would have to come from another source if we did the digitalization.

Jude, speaking as a member, not a president, wanted Mackenzie to be a Miller's historic home in Howell on the weekend. If docents wanted to display items, it's up to them. He is not against library days, but on tour days.... Frank expressed reservations about leaving fragile items out. Lynn said people could be invited to come in on a different day other than a tour day. Jude asked for feedback. Leigh said the chairs can all be sat on. Children have been well behaved, and they are allowed to touch certain things. She wants people to feel like they can touch things, sit down and be comfortable.

Building and Grounds: None

Old Business: None

New Business: County meeting: Catherine and Jude attended a county meeting recently. It was a packed house and the county was very appreciative. People have been very interested in graves!

Future Events: Lynn has scheduled TJ Fallon for our September 26th meeting. His T shirts will be available for sale.

Ron motioned to adjourn the meeting, Catherine 2nd. All approved.

HHHS PROGRAM CALENDAR FOR 2025



ARDENA BAPTIST CHURCH GYM ~ 593 ADELPHIA RD, HOWELL
4TH FRIDAY ~ PROGRAM 7 P.M. ~ BUSINESS MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

If you are interested in presenting at a Society Meeting in 2025, please contact HHHS via email at
HowellHeritageandHistoricalSoc@gmail.com

January 24th Program: HHHS Installation of Officers – Cancelled due to low attendance
Refreshments: Catherine Schwier – Thank you!

February 28th Program: HHHS Installation of Officers – Postponed due to Board absences
Refreshments: Margaret Winkelman – Thank you!

March 28th Program: HHHS Installation of Officers - rescheduled
Refreshments: Debbie Frost – Thank you!

April 25th Program: William A.B. Ditto on “Evolution of Transferware from China to England and Beyond.”
Refreshments: Vicky Arose – Thank you!
Special Activity: Western Monmouth School Tour – Ardena School

May 23rd Program: Celebrate 6th Anniversary Of HHHS Inc.
Refreshments: Lynn Barrall – Thank you!
Special Activity: Weekend in Old Monmouth & Farmingdale-Howell Memorial Day Parade

June 27th Program: Leigh Shaffer – Research Requests for HHHS
Refreshments: Frank Pinkus

July 25th Program: *Tentatively* “Show & Tell”
Refreshments:
Special Activity: Monmouth County Fair at East Freehold Showgrounds

August 22nd Program: *Tentatively* Open
Refreshments:

September 26th Program: Slate of Officers Presented by Nominating Committee – TJ Fallon
Refreshments:
Special Activity: Howell Day & Green Fair

October 24th Program: Approval of Slate of Officers for 2026
Refreshments:
Special Activity: Monmouth County Archives & History Day

November & December — No Meetings

HHHS MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

An important way to grow our membership is through word of mouth.
Please consider sharing this form with friends and family who may be interested in joining.

2025 Membership / Donation Form

☐ I would like to enroll as a member in the category below:

_____ \$20 individual _____ \$30 family _____ \$50 sponsor _____ \$100 patron

☐ I would like to make a general donation:

Amount: \$ _____ donation

☐ I would like to be added to your email distribution list only:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please send this form & your check, payable to:

Howell Heritage & Historical Society, 2 Ardmore Road, Freehold NJ 07728

Email: howellheritageandhistoricalsoc@gmail.com

HHHS is a recognized 501c organization under EIN: 83-4488067



Funding has been made possible in part by an operating support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a Division of the Department of State, through grant funds administered by the Monmouth County Historical Commission.

*Thank
you*

HHHS EVENTS – OPEN HOUSES – See you at our Open Houses!



Old Ardena Schoolhouse #2

Sunday, June 29th

1pm to 4pm

Admission is Free

✉ Howellheritageandhistoricalsoc@gmail.com

MACKENZIE MUSEUM

YOU'RE INVITED! PLEASE JOIN US, JUNE 21ST



OPEN
HOUSE,
1-4

HHHS EVENTS – MACKENZIE MUSEUM AND LIBRARY



A fun day at MacKenzie! Donna made the pump-organ sing, and all the guests joined in! We remembered our Veterans and focused on the Civil War Veterans, highlighting those connected to the historic MacKenzie owners.

Videos of the Patriotic Pump Organ Event can be seen on:

www.howellheritagehistoricalsociety.org

Click on You Tube "Shorts" link



Please Save the Date! December 12th
Victorian Christmas Concert - 7 pm
1894 Victorian Gothic Church
Farmingdale Methodist Church, 8 Main Street, Farmingdale, NJ
Hosted by, and for the benefit of,
Farmingdale & Howell Heritage Historical Societies