



Oswald J. Nitschke House (c. 1880)
49 S. 21 Street, Kenilworth, N.J.

The Kenilworth Historical Society Inc.

— Bringing Cultures and History Together —

Borough Hall, 567 Boulevard, Kenilworth, New Jersey 07033

(www.kenilworthhistoricalsociety.org)

Tax ID No. 22-2502977; Charitable Registration No. CH1904400-01

The Nitschke House is listed in the National and State Registers of Historic Places, is a recipient of a 2008 N.J. Historic Preservation Award and is highlighted as a major "Success Story" in New Jersey's Historic Preservation Plan.

Shirley Boyden Maxwell, President
Barbara Morison, Vice President
Frances J. Day, 2nd Vice President
Joyce Chiappetta, Secretary
Josephine Boyle, Treasurer

Dear Friends:

Thank you for the interest and support that you have shown for the Kenilworth Historical Society's project to save and restore the historic Oswald J. Nitschke House and transform it into **Kenilworth's first "living history" museum and cultural arts center.** Notably, ours is the only historic house museum in the area to portray and interpret everyday life in the early 1900s, particularly the inspiring story of early local immigrants in a developing suburb and the many challenges that they and other residents faced during the Great Depression, World War I, Prohibition, Women's Suffrage and other historical events of that period.



Children, youths and adults of all backgrounds, cultures and abilities visit the recently restored site for a range of year-round programs and activities.

With your support, **we have restored and furnished the house, planted heirloom gardens, developed a plan for exciting "living history" programs and exhibits, and added an elevator that makes the site fully accessible to everyone.** Now that major construction work has ended, we'll also soon be able to install the **Kenilworth Heritage Walkway**, featuring the engraved pavers that so many of you have ordered.

The Nitschke House elevator has proved to be a godsend to many visitors who otherwise would be unable to enjoy the site's programs, exhibits, presentations, student art shows, community celebrations and other on-site events, **most of which we offer to the public free of charge.** It will be used even more extensively once we introduce multicultural "garden-to-table" foodways demonstrations and other planned activities. **Our ability to offer such programs, however, is being impeded** by a constant need for our small group of dedicated volunteers to also orchestrate continuous fundraisers to pay for the elevator (through large monthly loan payments) in addition to our other major building expenses (utilities, insurance, etc.).



"Living history" programs at the Nitschke House offer a glimpse of life in the late 19th/early 20th centuries in the context of significant local, regional and national historical events.

As it becomes ever more difficult to meet such challenges, we are seeking assistance to pay back the bank loans that we were compelled to take in 2014 to complete the elevator construction project within the short time frame required by matching government grants that were awarded for the work. **It is especially critical that we pay back the loans as soon as possible to avoid defaulting on any payment, thereby putting us at risk of losing the house that we've worked so hard to save and restore for everyone to enjoy and benefit from!**



Besides furnished period rooms and historical exhibits, the Nitschke House includes a cultural arts center for programs, meetings, student art exhibits and other community activities. An elevator makes all three levels of the site accessible to everyone.

Won't you please help us, in any way you can?

Funding for the Nitschke House and **all** programs that the Kenilworth Historical Society provides to schools and the general public depends **entirely** on donations, fundraising proceeds and competitive matching grants for new projects that we apply for and are awarded based on merit. **All our members are unpaid volunteers.** **Donations to our volunteer-based, independent, non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organization are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.** **Thank you so much for your interest and support!** Your generosity will be appreciated for many generations to come.

Yes! I/we support the Kenilworth Historical Society's mission to preserve the heritage and historic treasures of the Borough of Kenilworth and want to help defray the cost of an elevator that makes the Oswald J. Nitschke House museum and cultural arts center accessible and beneficial to everyone.

All donations, of ANY amount, will be very helpful and greatly appreciated! Donors who make contributions of \$250 or more will be recognized on an honorary wall at the Nitschke House museum.

Enclosed is my/our contribution of:

- \$10,000 ("Leadership" Donation/Donor)
- \$ 5,000 ("Blue Ribbon" Donation/Donor)
- \$ 2,500 ("Platinum" Donation/Donor)
- \$ 1,000 ("Gold" Donation/Donor)
- \$ 500 ("Silver" Donation/Donor)
- \$ 250 ("Bronze" Donation/Donor)
- \$ 100 (Museum Patron)
- \$ 75 (Museum Friend)
- \$ 50 (Museum Booster)
- \$ ___ (Other)

Donations to the Kenilworth Historical Society, an independent, volunteer-based, non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organization, are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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Checks should be made payable to the Kenilworth Historical Society Inc. and mailed to the Kenilworth Historical Society, 567 Boulevard, Kenilworth, N.J. 07033.

I/we can also provide support by:

- Donating services, equipment, supplies, etc.
Please specify: _____
- Helping with Historical Society programs
- Donating artifacts/furnishings (1880-1934)
- Sharing historic photos (for scanning/other)
- Other: _____
- I/we would like to join the Historical Society, Nitschke House Garden/Foodways Team and/or be a historical interpreter (docent).

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Phone _____ e-mail: _____

Thank you so much for your support!

Now is the most exciting time to be a member of the Kenilworth Historical Society, as we're offering programs at the newly restored Oswald J. Nitschke House Museum and Cultural Arts Center! Please let us know (by completing the form at the bottom of this letter) if you are interested in joining the Historical Society, helping with its programs, fundraising events and/or other activities, serving as a historical interpreter/docent at the Nitschke House "living history" museum, joining our Garden/Foodways Team, acting troupe (the Kenilworth Historical Players), etc.

The Kenilworth Historical Society is an independent, volunteer-based, non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the research, preservation and interpretation of the Oswald J. Nitschke House, local history and culture. It is also committed to fostering appreciation of

**PLEASE HELP THE NITSCHKE HOUSE
SURVIVE AND THRIVE**

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