



# **THE CEDAR TREE**

## **Newsnotes from**

### **The Historical Society of Mount Lebanon**

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

**Vol. 9 No. 4**

**DECEMBER 2006**

#### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

Come December, it's a popular tradition to make lists of the best and worst of the past year. I'm going to skip the worst and concentrate on the good. My list consists of some people who have done – or are doing – positive things regarding local history.

**Matt Mikesell.** Matt is a fifth grade teacher at Markham Elementary School. Early in 2006, I attended a mock trial Matt had set up in his class to teach kids about the incidents leading to the French and Indian War. The kids put George Washington on trial for the 1754 murder of Ensign Jumonville. That trial never actually took place, but Jumonville was murdered and George Washington's involvement in the incident was never fully explained. The kids in Matt's class dressed in period clothing and Matt built a jury box and judge's bench. The class took the proceeding very seriously, but also seemed to have a lot of fun. Matt said the result of the exercise was very positive – the kids were much more inquisitive about history. As Matt said to me, "It's real simple to read from a book, but that's just facts with no lasting memory. If you bring it to life, it makes it real." So, here's to Matt for making history come to life.

**The Reverend Canon Richard Davies.** Since 1990, Reverend Davies, a Mount Lebanon resident, has worked tirelessly to keep Old St. Luke's – a little church in Scott Township that hasn't had a congregation since 1930 – alive and in good condition. During his tenure, Reverend Davies instituted a Heritage Lecture Series, hosted a Whiskey Rebellion anniversary celebration, lobbied for Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Historic Site recognition (received in 2001), wrote a 44-page booklet about the Church's history and its links to the Whiskey Rebellion and has given countless talks and tours to people of all ages. In May, Reverend Davies received Mt. Lebanon Magazine's "This Town Would Be Different Without" honor for his work at Old St. Luke's, and I'm happy to

**Louise Sturges:** The Historical Society of Mount Lebanon along with Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation and Mt. Lebanon Public Library have been hosting a walking tour of Washington Road for Mt. Lebanon's second graders since 2001. The tour, headed by Louise Sturges of Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, focuses on local history and architecture. This year I volunteered to be a tour guide and was amazed by Louie's passion for the project. Louise's enthusiasm for local history and architecture is infectious and the students ate it up. Several years ago, the tour was offered to adults, and I'd love to see that happen again because no matter how long you've lived here, I bet there are things along Washington Road that you don't know or haven't noticed. I applaud Louise – and the rest of her volunteers – for bringing this tour to the children of Mt. Lebanon. Hopefully, those children will pass on to friends, family members, and someday their own children what they learned about our community's wonderful history.

**Robert Ryan:** Although Robert lives in Whitehall, he decided to do his Eagle Scout project in St. Clair Cemetery along Scott Road – the community's oldest graveyard. For his project, Robert replaced the worm headstones of seven Civil War veterans. He spent a year researching the men so he could fill out the forms necessary to get the new, government-issued markers. In April, he and other members of his Boy Scout Troop put the new markers in place. At the dedication ceremony in October, Robert read the Gettysburg Address. His work deserves applause, and I'm happy to say he will be awarded his Eagle Scout in January.

**Kent Miller and Karen Cahall:** Kent and Karen are long-time Historical Society of Mount Lebanon Board Members, who will step down at the end of this year. Kent was instrumental in the Society's formation and has held many positions on the Society Board, including Treasurer. Most recently, Kent has been Photography Chairman, working on the Society's

give him well-deserved additional recognition. recently reorganized the Society's collection of photos, slides, and negatives. Karen has been a Society Trustee for six years. She served as the Society's Vice President and President. Most recently, Karen headed the Special Events committee and was responsible for our Spring tour of the Bayernhof Museum near Sharpsburg. Karen hopes to continue to help out with future tour and special event planning. Without Karen and Kent's hard work, the Society would not be alive and functioning today. We will miss them.

### **HISTORY AT THE LIBRARY**

The Historical Society of Mount Lebanon is hosting a Christmas display in Mount Lebanon Public Library's display cases on the main floor until **the morning of Saturday, January 6**. One case features holiday cards drawn by Society Trustee Dick Price. Each card has a literary theme, such as Truman Capote's "A Christmas Memory" and O. Henry's "Gift of the Magi." The other case features the train-themed holiday cards of Society Trustee Wally Workmaster, and a few of his vintage model trains, which are a popular item with "kids of all ages."

In March 2007, the Society will mount a "Things That Aren't There Anymore" photography display in the Library's main entrance hall. The pictures come from Society and Library archives. Stop by and see what you remember!

### **A HISTORY TIDBIT:**

The Dormont Historical Society recently sent as a South Hills Dispatch newspaper clipping for 1934 about a Boy Scout cabin on Beadling Road. The article features a picture of the cabin with nine Boy Scouts (not named) posed in front of it. If you have any other details on the cabin – why it was built, what it was used for, when it was torn down, etc., please let us know. Following is the complete text of the article: *Mt. Lebanon Scouts to Dedicate Cabin*

"The dedication of Boy Scout Troop No. 22's long cabin, which was scheduled to take place last Saturday, was postponed and will take place this coming Saturday, September 15 at 4:00 pm, regardless of weather conditions. Everyone is cordially invited to attend this dedication.

The cabin is located on Beadling Road in Mt. Lebanon Township, about half-way between Washington Road and Cedar Boulevard. Ample

several "Then and Now" displays at the library. He signs will be posted to guide those unfamiliar with the location.

At 4:00 pm, the cabin and grounds will be open for inspection. There will be demonstrations of scout craft, handiwork exhibitions, games for both ladies and gentlemen, a basket picnic with free coffee, and other attractions. The actual dedication ceremonies will start at 7:00 pm. Between the hours of 7 and 8, there will be a carefully arranged Indian pageant under the direction of Mr. Penny.

Every effort has been made to provide a program which will be intensely interesting and which will give a clear picture of real scout work. The scouts would appreciate the pleasure of having you and your friends with them on this occasion.

### **NOTE CARDS**

We are pleased to announce that the Society's note cards are selling fast. Get yours while they are still available. A box of eight cards costs \$10.00.

The artists chose their subjects from a list of historical significant and architecturally interesting buildings in Mt. Lebanon. Each illustration has a different style and feel. The cards feature the Mt. Lebanon Cemetery Gatehouse by Baywood Avenue graphic artist Marilyn Narey; St. Bernard's Roman Catholic Church by Navahoe Drive architect Mimi Jong; "The Nesbit House" (806 Washington Road) by Catalpa Drive digital illustrator Kathy Rooney; The Denis Theater/Potomac Bakery by M.A. Sinnhuber of Art by M.A.; Holy Cross Creek Orthodox Church by former Mt. Lebanon resident and art educator Greg Frommeyer; an Arlington Park house by Kris Macoskey; Mt. Lebanon United Presbyterian Church (Twin Towers) by Mt. Lebanon High School graduate and art educator Ned Garnhart; and Beverly Road Shops by former Mt. Lebanon resident and art teacher Karen Larson. The back of every card contains information on the illustration and the artist.

Cards are available at: **Create-A-Frame/Handworks Gallery**, 670 Washington Road; **Planet Art Gallery**, 632 Washington Road; **Portobello**, 297 Beverly Road; and **Josephine's Florals & Furnishings & Finds**, 190 Castle Shannon Boulevard. Cards will also be sold at Society programs.

parking facilities are available for all and direction

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS for 2007:**

Program dates in Room A of the Mt. Lebanon Public Library, 7:30 pm:

January 24 – Program details forthcoming in a flyer.

March 21

May 23

September 12

November 7

**FAREWELL AND WELCOME:**

The Society Board bids a fond farewell to Trustees Kent Miller (an original Board Member) and Karen Cahall (past President). We wish Kent and Karen all the best.

The Board welcomes new Trustees Maggie McDermott and Wilma Novogradac. They will serve a three-year term to end December 2009.

Returning Trustees are: Lynn Geyer Banbury, Jeanné Bereznicki, Marty Carney, Lori Humphreys, M.A. Jackson, Bill Lewis, Virginia Nicklas, Dick Price, Bill Simpson, and Wally Workmaster.

**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

Mr. Glenn Morrow

Ms. Virginia Nicklas

Bertha Abbott Thomas

**Benefactors: - Community Pioneers**

Beatrice Finke

William Lewis

Barbara and Robert Logan

Mr. & Mrs. James B. Lutz

Maggie McDermott

Wilma Novogradac

Cynthia & Jerome Richey

C. Bryson Schreiner

William J. Simpson

Mr. & Mrs. George C. Smith

Elaine Wertheim

Wallace F. Workmaster

**Order of the Cedar**

**THANK YOU TO NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS - OCTOBER 2006 to PRESENT:**

Nellie Ambrose – Individual (Renewal)

Jeanné Bereznicki – Individual (Renewal)

Helen & Clarence Betzler – Family (Renewal)

Karen & Michael Cahall – Family (Renewal)

Felix Caste – Individual (Renewal)

Peggy & Bill Christopher – Senior (Renewal)

David S. Davis – Individual (Renewal)

Beatrice Finke – Benefactor Community Pioneer (Ren)

Gail & Bill Friedman – Family (Renewal)

Pat Grubb – Senior (Renewal)

George W. Gula – Individual (Renewal)

Hale Holden, Jr. – Senior (Renewal)

Lori Humphreys – Individual (Renewal)

Geoffrey R. Hurd – Individual (Renewal)

Anne & Chris Kemerer – Family (Renewal)

Bernard G. Laquinta – Family (Renewal)

Lois Martin – Individual (Renewal)

The Donald D. Mateer Foundation, c/o Charlotte M.

Stephenson, Trustee –The Green & the White (New)

Dr. & Mrs. E. J. McClain, Jr. – Family (Renewal)

Gertrude C. McCrum – Senior (Renewal)

Maggie McDermott - Benefactor Community Pioneer (Renewal)

Dr. & Mrs. David McKibben – Family (Renewal)

Audrey & Kenneth Menke – Family (Renewal)

Kent S. Miller – Individual (Renewal)

Jane Morton – Individual (Renewal)

Toni Murray – Individual

Wilma Novogradac- Benefactor Community Pioneer (Renewal)

Richard O. Price – Individual (Renewal)

Matthew J. Ragan – Individual (New)

Henry E. Rea, Jr. – Individual (Renewal)

Elinor G. & G. Wallace Robb – Family (Renewal)

Rita M. Roegge – Senior (Renewal)

Albert William Schnupp – Family (Renewal)

Barbara & George Schoeppner - Benefactor Community Pioneer (Renewal)

Shenouda Family – Family (New)

Margaret & George Smith - Benefactor Community Pioneer (Renewal)

Linda Stewart – Individual (Renewal)

Ardeth A. Tennyson – Individual (Renewal)

Eleanora M. Thomas – Individual (Renewal)

Richard C. Walker – Family (Renewal)

Elaine Wertheim - Benefactor Community Pioneer (Renewal)

Wallace F. Workmaster - Benefactor Community

Ruth G. Foltz	Pioneer (Renewal)
<p><b><u>RECENT DONATIONS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1966 Mt. Lebanon High School Yearbook and Mt. Lebanon Diamond Jubilee pendant – Judy Grand</li> <li>• 1964 Women’s Club of Mt. Lebanon reception invitations and Stevenson Williams Co. map of Mt. Lebanon – Dormont Historical Society</li> <li>• 1967 Mt. Lebanon recreation booklet –Joan and Lee Gregory</li> <li>• Pin from Mt. Lebanon pool, Trolley Day envelope (1984), two Howe Elementary School programs (1944 and 1942/43) – Nancy Laitta</li> <li>• 1998 Mt. Lebanon High School Yearbook, Mt. Lebanon football pictures – Lori Humphreys</li> <li>• Two metal matchbook covers from 1924 – Virginia Nicklas</li> <li>• Mt. Lebanon 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary booklet, 1969 All About Mt. Lebanon Booklet (published by the Jaycees), 1970 Mt. Lebanon School District booklet, 1961 Mt. Lebanon annual report, Trilli and Dunbar Co. map of Mt. Lebanon and Upper St. Clair, 1974 history of Mt. Lebanon by Helen Ryman, St. Clair Hospital note card, June 1933 note to students from Mt. Lebanon School District Superintendent C. Herman Grose, assorted articles about Mt. Lebanon – Bert Thomas</li> </ul> <p>If you have an item you’d like to donate to the Society, call Margaret at 412-561-0455.</p>	<p><b><u>WORDS OF THANKS</u></b></p> <p><b><u>NOVEMBER PROGRAM:</u></b></p> <p>On Wednesday, November 8, William J. Callahan presented a program on “Historic Preservation – Pennsylvania’s Asset.” The presentation focused on the advantages that historic preservation has brought to other communities throughout the United States and the opportunity Mt. Lebanon has to realize those same advantages. The Society thanks Mr. Callahan for his informative program.</p> <p>Thanks to Society Board Member Jeanné Bereznicki for providing cookies at our November program.</p> <p><b><u>THE DAGUERREIAN SOCIETY</u></b></p> <p>You may remember that Mark Johnson, the President of The Daguerreian Society, spoke at the Society’s program meeting September 20<sup>th</sup>. He requested we publish the following announcement:</p> <p>The Daguerreian Society is a not-for-profit organization in Pittsburgh and resides in a new headquarters building in Dormont (3043 West Liberty Avenue – 412-343-5525). <b>Through January 4, 2007</b>, the Museum’s gallery is presenting a great exhibition of daguerreotypes. It is free to the public.</p> <p><b><u>WEBSITE</u></b></p> <p>The Society’s website is up and running. New items and information should be added periodically. Please take a moment to check the site out—<a href="http://www.hsmtl.org">www.hsmtl.org</a> — and let us know if there’s any information you think should be added. Thanks again to Jeff Honnold of ClearMind Technology for his work on this project. We are also seeking a Webmaster, if you have web skills and an hour or two a month to spare, call, Margaret at 412-561-0455.</p>

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(detach here)

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO THE MT. LEBANON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BY COMPLETING THIS FORM AND FORWARDING TO THE ADDRESS LISTED.

**THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MOUNT LEBANON**  
P.O. BOX 13423, Pittsburgh, PA 15243

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**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*

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of Mount Lebanon  
P.O. Box 13423  
Pittsburgh, PA 15243