



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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WINTER 2009

PRESIDENT'S LETTER: The New Year offers us a chance to start fresh. And that's just what The Historical Society of Mount Lebanon is going to do.

After the doom and gloom of my last President's Letter, I am happy to announce much rosier news. After 15 months of "negotiating" with the Parking Authority and South Hills Area Council of Governments (SHACOG), the Society signed a lease on October 30 and started moving into our new facility at 200 Lebanon Avenue November 1.

Needless to say, the last two months have been very busy. We have been moving in furniture and boxes, cleaning, painting, and doing all the other things necessary to be ready for the public.

While most of our items are now in the center, we still need to obtain an occupancy permit, set up computers, and install a phone line and FiOs Internet service. We also need to catalog our items and make sure they are properly stored and displayed. A special committee consisting of Society board members and volunteers from the Senator John Heinz History Center will handle the cataloging. Depending on the number of volunteers we have for this task, it could take a few weeks or a few months to get everything into our databases. Thanks to a DCED grant, we have purchased the PastPerfect software, which was designed specifically for museums. The software can catalog up to one million items, including oral histories and photographs and also tracks loans, membership, donations, fund-raising endeavors, and pledges. In addition, the software can create letters (such as thank you notes and deed of gift forms) and provide detailed information about where every item is stored. The software was expensive, but will be worth it.

We also need to get a committee set up to run the center, figure out volunteer schedules, and work on displays. The Society board hopes that by the end

of February we can start making plans for our grand opening. If you are interested in volunteering at the center—you do not have to be a long-time resident of the area—please call 412-561-0455 or e-mail info@hsmtl.org.

In November, I was distressed to hear that the Mt. Lebanon commissioners had decided not to fund the Society for 2009. Several newspapers ran articles about the cut, which spurred some residents (including me) to speak in favor of funding the Society at a commission budget meeting and to send letters of support. Even so, I was (pleasantly) surprised when on December 8 I found out that the commissioners had put the Society back into the budget for 2009. I would like to thank the commissioners and everyone who supported us.

That said, the Society still needs many items to get the center up and running as we now have monthly rent, insurance, and utility bills to pay. We rely heavily on membership dues to keep us moving forward and to fund the programs we currently host and help us create new ones. So, although I feel bad asking for money at this time of economic turmoil, I unfortunately must. At the end of November, we sent out a **membership renewal letter**, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has already renewed and ask those of you who have not, to please do so now. If you do, you will save the Society the expense of mailing a reminder letter. Your membership will help us create a quality history center and ensure we can keep our doors open for years to come.

Thank you...and a happy, healthy 2009 to everyone.

M.A. Jackson
President

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Our next free, public program is “**Bill Mauldin: A Life Up Front**” presented by Todd DePastino, at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 21, at Mt. Lebanon Public Library, 16 Castle Shannon Boulevard. Please see the enclosed flyer for information about the program and the “**office supplies drive**” we will be holding that evening.

And please mark your calendar now for the rest of our 2009 programs:

March 25: Speaker to be announced

May 27: We will meet in Carnegie at Carnegie Library on Beechwood Avenue to hear a talk about and tour the library's Civil War Room

September 23: Speaker to be announced

November 4: Speaker to be announced

NOVEMBER 5TH ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM REVIEW:

After the business portion of the Society's Annual Meeting concluded, we had the privilege of hearing Paula Purnell present a program, “Born of Fire: Songs of Steel and Industry.” Ms. Purnell has released six albums of original music, including two Parent's Choice award-winning children's albums. She is associated with the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, and is a professional development trainer for the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh. She presented a variety of music appropriate for the era of Pittsburgh's steel dominance. For more information, the website is 222.newlanders.com.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRUSTEES

We bid a fond farewell to trustee Dick Price and thank him for all his hard work and dedication to the Society, and we welcome Jehnie Reis as a new trustee.

M.A. Jackson, president

Marty Carney, vice president

Bill Simpson, treasurer

Wilma Novogradac, secretary

Lynn Geyer Banbury

Jeanné Bereznicki

Mel Bickel

David Borland

Lori Humphreys

Maggie McDermott

Virginia Nicklas

Jehnie Reis

Wally Workmaster

DONATIONS

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY: Bookshelves

DICK PRICE: Four cushioned folding chairs

MT. LEBANON LIBRARY: Two filing cabinets, a chair, various old maps, documents, newspaper clippings, and a series of Washington Road business district photographs taken in 1964

DORMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Shelving and bookcases

PEG AND GEORGE SMITH: “All About Mt. Lebanon” booklet, 1969; Allegheny County Government booklet, 1971; Copies of Pittsburgh Sun Times articles from June 23, 1932 about a Mount Lebanon pageant; Photo of the K.E. Algeo store on Washington Road, undated; 15 Photos of the Mt. Lebanon Golf Course, circa 1900-1914.

BERT ABBOTT THOMAS: Bill from dentist Dr. J.H. Dunegan, Feb. 1, 1934; Two programs for Mt. Lebanon High School's June 1946 graduation; Invitation to the June 1946 graduation with a name card for Bertha Abbott; Pittsburgh Press Roto article, July 8, 1979, about Mt. Lebanon United Presbyterian Church; “Six Stirring Years” (1939-1945) book issued by Pittsburgh Post-Gazette; “Our Schools: For Their Future” book, 1945; 1946 Lebanon Log; Program/autograph book, for Mt. Lebanon High School's class of 1946; Programs and photographs from Mt. Lebanon's class of 1946's 25th reunion, 35th reunion, 40th reunion, 45th and 50th reunions; Photograph of Grade 5B at Lincoln School, 1938; “The House on McCully Street” by Gladys Blews Wilson; Blue and white Mt. Lebanon High School beanie cap; Mt. Lebanon High School 1946 diploma for Bertha Abbott; Photo of 5 students at Lincoln School, 1935; Photograph of the Abbott and Sons company truck with Abbott family and friends around it; “Reminiscences of the Settlement of Robinson Run” by Charles M. Ewing; Black sequined dress, 1930, worn by Anna McKown Abbott; Photograph of the Abbott family, September 9, 1930 in front of 278 Beverly Road.

MYLES AND LAURA PACE: Vacuum

WILMA NOVOGRADAC: Corner Cabinet

SPECIAL THANKS

To **Jeanné-**

Bereznicki for her hard work and patience in laying out every issue of the Cedar Tree newsletter... To **Don Ivoll** and **Dave Graffam** at Integrity First Insurance for bearing with us during the months and months it took to obtain a lease for the history center... To our moving crews: **John Conti, Jim Lutz, James Kim, Bill**

John Betzler and **Geoff Strauch**...To **Rollier's Hardware** for donating the paint and painting supplies for the history center...To our paint crew: **Monique Fontaine, Merle Jantz, Steve and Mimi Ingalls, Petra Fey, Maggie McDermott** and **Dick Price**...To **Kent Miller** for his woodworking skills.

DINNER A SUCCESS

The Society's October 15 dinner at Upper St. Clair Country Club with speaker Paul Ostergaard was a huge success. Paul gave a fascinating talk about architectural pattern books, and our raffle brought in \$200! Please see the last page of this newsletter for pictures from the evening.

The dinner committee—Ginny Nicklas, chair; Emmy Lou Ducray, raffle chair; Charlotte Borland, Connie Lopez, and Bette Rue—did an outstanding job of creating an elegant, charming atmosphere. We are already tossing round ideas for a 2009 dinner.

We would like to thank the following businesses for their support and donations. BEVERLY ROAD: Barefoot Stitches & Gifts Blooming Dahlia, Lee Heckman Framing, Scoops on Beverly, Coffee Tree Roasters, The Himalayan Institute of Pittsburgh, Party Cake Bakery, Atria's Restaurant...WASHINGTON ROAD: Mt. Lebanon Floral, Potomac Bakery, Rania's Catering, Uptown Coffee, Rollier's Hardware, Salon Belezza, Molly Brannigan's, Aladdin's Eatery...OTHER: Giant Eagle, Borders Books and Music, Dr. David Clippinger, Mt. Lebanon Police Department, Mt. Lebanon Fire Department, Mt. Lebanon Public Library, Friends of Mt. Lebanon Library, Mt. Lebanon Magazine

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS If you have any experience working in a museum or in collections management, we'd love to hear from you. We also need people who could volunteer anything from an hour or two to several hours per month to man the history center when we open. You can sit and welcome people and, if the center isn't busy, we will have a few easy tasks for you to perform—sending out thank you letters, returning phone calls, running the vacuum, filing, and working on a few of the special projects we'd like to get started. We are also open to ideas for any new projects you would be interested in doing.

We also are looking for someone with a

Simpson, Scott Jackson,

our "Then & Now" collection, and for someone to head a fundraising committee that may include organizing a "Mt. Lebanon Antiques Roadshow." Call 412-561-0455 or e-mail info@hsmtl.org for more information.

LIBRARY PROGRAM

Mt. Lebanon Public Library will host "The Battle that Saved Fort Pitt," Wednesday, February 11, 2009 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. The speaker is David Miller, director of education at Bushy Run Battlefield and a Pennsylvania Humanities Council speaker. David will present background about the French and Indian War and will show map illustrations showing Bouquet's route over the Forbes Road.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD HOSTS BLOCK PARTIES

Spring is right around the corner, so book your Mt. Lebanon Historic Preservation Board block party tour now. Tours cover questions such as as: Which is the oldest house on our street? When were the homes built and by whom? What are the styles of all these houses, and why do they look the way they do?

Tours—conducted by present or former members of the Historic Preservation Board or volunteers who worked on Mt. Lebanon's Cultural Resource Survey—are a way to help residents learn more about the architectural character of their homes and neighborhoods and encourage them to preserve Mt. Lebanon's distinctive housing stock and update their properties with care. To book a tour, call 412-343-3407. Please call as far in advance as possible, as tour guides must research the neighborhood ahead of time. If you would like to volunteer as a guide, contact Susan Morgans at 412-343-3780 or e-mail smorgans@mtlebanon.org.

The Historic Preservation Board is not affiliated with the Historical Society of Mount Lebanon. The Historic Preservation Board is a municipal board created to identify significant structures or sites within the municipality, recommend a historic marker system and nominations for the National Register of Historic Places, monitor developments in historic preservation and educate Mt. Lebanon property owners on preservation issues. The seven-member board meets 7 p.m., the third Monday of every month in the municipal building, 710 Washington Road.

digital camera who will update the "Now" pictures for
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

The Society's Web site is www.hsmtl.org. It contains old pictures, information about upcoming events and programs, some of our old newsletters, and other interesting facts. If you would like to add information about a picture, e-mail us at info@hsmtl.org.

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
Virginia Nicklas
Bertha Abbott Thomas

Benefactors: - Community Pioneers

William and Beatrice Finke
Ruth G. Foltz
William Lewis
Barbara and Robert Logan
Mr. & Mrs. James B. Lutz
Maggie McDermott & Bill Bates
Kent S. Miller

Jeanne & Scotti Mulert
Wilma Novogradac
Cynthia & Jerome Richey
George & Barbara Schoeppner
C. Bryson Schreiner
William J. & Kathleen Simpson
Mr. & Mrs. George C. Smith
Elaine Wertheim

**NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS FOR THE
YEAR 2009 WILL BE RECOGNIZED IN THE
SPRING 2009 NEWSLETTER.**

**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.*