

ENGLEWOOD
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

50th
ANNIVERSARY
Celebration

April 30, 2026

Crowne Plaza Englewood





Congratulations

to

The Englewood Historical Society

on their

50th Anniversary

and the

**2026 EHS Preservation
Award Recipients**

Sam & Emily Mann



Englewood Historical Society Program

Welcome and Introduction of Honored Guests

MC Harry Martin

Greetings From Englewood Mayor

Mayor Michael Wildes

Welcome and Englewood Historical Society Progress Report

Jane Kendall

***I love Englewood* Video Presentation - part 1**

Charlotte Bennett-Schoen & Brett Thompson

Buffet Dinner

***I love Englewood* Video Presentation - part 2**

Charlotte Bennett-Schoen & Brett Thompson

Presentation of 2026 Preservation Award in loving memory of Janine Brockie McKee and presentation of 2026 Preservation Award to Mike Hartnett

Jane Kendall

Presentation of 2026 Preservation Award to Wes Pierorazio

David Braun

Presentation of 2026 Preservation Award to Leslie Taylor

Charlotte Bennett-Schoen

Dessert & Raffle Drawing



Englewood Historical Society Annual Award Recipients

- 1986 John Harms Center For The Arts
- 1987 Eleanor Harvey, EHS Founder
- 1988 Flat Rock Brook Nature Association
- 1989 J. Wyman Jones House, Home of Charles Osgood Wood, Jr.
- 1990 Dwight Morrow High School
- 1991 John Kingsley Lattimer, Historian and Author
- 1992 Woman's Club of Englewood
- 1993 The Englewood Club
- 1994 First Presbyterian Church
- 1995 St. Cecilia's Church
- 1996 Eagle Paint Store - Restoration
- 1997 Lydecker Homestead-Southeast Senior Center
- 1998 Brookside Cemetery
- 1999 Leonard Hansen, Historian and Ramshead, His Home
- 2000 John G. Benson House - American Red Cross
- 2001 Bethany Presbyterian Church
- 2002 58 Beech Road, Home of Mr. & Mrs. Joel Horowitz
- 2003 Stephen and Gordon Javna, Preservationists
- 2004 The Garden Club of Englewood
- 2005 Englewood Hospital and Medical Center
- 2006 Kay Ritta, Designer and Preservationist
- 2007 21 Park Place - Bank of America Building
- 2008 Liberty School
- 2009 David Lloyd Maron, Architect
- 2010 Phelps Gatehouse, Mackay Park
- 2011 DeMott House, 488 Grand Avenue
- 2012 Homans Graham House - Dwight Englewood School
- 2013 Gloria Crest, North Woodland Street
- 2014 403 Liberty Road, Joanne and Gareth McCusker
- 2015 275 Engle Street, Tudor Hall
- 2016 Sondra Greenberg and Norman Davis
- 2017 The Victorian Streetscapes - Palisade & Hillside Avenue
& Spring Lane
- 2018 St. Paul's Church of Englewood
- 2019 Highwood Firehouse, Tom Siracusa & Frank Lucianna, Esq.
- 2020 Women's Rights Information Center
- 2026 Nordhoff Firehouse, Wes Pierorazio; Janine Brockie McKee (in
memoriam) & Mike Hartnett; Leslie Taylor

Englewood Historical Society 50th Anniversary Dinner Celebration Sponsors

as of April 28, 2026

Platinum Sponsors \$10,000+

Phil and Irma Ball
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David Maron

Liberty Sponsor \$5,000+

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Louise Schwartz

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Charlotte Bennett-Schoen
Sam and Emily Mann
Wes Pierorazio

Justice Sponsor \$750+

Community Chest

Unity Sponsors \$100–\$749

Judy and Mark Aronson
Peter French
Hans Gesell
Jacqueline Guttman
Michael Passow
Jewell Papowitz
David and Anne Schiebel
Michael Shannon





Janine Brockie McKee

Janine Brockie McKee was born in 1948 to Edward S. Brockie Jr. and Janice Murray Brockie. She grew up in Englewood as the eldest of four children and attended Dwight-Englewood School. She studied art history at Sweet Briar College, graduating in 1970, and went on to work for Dr. Francis Perrone in Manhattan for over 40 years. She spent nearly five decades in Tenafly, where she raised her two daughters, Alida McKee and Jeannette McKee Catanzaro. For almost 30 years, she shared a home with her loving partner, Michael Hartnett, who shares her passion for history and preservation.

Deeply devoted to her roots, Janine played a vital role in preserving the history of Englewood. As co-president of the Englewood Historical Society, she was instrumental in the preservation of the historic Taylor-Bliss House, ensuring that future generations could share in the story of the community she loved so dearly.

Janine is remembered as a beloved partner, mother, grandmother, sister and friend. Her kindness, intelligence and eye for beauty leave a lasting legacy that continues to inspire all who knew her and miss her dearly. Her family is honored to be in attendance for this event with her in spirit.



Mike Hartnett

Mike was born on October 15, 1950, in Auburn, New York, in the heart of the Finger Lakes. He earned a degree in Landscape Architecture from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse University in 1973, where he also played on the Syracuse Lacrosse Team. After beginning his career on Long Island, he founded his own design-build firm in Fair Lawn, New Jersey, in 1978, earning multiple national awards and recognition in leading publications for his residential work.

In 1996, Mike suffered a life-altering injury when a nursery guard dog severely damaged the nerves in his right hand, leaving him unable to draw and forcing him to close his business. After years of uncertainty and recovery, he gradually regained function and returned to the profession he loved, first with Land Concepts and later with B&B Pools, where his award-winning work continues today.

Mike met his beloved partner, Janine Brockie McKee, in 1997 and built a partnership defined by deep love, shared purpose, and a genuine devotion to community. Following her sudden passing in 2025, Mike carries her legacy forward with pride. Together, they viewed the restoration of the Taylor-Bliss House (now Englewood House) porch as a true labor of love.



Wes Pierorazio

Wes is the President of Midtown Elevator Co., Inc., a widely-respected New York-area company he has led since acquiring it in 2001. A Brooklyn-based business with operations in New Jersey, Midtown has built a strong reputation for reliability, expertise, and service under Wes' leadership.

Before entering the elevator industry, Wes spent eight years playing professional baseball for the Cleveland Indians and Minnesota Twins, an experience that reflects the discipline and determination he brings to all his endeavors.

Wes has been married to his wife, Cathy, for 31 years, and together they have three sons, Nicholas, Wesley, and Rocco, who are at the center of their lives.

In Englewood, Wes is recognized for his remarkable stewardship of the historic Nordhoff Firehouse (Englewood Firehouse No. 3) at 491 Grand Avenue, now home to his business office. Through his vision and care, this important local landmark has been thoughtfully restored and preserved.

Wes' commitment to family, community, and preservation reflects a deep sense of pride and responsibility, leaving a lasting impact on Englewood's history.



Leslie Taylor

Leslie is a fourth-generation resident of Englewood, New Jersey, with deep roots in the historic Fourth Ward—a community long central to the culture, resilience, and connection of Black families in the city. Raised within this legacy, she developed a strong sense of identity and a lifelong commitment to honoring Englewood’s past while contributing meaningfully to its future.

She is the daughter of Frank Taylor, an Englewood firefighter, and Pearl Taylor, an administrative assistant for the City of Englewood. Alongside her sister, Audrey Taylor-England, she was raised with enduring values centered on family, perseverance, and community pride.

A proud graduate of the Englewood Public School System, Leslie attended Lincoln Elementary School, the Middle School of Englewood, and Dwight Morrow High School. She later earned a Bachelor of Science degree in General Studies with a concentration in Chemistry and began a 22-year career in academic biomedical research across a broad range of disciplines, including animal biology, parasitology, immunology, genetics, oncology, andrology, and public health. Her work led to authorship and contributions in several scientific journals.

After returning to Englewood, she joined Dr. John Grieco Elementary School and later earned a Master of Library and Information Science degree from Rutgers University. She now serves as Head of Reference at the Englewood Public Library, where she supports research, outreach, and information literacy.

As a fourth-generation resident, Leslie is deeply committed to preserving Englewood’s history, especially the stories of families and neighborhoods that shaped the community. Through her library work and personal dedication, she helps ensure this heritage remains visible, valued, and preserved for future generations.

Englewood Historical Society Through The Years



Local History Books Published by the Englewood Historical Society:

This Was Early Englewood, Englewood Historical Sketches, Second Ward Walking Tour, Liberty Square, Extraordinary Englewood

Past Programs Have Included: talks on genealogy, local quilting, Abraham Lincoln historical impersonator, history of Camp Merritt, a WWI encampment, history of First Presbyterian Church

Bus Tours: viewing significant architecture in all 4 wards and mentions of well-known people who lived in each site

Series of Exhibitions at the Mackay Park Gatehouse Celebrating Englewood's Diversity and Unique History:

"From Gatehouse to Gateway to Sports: The Story of Mackay Park and Sports in Englewood" • "Englewood: Gateway to Music" • "Englewood 100 years" national 100-year commemoration of the US entry into WWI • "Then and Now" online study of houses from past and present

Grants: Bergen County for Special Projects & General Operating Support

Publicity: feature stories and segments on national media (ABC, CBS, NBC), local newspapers/magazines (Record, NVPress, 201, Suburbanite)

Moving Taylor Bliss to Englewood House: Exciting move of Second Empire Victorian 3-story plus 4th floor tower, 3 miles from Engle Street to historic Liberty Road at Eleanor Harvey Park in 2023. This remarkable preservation effort relocated one of Englewood's most significant 19th-century homes, originally built between 1867–1876. Brett Thompson has produced and directed a compelling documentary capturing both the extraordinary relocation of the Englewood House and the rich history of the Englewood Historical Society. Restoration will ensure it will serve as a vibrant community and educational resource for generations to come.

Annual Dinners Over the Years: The Englewood Historical Society honors notable individuals and historic buildings that have made a lasting impact on Englewood at its annual celebration dinners.



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Chest
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Englewood Historical Society

on their

50th Anniversary

and the

2026 Preservation Award Recipients

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**The Englewood Historical Society on their
50th Anniversary Celebration**

And

**The 2026 Preservation Award Recipients on their
hard work and dedication**



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50th Celebration Dinner Chair

Kathleen Silberstein

50th Celebration Dinner Committee

Charlotte Bennett-Schoen
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Kate Liebhold
Irmari Nacht
Ilene Singh



Our Mission

- 1 Discover and celebrate Englewood's impactful history
- 2 Promote preservation & adaptive reuse of Englewood's historic sites
- 3 Collect, preserve, and display historical documents, artifacts, and materials
- 4 Host programs, events, and publications that highlight Englewood's history

JOIN US



Supporting the Englewood Historical Society is an investment in preserving the rich history & cultural heritage of our community. Thank you!

EnglewoodHistoricalSocietyNJ.org

The Englewood Historical Society is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization.