

300 Year Celebration Events and Exhibits include:

Timeline of Closter's History at the Library

**The Settlement of Closter
exhibit at the Belskie**

**Storefront History Poster Exhibit
by Hillside Elementary Students**

Closter's Black History

Lemonade Porch Walk

Horse and Carriage Rides

CLOSTER WEEKEND - APRIL 24 & 25
Revolutionary War Reenactment
Children's Day
Little League Parade
Volunteer's Reception
and more.

**A Sail on the Hudson River
Sloop, Clearwater**

FULL CALENDAR INSIDE
For more information log on to
www.closterboro.com



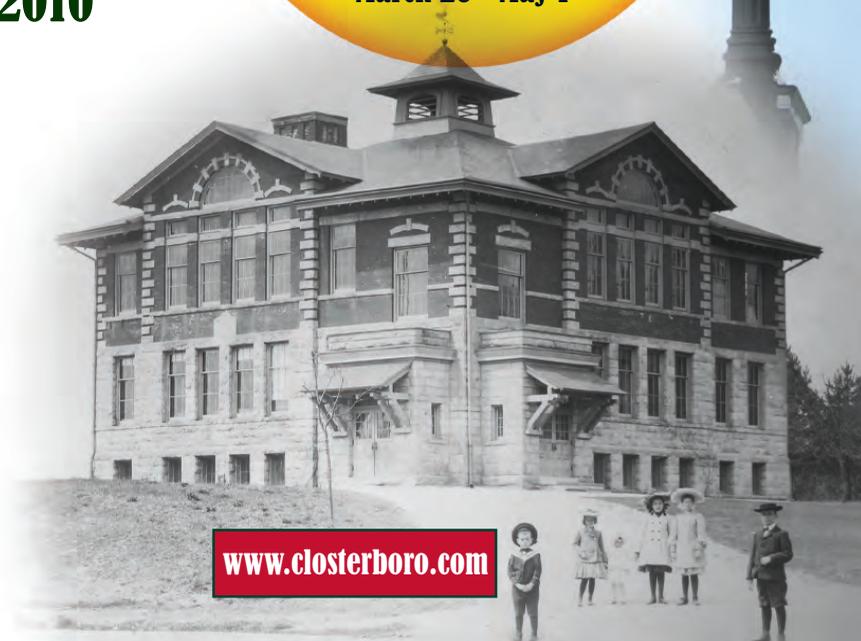
MARCH 28 - MAY 1, 2010



Funding has been made possible in part through grant funds administered by the Bergen County Department of Parks, Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs through a General Operating Support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a Division of Cultural Affairs in the Department of State.



*Join the
Celebration!*
**300 Years of Closter's History
a whole month of events**
March 28 - May 1



On April 25, 1710, Barent Nagle and Resolvert Nagle received a deed for a 1,030-acre, "L"-shaped tract of wilderness property purchased from an English land speculator. The purchase led to the first permanent settlement in what is now the Borough of Closter.

The land bought by the Nagle brothers extended from the Hudson River to the Tenakill Brook, and from today's Closter Dock Road all the way to Palisades, New York. At that time, Closter Dock Road was the border between New York and New Jersey, making Closter originally part of New York.

Eventually a compromise was reached between the states, and today's state border was established in 1769, when Closter became part of Hackensack Township. In 1775 Harrington Township (named after the Haring family) was established, and Closter became part of that large entity. When "Borough-itis" struck Bergen County, the large townships were subdivided into new municipalities, and Closter became an independent borough in 1904.

The first people to inhabit this land were the Tappan Indians with their Algonquin language. The Nagles and the families that later settled here were Dutch, and they spoke a dialect known as "Jersey Dutch." It is from the Dutch that we get the name "Klooster," or "Clooster," meaning a cloister (monastery) or a quiet, restful place. Eventually, under British control, the English language came, and soon an American culture developed.

Over the years, many other people with many other languages came to Closter, including Germans, French, Irish, Italians, Eastern Europeans, Russians, Armenians, Japanese, Chinese, East Indians, Pakistanis, Koreans, Filipinos, Israelis, and Hispanics from many different countries. In fact, 30 different languages are spoken in the homes of Closter's schoolchildren.

In the past 300 years, Closter has evolved from a primitive settlement with just a small handful of homes and families to a bedroom community for the New York metropolis and an economic center for the Northern Valley. We celebrate not only what Closter once was, but what it is today — a vibrant, diverse community with a rich history that started with two brothers with a dream.

We remember and celebrate our 300 years of history with displays and exhibits, educational lectures on our history, tours of historic sites, a reenactment of an event from the American Revolution, and traditional games for children. Most of all, we will celebrate the people of Closter.

Take a look at what we have planned. Choose those activities you would like to participate in. We welcome you, your families, your friends, and all our neighbors to celebrate 300 years of Closter history.

Mayor Sophie Heymann

We gratefully acknowledge the support for this publication from

- Trudy and Ed Freund**
- Jack-in-the-Box**
- LB Commercial Realty**
- Northern State Bank**
- NVE Bank**
- PNC Bank**
- Orange and Rockland Utilities**
- Parsells Insurance**
- Reuten Corporate Park**
- Valley Diner**
- Others pending**



We're celebrating 300 years of Closter's history with a whole month of events

March 28, Sunday

Closter Lions Club Pancake Breakfast – 8:00 a.m. to noon: Northern Valley Regional High School, Knickerbocker Road, Demarest: For its 75th year of service to Closter, the semi-annual pancake breakfast that will benefit Community Hospice of Bergen Co. and the Lions Community Assistance Fund. Donations are \$6.00; children 5 or under are free. Celebrating the spirit of Volunteerism in our community, this event is the Kick-Off of the month long events that have been planned to acknowledge Closter's 300 Years of History.

Walking Tour of Historic Downtown Closter – 2:30 p.m. Meet at the "Clock Tower" on "Main Street": Lifelong resident William Cahill will conduct a one hour tour which will note the many Victorian styles and unique architectural features of the homes and commercial structures in what was once known as "Closter City."

April 3, Saturday

Historic Marker Dedication of Nagel-Auryansen Cemetery – 1 p.m. Entrance located at 44 Susan Drive. The Bergen County Historical Society and the Borough of Closter honor the final resting place of the early Closter settlers with a historic marker. The stories of the people who took part in the first settlement, the American Revolution, and the early growth of Closter will be told as we see the permanent reminders of their lives, the ancient tombstones.

Opening April 5, Monday & Continuing through May

Timeline Exhibit of Closter's History – through May at the Closter Public Library 280 High Street Fun facts and surprising truths! Amazing photos and news about Closter in bygone years. Vintage images of homes, businesses, places of worship and important people from Closter's past.

April 5, Monday

"The Story of Closter's History" - 7:00 p.m. at the Closter Public Library: A comprehensive DVD presentation of our town's history accompanied by a discussion panel, "Toby and Friends". Listen to the personal anecdotes of long-time and senior residents.

Open Dress Rehearsal and cablevision taping – 4:00 p.m. Closter Library Everyone invited to a preview of the Zelnick concert.

April 6, Tuesday

Tenakill Middle School ~5th & 6th Grade Lecture – 8:45 a.m. in the Tenakill Middle School Auditorium, High Street: With over 250 images historian Tim Adriance will present an entertaining and educational program that tells the story of Closter's settlement for our 5th & 6th grade students.

April 7, Wednesday

"From Wilderness to Settlement" – 7:00 p.m. in the Tenakill Middle School Auditorium, High Street: This lecture for adults tells the story of the original settlement of Closter 300 years ago. The lives of Barent and Resolvort Nagel will be explored, their purchase of the 1,030 acres of land, their homes and the culture. An amazing amount of the original settlement exists today. Presented by Tim Adriance (tenth-generation descendant of Resolvort Nagel).

April 8, Thursday

Student Concert of Revolutionary War Period Music – 1:30 p.m. Tenakill Middle School Auditorium, High Street: Several students will do an accompanying narration. Refreshments will be provided by the Closter PTO.

Opening April 11, Sunday & Continuing to May 9

Belskie Museum Exhibit, "The Settlement of Closter" - Saturdays & Sundays 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. This ongoing exhibit shows the early history of Closter through numerous original documents and artifacts. See original deeds from the early 1700s, learn about the lives of the early settlers, and marvel at the rich history of Closter. Presented by the Belskie Museum and the Auryansen/Naugle families.

Historic Storefront Poster Exhibit - Hillside Elementary School's 4th Grade Students will display their works of art in poster form in storefronts located in historic downtown Closter.

April 11, Sunday

Lemonade Porch Walks ~Walking Tour of Historic Victorian District - Tours at Noon and 1:00 p.m. Meet at the Jovine House located at 270 Harrington Avenue. See and learn about Closter's newly designated historic District that is now protected from teardowns and inappropriate alterations. Talk to homeowners and the Historic Commission architect who lives in one of the authentic Lemonade Porch Victorians. Get advice on historic colors and ideas for your vintage home. Sip lemonade on a porch and enjoy tea in the Jovine's garden.

Eighteenth Century Carriage Rides: 10:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Meet at the Jovine House located at Harrington Avenue & West Street. Enjoy a tour of this Historic Victorian District in an eighteenth century horse and buggy. Sponsored by Joe Miele.

Week of April 12 at the Closter Public Library

Scavenger Hunt - In celebration of 300 years of Closter's history, the Closter Public Library is holding a scavenger hunt for families during spring recess. Each day from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. the Library will provide two clues to two historic locations. Prizes will be given to children/families at the locations. Those who participate all week and correctly discover all ten locations will be awarded a grand prize. Rules and clues can be picked up Monday, April 12th.

April 17, Saturday

Historical Arbor Day Planting – 10:00 a.m. at Pollack Square located at the intersection of Closter Dock and Piermont Roads: Celebrate Arbor Day with the Shade Tree Commission with the planting of a beautiful Copper Beech tree.

April 18, Sunday

A Musical Salute to the 40's & the 50's – 2:00 p.m. in the Closter Public Library Community Room: Francine Evans & the Joel Zelnick Trio will provide a delightful afternoon concert of music from the 40's and 50's.

April 18, Sunday

Closter's Churches on Display - 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.: Enjoy a walking tour and visit some of our historical churches, learn their histories, listen to some of their music. The Reformed Church, St. Paul's Church, New Life (Congregational), Centennial, Sadhu Vaswani Center, Temple Emanu-El are part of this open house. There will be docents to explain the structures and services and provide refreshments.

Arnold Brown presents Closter's Black History – 4:00 p.m. at the 1896 Centennial AME Zion Church, 5 Lewis Street: Historian, author and well-known authority on Bergen County's Black History. Arnold Brown, a descendant of the Oliver family who were members of the Zion Church, shares the rich history of the Closter Mountain Community "Skunk Hollow", AME Zion Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church of Colored People of the Township of Harrington and of his Great-Great-Grandfather, a former slave and a dominie of the Closter Mountain Community.

Eighteenth Century Horse and Carriage Rides: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.: Visit our churches in an authentic 18th Century carriage. Start at the eighteenth century Parsell's House (Lone Star Tavern) located at 639 Piermont Avenue travel to the Jovine House at Harrington and West St. and return to the Parsell's House along Durie and Demarest Avenues.

Closter Nature Center's Soup Supper: 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Closter Nature Center, Ruckman Road: The members of the Closter Nature Center invite you for a gathering that offers an abundance and variety of delicious homemade soups, plus fresh breads. The cost is \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under the age of 10

April 20, Tuesday

Jacob's Toolbox – 7:00 p.m., Closter Public Library, High Street: This children's program, sponsored by the Closter Library, presents the story of early Closter in a way youngsters will enjoy. The centerpiece of this children's story time is the toolbox of Jacob H. Adriance, who was born in Closter in 1850. The toolbox's folk art painting of early Closter serves as a backdrop for stories about growing up in Closter long ago; Jacob's brother, who went off to fight the Civil War at age 14; the fire in Jacob's home; working in the quarry at age 12; and the homes Jacob helped build in Closter. Children will have a hands-on opportunity to touch the past as we explore the tools and items found in the toolbox. Presented by Tim Adriance (great-grandson of Jacob). No charge, but registration is required. Call 201-768-4197

April 21, Wednesday

The Jersey Dutch and Their Architecture – 7:00 p.m. Tenakill Middle School, High Street: This lecture for adults explores the Dutch/European roots of the cultural traditions of those who lived in early Closter. This presentation focuses particularly on architecture – the permanent and visible remnant of the Jersey Dutch cultural group existing within Bergen, Rockland, and Passaic counties. Over 350 images of houses, barns, churches, and other cultural items (from here and from Europe) will be featured. Presented by architectural historian and Closter Historic Preservation Commission member, Tim Adriance. Closter History Story Hour – 7:00 p.m. Closter Public Library, High Street: This program is designed for children in grades K-2 to help them explore and learn about historic locations in Closter, relative to where they live. Children will leave the story hour with a map of Closter's historic locations and a scrapbook for Closter memories. No charge, but registration is required. Call 201-768-4197

April 24, Saturday

CLOSTER WEEKEND

Tour of Nagel-Auryansen Cemetery and Resolvort Nagel's Pre-1745 Houses – Noon. Enter at Nagel-Auryansen Cemetery on Susan Drive: Tour the historic cemetery first then proceed to Hickory Lane. Visit the three houses owned by Resolvort Nagel that are shown on the first map of Closter drawn in 1745 (all on Hickory Lane)

Revolutionary War Reenactment – 2:00 p.m. at the Isaac Naugle House, 80 Hickory Lane: This living-history presentation for all ages will be a re-creation of an actual American Revolution event on the original site. A "marauding band of Loyalist Tories" (commonly known as "the British") will "raid" the home of patriot Isaac Naugle. You will witness the struggle and heartache that our founders suffered in the war for American independence. Presented by the Borough of Closter and the Brigade of the American Revolution.

Children's Day - 10 a.m. to noon at Lindgren's Nursery School, 211 Irving Avenue: (established 1944 at the Nagle Homestead) Traditional 19th Century games and toys for children – Hoops, Jacks, Marbles, quoits, whirligigs, a petting zoo and pony rides. For Information please call 201-768-3550.

Book signing by Patricia Garbe Morillo 4:00 p.m. at the Belskie Museum. 280 High Street. Meet the author of the book, Images of America Closter and Alpine. Pat Morillo was the inspiration, educator and force behind the recognition of the need to preserve Closter's historic treasures.

April 25, Sunday

Little League Parade – Parade participants meet in the parking lot behind Borough Hall on Lewis Street, at 12:30. Line the streets of historic downtown Closter and enjoy watching our Little League parade through historic downtown to Memorial Field. Opening Day Ceremonies begin at 1:00 p.m.

Celebrating Closter's 300 Years of Volunteerism – 1:30 p.m. A sampling of 300+ of Closter's volunteers will meet at Memorial Field to participate in a photo tableau. Reception – 2 p.m.–5 p.m. at Borough Hall, the Mayor and Council host a reception for our volunteers, all our residents and business men and women to celebrate each other and Closter's history.

Civic Pride: Closter's Links to National Sculpture – 4:00 p.m. at the Closter Public Library, Community Room. Life-long resident, William Cahill, will conduct a keynote presentation about Closter's role in the production of public sculpture placed throughout the United States during the Beaux-Arts period. Featured artists will be J. Rhind and Alexander Baillie, along with Abram Belskie and Marcel Jovine

April 30, Friday

"Nature Yarns, Myths from Native American cultures in the Northern Valley and Tales Tall or Real from the early Dutch and English Settlers" - 7:30 p.m. at the Closter Nature Center – 179 Ruckman Road. Master storyteller Jonathan Kruk delights and enlightens all ages with his tales. The event is free, donations are welcomed. Refreshments will be served.

May 1, Saturday

Our Grand Finale! A Sail on the Hudson River aboard the Hudson River Sloop, Clearwater, a National Historic Site, 4 p.m. to commemorate the Closter farmers who used the Hudson as their highway The three hour sail will be preceded by a shad bake – Meeting place, Alpine Dock – \$25 per person, reservations are a must – 201-784-0600 x 481

All events free except Pancake Breakfast, Soup Supper and boat ride. All events "light rain or shine."

