

*A press release from*



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## **Liberty Hall Receives Grant to Restore 1882 Carriage House**

UNION, NJ — Liberty Hall Museum at Kean University was one of 12 historic sites in Union County to receive funds under the matching \$550,000 Preserve Union County grants. Funded through the Union County Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund, the awards were announced at a recent Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders meeting hosted by Liberty Hall.

“We are grateful to Union County for its support,” said Bill Schroh, Jr., Liberty Hall’s director of operations. “The grant will aid us in our ongoing effort to make Liberty Hall one of the premiere historic sites in New Jersey.” Liberty Hall was awarded \$60,000 to help restore and repair its 1882 Carriage House.

With the original Victorian-style architecture still intact, the Carriage House is a two-story brick structure with an extraordinary slate roof, a central brick tower and brick-arched windows and doors.

The restoration is expected to begin in spring 2010 and will include the repointing of the building’s brick, roof repairs and the replacement of sheathing, deteriorated framing and other building elements. Today, the first floor of the Carriage House is open to the public and is used for school programs, family activities, wedding receptions, cocktail parties, meetings, university lectures, corporate outings and a variety of other activities.

“Our long-term plan is to restore the stable and the second floor of the facility, making it one of the most unique spaces in the region,” said Schroh.

Liberty Hall Museum at Kean University chronicles more than 200 years of American history. Built in 1772 by William Livingston, New Jersey’s first elected governor, the Victorian style mansion is a treasure trove of historic riches. Along with forgotten letters from Thomas Jefferson, Liberty Hall also houses extensive collections of antique furniture, ceramics, textiles, toys and tools owned by seven generations of the Livingston and Kean families. The Firehouse is the latest addition to the Museum’s complex housing two antique fire engines and a collection of fire memorabilia.

Liberty Hall is located at 1003 Morris Avenue in Union, New Jersey. It is open to the public Wednesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and noon to 4 p.m. on Sundays. For more information or to make reservations, call (908) 527-0400, e-mail [libertyhall@kean.edu](mailto:libertyhall@kean.edu) or visit [www.kean.edu/libertyhall](http://www.kean.edu/libertyhall).

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