



THE CEDAR TREE

Newsnotes from The Historical Society of Mount Lebanon

P. O. Box 13423, Pittsburgh, PA 15243 (412) 561-0455

www.hsmtl.org

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SPRING 2008

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

What are you doing? If you're like most people the answer is "too much." There are family responsibilities, 40-hour workweeks, and (hopefully) eight hours of sleep. It's amazing we find time to brush our teeth.

But if when you like something, you find the time for it. I'm hoping that you like the Historical Society of Mount Lebanon because we are always in need of volunteers.

This spring the society—in cooperation with the Mt. Lebanon School District, the Mt. Lebanon Public Library and Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation—will, once again, host the second grade walking tours of Washington Road. These tours take students from the library up Washington Road to Clearview Common and back. Along the way tour guides point out interesting architectural details and explain how the community has changed over the years. Being a tour guide is fun and interesting—the kids are well behaved (there are adult chaperones as well) and ask lots of great questions. In addition, being a tour guide only takes a few hours—you'll be done before lunch—and you'll be amazed at how much you'll learn about your community. Tour guides do not have to be long-time residents and are given training and scripts. This spring there will be seven sessions running April 25 through June 4. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Louise Sturges at louise@phlf.org or 412-471-5808.

The Society's Oral History committee has list of more residents than they have time to interview. If you like chatting with people, consider signing on. We'll give you some training and then arm you with a notepad, questions, and tape recorder. Then you make an appointment at your leisure. You'll learn about how our community developed and what life was like 50, 60, or 70 years ago; the Society will get a valuable record of the past for its archives. We also need people

who can take a few hours to transcribe the tapes to paper. Having these histories on paper will make it easier to access information.

To volunteer, call Lori Humphreys at 412-561-6649 (e-mail: lorih@nauticom.net) or Marty Carney at 412-531-0616.

The Society's Home History Project—which invites residents to come to the library to learn more who built and designed their homes—has also been a huge success. In fact, it's booked pretty much through the year. We need people who can help—maybe one or two evenings per month (or more if you'd like). Once again, we'll train you. Contact Lori Humphreys at 412-561-6649 or lorih@nauticom.net for details.

Now here's a fun one—do you like to take pictures? Well, the Society's "Then and Now" photo collection desperately needs to be updated. If you have a camera (digital or film), we can give you copies of the pictures and locations. You pick a nice day to go out and snap a shot of what that location looks like now. The society will cover the cost of the film development. These pictures will be archived and may one day be used in for displays. Contact 412-561-0455 or infor@hsmtl.org.

Finally, as we move closer to our goal of opening a history center, we are gathering names of people interested in helping out at the center. At this point, Society trustees are thinking of opening the center two days and one evening per week, and perhaps a few hours on the weekend. We aren't sure yet, because we don't know how many volunteers we'll have to staff the facility. Volunteers would be needed to greet visitors, answer questions, and show people around. The space is small, so it's not going to involve a lot of footwork. We will also be looking for people to help with odd jobs—such as stuffing envelopes and cataloging items—as well as set up (i.e., painting and moving boxes in). If you are interested, please e-mail info@hsmtl.org. or call 412-561-0455.

Please note that we are still waiting to sign the lease, so your services may not be required for several weeks or even months!

Whether you are recently retired and looking for something to fill your time or a stay-at-home mom with an hour or two to spare during the week, we can find something for you to do.

YOU can make a difference. **YOU** can help us preserve the rich history of Mt. Lebanon.

M.A. Jackson

LIBRARY USED BOOKSALE

Mt. Lebanon Public Library's Twice Sold Tales used book sale is a great place to get biographies, autobiographies and histories along with fiction and children's books. Make sure to stop by Saturday May 3 through Thursday, May 8. More than 30,000 books will be on sale at bargain prices. CDs, DVDs, games, and videos will also be available.

Sale hours run: Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Sunday, 1 to 4:30 p.m.; and Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Thursday is half-price day. Call 412-531-1912 for details.

NOTE CARDS FOR SALE

The Society is selling sets of eight note cards featuring different buildings and scenes of Mt. Lebanon for \$10 a box. Local artists drew the sketches, and all funds benefit the Society. Cards make great Mother's Day and graduation gifts!

Cards are being sold at **Josephine's** on Castle Shannon Boulevard, **Planet Art Gallery** on Washington Road, **Blooming Dahlia** on Beverly Road, **Mt. Lebanon Public Library** on Castle Shannon Boulevard, **Mt. Lebanon Pharmacy** on Mt. Lebanon Boulevard, and **Borders Books and Music** in Norman Centre. Cards will also be sold at Society programs. Our thanks to the shop owners for helping us with this fundraiser.

PROGRAM REVIEW

Our January meeting, "Life in a Pennsylvania Coal Patch" with speaker Pamela Nixon, drew one of the best crowds we've ever seen. It was standing room only. And then everything went wrong. The speaker's computer wouldn't "talk" to the library's equipment, and Pamela ended up showing her slide show on a tiny computer screen. Needless to say, this was not an ideal way to view the show. So we stopped the program long enough to let people leave. However, about 25 people stayed and raved about the program. We

apologize for an inconvenience and have invited Pamela back for an encore 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 5. We will do everything in our power to make sure that this time the program comes off without a glitch.

PA TROLLEY MUSEUM PROGRAM

On Wednesday April 9th at 7 pm, the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum will present a program entitled "Pittsburgh: The Rise of the Low-Floor Car" at the library. The program will illustrate the development of the streetcar that became Pittsburgh's Standard transit conveyance until the coming of the red PCC cars in the 1940's. There will be some scenes from Mt. Lebanon. This program is hosted by the Mt. Lebanon Public Library.

DON'T KNOW MUCH

The Historical Society will partner with Mt. Lebanon Library for a special program with author Kenneth C. Davis aka "The King of Knowing" and author of the "Don't Know Much About..." book series. Mr. Davis has written 17 books—covering the Bible, the Civil War, Geography, the Universe, and Mythology; his "Don't Know Much About History" spent 35 weeks on the *New York Times* Bestseller List. He has appeared on hundreds of television and radio shows, including NPR, The Today Show, Fox and Friends, CNN and The Discovery Channel. His new book, "America's Hidden History," will be published May 6.

The evening begins 7 p.m., Monday, April 14, at Mt. Lebanon Public Library. Stop by for fascinating facts and test your knowledge at the audience participation quiz.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – UPCOMING HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAM DATES:

The Historical Society of Mount Lebanon's free public programs for the remainder of 2008 are:

May 21: "The Skyscrapers of Pittsburgh" with John Conti

September 24: "Life in a Pennsylvania Coal Patch" with Pamela Nixon

November 5: (annual meeting) "Women of Westsylvania in Story and Song" with Paula Purnell
All programs begin at 7:30 p.m., at Mt. Lebanon Library, 16 Castle Shannon Boulevard. Refreshments will be served.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

The Society's Web site is www.hsmtl.org. It contains old pictures, information about upcoming events, some of our old newsletters, and other interesting facts. And please be sure to sign our **Guestbook!**

RESEARCH THE HISTORY OF YOUR MOUNT LEBANON HOME!

Ever wondered who built your home? Ever wondered who designed the original plans? With the value of the architecture and design of Mt. Lebanon homes—most built in the early years of the last century—being rediscovered and recognized, the Historical Society of Mt. Lebanon is joining with the Mt. Lebanon Public Library to assist residents in finding out who built and designed their homes. Because the records are fragile and irreplaceable, Historical Society trustee and Cultural Resource Survey volunteer Lori Humphreys and Society trustee Wilma Novogradac will be at the library twice each month to help you research the information. Please call the library at 412-531-1912 to make an appointment as the schedule may change. NOTE: If your house was built before 1924, there will **not** be a Building Permit Number, which makes obtaining the information about your home more difficult to find.

WE GOT THE GRANT!

Mt. Lebanon Historical Society has received a \$5,000 Department of Community and Economic Development grant through state Rep. Matt Smith's office.

The money will be used to buy computer equipment for the Society's History Center when it opens in the stucco building on the corner of Washington Road and Lebanon Avenue later this year. This equipment and software will be invaluable in helping us catalog the society's collection.

Many thanks to the staff at Smith and Pippy's offices for assisting with the grant proposals and to Terri Blanchette at the Heinz History center for her advice.

DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY

- Newspaper clippings from the 1960s, Mt. Lebanon 50th anniversary booklet, and four booklets about the history of Mt. Lebanon United Presbyterian Church—Susan Blackburn

- A box of slides and photographs (hundreds on them) circa late 1960s through mid 1980s of Mt. Lebanon sports and recreation department events and a scrapbook of newspaper clipping pertaining to the Mt. Lebanon Recreation Department—Sandy Kyper
- Your Guide to Cemetery Research (book) and a 1991 Mt. Lebanon High School Yearbook—Anne Kemerer
- 1946 Mt. Lebanon High School yearbook and commencement program; reunion program for the class of 1946's 35th reunion; Lebanon Lantern from June 7, 1946—Helen Betzler
- A signed copy of "Thine is Thy Glory" written by former Mt. Lebanon resident Samuel A. Schreiner, Jr. An ashtray (circa 1940-s-1950's) from the Newcomers Club of Mt. Lebanon – Emily McCann
- A cookbook/household tips booklet issued by Rollier's (probably in the 1950's) and a shelving unit – Dormont Historical Society
- A desk, two tables, and a filing cabinet – Jackie Sammarco and family
- Two bookshelves – Anatol Rychalski
- Filing Cabinet – Barbara Logan
- Postcard from Grace's, a store/bar once located at 1121 Bower Hill Road, two written remembrances about Mt. Lebanon by Ferne Horne and Sara Long Lewis, copy of a 1994 Mt. Lebanon magazine article about John Nicklas – Mel Bickel

REACHING OUT

Society member and past president Karen Cahall is volunteering as a tour guide with Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. Karen is an old hand at leading tours having volunteered for several years with the second grade walking tours along Washington Road that are sponsored by the Society, PH&LF, the library and the school district. Karen started as a tour guide last July and has lead school and adult groups on tours in Downtown Pittsburgh—including the "Dragons" tour in the 4th Avenue area, the Market Square area (the oldest section of Pittsburgh), and the Strip District. Last year, she led a tour for St. Bernard's Girl and Boy Scout troops on a Washington Road tour similar to the one held for Mt. Lebanon School District students. Karen reports that being a guide is not only fun, but also "a good way to loose weight." Audrey Menke, another Society member

also volunteers with PH&LF. If you are interested in taking a tour, log on to www.phlf.org and click on "tours and events" for a list of upcoming tours and information about scheduling a tour for your group or organization. Or call 412-471-5808.

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

Looking to cut down on the amount of paper you receive in the mail? The Historical Society may have away to help you be more environmentally friendly while saving the Society a few cents in postage: consider receiving the Cedar Tree newsletter via e-mail. You will receive the quarterly Cedar Tree at the same time as you would if it was mailed, but you would have the convenience of reading it online. The newsletter will be sent as a PDF file. If you'd like to get the newsletter by email, just send us a note at info@hsmatl.org. Please include your name and email address.

THANK YOU TO NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS – JANUARY – MARCH, 2008

Robert J. Mitsch – Individual (New)
Helen Aldisert & William Krayner – Family (Renewal)
Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Lutz – Benefactor (Renewal)
Emily & Joe McCann – Family (Renewal)
Pat Grubb – Senior (Renewal)
Gail & Bill Friedman – Family (Renewal)
Wallace F. Workmaster – Individual (Renewal)
Martha Towns – Senior (Renewal)
Mrs. Eleanor McHugh – Individual (Renewal)
Barbara D. Logan – Benefactor (Renewal)
Charles Brodbeck – Individual (Renewal)
Geoffrey R. Hurd – Individual (Renewal)
Bill & Peggy Christopher – Seniors (Renewal)
Marianne M. Siersdorfer – Individual (Renewal)
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Laitta – Family (Renewal)
David Davis – Individual (Renewal)
Wilma Novogradac – Benefactor (Renewal)
Richard O. Price – Benefactor (Renewal)
Margaret A. Jackson – Individual (Renewal)
Maxine & Mel Bickel – Family (Renewal)
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. J. Simpson – Benefactor (Renewal)
Nellie Ambrose – Individual (Renewal)
John C. & Carol S. Ferguson – Seniors (Renewal)
Lucille Fuehr – Senior (Renewal)
Jon Delano – Individual (Renewal)
Michelle Patrick – Individual (Renewal)
C. Bryson Schreiner – Benefactor (Renewal)
Linda K. Stewart – Individual (Renewal)

New and Renewing Members (cont'd)

Ann Winkelstein – Senior (Renewal)
Conrad Koch & Karen Kanell – Family (Renewal)
Toni Tierney – Senior (New)

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
Glenn Morrow
Virginia Nicklas
Bertha Abbott Thomas

Benefactors: - Community Pioneers

Beatrice Finke
Ruth G. Foltz
William Lewis
Barbara and Robert Logan
Mr. & Mrs. James B. Lutz
Maggie McDermott
Kent S. Miller
Jeanne & Scotti Mulert
Wilma Novogradac
Cynthia & Jerome Richey
George & Barbara Schoepner
C. Bryson Schreiner
William J. & Kathleen Simpson
Mr. & Mrs. George C. Smith
Elaine Wertheim

HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRUSTEES

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

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
