



THE CEDAR TREE

Newsnotes from The Historical Society of Mount Lebanon

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

www.hsmtl.org

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It has been almost six years since I was nominated as president of the Historical Society of Mount Lebanon. And what a roller coaster ride it has been. As I look back over those years, I can't believe how much has been accomplished—we opened a History Center, instituted very successful walking tours, expanded our membership, hosted programs at other venues, issued note cards and coloring books, began selling I (heart) Lebo T-shirts, co-hosted Mt. Lebanon's ULTRAparty twice, assisted four Boy Scouts on their Eagle Scout projects, participated in many Mt. Lebanon events (from First Fridays to Halloween parades), hosted three (soon to be four) dinner fundraisers, installed five exhibits, and will soon release a photograph book about the community. And that's not even just scratching the surface. Whew. No wonder my house is such a mess.

But on December 31, I will step down as president. I believe strongly that for an organization to thrive and grow, new people with new ideas and energy have to step into the leadership position. Well, that and the Society's by-laws stipulate I have to step down.

I will not be disappearing. Next year is Mt. Lebanon's centennial, and I have several projects in the works that I want to see to fruition. I also will become this newsletter's editor and contribute to the membership committee.

I am confident that the new president (to be elected at our November program) will carry on the Society's many projects and endeavors and add new ones while overseeing the History

Center and making it the best it can be.

One of the biggest pleasures for me has been that History Center and working with the volunteers who keeps it running. Those volunteers range in age from 10 to 80-plus and it just thrills me to see them all working together with such purpose and enthusiasm. Even better, they express an obvious joy in being together. Their ideas and efforts have shaped the Society and made it better. Two of those projects that really stand out are the coloring book, overseen by Dick Price, and the walking tours that Gwyn Cready and Pat Calvelo instituted.

During the last six years, I have met so many wonderful people. Some have shared their Mt. Lebanon memories and memorabilia, some have just stopped into the Center or stayed after a program to chat, and others have given their time and talents to the Society and the Center. And speaking of those volunteers, I wish I had room to thank each and every one of them for their help. But the list is so long that it would take PAGES to name them all and even then someone would be left out. So let me just say to everyone who has volunteered or served on the board that I have enjoyed beyond words working with you. So many times a volunteer has pooh-poohed my thanks saying, "but I didn't do much." Yes you did—whether it was five minutes of work or 50 hours, you lightened my load and made my day (sometimes even my month).

And thanks to you, our loyal members, for becoming members and renewing faithfully every year. Without your support, the Society could not have accomplished so much.

Now excuse me, I have some dusting to do.

M. A. JACKSON

JOIN US FOR A BOOK LAUNCH AND MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

It's almost here! According to publisher Arcadia Press, our book, "Mt. Lebanon," will be released September 28.

To celebrate, we will host a **book launch party and member appreciation event** from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, October 8, at our History Center, 200 Lebanon Avenue. The 127-page book will be for sale for \$21.99. Refreshments will be served.

The book is part of Arcadia's "Images of America" series (Dormont released one in 2009 for their centennial) and it features photographs of our community's past, including people, businesses, schools, houses, churches and schools. Although the book will be sold in bookstores and other venues, please consider purchasing the book directly from the Society as we receive all proceeds from those books.

Members who come to the event will receive half off our T-shirts, baby onesies, note cards, and coloring books (stock up for the holidays!). We also hope to have our new Holiday cards available for sale. The 12-card set features six images of Mt. Lebanon; the message inside reads "Season's Greetings." A set is \$15.

This event is a great opportunity to check out our **Trains, Trolleys, and Automobiles: Transportation in Mt. Lebanon exhibit** that examines how the community progressed from dirt roads to a thriving suburb, with a special section on the building of the Liberty Tunnels and its impact on the community's development. We have lots of great pictures of the long-gone trolleys, so come in and reminisce.

Arrive at 10 a.m., and partake of our Washington Road Walking Tour. Members will get in free and nonmembers are \$5—that's half off the regular fee.

If you miss this event, Barnes and Noble in South Hills Village will host a book signing event from 3 to 5 p.m., Saturday, October 15, with the author, M.A. Jackson, of our "Mt. Lebanon" book.

THERE'S STILL TIME

Don't miss our last Washington Road Walking Tour of 2011 at 10 a.m., Saturday, October 8. The 90-minute **tour of Washington Road** begins at the Mt. Lebanon History Center (200 Lebanon Avenue—across from Southminster Church) and proceeds from the Center down Washington Road to 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 the inside of the Art Deco municipal building.

The tour is free to members; \$5 for nonmembers. Stop back at the Center after the tour for our Book Launch/Member Appreciation Event.

Please call 412-563-1941 to make a reservation. If you get the answering machine, leave your name, your phone number, and how many people will be attending. Or email info@hsmtl.org with the same information. Bottled water will be provided.

ANNUAL DINNER

By now you should have received an invitation to our **annual dinner** at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 19, at St. Clair Country Club. **Our speaker, Steve Blass**, former Pirates pitcher and current broadcaster, will talk about "50 Fabulous Years with the Pirates." Cost is \$50 and includes two free tickets to our raffle of cultural event tickets and items from local stores. We also will have a silent auction of items that includes Pirate memorabilia. If you have questions or did not get an invitation, call Sandy at 412-337-8972 by October 10. A vegetarian meal is available.

HOLIDAYS WITH THE SOCIETY

Make sure to stop at Mt. Lebanon Public Library in December to see our **Holiday Exhibit** in the library's main floor display cases. The exhibit features pieces from Dotty Gigler's Snow Village collection, most notably the **American Architecture series**, which represents many of the styles of architecture found in Mt. Lebanon. We thank Dotty for lending us these items and for her work creating the exhibit.

Please remember the Historical Society while doing your **holiday shopping** this year. We offer I (heart) Lebo T-shirts in child, adult, and infant sizes (\$15 and \$20), note card sets (\$10), coloring books (\$10), and Mt. Lebanon photo books (\$21.99).

In October the Historical Society will release a set of 12 **Holiday Cards** featuring six Mt. Lebanon scenes—some are holiday scenes; some are winter ones (there are two cards of each scene for a total of 12). The message inside reads “Season’s Greetings,” and information about the picture is listed on the back of every card. Cost is \$15 per set. They will be available on our website (www.hsmtl.org) and can be mailed to you for additional \$5. Or stop at the Center and pick up a set.

LOOK FOR US

Members of the Society will be marching—in costume—in the municipality’s **Halloween Parade** along Washington Road, 11 a.m., Saturday, October 29. Bring the kids and grandkids for trick or treating at the Washington Road stores.

A NEW SIGN

Mark Johnson, owner of the NoKiosk graphic design firm on West Liberty Avenue in Dormont, **has designed and installed a new sign outside our History Center**. The old sign, created by volunteer Dick Price, was beginning to show the effects of weather. NoKiosk, specializes in photo enlarging, producing prints up to 17 by 24 inches using archival inks. Mark has produced all the photos for the Society’s exhibits. For details about the company’s services, log on to www.nokiosk.com.

THANK YOU

To **Anne Kemerer, Sandy Golomb, Petra Fey, and Susan Redding** for their ongoing work on our annual dinner... To **Barbara Logan** for joining our oral history project To **Steven Douglas & Scott Jackson** for their maintenance work at the Center...To **Michael White** for

joining us as our new high school intern... For **Lisa White** for her ongoing work on our collections database and on the Books & Bubbly event... To **Bea Finke, Dick Price, Dave Redding, Jim and Peggy Wojcik, Mark and Lisa White, Bill Simpson, and Mel Bickel** for assisting with First Fridays, ULTRAparty, and July Fourth activities... To **Bea Finke, Gwyn Cready, Judy Sutton, and David Frankowski** for manning the center during the second grade walking tours...To **Sue Lauer** for helping to organize of our September program at the Baptist Homes Society...To **Judy Sutton** and **Pat Calvelo** for leading our very successful “Stains and Stained Glass” walking tours...To the **Mt. Lebanon Woman’s Club** for its generous gift upon the club’s disbanding...To **Lucille Heckman, Dick Price, and Dave Redding** for attending the Mt. Lebanon High School’s volunteer fair...To **Dotty Gigler** for chairing our Holiday Exhibit at the library... To **Mark Johnson** for our new sign...

We must give a very special thank you to **Amelia Dean** and her company, **Jaro Interiors**, for sponsoring our annual dinner speaker, Steve Blass.

2011-12 SPEAKERS SERIES

7:30 p.m., November 2—Join us at Mt. Lebanon library for a talk about the **Thaw family** by former Mt. Lebanon High School teacher **John Canning** and chief archivist of the Heinz History Center **David Grinnell**. William Thaw was a Pittsburgh coal and railroad baron in the 1800s. Son Harry, however, may have eclipsed the family’s philanthropic endeavors when in 1906 he shot architect Stanford White in a jealous rage over Evelyn Nesbit, better known as the Girl in the Red Velvet Swing (her mother lived in Mt. Lebanon).

7:30 p.m., January 18, 2012—A very special program will be held at Temple Emanuel on Bower Hill Road for a lecture by **Ron Tappy** of the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Dr. Tappy will speak about the archaeology of the Bible. We will auction off a copy of the Nova documentary **“The Bible’s Buried Secrets.”** We thank former board member Barbara Logan for her work in arranging this event.

OUR COLLECTION GROWS

Barbara Brooks—Photos and items pertaining to the high school's Triple Trio and choir 1984-1991

Ruth Burkhouse – Mt. Lebanon Girl Scout Troop Leader's hat & smock

Mathew Clark – 1940 Mt. Lebanon United Presbyterian Church men's bible class booklet

Laura Sample Cron – 1969 "Outside Inn" membership card

Marjorie Deganhardt – Mt. Lebanon Logs 1940 thru 1945; 1944 Varsity Football schedule; class photos; 1952 County Cultural Activities Book (includes Mt. Lebanon Organizations)

Carmen DiGiacomo – 1982 Mt. Lebanon Blue Devils Football Program (WPIAL Champions)

Sandy Mulert Doyle –Two vintage 1880s women's jackets from the Salkeld family and biographies of Justus Mulert and Howard Salkeld; two photos

Eleanor Hohman – June 1949 Mt. Lebanon Lantern; 1941-1942 PTA Program Card

Lori Humphries – Mt. Lebanon School Board paper weight/pen holder; Blue Devil's Marching Band membership card; 1st Place trophy for National High School Theater Competition; Mt. Lebanon Council of Republican Women materials

Joan Lamprinakos – Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church Plate (Academy & Washington Road)

Rob & Kristen Mackey – Two Varsity Club dance tickets

Jane Morton – Mt. Lebanon Women's Club Gavel

Annette Novak – Mt. Lebanon High School beanie (1940s); Mt. Lebanon Police Officer's Oath; Jack Aiken's 1946 FCC radio license; Card from Jack Aiken's CO while in India during WWII; 1940s High School commencement program; 1941 and 1943 Mt. Lebanon Logs;

Girls Athletic Association patch; 1940s High School athletic letter

Joe Polk – CD of 1984 Olympic Torch passing through Mt. Lebanon

Bette Ruh – 1957-1958 Mt. Lebanon Players Program

Ann Thompson – 1953 Snowball crown; bracelets; ribbon; newspaper articles; photos; Snowball ticket marked December 25, 1953

We thank the above people for thinking of the Society. If you have an item you would like to donate, please drop it off at the History Center during our regular hours or call 412-563-1941.

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP: **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

Centennial Memberships--\$100

Cynthia and Jerome Richey (renewing)

George and Eleanora Freas

Chris and Anne Kemerer

Rod and Julie Agar

Ruth Foltz

Barbara and Robert Logan

Bud Stevenson

Wally Workmaster

Barbara Meharey

Kent and Kathy Miller

Jeanne and Scotti Mulert

Bea Finke

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERSHIPS

New

Claude Carson (individual)

Hazel Cope (individual)

John Halligan (senior)

Marion Hutchison (individual)

Laura Love Yaremcho (individual)

Renewing (Individual)

Mardi Centinaro

Anne Kemerer

Alice Stock

CONGRATULATIONS

The Historical Society would like to extend

AASLH CONFERENCE

President M.A. Jackson attended the American Association of State and Local History Conference in Richmond, Virginia this past September. During the two days she was there, she attended sessions about fundraising, grant writing, working with volunteers, attracting younger audiences, and protecting collections. She heard a talk by Dr. Dorothy Cotton, who had worked with Martin Luther King Jr., and attended a reception at the Virginia Historical Society.

ST. CLAIR CEMETERY WEBSITE MAKES THE NEWS

We were pleased to see a mention of our St. Clair Cemetery website mentioned in Tom McMillan's August 21, 2011, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article "Climbing on the Family Tree: The Joys of Searching for Your Roots." Tom found a lot of background regarding his family on our site.

The Historical Society maintains a website devoted to the Scott Road cemetery—the third oldest cemetery in the South Hills—at www.stclaircemetery.com. The site lists tombstone inscriptions, genealogies of people buried there, and pictures of the tombstones. It is not a complete listing, as many of the tombstones are illegible due to age and vandalism; others have toppled and cannot be read.

The Society plans a tour of the cemetery in October 2012, and Tom McMillan has agreed to assist. If you missed his story, check it out at www.post-gazette.com/pg/11233/1168426-109.stm#ixzz1X1QmNWrk

its congratulations to **Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church** on its 100th anniversary. Congregants of the Gothic-style church at the corner of West Liberty Avenue and Scott Road first organized in 1909 and broke ground on the church on October 23, 1911—four months before Mt. Lebanon was formed. The church officially opened on August 11, 1912, with 40 charter members; it now claims 1,400 congregants and a rich history that includes a chancel window designed by Henry Lee Willet, one of the most renowned stained glass artists of his time.

HISTORY CENTER

The History Center is located at the corner of Washington Road and Lebanon Avenue (across from Southminster Church); 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.**

HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRUSTEES

M.A. Jackson, president
James Wojcik, vice president
Dave Redding, treasurer
Melissa Evans, secretary
Jeanné Heid Bereznicki
Mel Bickel
Marty Carney
Matthew Clark
Gwyn Cready
Kim Honath
Maggie McDermott
Bill Simpson
Lisa White
Wally Workmaster