



THE CEDAR TREE

Newsnotes from The Historical Society of Mount Lebanon

200 Lebanon Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15228 (412) 563-1941

www.hsmtl.org

Vol. 13 No. 4

FALL 2010

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It was a very busy, very exciting summer for us. Now into the history center's sophomore year, people are beginning to know who we are, where we are, and what we are. It's fun and a bit overwhelming. Our Washington Road Walking Tours were a big success (Depending on when you receive this, you may have time to sign up for the last tour on October 9) and we plan to run them again next spring. In fact, the tour committee will meet over the winter to discuss how we can make the tours better and maybe expand them.

Our Washington School exhibit was well received and it was hard to take it down, but we are excited to partner with the Mt. Lebanon Soccer Association to help them celebrate their 40th anniversary. That exhibit opens October 1 and will run through March.

As the leaves begin to change, we look forward to a busy fall—the opening of the soccer exhibit (Oct. 1), our annual dinner (Oct. 20), hosting a table at Mt. Lebanon Library's Books and Bubbly reception (Oct. 9), planning our speakers' series for 2011, participating in the community's Halloween parade (Oct. 30), conducting a membership drive (November), mounting a holiday exhibit at the library (Dec.1), opening the Center to the second grade Washington Road walking tours (October), plus all the little things we need to do to keep the Center running. And my friends wonder why I never return their calls.

There are two special projects that we want you to be aware of. We will soon issue a **coloring book**—maybe even before the end of the year. This has been a monumental project overseen by Society member and star volunteer Dick Price. The 76-page book will contain drawings from a number of talented Mt. Lebanon artists. The drawings range from intricate to simple—this isn't just a kids coloring book—and will also contain text that explains the community's history. We are still discussing price, but it will probably be in the \$20 range. I knew it would be good, but I am gobsmacked at how great it looks. Best of all, I

think it's a truly original project—I have not seen its match anywhere. Keep your eye out for this one!

The other special project is the **photo book** we will do through Arcadia Press. We are still seeking images—old groups and organizations (e.g. the Woman's Fortnightly Review), old businesses (anyone have pictures of Bimbos!?), and school and sports related events (the marching band at the Eisenhower Inauguration). Please don't think it's not "historic" enough just because it isn't a picture of a horse and buggy. Mt. Lebanon is only 100 years old, after all. Please call us or stop by the center if you have something for us to consider.

And, as always, please think of volunteering. We need people who will sit at the center when we are open to greet guests—you can bring a book if you don't want to "do" history. We also need people to help with special events and man our table when we participate in community events. You do not have to be a history buff. Heck, when I started with the Society, I knew bupkis about the community. Believe me, you pick it up.

Until 2011!

M.A. Jackson
President

OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

We'd like to thank District Magistrate **Blaise Larotonda** for giving us two walls in his lobby for a **photo exhibit**. In August, we installed eight photos we had enlarged and mounted on foam core. Every picture has a brief description of the scene. We hope you never find yourself in the magistrate's office, but if you do, look for our pictures.

And please look for us in the **Great Pumpkin Patch Halloween Parade** on Washington Road Saturday, October 30, and our table at the library's **Books and Bubbly** event Saturday, October 9. (Tickets for that event are \$25 at the library.)

SHOUT OUTS & THANK YOUS

The Mt. Lebanon Partnership asked us to sponsor their ULTRAparty in August, and it was a great success. We thank **Eric Milliron** and **Dorene Ciletti** for asking us to participate. We are already looking forward to next year. To **Mark Johnson** for assistance with the exhibit at the district magistrates office. A special thanks to **P.J. Dinardo** and **Jath DiCecco**, who spent many hours of their summer vacation at the center helping out. We are thrilled that Jath will continue to help us during the winter months. Thanks to **Owen Baun**, a young man who lives near the center and pops in on Saturdays to see if we need help... or to see what we have in the candy jar. To **Gwyn Cready** **Todd Dipastino**, **Mitchell Kaplan**, **Terri Coyne** and **The Book Cellar** for donating items for our ULTRAparty raffle basket. Thanks to **Chris Buttlar** for helping with a misbehaving light at the history center. To **Fake Lebo** for help building our Facebook fan numbers. To **Dave Redding** for ordering the T-shirts that have sold so well. To **Bill Young**, **Kerry Solomon**, and **Rod and Julie Agar** for their help with the soccer exhibit. To **Gwyn Cready** for her help setting up our new e-newsletter. To **Mel Bickel** for manning the Center and **Dave Borland** and **Dave Redding** for manning the table on First Fridays this summer. To **Peggy** and **Jim Wojcik**, **Melissa Evans** and **Nick Sfakianakis** for their help at ULTRAparty. To **Bea Finke**, **Nancy Laitta**, **Lori Humphreys**, **Gwyn Cready** and **Nick Sfakianakis** for acting as Center docents for the second grade walking tours. To **Harold Behar** for his help on the coloring book project. To **Barb Jucha** for stepping in and taking over hospitality for the September meeting. To **Cissy Bowman**, **members of the Washington School PTA** and everyone who donated an item or helped with the Washington Elementary School exhibit.

OUR WINNERS

The winners of our ULTRAparty raffle baskets are: **Dan Gorecki**, Historical Society Basket; and **John Dalzell**, Book Lovers Basket. Thanks to everyone who purchased raffle tickets and T-shirts that night.

THE SOCIETY ONLINE

Would you like to **receive this newsletter by e-mail** rather than snail mail? Send your email address to info@hsmtl.org and let us know.

We also have an **e-newsletter** we will send out about once a month when we have things to announce that didn't make it into the newsletter (or that we'd like to remind you about). If you'd like to receive it, send your email address to info@hsmtl.org. Please note: We will NEVER share your email address with any other organization.

If you are on **Facebook**, please consider becoming a fan of the Society. Just search for "Mt. Lebanon History Center." We post pictures, print arcane facts about the community,

and keep you up-to-date about our programs and activities. And, of course, we have a website at www.hsmtl.org.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

On November 3, **Marilyn Holt**, from the Carnegie Library, will talk about Andrew Carnegie. The program starts at 7:30 p.m., at Mt. Lebanon Library and is free.

Dates for our 2011 Speakers' Series are set, although we still need to book the speakers. Please mark your calendars for: 7:30 p.m., Wednesdays, January 26, March 23, May 25, September 28, and November 2.

HELP!

Speaking of our Speakers' Series, we **DESPERATELY** need a program chair for 2011. We have dates set, we have plenty of ideas (although we are open to suggestions), now we need someone to make the calls and book the speakers. We estimate this will take a few hours of calling at the outset to arrange the speakers and then an hour or two a few weeks before each program. Those follow up calls will involve confirming/reminding the speaker, requesting any necessary audio visual supplies from the library, sending the program information to the flier designer and proofing the flier. So maybe 15 to 20 hours of work THE ENTIRE YEAR. Can you help? Call us at 412-563-1941 or email info@hsmtl.org.

WALKING TOURS

On Saturday, October 9, the Historical Society will host its last **walking tour of Washington Road** for the year. The tour begins at 10 a.m., at the Mt. Lebanon History Center, 200 Lebanon Avenue (across from Southminster Church).

The 90-minute tour proceeds from the Center down Washington Road to Shady Drive/Rolliers and back. Along the way, the history of Mt. Lebanon's central business district will be discussed, old pictures shown and architectural details pointed out. The tour includes two buildings that have been designated Historic Landmarks by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. Tour goers also will visit the Municipal Building's lobby to see the decorative murals and the Art Deco features. The tour concludes at the History Center.

After attending a tour, new member Kit Klaber had this to say: *"We thoroughly enjoyed the tour. I can't believe what little note I had taken of the architecture in Mt. Lebanon over the past 66 years. It was all very fascinating, in addition to bringing back wonderful memories."*

Tours are \$4.50 for members; \$5 for nonmembers. Call 412-563-1941 to make a reservation. If you get the answering machine, leave your name, your phone number, as well as how many people will be taking the tour. Or, email info@hsmtl.org with this same information. Space is limited. Please wear comfortable walking shoes.

GREAT GIFTS

Looking for a special gift for a special someone this holiday? Try a popular “**I (heart) Lebo**” **T-shirt**. Solid cobalt blue shirts with a gold heart are \$15 each and the ultra-hip tie-dye shirts are \$20 each. We have a wide variety of sizes, including children’s and onesies for newborns and 6 months. We also have a limited number of **dark blue polo shirts** with the Society’s name embroidered on the front for \$25. For a great hostess gift or present for a loved one who has moved away, try a set of our **note cards** for \$10. A vintage **trolley picture**, taken by local photographer Carmen DiGiacomo, is \$15 (trolley pictures must be preordered). All items are available at the History Center.

HISTORY CENTER

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 and 9 a.m. to noon, Saturdays**. 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. **If you have donations for the Society, please drop them off during office hours, or call to arrange a pick up.**

ST. CLAIR CEMETERY REDEDICATION

All Historical Society of Mt. Lebanon members, their guests, friends and interested people are invited to attend a rededication ceremony honoring two War of 1812 veterans and six Civil War veterans who recently received new grave markers as part of an Eagle Scout Project. The event will take place at St. Clair Cemetery in Mt. Lebanon on Saturday, October 2 beginning at 11:00 AM, rain or shine.

Eagle Scout Stephen Crowe (Scout Troop 228) organized the work involved in getting new, bronze grave markers through the Veterans Administration. With help from his troop, Stephen provided the labor needed for the marker installations, as well as helping clean up parts of this grand old cemetery.

The ceremony will last about 30 minutes, involving Stephen and Scout Troop 228; the Presentation of Colors; remarks by members of the judiciary and government; laying of wreaths and Civil War Re-enactors.

St. Clair Cemetery is located on Scott Road, just across from Mt. Lebanon United Presbyterian Church. Please park in the United Presbyterian Church parking lot with the entrance on Scott Road.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Wojcik by email: wojcik33@verizon.net or phone 412-563-4037.

CHRISTMAS DISPLAY AT THE LIBRARY

Be sure to check out the Society’s **Santa exhibit** in the Mt. Lebanon Public Library’s display cases throughout December. Herbert “Chip” Cable has graciously lent the Society his collection of Santa Claus figurines—some he made and others he collected—and Society board member Mel Bickel organized the exhibit. If a display of dozens of right jolly old elves doesn’t put you in a holiday spirit, we don’t know what will.

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 3. Contact Jim Wojcik, nominating committee chair, at wojcik33@verizon.net or 412-563-4037. 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.hsmtl.org) by the end of October. The nominees will be voted on at the annual meeting.

WE NEED STAMPS (and lots of other stuff)!

Think of us this holiday season with a donation of postage stamps **and gift cards to any office supply store**. 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 at from office supply stores—ink cartridges, paper for our printer, etc. 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!

SOCIETY’S ANNUAL DINNER – OCTOBER 20

Don’t forget to sign up for our annual dinner, 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 20. Brian Butko, from the Heinz History Center will speak about the history of everyone’s favorite deli, Isaly’s. There will be a raffle of passes and memberships to local cultural events/organizations and an auction of some fun funky items and a few gorgeous prints donated by local photographers. Tickets are \$50. Download an invitation at www.hsmtl.org or call 412-563-1941. Please register by October 4.

OPEN THE DOOR TO YOUR HOUSE'S HISTORY!

"Open the Door to the History of Your House"—a joint fundraiser sponsored by the Mt. Lebanon Public Library and the Historical Society of Mount Lebanon—is designed to **discover the history of your house** using available records, including permits from 1924-1957 and microfiche copies of home plans. This is also a great way to celebrate any occasion and provide a unique personalized gift to that special home-owning friend or relative. Lori Humphreys, researcher for the Historical Society, will seek out who was the architect of your house, who applied for the first permit, what changes have occurred, who the original owners were, who the builder was, and what alterations were made. Society member Pat Calvelo is also going to work on the home research project. The Basic Home Research Information costs \$30 and includes available copies of original permit with builder and first owner names and microfiche drawings of home, if available. For \$30 more, you will also receive available descriptions of home alterations, architect information including other projects, available building information and sub-division information. Please note: information is NOT available for every house, and we do not conduct deed searches. To sign up, call the library at 412-531-1912.

REMINDER

Membership renewal forms will be mailed out in November. Please renew 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. If you do NOT receive a letter, then you have already renewed for 2011.

RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS

- Life Memberships

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

2010 Benefactors: - Community Pioneers

Bea Finke
Ruth Foltz
Ralph Fuehr
Susan Iannuzzi
K. Joshua and Lesley McElhattan
Connie Lopez
Nancy & James Lutz
Barbara Meharey
Kent S. Miller
Scotti and Jeanne Mulert
Steve and Michelle Patrick
Cynthia and Jerome Richey

George and Barbara Schoeppner
George and Peg Smith
Alexander "Bud" Stevenson
Eleanor M. Thomas
Carol and Jon Walton
Wally Workmaster

RENEWING

Carmen DiGiacomo
Sandy and Lee Golumb
Bill Madden
Eleanora May
Louanne Bruenmeister
NancyBucey
E.J. McClain
Bette Ruh

NEW

Dave Huston
Ian Haigh
Alan Scheimer
Doreen Hurley
Kit and Dave Klaber

DONATIONS

Anonymous: 1996 Mt. Lebanon Phone & Address Directory; 1973-1974 Blue Devil Glass Mug; Mt. Lebanon School District Booklet from late 1980s; March 10, 1999 article from The Almanac about Virginia Manor

Peg Christopher: 1963 Mt. Lebanon Annual Report; February 13, 1955 Pittsburgh Press Article about Mt. Lebanon's preparation for nuclear attack; Copy of newspaper article regarding graduates of class on "radiological detection" given at Mt. Lebanon High School

Sandy Mulert Doyle: Rockettes Boots, 3 Rockettes Photos, Mt. Lebanon 75th Anniversary Pennant

Regis Englert: 1954 Lebo Log, photos from 1953 band trip to Washington, DC for the Eisenhower Inauguration Parade

Sylvia Garlitz: Mt. Lebanon Logs from 1943, 1945 & 1949

Karen Greb 1919 Naval Aviator Yearbook (John S. F. McCormick) and pictures of his WWI Pilot's Uniform

Lucille Heckman: 1983 Mt. Lebanon Phone and Address Directory; Cub Scout shirt & hat (Mt. Lebanon Troop 28 - circa 1963); Girl Scout sash & tie (Mt. Lebanon Troup 1223 - circa 1958); Brownie Beanie & Pin - circa 1959; Mt. Lebanon News Newspapers - June 1978, May 1978, September 1958

Lori Humphreys: 2 Newspaper articles about Mt. Lebanon neighborhoods, 1999 & 2001 Mt. Lebanon Guides (Almanac), 1995-1996 Mt. Lebanon School District Directory, 2010 Baseball Coupon Book, 2 photos of Dan Kamin

Patricia King: 50th Anniversary Reunion Plate for the Class of 1938; 1935 Log; Mt Lebanon bell 50th Anniversary 1937 - 1987

Nancy Laitta: 1987 Football Program

<p>Lee Maddex: Eugene B. Maddex Collection--campaign signs; School Board Plaque; various School Board documents; commendation letters; Lebo ash tray. 1972 & 1975 Logs</p> <p>Mt. Lebanon Magazine: Reunion books for the class of 1947's 25, 50, 55 & 60 year reunion booklets; 9 photos of classmates relating to school activities.</p> <p>Mt. Lebanon Recreation Department: South Hills Regional 911 Dispatch Center Plaque; signed photo of Suzy Sermanick & Scott Gregory (pairs figure skaters); framed photo of unknown pairs figure skaters.</p> <p>Evie Reece: Memoir written by Evelyn Reese – 1924 thru 1930's; Photo of Thelma & George Mathews – 1923; Property Plan of 219 Edward Avenue; Deed of Property transferred from Mt. Lebanon Country Club to Oscar & Annie Larson – 1923; Deed of Property Transfer from Fred & Marie Kirchenbauer to George Mathews, 1923. Mt. Lebanon Cemetery photo.</p> <p>Rich Sahar: Aerial Photo and printer's plate of Mt. Lebanon taken between 1958 & 1962</p> <p>Peg and George Smith: Doll, top, marbles and toy medal truck used by family members that owned the Mt. Lebanon Golf Course</p>	<p>Charles Thornburgh: Aerial Photo of Virginia Manor (Valleyview & Osage Drives) mid 1930s; Photo of Thornburgh Home at 754 Gypsy Lane – circa 1953; Photo of Thornburgh home at 753 Pinoak Drive– circa 1968</p> <p><u>HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRUSTEES</u></p> <p>M.A. Jackson, President James Wojcik, Vice President Bill Simpson, Treasurer Melissa Evans, Secretary</p> <p>Trustees: Jeanné Heid Bereznicki Mel Bickel David Borland Marty Carney Gwyn Cready Lori Humphreys Barbara Logan Maggie McDermott Virginia Nicklas Dave Redding Wally Workmaster</p>