



News from
SALEM COUNTY
Office of Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 5, 2010

THERE'S MORE TO NEW JERSEY THAN THE SOPRANOS:
Rutgers Historian Marc Mappen Discusses His New Book at Pennsville Library

(SALEM, NJ)—Well-known author and historian, Marc Mappen, is coming to Pennsville Public Library on Thursday, January 21, 7 pm, to entertain and enlighten listeners with a lively romp through New Jersey's colorful past. The program is based his new book, *There's More to New Jersey Than the Sopranos*, which will be available for purchase and signing that evening. The program is free and is sponsored by the Library and the Salem County Cultural and Heritage Commission.

"Dr. Mappen is highly regarded throughout the state not only for his scholarship but also his ability to present New Jersey history in such an enjoyable and engaging manner," said Freeholder Beth Timberman, liaison to the Cultural and Heritage Commission. "We are really excited to be able to have him as our guest here in Salem County."

Mappen has stated that he wants New Jerseyans to be proud of their state and aware of its little-known and sometimes offbeat history.

"My purpose in this book is to explore some of the aspects of New Jersey that are largely unknown to those outside the state as well as New Jerseyans themselves," Mappen said. "That's not to say the book is meant as a celebratory bit of boosterism; on the contrary, I want to show the dark as well as the light, the good as well as the bad about our state."

Mappen is the coeditor of the award-winning *Encyclopedia of New Jersey* and author of *Jerseyana: The Underside of New Jersey History* (both Rutgers University Press). He has written articles for the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Rutgers Magazine*, *New Jersey Heritage*, and other publications and has appeared on the History Channel and National Public Radio. His current book has been called a "must read," and the presentation on January 21st is a great opportunity to meet and hear the author who has been hailed as New Jersey's master historical storyteller.

The program begins at 7 pm and there is no admission fee. The Friends of Pennsville Library will provide a reception with light refreshments following Mappen's presentation, at which time books will be available for purchase and signing. The Library is located at 190 S. Broadway. For further information, call (856) 678-5473.