



UNION COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Dr. Lurie is Guest Speaker at UCHS Annual Luncheon

Noted historian Dr. Maxine N. Lurie presented a talk on her most recent book, *Taking Sides In Revolutionary New Jersey: Caught in the Crossfire*, at UCHS's recent annual luncheon held at The Garden restaurant in Union. More than 40 people attended to hear the story of the divisive time of the revolution among patriots, loyalists, and stragglers, trimmers and opportunists in New Jersey.

"Resident livings in this active war zone took varied stands," Dr. Lurie states. "Whatever side they took they faced death, disease, losing all (family and property), and becoming refugees."

"The stories Dr. Lurie related are dramatic and provide a view of the struggles New Jersey residents faced during the long eight years of the Revolution," UCHS President Joanne Rajoppi remarked. "Dr. Lurie provided many examples of well-known people in the Elizabethtown area in her talk."

Dr. Lurie is a professor emerita of history at Seton Hall University in South Orange. She is the editor of *A New Jersey Anthology* and coeditor of *Encyclopedia of New Jersey*, *Mapping New Jersey: An Evolving Land-*



President Joanne Rajoppi and First Vice President Charles Shallcross welcome Dr. Maxine Lurie, center, as guest speaker.

scape, *New Jersey: A History of the Garden State and Envisioning New Jersey: An Illustrated History of the Garden State.*

Four Students Win Awards from UCHS

Four local high school seniors won awards in the annual UCHS's Scholarship Program.



From l to r, they are Layla Soares, Union High School who will attend Penn State University; Klaudia Lukomska, Linden High School, whose college is not yet determined; Breona Pizzuta, Cranford High School, who will attend Rochester Institute of Technology and Joseph Ugliarolo, Cranford High School, who will attend Princeton University.

Each student received a monetary award along with two society publications. The UCHS Scholarship Committee consisted of Charles Shallcross and Rich Esperon.

Good luck to our outstanding scholars.

County Seal Saved

The Union County Seal, a depiction of Hannah Caldwell's murder by a British soldier during the American Revolution, has been saved. The County Commissioners were considering other options for a seal, but after input from the historical community and others, decided to postpone their decision to remove it.

**Bill Frolich's Thoughts About
the Last 100 Years
(A Trip to the Statue of Liberty)**

It was the Fourth of July of 1927, and the powers that had been in the family had decreed that this was the day to visit the Statue of Liberty. Shortly before noon all eight of us walked down to the Pennsylvania Railroad station in the middle of Elizabeth. Someone bought tickets and there were railroad tracks in front of us. After a short wait, along came a large noisy steam engine pulling a number of passenger cars. Sparks flew from the brakes as it came to a stop, and a conductor saw to it that we all got aboard. He pulled a signal cord to the engineer, and we were off.

The train ride was interesting. We passed through back yards, city streets, saw tall buildings, made a couple of station stops, and finally arrived at Exchange Place in Jersey City. Here we got off and walked across the platform into the largest elevator I had ever seen. It was bigger than any room in our house. It took us down below to an underground train platform, where everyone piled into an electric train, which we were told was a "tube train" because it ran through a tube under the Hudson River. We got out in the Hudson Terminal near the foot of Manhattan.

From here it was a short walk to the ticket booth and the ferry to Bedloe's Island and the Statue of Liberty. A short ferry trip brought us to the island and there was this enormous green lady with a torch held high in her right hand. It was 305 feet to the tip of the torch, a guide told us. He said, "it's green because it is made of copper which turns green as it weathers."

We spent a few hours wandering around inside the base and looking up at the massive iron and steel framework of the inside of the statue. We were told that at one time people were permitted to climb up inside the arm to the torch, but not since 1916. We also learned that the statue had been made in France as a gift to the United States and sent over here in pieces. It was finally completed and dedicated on October 28, 1886.




Finally, a loudspeaker announced that it was time to leave the island. The last boat would be leaving in fifteen minutes. I was a little concerned about missing the boat, but we made it in time. However, instead of sailing directly to Manhattan, the boat began a trip all of the way around that island. We sailed up the East River and under its bridges into the Harlem River and then into the Hudson River and back to our original start in Manhattan. During the cruise we had seen all sorts of ships tied up at their piers, tall buildings, including the Woolworth Building, at the

time the tallest in the world, and many tugboats pushing barges.

Then it was time to re-trace our trip from Elizabeth and go home. It had been a fun day, but it was still the Fourth of July, and we had no fireworks. Our money had been spent on the trip, but Uncle Lou bought us some sparklers on the walk home and saved the day.

**Facts about the
Statue of Liberty**

- The statue sways 3 inches in the wind; the torch sways 5 inches.
- Visitors climb 354 steps (22 stories) to look out from 25 windows in the crown.
- The statue is covered in 300 sheets of coin-thin copper. They were hammered into different shapes and riveted together.
- Seven rays in the crown represent the Earth's seven seas.

OVER THE BACK PENCE




Have a great summer and see you at our annual picnic in September.