



Press Release

Hammonton, NJ (May 21, 2012,). The Historical Society of Hammonton invites the public to a free community program to be held Thursday June 7th, 8:00 PM at the Frog Rock Golf and Country Club. Programs are free, provided as a service to the community. There is no requirement to be a member of HSH to attend. The program is videoed and a copy is placed in our archives so that now or future generations will be provided with a snapshot of Hammonton's past.

The program for the evening will be the history of the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Society in Hammonton as presented by the President of the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Society, Louis J. Pantalone along with Senior Members of the Society.

The Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Society was founded in 1875, nine years after Hammonton's incorporation, at 232 Pine Road, at the home of Antonio Capelli. There, he, along with a small group of fellow immigrants, prayed in front of a painting of the Virgin Mary. They also formed a procession in front of the home. They prayed in thanks for their safe journey to America, for a successful farming season, and for the blessings and good fortune found in their new home of Hammonton.

From this humble beginning the Feast has gone on to become **the longest running Italian Festival in the United States**. Many of the faithful make an annual pilgrimage as an act of faith --- as thanks for their own blessings, or as an act of devotion to the Blessed Mother. To some, it is known as the "Italian Thanksgiving."

The event will be filled with history, nostalgia and tradition. Listen first-hand as to how the Feast transcended from generation to generation and learn about the history of the organization.

About The Historical Society of Hammonton

The Historical Society of Hammonton was established to provide for generations to come a living collection relating to the rich and unique social, political, economic and cultural heritage of the Town of Hammonton, New Jersey. The mission of the society is to increase awareness of history relating to Hammonton, New Jersey environs and to establish public access to that history by collecting, conserving, studying, interpreting and promoting the history to the widest audience.

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