



HISTORIC  
AMSTERDAM  
LEAGUE

*The Key to the Future is the Past*

## *Thank You Amsterdam!*

The members of the Historic Amsterdam League (HAL) would like to thank all those that contributed to making the Heart of Amsterdam Tour such a success on Saturday, May 21.

Without the contribution of two shuttle buses by Liberty Enterprises Inc., the ability of tour-goers to move between the eight tour locations (as well as Spring Fling) would have been severely curtailed. Beyond that, the courtesy, diligence and professionalism of the two Liberty drivers greatly enhanced the overall impression visitors took away of our city.

Carol Constantino, CEO of Noteworthy Corp., graciously allowed two HAL volunteers to open the Noteworthy Indian Museum for five hours. Because of this, 79 visitors (at this site alone) were able to see this gem of Amsterdam and Native American history which has not been recently open otherwise.

Postmaster Carol Capone not only was involved at every step of the planning process, and herself helped conduct the special "Heart of Amsterdam Station" hand cancellation, she also rediscovered and put on display original sketches used in the preparation of the post office's two historic murals which probably have not been publicly seen in at least 40 years, if ever.

Thanks also to leadership of Amsterdam Free Library, Green Hill Cemetery, and St. Stanislaus RC Church, for participating in the tour. And to Mayor Ann Thane, Chief Greg Culick and officers of the Amsterdam Police Department, and Debbie Baranello, Karen Hetrick, and Donna Dickerson, organizers of Spring Fling, for working to smoothly integrate the various activities of the day.

Without the good advice and forbearance of Miller Printing, the Heart of Amsterdam historical booklet would not have been the professional (yet inexpensive) product we are proud to add to the published record of the city. And without the assistance of the UPS Store on Route 30, the tour signage would not have happened.

Other sponsors who contributed funds or services so that all proceeds raised could be applied to preserving city hall were: Green Fiber, Cranesville Block, Cushing Stone, Hays and Wormuth Insurance, Riley Mortuary, Alpin Haus, Walter Elwood Museum, Old Fort Johnson, and the Book Hound. My apologies to any other supporters whose contributions I did not learn of prior to writing this letter.

I would like to express my personal thanks to the members of HAL who volunteered for the event. Too numerous to list here, they gave up many hours before and during the 21st, as well as the opportunity to enjoy the tours and Spring Fling themselves. They did so to make our history come alive, for their neighbors as well as visitors, and because they believe that a sense of history -- of place -- is essential not only in itself, but to the future of the city. They not only succeeded, but set a new, higher, and lasting standard of how this kind of activity will be conducted in the future: through a variety of means such as the booklet and post cards, the themed gift baskets, the integration with other activities, in addition to the tours themselves.

HAL (in addition to other programs and events) will offer a new tour each year covering a different aspect or part of the city (for example, the West End, South Side, schools, industries, churches, etc.), each time producing a new booklet and set of postcards relating to the topic.

Anyone who would like to get in on the ground floor of collecting these booklets (this year: 28 pages, 50 illustrations, with a general Amsterdam history and information on APD, AFD, Kelloggs House, and other sites in the area but not on the tour, professionally composed and printed; \$5), or postcards (this year: one antique, five new of downtown and Church street; \$5 a packet), these will be on sale at the Book Hound and city hall (and elsewhere) while supplies last. They will not be reprinted in the foreseeable future, as other topics are treated, so get them while you can. You will also be helping to preserve city hall.

Selecting and planning the next tour will begin at once; anyone who wants to be involved should contact HAL at its website: *historicamsterdam.org*.

Rob von Hasseln,

President

Historic Amsterdam League