

# HHHS PasTimes

## Howell Heritage & Historical Society

Meetings 4<sup>th</sup> Friday, 7 pm, Ardena Baptist Church Gym, Adelpia Rd. Howell

### April 2025 Newsletter

#### Message from HHHS President, Jude Meehan

Greetings HHHS Members,

We are all looking forward to a busy schedule of tours, events and fun meetings. This Saturday, MacKenzie House is having another wonderful tour. Members have the inside and outside ready to show. Last meeting, we heard plans for a candlelight Christmas concert to be held in Farmingdale. HHHS is in full support of this. The meeting was very quaint and we all sat in a circle and discussed upcoming events and we had a good time.

I would like to encourage everyone to attend our monthly Society meetings. We will keep them to a firm ending of no later than 8:30 p.m.

Our next Society meeting is on Friday, April 25 where William A.B. Ditto will present “Evolution of Transferware from China to England and Beyond.”

Thank you for your participation with HHHS. We have a great group of people and we welcome all suggestions.

Sincerely,  
Jude Meehan

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, April 19 from 1pm to 4pm

**Monthly HHHS Society Meeting**  
Ardena Baptist Church, 593 Adelpia Road, Howell  
Friday, April 25 starting at 7pm

**Old Ardena School Open House**  
Preventorium & Old Tavern Roads, Howell  
Sunday, April 27 from 1pm to 4pm

**Weekend in Old Monmouth**  
Old Ardena-Preventorium & Old Tavern Roads  
MacKenzie House-427 Lakewood Farmingdale Rd  
Saturday, May 3 from 10am to 5pm  
Sunday, May 4 from 12pm to 5pm

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

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Follow us on Social Media for the latest HHHS events!

Facebook

Howell Heritage and Historical Society NJ

Our Website

[www.howellheritagehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.howellheritagehistoricalsociety.org)

You can reach us anytime by email:

[HowellHeritageandHistoricalSoc@gmail.com](mailto: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.

Our monthly presentation for April will be hosted by William A.B. Ditto on “Evolution of Transferware from China to England and Beyond.”

### Old Monmouth Candy Fundraiser

The Old Monmouth Candy Sale has concluded and orders were distributed at the Old Ardena School on Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks to everyone who ordered, made a donation or had friends and family order too – our revenue nearly doubled over last year. Every bit helps!

### Old Ardena School Update

Spring has sprung and we’ve opened for the season. Winter is a distant memory, now that spring cleaning is done. Ardena welcomed visitors on March 30<sup>th</sup>, and again April 5<sup>th</sup>. The bulbs, planted two years ago, are once again blooming and a welcoming sight as you pull up to park.

The second Schoolhouse tour was a success, thanks to Anne, Debbie and Margaret. Old Ardena Schoolhouse # 2 was one of 6 sites on the tour. The other open schools were in nearby Wall, Freehold, and Colts Neck. Ardena’s final visitors were so happy to reach it, before the 3 o’clock closing and complete the challenge of visiting all 6 in one day. Our visitors helped ring Ardena’s bells, both inside and out, throughout the day. AND, Peter Rabbit, made his third annual visit to greet visitors.

Howell Heritage and Historical Society’s (HHHS) members, and its community benefactors, work hard to preserve and repair our buildings and their artifacts. Together, the work completed helps to bring a bygone era alive for our future generations. HHHS is always looking for help to maintain local history. Drop in when we’re open and visit. While visiting you will discover you’ve got knowledge to share to help interpret our history in Howell.

Block some time on your calendar to visit. Ardena Schoolhouse # 2’s next Open House on April 27, 2025, from 1-4PM. The following weekend, both Ardena and MacKenzie House will be open for

Old Monmouth Weekend, on Saturday, May 3, from 10AM-5PM, and Sunday, May 4, from Noon to 5PM. Visit for an hour, or so, either day. Help greet the many touring history buffs who drop by our properties. Invite your friends and family to join you for a tour of our properties. Afterwards, check out several of the nearby historical sites in found Monmouth County. When you visit a nearby site, spread the word, HHHS buildings are open monthly, preserving history for future generations.

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

Hello Everyone....Spring is in the air and it’s beginning to look Springlike at the MacKenzie house. Hoping that you will join us on April 19<sup>th</sup>, to learn about the Easter Parade and to see our house all decked out for Easter. If you are so inclined, please put on your Easter bonnet to join in the festivities!

**Larry Lastra**, MacKenzie Committee Member

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

Larry Lastra, Leigh Shaffer and Ron Alessi

### DID YOU KNOW?\*

Following the opening of the new Ardena School in 1939, the remaining vacant schools in Howell were sold for a total of \$1,885. Some of the buildings were sold complete with the land and other just the buildings, but in every instance the Board of Education salvaged all the equipment in the buildings. None could be used for either private or public school purposes and in cases where just the buildings were sold, the purchaser must have left the land in a leveled manner.

William J. Clayton – Adelpia buildings and land  
George Reynolds – Fort Plains school building  
Walter VanSchoick – Lower Squankum property  
John Tolly – Bedford property and land  
Charles Conrow – North Farmingdale building only  
Leroy Matthews – Ardena school property  
Austin Gunther – Southard school building  
George C. Borden - Jerseyville school + building

**TREASURER'S REPORT THROUGH MARCH 31, 2025**  
**SUBMITTED BY: TREASURER, MARGARET WINKELMAN**

**<removed> Shared with HHHS members only**

# HHHS MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 28, 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

**Program presented:** No special program

### **Business Meeting:**

**Prior Meeting Minutes:** Approved, motion by Frank, 2nd by Catherine

**Treasurer's Report:** Approved, motion by Catherine, 2nd by Frank

### **Committee Reports:**

**Finance:** Ann M discovered that \$700 from the old Howell Historical Society went to unclaimed property. She sent an email to Virginia K. Margaret offered to take care of this as she is treasurer.

**Fundraising:** Donna spoke with Leigh about the possibility of a Christmas concert at a church in Farmingdale for a joint fundraiser with Farmingdale's Historical Society. Donna would bring in the talent and she would play gratis. She would like people attending to sing Christmas carols with them. The consensus of our group was to have a free will offering. A possible date is the 2nd Friday evening in December. A Sunday afternoon would be possible if Friday did not work out. The idea was met with Jude's approval. Having refreshments provided by our group after the event was proposed.

Jude suggested selling the large mirror that is leaning in the parlor. He suggested an amount of no more than a \$200 donation for it. Margaret would like to have a holiday event at the schoolhouse on December 6th. The MacKenzie committee can discuss dates for their holiday event. Margaret and Ellen will regroup to discuss their (corn hole) fund raiser. A date needs to be chosen for the Spring yard sale at the schoolhouse. Margaret thanked everyone for their candy orders.

Questers are looking for a project to support. We can mention our ideas during their tours if we'd like.

**MacKenzie House:** Donna's son checked out the propane unit which was rusted and wouldn't trust it. A mini split for heat and air was recommended. He is trying to get a coil and parts, will write up a proposal, and offered to do the work at no cost to HHHS. The mini split is already a freebie. Existing duct work can be used. He was in awe of the building and we appreciate his offer. Donna's son suggested that if the roof doesn't leak we should leave it alone. Her friend checked out the pump organ and called it a work horse. It's loud and fine as is. Some tabs aren't working but that could improve with temperature control.

Ron met Arlene at MacKenzie house. She is an enthusiastic artist who would like to do a painting for the house. There is space over the buffet in the dining room where it could be displayed. Larry said that the porch at MacKenzie needs some repairs. It should be sanded and painted with deck paint. Margaret complimented the passion of the members who have made the house look clean and beautiful. Jude complimented the great job that was done on the article in the Howell Times. He mentioned the possibility of using American Water Company and is working on getting a price for a water main. John Woolley believes the well is shot. It went dry and the drought caused problems. It would likely cost a few thousand dollars to fix it. MacKenzie's next event will be the Easter Parade on April 19th. Ron and Larry mentioned how much people liked going up the little staircase. Evelyn refers to it as the "Ghost staircase".

# HHHS MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 28, 2025

SUBMITTED BY: HHHS SECRETARY, DEBORAH FROST

**Ardena School:** Margaret asked if anyone was interested in being a teacher at the school. She will be the bunny at the Easter event. Vicky encouraged members to stop by the school, ask questions about our visitor's interests, and listen and learn. Our young visitors enjoy ringing the bell.

**Library:** No updates.

**Building and Grounds:** Margaret suggested that rails be installed against 2 posts at the schoolhouse. The cost of each rail might be \$120. Vicky described its usefulness for coming up and down the stairs. Debbie agreed there is currently a safety issue. Jude will do a cleanup of leaves and trees at the schoolhouse. Evelyn suggested that members go to a town meeting and raise any issues they have publicly. Catherine will call a friend with knowledge of potholes as there are some near MacKenzie that concern us. She also suggested we consider a new dehumidifier that is energy star approved for the basement.

**Old Business:** Jude presented us with information on security systems and members at the meeting were given printouts from CSS and Atlantic detailing costs and services. A Q&A sheet concerning John Amato from Atlantic Security & Fire was included. Worksheets showing upgrade comparisons for both companies were also included. Margaret suggested that she and Vicky could be available as contacts to be alerted in the event of an alarm going off at Ardena.

## **New Business:**

Town Hall: Evelyn had flyers for us that contained information about an opportunity to fellowship with others. They do this every year.

Programs: Jude would like to have a show and tell at a future meeting. The Hindenburg group had not called back yet. Bill Ditto is scheduled for April. Catherine would like to have another visit to the light house in September or October. The show and tell could be in September or October. May is still open. We are waiting to hear from Lynn concerning T.J. Fallon. Virginia K has done presentations in the past and it would be a good idea to contact her. Jude could bring in more military items.

Howell History: Catherine told us that Vicky wrote an essay about Howell's History and has received author credit.

Vicky motioned to adjourn the meeting, Debbie 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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](mailto:HowellHeritageandHistoricalSoc@gmail.com)

**January 24<sup>th</sup> Program:** HHHS Installation of Officers – cancelled due to low attendance  
Refreshments: Catherine Schwier – Thank you!

**February 28<sup>th</sup> Program:** HHHS Installation of Officers – postponed due to Board absences  
Refreshments: Margaret Winkelman – Thank you!

**March 28<sup>th</sup> Program:** HHHS Installation of Officers - rescheduled  
Refreshments: Debbie Frost – Thank you!

**April 25<sup>th</sup> Program:** William A.B. Ditto on “Evolution of Transferware from China to England and Beyond.”

Refreshments:

**Special Activity:** [Western Monmouth School Tour / Ardena School & MacKenzie Museum](#)

**May 23<sup>rd</sup> Program:** CELEBRATE 6th ANNIVERSARY OF HHHS INC.

Refreshments:

**Special Activity:** [Farmingdale-Howell Memorial Day Parade](#)

**June 27<sup>th</sup> Program:** *Almost scheduled!*

Refreshments:

**July 25<sup>th</sup> Program:** “Show & Tell”

Refreshments:

**Special Activity:** [Monmouth County Fair at East Freehold Showgrounds](#)

**August 22<sup>nd</sup> Program:** Virginia Krzyzanowski on “Making Family Memories (with a focus on genealogy and oral family history)”

Refreshments: **Virginia Krzyzanowski**

**September 26<sup>th</sup> Program:** Slate of Officers Presented by Nominating Committee

Refreshments:

**Special Activity:** [Howell Day & Green Fair](#)

**October 24<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:howellheritageandhistoricalsoc@gmail.com)**

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



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*Thank  
you*



# HHHS EVENTS – OLD ARDENA SCHOOL



Our Friend Elvis



Old Ardena School Special Event  
Schoolhouse Tour with a special appearance by Peter Rabbit  
Saturday, April 5th



# HHHS EVENTS – MACKENZIE MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

*You're Invited!*  
*MacKenzie Museum and Library!*  
*Please Join the Easter Parade*  
*Thru the Historic Miller's Home!*  
*April 19<sup>th</sup>*  
*from 1 to 4 pm*



*Celebrating our History!*