

HISTORIC BURLINGTON COUNTY PRISON MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

2 GRANT STREET, P.O. Box 483
MOUNT HOLLY, NEW JERSEY 08060
TELEPHONE: 609-518-7667
TELEFAX: 609-265-5022

JANET L. SOZIO, ESQUIRE, PRESIDENT
DAVID KIMBALL, VICE-PRESIDENT
JUDITH KING, SECRETARY
THOMAS PRICE, TREASURER

TRUSTEES:
PAUL MUSGROVE
CAROL MELMAN
GARY F. WOODEND, ESQUIRE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Saturday, March 25, 2000 1:30 p.m.
Preparations for April Fools' Night at the Old Jail

Saturday, April 1, 2000 6:30 p.m.
April Fools' Night at the Old Jail

Saturday, April 29, 2000 10 a.m.
General Membership Meeting

March 3, 2000

Dear PMA Members and Other Friends:

The PMA, together with the Rancocas Valley Regional High School's Thespian Society, will present **April Fools' Night at the Old Jail** on **Saturday, April 1, 2000** from **6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.** Tickets will be \$5.

The kids have come up with some great ideas. Attendees will enter through the exercise yard, where they will have their mug shots taken. There will also be storytelling, juice and cookies. Inside, tours will be given during which there will be reenactments of grisly events that occurred in the Jail. The event will be geared for youngsters, although it will probably be too scary for those under age eight.

Its the first big event we have had in seven years. Are we nervous? Yes! Our fearless leader on this project, Carol Melman, has been whirling around like the proverbial dervish, planning for advertising, supplies, volunteers, etc. We are obtaining insurance, as per our contract with the Freeholders, to the tune of some \$1,400 for the year. We really have no idea what to expect. But we are excited, too. Hopefully, if all goes well, we can

refine the April Fools event into a great Haunted Jail in October. By then, we will surely need the revenue that the event has traditionally generated for the PMA.

WE NEED YOUR HELP. Please call if you are willing to lend a hand. Please come to the Jail on Saturday, March 25, 2000, at 1:30 p.m., when we will have rehearsals and make assignments for the April 1 event. It really should be a lot of fun. At the very least, please come out on April 1, preferably with a few youngsters.

As you will recall, in the spring of 1999, on the assumption that the renovations would be completed by the fall, we planned to have a haunted prison event in October. As autumn arrived, however, it was clear that the renovations would not be done by Halloween. We told the RVHS students that we would not be able to have a haunted event in 1999, but suggested an event in the spring of 2000, again assuming that the renovations would be completed. We even talked about having an opening party in conjunction with the spring event. In January of this year, however, the renovations still were not complete. At that point, I communicated directly with the Freeholders, and asked them if they could assure us that whether or not the renovations were done by April 1, 2000, they would be completed enough for us to obtain a temporary certificate of occupancy in order to have the April Fools' event. We were given that assurance.

Recently, we were advised that the renovations would in fact be completed, and a permanent C.O. issued, by April 1. It appears that this might actually be true. Almost all of the work has in fact been done. And the work that has been done looks just great. But the fact is that at this moment, it is not completely done, and a C.O. has not been issued. At a meeting of the Board of Trustees on February 26, 2000, we decided that we would make no plans for an opening ceremony and party until the C.O. was hanging on the wall. We could not risk sending out invitations, arranging for a caterer, etc. and then having to cancel at the last minute.

Come heck or high water, though, we plan to open for tours on Saturday and Sunday, April 29 and 30 (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.), and at least every last weekend thereafter, eventually getting back to our old schedule, which was every Wednesday (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.), every Saturday (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.) and the last Saturday and Sunday in the month (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.). **WE ARE IN DESPERATE NEED OF VOLUNTEERS**, not just to act as tour guides, but also to help restore and display our modest exhibits, to plan for new exhibits as well as souvenirs. Please lend us a hand. If you can't help directly, help by finding someone who can.

We will discuss the issues relative to opening, and the future of the PMA in general, at a general membership meeting at the PMA office on Saturday, April 29, 2000 at 10 a.m. Please mark your calendars now. Another notice will be sent out prior to that time.

JANET L. SOZIO