



THE CEDAR TREE

Newsnotes from The Historical Society of Mount Lebanon

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www.hsmtl.org

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It's been a busy few months at the Mt. Lebanon History Center. After our June opening, we settled into a routine and crossed our fingers that people would visit. The ensuing weeks exceeded our expectations. First Friday events proved especially successful, with people streaming in during each event. Saturdays saw smaller, but steady, attendance. Many visitors were local, but we saw people from as far away as Florida, Colorado, New York, Virginia, California, and the state of Washington. Everyone seemed to love the "What We Wore" exhibit—especially the letter jacket, cheerleading sweater, and senior day vest and beanie, which brought back many memories. The exhibit also spurred several people to go home and clean out their closets—donations are up! In all, it was a great summer.

October promises to be busy as well with the second grade walking tours (400 kids total!) due to stop by throughout the month.

But as the days grow shorter and cooler, we hope attendance will stay strong. After October 2, we will stop offering First Friday hours until next spring, but we will be open for Mt. Lebanon's Light Up Night in November and—as long as we have the volunteers to man the Center—will continue our regular hours of 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursdays and 9 to noon on Saturdays. Please stop up because our new Washington Road exhibit debuts October 2 (it will remain up until the end of March). Although the exhibit was still in the works as I wrote this, items for the display cases were already coming in. Frank Mandell, the son of pharmacist Emanuel Mandell, is sharing some wonderful items from his father's drugstore and Rege Tate, owner of Washington Road fixture Potomac Bakery, is loaning us items that will bring back memories of your grandmother's kitchen. In addition, the exhibit will include a series of photos taken of Washington Road in 1964.

To kick off the exhibit, we are offering two walking tours of Washington Road in October (see

"Walking Tour" item), and, if they are successful, we will offer more in the spring when the threat of bad weather and icy sidewalks is a memory.

Fall is a big time for high school reunions, so please consider a Center visit. We will be happy to arrange a private tour.

But as excited as I am to see the community embrace the History Center, for me the biggest pleasure is in having a place where we can spread out (well, as much as you can spread out in 450 square feet) and start new projects. We have started work on a coloring book with local artists (Jefferson Elementary School third grader Melissa Redding is serving as a special consultant) and a video history (overseen by Tom Petropolis and Lee Adams), which we aim to complete in time for Mt. Lebanon's 2012 centennial. We also are discussing a photograph book through Arcadia (they publish the "Images of America" books sold at book stores; Kennywood, Dormont, and other neighboring communities have issued such books). If you are interested in heading up the project, let us know. It should be fun as the bulk of it involves collecting old pictures. And, of course, we will continue with our regular endeavors, including the free talks at the library and an annual dinner. Make sure you come to the Great Pumpkin Patch Parade on Washington Road at 11 a.m., on Saturday, October 31, as we will be participating in that as well.

Thanks to all our members for their ongoing support. It is your membership that allows us to provide a History Center for the community.

M.A. Jackson, President

ART ROONEY JR TO SPEAK AT FALL DINNER

On **Wednesday, October 28**, the Historical Society will host its annual dinner fundraiser at St. Clair Country Club. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. and will include a cash bar, dinner, and raffle of items and gift certificates donated by local businesses. At 8:30 p.m., Pittsburgh Steeler Vice President Art Rooney, Jr. will pre-

sent a talk. Mr. Rooney, a Mt. Lebanon resident for the past 38 years, is the son of Pittsburgh Steelers founder Art Rooney Sr. ("The Chief"). Rooney's talk will cover his family history, his boyhood growing up in Pittsburgh's North Side, and, of course, his father's enduring legacy to professional football. Following the program, Rooney will sell and autograph copies of his book, *Ruanaidh: The Story of Art Rooney and His Clan*.

Cost is \$50 a person and all proceeds will benefit the Society's History Center.

Seating is limited and **reservations must be made by October 15** by calling Virginia Nicklas at 412-531-5868.

"FUN" RAISER:

As part of the second annual Historical Society of Mt. Lebanon's fall dinner, we are introducing a new "FUN" raiser in which all members can participate. Our "FUN" raiser will consist of a JUNQUE table with both historical/antiques and hysterical/fun items. For example, we have already collected unopened children's pop-up books, a once-used two-cup Krug Espresso machine, a never-used Lampe Berger, and a funky metal caricature from a Winston Salem artist (an example of a hysterical item).

This is not your typical flea market event. We are looking for unique, quality items of a historical/hysterical nature that will appeal to our guests and also raise funds for the Historical Society.

Charlotte Borland will be responsible for the collection of the items. Please feel free to call her at 412-571-0180 if you would like to contribute to this event.

WALKING TOURS

On **Saturdays, October 3 and 24**, the Historical Society will host walking tours of Washington Road. The tours begin at 10 a.m. at the Mt. Lebanon History Center, 200 Lebanon Avenue (across from Southminster Church) and will take about an hour.

The tours will proceed from the Center down Washington Road to Clearview Common and back. Along the way, the history of Mt. Lebanon's central business district will be discussed and architectural details pointed out. The tour includes two buildings that have been designated Historic Landmarks by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. Tour goes also will visit the Municipal Building's lobby to see the decorative murals and the Art Deco features. The tour concludes with the History Center's new exhibit "Washington Road: Mt. Lebanon's Main Street."

Tour leaders are award-winner romance novel-

ist and long-time Mt. Lebanon resident Gwyn Cready and anthropologist Pat Calvelo, who has been a Carnegie Museum of Natural History docent for 20-plus years and worked on Mt. Lebanon's cultural resource survey.

Tours are \$2 for members; \$2.50 for nonmembers. Call 412-563-1941 to make a reservation. Space is limited. Please wear comfortable walking shoes.

A REVOLUTIONARY IDEA

Our next free, public program is "An Evening with Members of the 8th Regiment of the Continental Line: A Revolutionary War Re-Enactment Group" at **7:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 4**. Refreshments will be served.

HISTORY CENTER HOURS

The History Center is located at the corner of Washington Road and Lebanon Avenue (across from Southminster Church), and our entrance is 200 Lebanon Avenue (by the driveway). Hours are:

10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thursdays

9 a.m. to noon, Saturdays

6 to 9 p.m., Friday, October 2

If staffing allows, we will take reservations for special tours (such as reunion groups). Call the Center at 412-563-1941 to make an appointment or to ask a question. When the weather is bad, call the Center to see if we have closed for the day. **If you have donations for the Society, please drop them off during office hours, or call to arrange a pick up.**

THANKS TO:

History Center volunteers **Dick Price, Lucille Heckman, Barb Jucha, Mel Bickel, Bea Finke, Emily McCann, Lori Humphreys, Bill Madden, Nancy Laitta, and Nancy Sofis** for the incredible job they have been doing. Because of their hard work, the Center is well on its way to getting its collection into a computer database that will be easy and quick to access... Thanks to **John Conti** and **Jim Wojcik** for their strong backs and pickup truck... Thanks to **Gwyn Cready** and **Pat Calvelo** for their enthusiasm for the Center and work on the walking tours.

NEW EXHIBIT

On October 2nd, the Historical Society will debut its new exhibit: **"Washington Road: A History of Change."** Running through March 2010, the exhibit features old photographs of Washington Road, and items from long-gone businesses. Stop by and take a stroll down memory lane.

CHRISTMAS DISPLAY AT THE LIBRARY

Be sure to visit the Society's holiday exhibit in the Mt. Lebanon Public Library's two display cases. The display will run through December. The theme is "I'll Be Home For Christmas" with items from the WWII era. **If you have a holiday item from the 1940s—cards, toys, ornaments—that you would be willing to loan the Society for the display, please call Jim Lutz at 412-341-1404 or e-mail jazbolutz@aol.com.**

CALL FOR TRUSTEE NOMINATIONS

If you would like to nominate someone to serve as a Historical Society of Mount Lebanon trustee, you must do so before the Society's annual meeting on November 4. Contact Marty Carney, nominating committee chair, at clmary@verizon.net, or 412-531-0616.

Nominees must be Society members in good standing. The nominating committee will review submissions and compile a list of candidates (which will be advertised on the Society's website www.hsmntl.org) by the end of October. The nominees will be voted on at the annual meeting. Trustees up for re-election are: Lynn Banbury, Lori Humphreys, Maggie McDermott, Wilma Novogradac, and Wally Workmaster.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRUSTEES

M.A. Jackson, president
Marty Carney, vice president
Bill Simpson, treasurer
Wilma Novogradac, secretary
Lynn Geyer Banbury
Jeanné Heid Bereznicki
Mel Bickel
David Borland
Lori Humphreys
Maggie McDermott
Virginia Nicklas
Jehnie Reis
Wally Workmaster

WE NEED STAMPS (and lots of other stuff)!

While the Society needs some big ticket items for its History Center (a \$250 metal bookshelf and a \$2,500 alarm system, come to mind), we realize many people are on fixed incomes. **But you can help the Society without breaking the bank by donating stamps and Office Depot gift cards.** A roll of stamps costs \$45 and would help us immensely as we mail out five program flyers and four newsletters annually. (We will happily accept even a book of stamps!) And we always need items from Office Depot — such as ink

cartridges and paper for our printer. A gift card for any amount will help us defray the costs of buying those supplies. And if you buy the cards at Giant Eagle, you'll get fuel perks. So in a way, you'll be helping yourself as well as the Society!

DONATIONS

J. Wilson —1941 Senior Jacket
S. James —Rockettes Uniform
C. Laitta —1978 Blue Devil Costume
L. Heckman —Keynotes Directory, Mt. Lebanon Directory 1995, 2 Photos Heckman framing, 3 obituary photocopies, Newspaper Articles about Bower Hill Church, "What about 2051" Sermon from Bower Hill Church
M. Bickle — 1967 Print of High School
W. Gilfillan —Mt. Lebanon 25th Anniversary Booklet
S. Szott—Red Dog Ashtray
D. Giacomo —1961 Yearbook, 1961 Commencement Program, Car Pass, 1989 Prom Keychain, Mt. Lebanon Baseball Regulations, Kurt Angle Parade Pics
B. Finke —Washington School, Assorted Mt. Lebanon Magazines
N. Laitta —Red Star Market Photograph Photocopy, 1976 Fine Arts Program (fire hydrants), 1987 Mt. Lebanon stores map/poster, Roselia Building photograph
S. George —1982 & 1983 Yearbooks
S. Feller — 2 Photographs of Mt. Lebanon Township Public Works Crews
P. Smith — 1961 Mt. Lebanon Booklet
N. Leman —2 1940s handmade children's Christmas Cards
E. McHugh —South Hills Trolley Newspaper Article
P. Grubb —*The Way We Were, The Howe Story, Mt. Lebanon 75 Years, St. Clair Cemetery, Touring Pittsburgh by Trolley*
K. Honath —Mt. Lebanon sign

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

If you have any experience working in a museum or in collections management, we'd love to hear from you. We also need volunteers to man the History Center. You can pick your hours—an hour a month to several hours per week. You can sit and welcome people and, if the Center isn't busy, we will have some easy tasks—sending out thank you letters, returning phone calls, filing, and working on some special projects—to keep you occupied and help the Society. We'd also like to hear ideas for new projects that you'd like to work on. And we need...

* Someone familiar with PC computers to help with data entry of our collection. We will train you in how to

use our software.

* Someone with typing skills who could transcribe our oral history tapes.

* Help with the exhibits.

* A membership chair.

If you are interested, call 412-563-1941 and leave a message or e-mail info@hsmatl.org.

REMINDER

Membership renewal forms will be mailed out in November. Please keep your eye open for the form and return it quickly so you don't miss any announcements about upcoming programs and events. In addition, if you return your membership dues quickly, you will save the Society money as we will not need to send reminder letters later!

RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS:

Life Memberships - The Green & White

Mary Ann Depalma Burnett

Mr. & Mrs. David Fasulo

The Donald D. Mateer Foundation, c/o Charlotte

M. Stephenson, Trustee -The Green & the White
Virginia Nicklas

Bertha Abbott Thomas

Benefactors: - Community Pioneers

Ruth G. Foltz

William F. Lewis

Kent S. Miller

Jeanne & Scotti Mulert

Stephen Patrick

Cynthia & Jerome Richey

George & Barbara Schoeppner

C. Bryson Schreiner

Iannuzzi and Emeil Shenouda

William J. & Kathleen Simpson

George and Margaret Smith

Eleanor M. Thomas

Toni Tierney

Elaine Wertheim

Wally Workmaster

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR 2009 (JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER)

Sue Hornbaker (N) - Individual

SEEKING

We are looking for a picture of the two Cedar of Lebanon trees that were planted by The Rev. Joseph Clokey in his yard near the present day Clokey Avenue. Rev. Clokey was a pastor at Mt. Lebanon United Presbyterian Church in the 1850s (at that time the church was known as the Associate Reformed Congregation of Saw Mill Run). He brought back the trees from a trip to the Holy Land and planted them in his yard. They stood there for decades until in the 1940s they were torn down. Wood from the trees was used to make three gavels that now reside in the municipal building, at the church, and with the Woman's Club of Mt. Lebanon. Please call 412-563-1941 if you have a picture—we can scan it and return the original.

QUESTION OF THE ISSUE.

A History Center visitor asked the following question. Let us know (412-563-1941 or info@hsmatl.com) if you have the answer...

How did the streets Park Entrance and Main Entrance get their names? Was a park located there at one time?

We also have had calls asking for information on the following topics. Let us know if you can help.

*The Nursery Tea Room once located on Cochran Road.

*Sarah Brady (circa 1910) who lived at 258 Main Entrance Drive.

* The Bailey Family, who owned a gas station at the corner of Washington Road and Main Entrance Drive.

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MOUNT
LEBANON BY COMPLETING THIS FORM AND FORWARDING TO THE
ADDRESS LISTED:**

**THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MOUNT LEBANON
P.O. BOX 13423, Pittsburgh, PA 15243**

Please check applicable membership level:

Name: _____	Individual	\$20	___
	Family	\$35	___
Address: _____	Benefactor	\$100	___
	Youth	\$15	___
City/State/Zip _____	Senior	\$15	___
	Life	\$1,000	___

Phone: _____ **E-mail** _____

Date of Application _____ **New () Renewal ()**

Membership runs January 1 to December 31.

Life Memberships are recognized upon payment of total amount within any single 12-mo. period.

Names of donors will appear in newsletters and appropriate membership announcements and mailings.

The Society is classified as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, charitable organization.

***Enclosed is my tax-deductible check made payable to: The Historical
Society of Mount Lebanon.***