In 1892, silk mogul Catholina Lambert built himself a castle at 3 Valley Road, at the Paterson/Clifton border, a home that seems to belong more on 15th century Scottish moorland than in Passaic County’s spiky urbanism.

And we’d like to thank Mr. Lambert—since some still sense his spirit hanging around—for letting the community use his castle for the 26th annual Lambert Castle Holiday Boutique on Nov. 9 to 30.

Visitors will enter a magical setting as the 1893 Victorian castle offers shoppers thousands of unique holiday gifts, jewelry, handmade decorations, quality crafts, collectibles, gourmet foods and more. The Boutique is the result of a unique partnership between the Passaic County Historical Society (PCHS) and dedicated crafters, vendors and organizers, who bring an experience that over the last quarter century has become an authentic Passaic County tradition.

But the stunning items for sale will only be part of the story. Today, the castle is the headquarters of the estimable PCHS, housing their museum, library and archives; the castle still holds part of Lambert’s original art collection, as well as thousands of historical objects and documents about 16 towns of Passaic County.

The Holiday Boutique is the Society’s major annual fundraising event, one where the selection of the actual quality goods from some 150 crafters and vendors takes as much care as the setting up of any museum show. From Nov. 9 to 30, the Lambert Castle Holiday Boutique will be open for shopping on Wednesdays to Fridays from 10 am to 9 pm and Saturdays and Sundays until 5 pm.

The price is $6 for three visits.

As an option, come to the Wine and Cheese Preview on Nov. 8, from 6 to 9 pm. The $15 admission price will allow you to enjoy an evening of wine and cheese, a first look at all the merchandise on sale, and two return trips on any of the remaining days.

For more about the Boutique and the PCHS, its services and membership, call 973-247-0085 or go to www.lambertcastle.org. W
Ringwood Friends of Music presents a Giuseppe Verdi and Richard Wagner 200th Birthday Celebration on Nov. 17 at Community Presbyterian Church, 145 Carletondale Rd., Ringwood. Highlights will include masterpieces from Verdi’s Nabucco, Il Trovatore, La Traviata, La Forza del Destino and from Wagner’s Tannhäuser, Lohengrin, Die Walküre, Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg. Soprano Katherine Matheson, tenor Patrick Cook, organist David Enlow and pianist Ron Levy will be joined by the 30-voice Orpheus Club Men’s Chorus. Admission is free to this 7 pm concert. For more info, call 973-835-5862.

Music at the Mission offers concerts in an intimate coffeehouse atmosphere with open admission and seating for 160 at the West Milford Presbyterian Church, 1452 Union Valley Rd., West Milford. Americana singer/songwriter Amy Speace will return to the Mission stage on Nov. 16. Self-described ‘adventurous folk’ musician Heather Maloney will appear on Dec. 14. Tickets are $18 or $22 and can be purchased at www.musicatthemission.org or by calling 973-728-4201.

The New Legacy Concert Series at the Ringwood Public Library wraps up its fall concert offerings at 2 pm on Nov. 17 with Louisiana’s Grammy-winning BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet. Tickets are $25. The Library is at 30 Cannici Dr., Ringwood. Call 973-962-6256 or go to www.ringwoodlibrary.org.

The Clifton Coin Club, is presenting a coin and stamp show on Nov. 23 and 24, 9 am to 3 pm at the Clifton Community Center at 1232 Main Ave. Admission is free. Dealers will be on hand to buy, sell, or trade coins, stamps and collectibles. Refreshments will be available. The show is sponsored by the Clifton Recreation. For info, call Rich Cartwright 201-891-7617 or Ken Starrett 908-868-9145.

Wayne writer Betsy Hays has released a chapter novel, *Riding with the Wind*, an eco-adventure for young readers, which begins and ends at the Great Falls. The story is of a timid squirrel and plucky chipmunk that share a burning desire to escape their difficult New Jersey lives, where global warming and crowding threaten their very existence. Transported by a heroic crow, the unlikely adventurers set out on a journey that takes them to far-flung places where they encounter mythical creatures, historic legends and constant dangers, as well as the richness of the area’s history and ecology. Hays says she was initially inspired to write this book as a tribute to New Jersey’s fascinating history. As the story unfolded, she decided to highlight several other Garden State natural treasures, such as the Meadowlands, Highlands and Pine Barrens. Her husband, jazz musician John Gatti, wrote the soundtrack—nine songs that correspond to the action and mood of different chapters. Stepson, Casey Gatti, a game/app developer and animator, designed the book and CD covers. For more details, write the author at betsy@ridingwiththewind.com.

The Theater League of Clifton presents Appointment with Death by Agatha Christie on Nov. 1, 2, 3 and 8, 9, 10 at the Aprea Theater in the The Learning Center in Clifton. This engaging mystery is set in 1945 at the Jerusalem’s King Solomon Hotel. The hotel has seen some strange travelers in its time, but none as strange as those now visiting, and one of them may have an appointment with death. Info and tickets at theaterleagueofclifton.com or call 973-928-7668.

*Mime Faces, 1976, is among the photos displayed in ‘Passages,’ an exhibit at the PCCC Broadway and LRC Galleries through Jan. 10 by the Inner City Ensemble (ICE). Founded by Ralph Gomez, and re-incorporated in 2010, ICE is committed to bringing dance and theatre training to at-risk Paterson youth. A reception, free to the public, is on Nov. 14 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

For more info, call Jane Haw 973-684-5448.*
The late US Senator Frank R. Lautenberg will be remembered at the 31st Annual Sol Stetin Awards Gala on Nov. 21 at 6:30 pm at The Tides Estate of North Haledon.

Presented by the American Labor Museum/Botto House National Landmark, top honors will go to Christopher J. Burgos, President of the State Troopers Fraternal Association of the New Jersey State Police and Edward M. Smith, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Union Labor Life Insurance Company (ULLICO).

A special recognition will be presented to Tom Feeney, Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers, Local 5 NJ, AFL-CIO.

The Gala is a major fundraiser for the American Labor Museum and the awards are named for Stetin, the former president of the Textile Workers Union of America and a founder of the American Labor Museum.

Burgos is the leader of the union of members of the New Jersey State Police, who promotes high standards of service and protection to the citizens of New Jersey.

Smith heads ULLICO, which has provided insurance and financial solutions for labor unions, union employers, union benefit funds and union members since 1927.

Feeney has been a long-time supporter of the American Labor Museum through his outstanding work educating apprentices and laying “Silk Walk” bricks at the Museum.

The Museum’s library is named in honor of the Lautenberg Family due to Senator Lautenberg’s support.

Tickets are $100 or patrons may take an ad in a journal.

The Botto House is at 83 Norwood St., Haledon. It was the meeting place for over 20,000 silk mill workers during the 1913 Paterson Silk Strike. Today it offers a free lending library, restored period rooms, changing exhibits, museum store, old world gardens, educational programs and special events. For hours, info or tickets, go to www.labormuseum.net or call 973-595-7953.

The Poetry Center at PCCC announces the release of The Silence in an Empty House (NYQ Books™) by its director, Maria Mazziotti Gillan. Gillan, who resides in Hawthorne, “chronicles a long marriage—love triumphing class, geographical moves, fondue parties, orange shag carpets and ultimately wheelchairs, nurse’s aides, and cold compresses,” notes poet, Denise Duhamel. “This is a book of easy and gentle humor regarding the first sparks of true love and the hard truths about what it is truly like to be a caregiver at the end of a spouse’s life.” The book is available at amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com or visit www.nyqbooks.org/title/thesilenceinanemptyhouse.

The Distinguished Poets Series of the Poetry Center at PCCC presents a reading by Jan Beatty and Robert Sward on Nov. 2 at 1 pm at the historic Hamilton Club Building, 32 Church St., in downtown Paterson. The program is free; open reading follows. Writing workshops, conducted by Beatty and Sward, are 10 am to noon at the same location. Pre-registration is required; the workshop fee is $15. Parking will be available at the PCCC lot on College Blvd. between Church St. and Memorial Dr. For info, call 973-684-6555 or visit www.pccc.edu/poetry.

The Poetry Center at PCCC seeks poems for an anthology to celebrate the Great Falls, the Passaic River and environmental issues. Deadline is Dec. 5. The anthology’s poets will be invited to read as part of the Great Falls Literary Festival on May 10, 2014. Judges seek poetry rooted in the literary tradition that honors place, narrative, clarity and specificity. Poets can write about any aspect that subtly or overtly relates to the Falls, the river or any part of its eco-system and natural environment. Likewise, they may write from a personal experience regarding immigration and labor in Paterson or with the river and its creatures, plants, history, scenic beauty and changes. Details at www.pccc.edu/poetry.

Without Adornment: Photographs by George Tice is exhibited at the Ben Shahn Center for Visual Arts at William Paterson University in Wayne through Dec. 13. The show will coincide with exhibitions at the Newark Museum and the Naliya Alexander Gallery in NYC. On display will be gelatin silver prints from the photographer’s Paterson series, as well as some platinum/palladium prints. For info and directions, go to wpunj.edu/coac/gallery.
Thirty-six organizations received a total of $62,207 in funding for projects that bring the arts to our 16 communities through the Local Arts Program Grant. This grant is made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts / Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. Grants ranged from $800 to $2,500 for programs, including concerts, literary and photography workshops, dance and theatrical performances, and art exhibits. The 2013 re-grantees and hometowns include:

Action Theatre Conservatory Studios, Inc. – Clifton
American Labor Museum / Botto House National Landmark – Haledon
Chopin Singing Society – Passaic
City of Passaic
Clifton Arts Center, Inc.
Clifton Recreation Department
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. – Paterson
Eat Local – Ringwood
Friends of Passaic County Parks – Paterson

Seven county organizations received a total of $6,092 in re-grant funds for local or New Jersey history projects, provided through a general operating support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission. They are:

American Labor Museum/Botto House National Landmark - Haledon
Hawthorne Historical Society
Inner City Ensemble – Paterson
Jewish Historical Society of North Jersey - Paterson
The Passaic County Historical Society - Paterson
The Passaic County Historical Society - Ringwood
Ringwood Public Library
Wayne Public Library

To apply for the next round of grants, write to Susan Balik, Associate Director, Cultural Affairs at sbalik@pccc.edu.