



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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SPRING 2011

PRESIDENTS LETTER

Space—who couldn't use more of it? When we moved into our History Center in June 2009, it was cozy but adequate. We knew that having a physical location would attract more donations, but we had no idea how many items we'd receive and how quickly they'd begin pouring in. Well, the public seems to be as happy as we are to have a place to store their Mt. Lebanon-related items as response has been great. To get an idea of what kind of items we are receiving, check the "donations" section of this newsletter and you'll see a list of items that came in over a period of just a few months. More items await processing.

In January, the Gaylord Company, a business that sells archival supplies, contacted us and asked if we would like a donation of scratch and dent items. Of course we said yes. Twelve HUGE boxes arrived at my door filled with storage boxes, binders, plastic sleeves (for photographs), and other supplies. Some of the items did not appear to contain a scratch or a dent. The donation, which is worth literally hundreds of dollars—if not more than a thousand—will allow us to properly store the many treasures you have entrusted us. But that donation, coupled with our ever-expanding collection, suddenly made our 450-square-foot Center very cramped and cluttered looking. Volunteers were setting up tables in the middle of the exhibit area to work. We began to despair.

Enter our landlords—South Hills Area Council of Governments (SHACOG). Last month, SHACOG gave us permission to use another room in the lower level of our Center at 200 Lebanon Avenue. This new room essentially doubles our space. Although the room is not in the best condition (missing acoustical ceiling tiles, warped paneling), it provides us space for a few tables (so the volunteers can do projects and sort items) as well as a room where we can put filing cabinets and shelving to store our collection and supplies. In moving these items from our "public" space, we gained some much needed elbow room.

We are seeking some additional filing cabinets, a sturdy table, and a couple folding chairs for the new space. If you have any items to donate, please call the Center at 412-563-1941 and leave a message.

That said, we do realize that sooner, rather than later, we will need to find new, larger quarters. In the next few months we will be working to put together both a search and a capital campaign committee. If you would like to help, please let us know. If you know of a good location (preferably in the business district and in move-in condition), give us a call.

So to SHACOG—thanks for your generosity. To our supporters and members—keep the donations coming!

M.A. Jackson

COLORING BOOK

“Mt. Lebanon: A Town of Colorful History,” the Historical Society of Mount Lebanon’s new coloring book, is now for sale! This lovely 76-page book is the perfect gift to keep visiting grandchildren busy or to teach your child about the history of their community’s past. Illustrated by 15 local artists—including architects, school art teachers, and cartoonists—the book is \$10 at the History Center. They are also sold at Lee Heckman Custom Framing, Atria’s Restaurant (Beverly Road); KoolKat Designs, The Art Loft, Rolliers (Washington Road); and A.B. Charles Hobby Shop (McFarland Road). You also can buy it at www.hsmtl.org using PayPal. For an additional \$5, we can mail the book to you.

Please remember that we also sell sets of **note cards** and “**I (heart) Lebo**” **T-shirts** in adult and youth sizes as well as **baby onesies**

GOODBYE

We wish a fond farewell to **Lori Humphreys** who has stepped down from the board. During her tenure, Lori worked tirelessly on many projects and held several positions. Among other things, Lori headed the oral history committee, worked as the program chair, was treasurer, conducted home history research, and helped install exhibits. She will be deeply missed, but we wish her all the best on her future endeavors.

THANK YOU

To **Lester Pyle** for coming on as our website administrator and revamping our website (www.hsmtl.org)...To **Jeff Honnold** for his past work on our website...To **Pat Calvelo** for taking on the Home History project... To **Jim Renckly** for scanning documents and photos.... To **Lisa White** for organizing an internship program through Point Park College...To **Gwyn Cready** for donating \$500 from a book signing for her romance novel “Aching for Always”...To the **Women’s Club of Mt. Lebanon** for their donation of \$500 and a gavel made from one of Mt. Lebanon’s original Cedar of Lebanon trees...To **Judy Sutton** for volunteering to do the Walking Tours...To **Matthew Clark** for

coming up with the theme of our next exhibit...To the **Mt. Lebanon Police Association** for its donation of \$500...To the **Mt. Lebanon commissioners** for their support of \$5,000 (which pays our rent)...To **Don Ivol** and **Dave Graffam** of Integrity First for handling our insurance needs...To **Mt. Lebanon Library** for their donations of historic documents and items and a filing cabinet...To **Rita Levine** for a donation of a filing cabinet.

MINI CONFERENCE

On May 20, president M.A. Jackson, vice president Jim Wojcik, and board member Dave Redding will attend a free mini conference hosted by The Heinz History Center. The daylong program will cover historical costumes (for docents), building small exhibits on a budget, social media, fundraising, and collections care.

ORAL HISTORY & OTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Our **oral history** committee always needs people to conduct interviews (training will be provided). If you are a long time resident with some good stories, we’d love to interview you. We also need people to help **man our table** at First Friday events, July 4th, and other activities. You do not need to know the history of the community as these events are more about passing out membership forms, meeting and greeting, and selling items. **Help at the Center** is never turned away, and you can choose from a variety of tasks—from the super simple (sitting at the front desk to greet visitors and stuffing envelopes) to working with the collection or on exhibits. We also are seeking people interested in helping us find a new, larger facility—hopefully to open in the next year or two. If you have **experience in fundraising and capital campaigns**, we’d love to hear your ideas or have you join a committee. Also needed are people who can **seek out and write grants**. If you would like to help, call the Center at 412-563-1941 or e-mail info@hsmtl.org.

2011 SPEAKERS SERIES

All programs are 7:30 PM at the Mt. Lebanon Library unless otherwise noted. Please mark your calendar now with the following dates:

May 25 — We will meet at the Dormont Historical Society in the Dormont Borough Building (1444 Hillsdale) for a tour of the fabulous Dormont museum. Join us if you have lived in the area for a long time to reminisce and if you are new to the area to learn about the area's rich past.

September 28 — to be announced

November 2 — to be announced

WALKING TOURS

Spring means the return of the Society's popular walking tours. At 10 AM Saturdays, May 14, July 9, and September 10, we will once again host 90-minute tours of Washington Road beginning at the Mt. Lebanon History Center (200 Lebanon Avenue—across from Southminster Church). The tours will proceed 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 (find out where the owl and the eagle are on Washington Road!) The tour includes the inside of the municipal building and the outside of Southminster Presbyterian Church—buildings designated historic landmarks by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. The tour concludes back at the History Center and our new exhibit "Trains, Trolleys, and Automobiles: Transportation in Mt. Lebanon."

We are working on adding a new twist—separate tours of two of Mt. Lebanon's most historic churches—St. Bernard's Church—the nearly 100-year-old church with the Spanish tile roof and beautiful frescos and Mt. Lebanon United Presbyterian Church—Mt. Lebanon's oldest (and first) church. The tours will cover the history of the churches with a key focus on the stained glass windows. When dates and times are set, Society members will receive a

flier. Additional Washington Road Tour dates may also be added.

Tour leaders are award-winner romance novelist, Society Board member, and long-time Mt. Lebanon resident Gwyn Cready; anthropologist, Carnegie Museum of Natural History docent, and Mt. Lebanon Historic Preservation Board member Patricia Calvelo; and Mt. Lebanon Librarian Judy Sutton.

Tours are \$5 for members; \$10 for nonmembers. Please call 412-563-1941 to make a reservation. If you get the answering machine, leave your name, your phone number, the date you will attend, and how many people will be attending. Or e-mail info@hsmtl.org with the same information. Space is limited. Please wear comfortable walking shoes, Bottled water will be provided for the Washington Road tours.

HOME HISTORIES

Would you like to learn the "genealogy" of your home? Who built it? Who designed it? Who lived there and what changes have been made? "**Open the Door to the History of Your House**" is a joint fundraiser sponsored by the Historical Society of Mount Lebanon and the Mt. Lebanon Public Library that will answer those questions by using available records, including permits from 1924-1957 and microfiche copies of home plans. Patricia Calvelo, a Historic Preservation Board member and a Society volunteer, will seek out your house's architect of your house, who applied for the first permit, what changes have occurred, and much more. Cost is \$60 and includes available copies of original permit with builder and first owner names and microfiche drawings of home, 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 or e-mail Patricia at pacalcmmnh@aol.com.

NEW EXHIBIT

Opening Saturday, May 14 is “**Trains, Trolleys, and Automobiles: Transportation in Mt. Lebanon.**”

The Society’s newest exhibit features old pictures, maps, and other memorabilia explaining how people got around before the Liberty Tunnels were built and how those tunnels changed the community into a premier example of an automobile suburb.

Please stop by during regular hours to see the exhibit. Special tours can be arranged by calling 412-563-1941.

MEMBERSHIP

If you received a slip of colored paper in this mailing, it means your membership is about to expire. Please take a moment to fill in the form in this newsletter and mail it back to us. Your support is greatly appreciated.

In the last issue the membership level of George and Peggy Smith was misidentified. The Smiths renewed at the Centennial level.

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

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Renewing (Centennial--\$100)

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 (individual)

Lee Heckman
Katie Anderson

New (family)

Chuck and Nancy Trau
Jane Johnson
DiCecco family

Renewing (individual)

Mary Lou Failor Hughes
Tom Stevenson
George Gula
Barb Jucha
Carol Humphreys Gordon
Marilyn Freed
Linda Stewart
Wilma Novogradac
Jehnie Reis
Barbara Hinton
Mike Lacy
Steve Feller
Eleanora McHugh
Jon Delano

Renewing (Senior)

Bruce Murray
Elsie Waddell
Maggie Hendrix
Nellie Ambrose
John and Lee Scott
Ann Winkelstein
Toni Tierney
Bette Ruh
Bette Mucha
Jeanné Heid Bereznicki
Bunny Schorr
Lynn Banbury
Jean Baldwin
Pat Grubb
Marianne Siersdorfer
Eleanor Hohman

Renewing (Family)

Matthew Clark
John and Carol Ferguson
Bob and Betty Newcomer
Ann and James Simmons
Jim and Nancy Lutz
Maggie McDermott and Bill Bates
Reginald and Lillian Tate
Bill Callahan
Bernard and Betsy Laquinta
Jane and Sam Morton
Emmylou Ducray
Andrew and Laura Reinhart
The McNulty Family

ADDITIONS TO THE COLLECTION

Thanks to everyone who has donated an item to the Society. Below is a list of items recently accepted into our collection. If you have donated something recently and it is not listed, the collections committee has not yet processed it. If you are one of the unknown donors, we'd love to know who you are.

Peggy Bond Framed Photo of Washington Road w/trolley (unknown year)

Nancy Bucy 1942, 1943 & 1944 Mt. Lebanon High School yearbooks; May 20, 1943 Mt. Lebanon Lantern; photo of Bob Boyle in 1943 in fighter plane; photo of Bob Boyle in 2004 w/great granddaughter; class of 1944 reunion booklet 45th; 1944 commencement program; Mt. Lebanon 25th year book; 1961 map of Mt. Lebanon; The Lincoln Searchlight – 1937; class of January 1944 address list; letters regarding reunion

Ruth Burkhouse Various materials from the Mt. Lebanon Women's Club's antique department

Marty Carney Mt. Lebanon 50th anniversary pennant; 50th anniversary bow tie; Mt. Lebanon library book bags; reproduced copy of *That We Might Have A Better World* book 1946; multiple newspapers and other materials

Dolores Dennis June 4, 1940 Lebanon Lantern; personal memories of Mt. Lebanon

Carmen DiGiacomo 1993 Blue Devil plaque w/team picture; 1981 youth football patch; Mt. Lebanon youth football shirt; Mellon Junior High School shirt w/signatures; Mt. Lebanon East vs. West 100 mile relay t-shirt – 1977; Mt. Lebanon invitational t-shirt

Dorothy Feis 1943 girls Mt. Lebanon Pool Pass; map of Mt. Lebanon (year unknown)

Thurman Gardner Book: "The Roush Family in America"

Lucille Heckman Blue Devil mug (no date)

Lori Humphreys 1996 High School alumni directory; 1995 school board president gavel; David Humphreys' commissioner race materials

Robert Kelly Robert L. Kelly Jr. remarks at class of 1945 – 65th reunion, September 11, 2010

Jean McMillan A.C. McMillan family materials, including high school commencement program 1935; 1952-1953 Mt. Lebanon schools booklet; 111 Bower Hill Road house photo from 1922; multiple class reunion material; other photos

Joy Pajak Clarence W. Scheck materials: 50th Anniversary banquet program; Mt. Lebanon Christian Church plaque; Bond issue memo; general fund papers (1929); 2 Allegheny County certificates; newspaper clippings

Joe Polk Game of Mt. Lebanon

James Renckly Log book of construction of house at 84 in Mission Hills, 1925

James Steen 1905 "Palmer's Pictorial Pittsburgh and Prominent Pittsburghers Past & Present 1758 – 1905" book (multiple Mt. Lebanon people listed)

Jim Stuber 2 Mt. Lebanon soccer shirts; 1 pair Mt. Lebanon soccer shorts; blue whistle

Deborah Wakefield Class of 1940 – 40th year reunion booklet; *That We Might Have A Better World* book

Unknown Donors "A Walk Down Washington Road in 1920" by Cliff Tuttle; 1955 Christmas lighting contest winner commemorative citation: Game of Mt. Lebanon; Mt. Lebanon High School class ring and gold tassel from graduation cap; Joy Van Woert high school diploma 1945; 1945 Mt. Lebanon Log

HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRUSTEES

M.A. Jackson, president

James Wojcik, vice president

Dave Redding, treasurer

Melissa Evans, secretary

Jeanné Heid Bereznicki

Mel Bickel

Marty Carney

Gwyn Cready

Maggie McDermott

Wally Workmaster

Bill Simpson

Lisa White

Matthew Clark

Kim Honath

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 us your email address. Please note: We will NEVER share your email address with any other organization. If you are on **Facebook** fan the Society's "Mt. Lebanon

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.**