



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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SUMMER 2010

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I can't believe a whole year has passed since we opened the Mt. Lebanon History Center. And what a busy, rewarding year it's been. We have mounted three exhibits and are planning a fourth (to debut October 1). We have had hundreds of people from Mt. Lebanon, the South Hills, Pittsburgh, and across the country stop in to see, enjoy, and learn from our exhibits. We have organized several special tours, including ones for a garden club, a Cub Scout troop, and even a shopping group from Sewickley. We have hosted several very successful Saturday walking tours of Washington Road, spoken to a dozen or so local groups and organizations, answered many questions, welcomed school groups, catalogued countless items, accepted numerous donations, and seen our membership grow significantly.

I am indebted to a wonderful board and the dedicated volunteers who have made all this possible. And I am beyond grateful for our members, our visitors, and our supporters. The way the Center has been embraced by the community has been an uplifting and, at times, humbling experience. When I see people renew their memberships, join the Society, donate items for the collection, visit the Center, tell their neighbors about us, or buy a gift membership for friends and family my belief that the community deserves to have its history preserved, protected, and maintained is validated.

The next year promises to be another busy one. We are hard at work on a book of photographs (to be published by Arcadia Press), a coloring book, plans for the 2012 centennial, future exhibits, and tours. All of that in addition to our regular endeavors that include five free talks at the library, Washington Road Walking tours (for both adults and second graders),

and participation in Mt. Lebanon's Halloween parade, July 4th festivities, and First Friday events. We are in talks now with the Mt. Lebanon Partnership to see if we can be a part of their UltraParty event in August and their Tour Lebo bike race in October.

In September, I will attend the American Association of State and Local History (AASHL) conference in Oklahoma City to participate in a panel presentation about community outreach. The panel was put together by the Heinz History Center, and I was honored (and a bit surprised) to be asked to participate. Our center, after all, is relatively new. But staff from Heinz History Center felt that the Society was a perfect example of how their community outreach program can help fledgling museums get started (and I couldn't agree more—they have been a godsend). This trip will be expensive, and I thought long and hard before accepting the invitation, but it will give the Society NATIONAL exposure. The AASLH conference is one of the largest and best-regarded conferences for people in the museum/history business. Attending the conference will provide me an opportunity to take classes and workshops presented by history professionals on topics such as family programming, marketing, training volunteers, mounting exhibits, and making the most of a small space. I will (hopefully) come home armed with ideas and strategies to make our already successful Center even better...if that's possible.

Thank you all for a banner year.

M.A.Jackson
President

WE GET MAIL

William Lang Krayner sent us the following note in response to an item we had in the spring issue about the bowling alley on Cedar Boulevard. Thanks for sharing, Mr. Krayner! Please send us more memories.

I remember Alderdice Bowling, having set pins there (manually, of course) as a teenager. I was born in 1929 on Cedar Boulevard and grew up there. Other activities during the WWII years, again as a teenager: collecting and flattening tin cans for recycling to the war effort, delivering coal from curbside where the trucks dumped it into the coal cellars around the neighborhood, and a large morning paper route as well. I wish I had a picture of the ice plant on Cochran Road, with its piles of ice shavings (from sawing blocks of ice for delivery to ice boxes in homes)—the shavings were available for cooling off in the summer. Those big tongs for holding the ice were something else.

Editor's note: If anyone has a picture of the ice plant that once stood on Cochran Road, we'd love to see it and get a copy for our archives. Call us at 412-563-1941.

BOOK AWARD

Every year, the Historical Society of Mount Lebanon presents its History Book Prize to a Mt. Lebanon High School junior, selected by the high school's social studies teachers, as a way to recognize that student's passion for and interest in U.S. History and encourage future study of our nation's past. We also present a copy of the book to the High School library in hopes of enlightening and edifying other students.

This year, the high school librarians requested we present the book *The Pacific* by noted historian Hugh Ambrose. This book is the companion book to HBO's highly acclaimed miniseries about World War II.

This year, we presented the award to Matthew Caplan. Matthew was chosen because he attended many extra sessions in and out of school to learn more about history-related topics and, in class, was a regular contributor, embracing every assignment and activity with energy and humor. U.S. history teacher Peter DiNardo says that Matt possesses a "rare blend of natural talent, great work ethic, and a truly inquisitive, open spirit and is one of the most positive, spirited, funny kids I have ever met. He has my

unconditional praise and respect, and I would take a million students like him."

After receiving the award, Matthew sent us a wonderful thank you note...

Dear Mt. Lebanon Historical Society, I first wanted to thank all of you for the award I received this past Thursday at the Mt. Lebanon High School academic awards ceremony. It was a huge honor and means a lot to me. I wanted to thank the woman who presented the award especially for reading a very humbling description of both the award and my nomination. Thanks again, and my passion for history has no doubt been fueled by the receiving of the award on behalf of the Mt. Lebanon Historical Society.

Sincerely, Matthew Caplan

SEEKING SOCCER ARTIFACTS

Mt. Lebanon's love affair with soccer has its roots in the post-Civil War coal mining days when the Beadling miners created soccer teams as a Sunday afternoon social activity. Forty years ago, the Mt. Lebanon Soccer Association was organized; the Mt. Lebanon Girls' Soccer Association kicked off in 1979. **In October, the Mt. Lebanon Soccer Association will partner with the Historical Society to present a soccer exhibit at the Mt. Lebanon History Center.** The exhibit, which will run October 1 through the spring, will chronicle soccer in Mt. Lebanon, including the Beadling days. We are seeking old soccer memorabilia and stories for the display. If you have any items or pictures to share, contact MLSA President Bill Young 412-531-1654 or youngbams@comcast.net.

GAR ROOM TOUR A SUCCESS

On **Wednesday, May 26**, the Historical Society held its speakers' series program at Carnegie Library in Carnegie where 24 attendees enjoyed a special tour of the recently re-opened and restored GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) room. **The Capt. Thomas Espy GAR Post No. 153** is one of a half dozen most intact GAR posts in the country. To put that number in perspective, in the late 19th century there were more than 6,000 GAR posts across the United States serving Union Army veterans as a fraternal organization. In the South Hills, the Espy Post was created in 1879 and named for an Upper St. Clair Township resident who was wounded at Gaines Mills, Virginia, on June 27, 1862, and died in a prison camp. For 28 years the post's members rented rooms for their meetings until in 1906 they secured a second floor room in the Andrew Carnegie Free Library. Members custom-furnished the room with Civil War motifs, GAR paraphernalia, and mem-

orabilia. When the last post member died in the mid 1930s, the room was closed and the door locked. The room remained untouched for more than 50 years. Last winter, work began on restoring the room—as much as feasible and knowable—to its original state. We also were given a tour of the entire building, i.e., a magnificent library with beautiful original wood shelving, tables and trim, as well as a huge fireplace. There is also an auditorium where plays, musicals and other programs are always scheduled. The library publishes a newsletter which includes a calendar of events. We truly were enveloped in history during our private tour of this national treasure.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

On Wednesday, September 22, Michael Stewart will speak about **The Brady Stewart Collection**. Mr. Stewart's grandfather (Brady Stewart) and father (Brady Stewart, Jr.) were the photographers of this collection of truly outstanding images—most of which focus on Pittsburgh in the early- to mid-1900s. (Brady Stewart Sr. was a *Pittsburgh Leader Press* photographer and a city of Pittsburgh photographer.) To get a sneak peek, log on to www.bradystewartphoto.com. Please join us for a great evening viewing images you have never seen as well as items that will take you back to a Pittsburgh that's long gone.

On November 3, **Marilyn Holt**, from the Carnegie Library, will talk about Andrew Carnegie.

Both programs start at 7:30 p.m., at Mt. Lebanon Library and are free.

SHOUT-OUTS & THANKS YOU

To **Gwyn Cready** and **Pat Calvelo** for all the hard work they are doing on the Washington Road Walking tours. To **Bea Finke** for organizing a special Washington School tour of our current exhibit. To volunteer **Dick Price** who was honored in April by the National Association of Women Business Owners for his volunteer work with the Heinz History Center. To **Fake Lebo** for holding an impromptu fundraiser for us on the June 4th First Friday. To **Gwyn Cready**, who held a special sale of her new romance novel *Flirting With Forever* (set in Mt. Lebanon) on June 4th and then donated all proceeds to the History Center. To **Larry Winkowski** from Modern Reproductions (127 McKean Street) for preserving a crumbling photograph taken at the dedication of the WWI memorial at Mt. Lebanon Cemetery. To **Melissa** and

Dave Redding for providing the Society with a fabulous convertible and enthusiastic flag-waving for the Memorial Day parade. To **Jane Johnson** for transcribing our oral histories. To **Mark Reis, Bea Finke, Lori Humphreys, Lester Pyle, Dave Redding, Mike Lacy, and Judy Macoskey** for their assistance with the scanning party. To **Jim Lutz** for purchasing several archival supply boxes that are big enough to hold clothing he donated to us as well as items already in our collection. To **Mark Reis** and **Mark Johnson** for scanning negatives and slides. And a welcome to new volunteer **Jack Wilson**.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRUSTEES

We wish a fond farewell to Jehnie Reis...and hope she will rejoin us again soon and welcome Gwyn Cready.

M.A. Jackson, president
James Wojcik, vice president
Bill Simpson, treasurer
Melissa Evans, secretary
Jeanné Heid Bereznicki
Mel Bickel
David Borland
Marty Carney
Gwyn Cready
Lori Humphreys
Barbara Logan
Maggie McDermott
Virginia Nicklas
Dave Redding
Wally Workmaster

WALKING TOURS

On Saturdays, July 10, August 14, September 11, and October 9, 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).

There will be two tours offered: an hour-long one that proceeds from the Center down Washington Road to Clearview Common and back, and a two-hour tour that 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 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 and our exhibit about Washington Elementary School.

Tour leaders are award-winner romance novelist 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, has led the second grade walking tours of Washington Road, and worked on Mt. Lebanon's cultural resource survey.

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@hsmatl.org with this same information. Space is limited. Please wear comfortable walking shoes; bottled water is also suggested.

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; 9 a.m. to noon, Saturdays; and 6 to 9 p.m., the First Friday of every month between May and October.** 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.**

"Washington Public School: 1921-2010" is our present exhibit. Come see it before it changes in September.

WE'RE ON FACEBOOK

Social media is all the rage and a great way to share your message inexpensively and quickly. Even though we are a historical society, we try to keep up with technology (repeat, TRY), so 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.

SEEKING HELP

As we receive more and more donations, we find ourselves in need of archival supplies that will properly protect our new treasures. Unfortunately archival storage supplies are expensive. There are grants out there for such purchases (and that can help us with other needs), but we need someone to help us find what grants are available and to prepare the applications. If you would like to help, call 412-563-1941 and leave a message.

SEEKING PICTURES

If you are like many people, you don't think of yourself as being "historic." Well, consider this: Mt. Lebanon is not even 100 years old, so if you are 50 years old and were born here, you experience half the community's history. If you are older than 60 and the child of a Mt. Lebanon native, then there is a good chance your family lived here before Mt. Lebanon was formed. Just in the past 40 years many things have come and gone—Kaufmann's (now the Galleria), Bimbos, and Koval's (the candy/butcher shop by Howe School). Washington Road once boasted a Horne's, an Isaly's, and Mandel's drugstore. In addition, the library has been rebuilt, schools have been expanded and refurbished, and a new public safety center has been erected. If you want proof that you are living through history consider how in the last few months we have watched the South Hills Theater in Dormont become a thing of the past. History happens every moment of every day.

If it happened more than 10 minutes ago it's history. And in a community as young as Mt. Lebanon, you may certainly have an important remembrance of our past. PLEASE, look through your photo albums, boxes, and files. Please think of us. Giving us a picture of your daughter standing in the old municipal building library might seem unimpressive, but the Society has NO pictures of the interior of that library. That small gesture of yours just might save a piece of Mt. Lebanon's history for generations to come.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR/COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Society is seeking volunteers for this position. If you have interest or would like more information concerning the responsibilities, please call the center at 412-563-1941 and leave a message for Lori Humphreys.

<p><u>RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS</u> <u>- Life Memberships</u> 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 <u>2010 Benefactors: - Community Pioneers</u> Bea Finke Ruth Foltz Ralph Fuehr Connie Lopez Nancy & James Lutz Barbara Meharey Kent S. Miller Scotti and Jeanne Mulert George and Barbara Schoeppner George and Peg Smith Alexander "Bud" Stevenson (New) Eleanor M. Thomas Carol and Jon Walton (New) Wally Workmaster RENEWING BENEFACTORS Susan Iannuzzi Steve and Michelle Patrick Cynthia and Jerome Richey NEW BENEFACTOR K. Joshua and Lesley McElhattan</p>	<p>RENEWING Mel and Maxine Bickel Carolyn and Bill Byham Mardi Centinaro Jody Colby Gwyn Cready Barbara Cusick June Delano Paul Dudjak Stephen Feller Mary Lou Failor Hughes Anne and Chris Kemerer Richard and Nancy Laitta Elaine London Emily McCann Audrey and Ken Menke Betty and Bob Newcomer Jehnie Reis Louise Sturges Luetta Waddell Ann Winkelstein NEW Matthew Clark and family Jacqueline Doyle Bill and Claire Emery Eleanor Hohman Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Lane, Jr. Lela McNulty Barbara Veazey</p>
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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
200 Lebanon Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15228**

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