October is National Arts and Humanities Month, a time for all Americans to reflect upon the sustaining power, the joy, that the arts and humanities bring to our lives. For its part, the Council will laud outstanding humanists at its annual Awards Luncheon, slated this year for October 23 at the Somerset Hills Hotel in Warren. Four historians will share the spotlight: John T. Cunningham and Charles F. Cummings might well be called Mr. New Jersey and Mr. Newark, respectively. Cunningham, an independent historian with a worldwide reputation, has published some 46 books and 2300 articles and scripted over 20 films and documentaries, almost exclusively on this state. Small wonder that he once observed: “I know New Jersey, in all hours of the day and night, in all seasons of the year, in all the centuries of its history. I am fully, peacefully at home in my own state.” He resides in Florham Park. Cummings, Assistant Director for Special Collections and Statewide Outreach at The Newark Public Library, accepted a position there 42 years ago because his advisers at Vanderbilt University told him The Newark Public was one of the best places for local research. He has devoted his career to continuing the legacy. Since 1988, he has also served as Historian for the City of Newark, and biannually he presents a course on the city at Rutgers University/Newark. His column, “Knowing Newark,” has appeared regularly in The Star-Ledger since 1996. His books include Newark: An American City, as well as Bergen County: A Pictorial History, both of which he co-authored. With John Cunningham, Cummings published Remember Essex: A Pictorial History of Essex County, New Jersey. The two men have collaborated on many ventures over the years. Even now, they are preparing an exhibit of photographs by Harry Dorer, which will open at the library on November 1 (see “Humanities Programs,” p. 3). Cunningham’s first book, This Is New Jersey, now in its fourth edition and one of the most popular books ever written about the state, grew out of feature articles he had written for New Jersey Law Center. Westfield colleague Maria Schmidt, Westfield’s Supervisor of Social Studies K-12, adds that the course has become a model for humanities programs within and beyond the district, recently presenting a workshop on the humanities at the New Jersey Law Center. Westfield colleague Marc Silbergeld, teacher of English/humanities, notes that “Tara Pignoli’s heart and mind make her a great person; her insight and intellect make her a great teacher.”

John T. Cunningham and Charles F. Cummings

John T. Cunningham

David Hackett Fischer’s brilliant volume has already earned him the 2005 Pulitzer Prize in History. A part of the Oxford University Press’s Pivotal Moments in American History, a series Fischer coeditis, Washington’s Crossing is at once a gripping tale and definitive scholarly account of epic events in the forging of the American nation. Fischer takes us back to a time when the fate of the new nation hung in the balance, and the American revolutionary cause seemed destined to defeat at the hands of the world’s mightiest military and economic power, Great Britain. How did Washington and his small Continental Army stay the course against great odds? How did they defeat highly trained British and Hessian professional military forces at the battles of Trenton and Princeton in the winter of 1776-77? Why did these small battles with only a few thousand soldiers engaged on each side have such decisive consequences? Fischer provides a wealth of insight in exploring these and other intriguing questions, enabling readers to see with fresh eyes—and understand in new ways—events that have long entered American lore. The American Revolution comes alive in the pages of Washington’s Crossing not only in its masterly narrative of battles and campaigns but in the dramatic and inspiring story it tells of a people fighting for a new ideal of liberty and the triumph of their cause. Of the American soldiers and civilians in the New Jersey campaign, the writer Remembrance notes that “Tara Pignoli’s heart and mind make her a great person; her insight and intellect make her a great teacher.”

Tara Pignoli

Tara Pignoli has been described by her principal, Robert G. Petix, as the “driving force” in Westfield’s growing commitment to “pedagogy informed by a humanities approach.” Four years ago, she and a team of other teachers wrote a humanities course as an elective for ninth graders. It has since become so popular that two large sections are offered. Petix has said: “To observe these young people struggling to make sense of both the splendid and sordid of history is to witness teaching at its best.”

Maria Schmidt, Westfield’s Supervisor of Social Studies K-12, adds that the course has also become a model for humanities programs statewide and that Pignoli has been gracious in sharing her knowledge with colleagues both within and beyond the district, recently presenting a workshop on the humanities at the New Jersey Law Center. Westfield colleague Marc Silbergeld, teacher of English/humanities, notes that “Tara Pignoli’s heart and mind make her a great person; her insight and intellect make her a great teacher.”

Public Humanities Award

John T. Cunningham and Charles F. Cummings

NJCH Book Award

Washington’s Crossing

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Teacher of the Year Award

Tara Pignoli

Social studies teacher from Westfield High School, Tara Pignoli has been described by her principal, Robert G. Petix, as the “driving force” in Westfield’s growing commitment to “pedagogy informed by a humanities approach.” Four years ago, she and a team of other teachers wrote a humanities course as an elective for ninth graders. It has since become so popular that two large
June 30, twelve men and women filed into their classroom at the Middlesex County College. Opportunities for the Arts Corporation in North Brunswick. This was the night they had anticipated for eight months. Now, surrounded by professors and family, they proudly awaited certificates stating that their successful completion of the New Jersey Clemente Course in the Humanities entitled them to six credits from Bard College.

The Clemente Course, which the Council Distinguished Professor of History at Town University. Her classmates chorused, "I love history!" For this special evening, Katie Talalac, who had taken the course with her father, wrote:

"Monday and Thursdays: A classroom is closed
With willing and open minds."

Katie is enrolled at Rutgers University, where she will pursue a major in sociology this fall.

The ultimate aim of the program is more humane treatment to the humanities. Because of the specialized nature of the course, many students had never studied literature or experienced firsthand the joy and insight that reading novels, stories, and poems can yield. One nurse took all readings back and shared them with colleagues in chronic care. They tore out pages from their films and discussed them over lunches and breaks. Another attendee, who will begin medical school in the fall, wants to set up a "lit and med book club.""It's so satisfying," one student said that the seminar was the "hottest ticket in the hospital."

NJCH Board member Greg Waters, scholar/facilitator at Mountainside Hospital, only praises the program because "it doesn't seem to be enough to what the teachers and students have participated in their work. The ultimate aim of the program is more humane care for the residents of New Jersey. A more humane work environment for health care workers may result as well. The small group discussions of Literature and Medicine fostered respect and collegiality among persons from all ranks of the staff. Tompkins, scholar/facilitator at Atlantic City Medical Center, was deeply struck by how much the program affected everybody in his seminar. One told him that the group's study of John Donne's poetry had "restored a sense of dignity to the deaths they deal with every day, and that the group's discussion of the course. Ali explained: "Each week the course was a kind of playful activity or creative imitation of others—stays with the students even long after their day-to-day lives and allows them to experience and see the world in different ways. It means a great deal to them."

Mickey Kemper, National Director, Bard College Clemente Course, challenged graduates: "I hope this is just the beginning of opening new horizons. I hope you keep the humanities front and center in your lives. Go to museums, go to plays, concerts. Build in culture and share it with family and friends."..."
Poetry, dance, photography, history, fashion—just some of the topics to be explored in programs the Council will support this summer. A few of the opportunities are highlighted below.

America’s Greatest War: World War II from the Perspective of Six Decades September 21–November 2

Commemorating the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II, six lectures at Camden County College will both honor the men and women who served in the war and inform later generations of their valiant courage. Some lectures will focus on the military aspects of the war and the sacrifices 15 million Americans made to bring about victory in the battle against totalitarianism. Other discussions will examine the prejudice against female and black soldiers, as well as the profound consequences of the war for the civil rights movement in the United States. The final lecture will focus on the aftermath of the conflict in Japan and other East Asian countries. An additional component of the program will be directed toward K-12 teachers, designed to explore America’s involvement in the war.

All lectures will take place at the Camden County College, Computer Integrated Manufacturing, Blackwood. Project Director: Joseph L. S. Sandaker, 856-227-7200, ext. 4432

Power Dressing: Men’s Fashion and Prestige in Africa October 19–January 22

A series of complimentary programs will accompany The Newark Museum’s exhibition of men’s prestige fashion from Europe to South Africa in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The exhibit will seek to inspire viewers to explore a wide range of African cultures and heights of fashion. It highlights the influence of African techniques on contemporary design, art, and fashion. Among the lectures will be one on African fashion, followed by a fashion show in Verizon dress, and another on identity and politics in Zulu and Xhosa dress.

The Newark Museum is located at 49 Washington Street. Project Director: Christina Clarke, 973-596-6663.

Photo by Dorer: American Photographer and New Jersey Chronicler November 1–January 7

Harry Dorer, who spent his career taking pictures for the Newark Sunday Call and the Newark Evening News, had a profound knowledge of, and love for, New Jersey that will be captured in The Newark Public Library’s exhibition of his work. Photographs of rural Sussex and Warren counties, country crossroads, south Jersey agriculture, the Piney Woods in the 1930s—all are part of Dorer’s body of work. Another part of the exhibit will present Dorer’s autographed photos of political leaders, athletes, and entertainers, including Presidents Franklin and Theodore Roosevelt and Herbert Hoover, the Prince of Wales, boxers Joe Louis and Jack Johnson, and humorist Will Rogers.

The Newark Public Library is located at 5 Washington Street. Project Directors: Charles F. Cummings and John T. Cunningham. 973-733-4670.

PUBLIC HUMANITIES AWARD

HUMANITIES PROGRAMS ON THE DOCKET

written for The Newark News about each of the state’s 21 counties. Board member Gloria Rojas notes that “many of the facts Cunningham first uncovered have since become commonplace information about the state. Moreover, generations of New Jerseyans know well his work; his book for fourth graders, The Battle of New Jersey, is the standard text in public classrooms across the state. Cummings says that if one were to look up New Jersey in a library catalog in Singapore, Berlin, Dublin, or virtually any other place, the author represented would be John T. Cunningham. Cummings calls his friend a “walking encyclopedia of New Jersey.”

Richard McCormick, Distinguished Professor of History, Emeritus, at Rutgers University/New Brunswick, offers high praise for his fellow historian’s achievement: “No one has done more than John Cunningham to bring the genealogy of an ancient church, the ritual of the Queen Mum’s birthday—there is no holding him back. And because of his delightful personality, his enthusiasm are communi- cable. As a result, our readers have become his willing stu- dents, as have all his colleagues at The Star-Ledger.”

The Newark Museum is located at 1301 Hudson Street, Hoboken. Project Director: Robert E. Thompson, 973-596-6040.

The colorful recollections of rigger specialist Charles Kosbab, who worked at the Fletcher/Bethlehem Steel Shipyard when it was one of the nation’s foremost marine construction and repair yards, will be released in a book with a screening of A Shiphead in Hoboken, a 2001 documentary. Former shipyard workers will be on hand to answer questions.

Glimpses of Indian History Through Bharatanatyam October 9, 8 P.M.

This lecture/demonstration will trace a typical ‘margam’ or set-up of a bharatanatyam recital following the traditions of ancient south Indian temples. The oldest form of Indian classical dance, bharatanatyam is evocative of the country’s social, moral, and religious traditions, and has been in vogue from at least the second century B.C. to the present day. Following an explanation of the historical context and meaning of the dances, performers will present the works using traditional, stylized hand gestures, facial expressions, and coordinated footwork.

The program will take place at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, Pomona. Project Directors: Robert Nichols and Shanthi Rajaraman, 609-652-4401.

The W. & A. Fletcher Shipyard Machine Shop, Hudson Street, Hoboken, ca. 1918.

The screening and release will take place at the museum, 1301 Hudson Street. Project Director: Robert E. Thompson, 973-696-2440, ext. 8.

The screening of Sweet Cigar Charlie: A ‘Vanishing Hoboken’ Oral History Chapbook September 25, 4 p.m.

The color of his appearance, his character, has been captured by James Willse, editor of The Newark Museum. He has received the American Association for State and Local History Award for professional achievement in historical reference and research librarianship. This year he was honored with the Ronald McDonough Librarian’s Award.

Photo by Dorer: American Photographer and New Jersey Chronicler

Thomas Edison by Harry Dorer, May 16, 1925, just a short time before the inventor’s death. Dorer wrote in his diary: “This photo of Thomas Edison was made at the unveiling of the Thomas A. Edison Park. The affair was over and Mr. Edison was greeting old friends.”

An article about the cultural history of Newark, New Jersey, from 1883 to 1972 and often referred to as the state’s New York Times. None other than John Cunningham, who has served as president of the New Jersey Historical Society and chairman of the New Jersey Historical Commission and who helped to establish the Friends of The Newark Public Library, recognized that the library would be the best steward for the materials and helped to facilitate their transfer. Cummings says that the two libraries have been “immeasurable and invaluable.” She also notes that he is “one of the most respected and sought after librarians in the state.”

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PUBLIC HUMANITIES AWARD

(continued from page 1)
Peter E. Murphy, who attended a seminar in 1996 and who has been a Master Teacher at the Institute since 1999, has published his first book of poems, Stubborn Child (New York City: Jane Street Press, 2005). The 49 selections in this dazzling collection appear to be largely autobiographical. The book begins with pathos: an orphaned boy in New York wonders whether his recently acquired family will keep him (“The New Boy”). It ends years later with affirmation: the poet’s daughter is conceived as painters work in the rooms above and outside the basement where he and his wife make love (“The Painters”). In between are other moments and persons from the poet’s life as a boy, his days as a construction worker and bartender in New York City, and his observation of his students in English classes at Atlantic City High School. A few of the poems are humorous. Consider “Basic Skills,” a satire of educational jargon: text scores fall in a school for whores and faculty must “put their noses to the bedposts.” Sometimes a stunningly lyrical prevail, as in “Why I Am Not a Catholic.” The poet is transfigured by love:

I did not believe I would ever come back to life,
but when you touched me and I rose toward heaven,
I was filled with tongues and could speak for the first time the language of the living,
gushed out of me in one intelligible voice,
audience and beautiful.

Many of the poems are full of raw life—of sex, booze, dope, and violence—but all reveal a man trying to make sense of his existence and never flinching from showing his own shortcomings as well as his triumphs. Murphy is a consultant for the poetry program of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. His many awards for writing and teaching have come from the Folger Shakespeare Library and The National Endowment for the Humanities, among others.

Anne Savitri Drillick, who attended “Science, Technology, and Culture” at the Teacher Institute in 2001, has published an article originating in the seminar “Sacred Circles in Science: The Mandala and Astronomy” appeared in a 2004 issue of Psychological Perspectives. Her study traces the importance of spheres or circles in cosmology (mandala is Sanskrit for “sacred circle”) from the Greeks to the present day. Drillick credits Jung for first positing the mandala as an organizing principle in cultures throughout the world, a part of the collective unconscious. She notes that while the development of Western astronomy confirms the triumph of scientific inquiry, it also reveals the continuing power of compelling and ancient forms inherent in the human psyche. Drillick, who teaches art and gifted programs at the Anna C. Scott Elementary School in Leonia, is completing a book entitled Introducing Korea Through Art & Folktales, to be published by the Korea Society in the fall.

The idea from the course that most struck—and alarmed—Narima Shahabudeen, an English teacher at the East Orange Campus 9 High School, is America’s transformation over the past 100 years from a nation of producers to one of consumers. She plans to have her students become producers by planting small gardens, making articles of clothing or accessories, or preparing meals using basic ingredients instead of pre-packaged ones. Her goal is “to teach students that while they should appreciate technology and make use of it, they should not relinquish their own innovativeness and creativity.”

The Teacher Institute was filled to capacity again this summer. Held at Montmouth University in West Long Branch, all seminars also had waiting lists. Enthusiasm among enrollees ran high. On the third day of Culture and Technology in American History, Lisa Carlucci, Spanish teacher at the Melvin H. Krieps Middle School in East Windsor, remarked, “This was my first NICH Teacher Institute and already I would like to schedule my next.”

Culture and Technology in American History, offered for the first time in 2005, was led by Chris Rasmussen, noted hystoriarch at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Examining the tremendous impact of technological developments upon American life from the late nineteenth century to the present, the curriculum centered not merely on inventions but, more importantly, on the responses of Americans to the promise and pitfalls of technology. Key issues delved into included the role of consumers; electronic surveillance and the right to privacy; mass media and information technology; ethical concerns over atomic weapons and other potentially destructive devices; and the extent to which, in Rasmussen’s words, “a technological mindset has reshaped American life and culture over the past two centuries.”

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Finally, Adrian Rodriguez, history teacher from Emerson High School, called Culture and Technology a “wonderful experience because it focused on content knowledge and provided ample opportunity for intellectual exchange.” He also observed: “I have gained invaluable insights into teaching about technology in a way that goes far beyond the laundry list of inventions or inventions or the simplistic model and poster of a single invention. Being able to understand the social, political, and economic ramifications of new technology will add a whole new interpretive layer to my teaching of history.”

All seminar participants receive forty professional development credits. To earn graduate credit, they must write a research paper. For additional information about the Teacher Institute, visit www.njch@njch.org. As well, Program Officer Kara Donaldson is always happy to answer questions. Call her at 1-888-FYI-NJCH or email kdonaldson@njch.org.
2005 HUMANITIES FESTIVAL WEEK
The Idea of America: New Jersey Helps Define the Nation

October 16
10:00 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.
Born at the Beth: Newark’s Jewish Hospital since 1901
Guided tours of the exhibit will introduce the 100-year history of the city’s Beth Israel Medical Center and explore the role of the Jewish community in founding and funding the hospital.

October 17
6:30 P.M.
The Native Connection: How Indians Shaped Area
Storyteller Laura Kaighin will explore the folklore and culture of Native Americans, specifically tribes from New Jersey and the Eastern Woodlands, as well as their contributions to the foundation of modern American society.

October 19
7:00 P.M.
Negro Folk Songs
Performance and lecture exploring how and why the haunting sounds of Negro spirituals and other plantation songs have played an important role in social and cultural changes in the United States.

October 20
7:00 P.M.
Churches, Taverns and Revolution in New Jersey
To accompany this traveling exhibit, the Gloucester Township Library will host a panel discussion on the history of the municipality, highlighting activities leading up to the Revolutionary War, especially the role of the Delaware Valley Quakers.

October 21
10:30 A.M.
From the American Revolution to the Civil Rights Era: New Jersey Shows the Way
A lecture examining significant events in New Jersey’s history and their impact on the nation.

October 22
1:00 P.M.
Experience the Andes
A lecture/discussion of the role of New Jersey photographers in the 19th and 20th centuries, emphasizing how their photographs both served a social purpose and created an historical record for succeeding generations.

October 23
2:30 P.M.
New Jersey in Pictures: An American Idea
A lecture/discussion of the role of New Jersey photographers in the 19th and 20th centuries.

BOOK AWARD (continued from page 1)

Filmmaker’s Debut
Board Chair Zachary Narrett with filmmaker John Hulme at the Home Box Office New York premiere of Hulme’s Unknown Soldier: Searching for a Father, presented in conjunction with Vietnam Veterans of America and Sons and Daughters in Touch. The documentary concerns a young man’s search for the father he never knew, a casualty of the Vietnam War. On Memorial Day, HBO aired the film nationally. Hulme has said: “The movie would not have been finished without NJCH funding. I had a lot of footage that needed to be edited, and I had nowhere to turn. I had already maxed out credit cards and exhausted loans from family and friends. The help of the Council literally made my dream come true.”