



UNION COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Annual Luncheon Set Will Spotlight NJ in Revolution

The Union County Historical Society will host Dr. Maxine Lurie, the author of *Taking Sides in Revolutionary New Jersey: Caught in the Crossfire* (Rutgers Press, 2022), at its annual luncheon to be held on April 16th at 2 p.m. at the Garden Restaurant in Union. Members and their guests are welcome to register for the event.

Dr. Lurie, a retired professor of history from Seton Hall University, has concentrated on early American history and the history of New Jersey. She has worked with other scholars on *The Encyclopedia of New Jersey*, *Mapping New Jersey*, *Envisioning New Jersey*, has edited an Anthology and worked with Richard Veit on a History of the Garden State.

Her latest book, *Taking Sides in Revolutionary New Jersey*, will be the topic of her talk at the luncheon, focusing on Loyalists, Patriots and the Undecided who lived here during the Revolution, including notable figures from Elizabethtown. Copies of her book will be available for purchase and signing at the event.

"We are delighted that Dr. Lurie is able to speak at the event," Society Presi-



dent Joanne Rajoppi said. "She is a recognized historian and scholar and has received numerous awards for her work including the Richard J. Hughes Award from the New Jersey Historical Commission (1997), Researcher of the Year in Humanities and Arts (2009), Woman of the Year (2010) from Seton Hall University and a Service Award from New Jersey History Day (2017)."

To register for the event please send a check (\$35/person) payable to the Union County Historical Society and mail to Lauren Socha, UCHS Treasurer, 846 Floral Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ 07208-1406. Please also indicate your choice of meal: Filet of Salmon, Pasta with sauce or Chicken Saltimbocca. Please respond by April 6th.

March 5th Meeting Talk for Women's History Month

A talk on the trials and tribulations of 19th century

women was presented at the March meeting of the UC Historical Society celebrating Women's History Month. Dr. Michele Rotunda, professor of history at Union County College and author of *A Drunkard's Defense: Alcohol, Murder, and Medical Jurisprudence in Nineteenth-Century America*, was the guest speaker.

Her talk, "Wives of Drunkards-Domestic Violence and Temperance Reform" charted the lack of legal and law enforcement protections for women who, with their children, were often at the mercy of their husbands' drunken outbursts. Dr. Rotunda provided ample cases of how the violence led to the brutal beatings or murder of women.

It was through the efforts of women in the Temperance and Suffrage Movements that women in the last half of the 19th century began to receive some legal protections. The talk was well received by the Society members and guests and was followed by a reception.



Bill Frolich's Thoughts About the Last 100 Years (Marconi)

“On August 11, 2009, several members of the Society, who are also members of the Roselle Park Historical Society, took advantage of an opportunity to visit and tour the former Marconi Wireless plant on Westfield avenue in Roselle Park. In operation now as the Romerovski Company dealing in waste cloth and clothing. It may soon be demolished and replaced by new housing as a part of re-developing in that town. An outer wall of the building still bears the bronze historic marker that was provided by the Roselle Park Historical Society many years ago.

stars such as Eddie Cantor broadcast their voices in the early 1920s. This place is where history was made.”



It is now 2023 and the demolition has been completed and the new apartments are being built on the site.



At the present time there are only traces of the original use of the building during the World War of 1914, although radio equipment was made there then for the U.S. Navy.

However, in the overhead above the busy workers can still be seen the massive beams and girders of the original framework of the old building. No longer to be found is the radio room where

Gone is the catwalk connecting the parts of the old building over Gordon street bridge and the tunnel going under the bridge. And unfortunately also gone is the bronze historic marker as no one is sure where it disappeared.

OVER THE BACK FENCE



Guess we can't stop progress.

Just hope we can still save the best memories of our past.