

HISTORIC HARMONY NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF HISTORIC HARMONY INC.
218 MERCER STREET, P.O. BOX 524, HARMONY, PA 16037

Vol. 38 www.harmonymuseum.org 724-452-7341 hmuseum@zoominternet.net February 2010

DER KALENDER (Stewart Hall unless noted otherwise)

QUILTING: Every Tuesday, 10 a.m., Wagner House

JASON CHERRY BOOK SIGNING: Saturday, Jan. 30, 1-4 p.m., Museum Shop

FLEA MARKET: Saturday, Feb. 6, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

HARMONIEFEST: Saturday, Feb. 13, 6 p.m.

CHRISTMAS MARKET PLANNING: Monday, Feb. 15, 7 p.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: No February meeting scheduled

(Deadline for March HH News: Feb. 19)

The mission of Historic Harmony Inc., a nonprofit [501(c)(3)] organization founded in 1943, is to preserve and promote public knowledge of the Harmony area's history and heritage through its Harmony Museum collections and outreach activities, foster tourism in southwestern Butler County in cooperation with other organizations and agencies, and encourage preservation of historical resources in support of educational, quality of life, economic development and associated community objectives. Registration information is on file at the Pennsylvania Department of State (1-800-732-0999).

HARMONIEFEST: Wayne Cole of Darlington will describe the history of the Pittsburgh, Harmony, Butler and New Castle Railway during Harmoniefest in Stewart Hall on Saturday, Feb. 13. The illustrated presentation about the interurban that operated 1908-1931 will be based on his new book, "Ghost Rails VI - The Harmony Route."

Harmoniefest begins with a wine and cheese reception at 5:45 p.m., during which Cole's book will be available for purchase and signing by its author. Dinner will be served at 6:30, with three entree choices based on historical recipes: apple and maple Cornish hen, braised beef with rustic vegetable stew, or rustic vegetable stew alone as a vegetarian entree, all with pumpkin seed spaetzle and carrot puffs, red cabbage salad, chicken dumpling soup and a cherry dessert. Admission is \$25 per person, and the reservation deadline is Friday, Feb. 5. A reservation form is in this issue of HH News.

HH will recognize volunteers and conduct a brief annual meeting, during which members will vote on the board-recommended 2010 budget that appears in this newsletter. A commendation will be presented to Claire Schaming of Lancaster Township, whose remodeling of a garage on Aster Lane (directly behind HH's Mercer Street log house) improved its neighborhood.

"Ghost Rails VI" is a long-awaited history of early 20th century railroads and related development in Allegheny, Butler, Beaver and Lawrence counties, the first in-depth presentation of the Harmony Route story. Cole notes the railway's nickname is rooted in the village founded by the communal Harmony Society, and that the society's nearby mill site, Eidenau, "a place of Eden," housed a Harmony Route powerhouse and car barn. The book, which has been selling well at the Museum Shop, covers the line's builders, construction, divisions, and related operations, from coal mines to powerhouses, plus lines with which the Harmony Route connected.

FLEA MARKET: A flea market at Stewart Hall, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 6, benefits museum operations. Lunch will be available. Table rentals are \$12 each or \$20 for two. Vendors may set up during the afternoon of Friday, Feb. 6. Information and table reservations are available by phoning 724-452-5860.

CHERRY RESCHEDULED: Jason Cherry's book signing at the Museum Shop has been rescheduled for 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 30. "Sassafras in the Window" is an illustrated historical fiction book for young adults and children depicting an aging George Washington reminiscing during a Christmas at Mount Vernon about his 1753 mission to western Pennsylvania. He recalls twice avoiding death in December 1753 -- when a "French Indian" shot at him near Murdering Town and, two days later, in a tumble from a raft into the ice-choked Allegheny River. Virginia Lt. Gov. Dinwiddie had sent him to demand French withdrawal from the region; they refused, warned the British out of New France, and the French and Indian War was soon underway.

Cherry is a French and Indian War and American Revolution reenactor who often portrays the young Washington. His family's participation in reenactments led him to research how 18th century people spoke and interacted. His novels "Bloody Circles of War" and "Come Hither" were released in 2002 and 2009; "Sassafras" is his first picture book. Cherry plays professional indoor football, is a two-time all-pro place kicker, and finished his fifth season playing for the Fayetteville (N.C.) Guard. When not writing or kicking footballs, he works at the Butler YMCA's Fitness Center.

DANCING IN STEWART HALL: The monthly Hopping in Harmony "oldies" dances -- proceeds benefit HH and Zelenople Historical Society -- continue in Stewart Hall at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 6. Admission is \$7 per person; bring your own beverage and snacks. Future dates are March 6, April 3 and May 1.

OLD ECONOMY BENEFIT: The Sewickley China Palace restaurant holds a fundraiser dinner benefiting Friends of Old Economy Village, 1-4 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 7. Yes, you can support Old Economy and still be home in plenty of time to watch the Super Bowl. The menu is pan-Asian cuisine and American fare. Cost is \$25 per person, and HH has tickets available at the office and Museum Shop.

HARMONIEFEST RAFFLES: The winner of the Embroidered Rose Quilt, sewn by HH's Harmony Quilters, will be drawn at the end of Harmoniefest on Feb. 13. If you haven't already done so, return your raffle ticket stubs for this annual fundraiser to the museum office by Friday, Feb. 12. Checks should be made out to Historic Harmony. Remember, you can improve your winning odds by ordering more tickets from the office, and you'll have a last chance to get tickets at Harmoniefest.

A Museum Shop gift basket valued at more than \$700 also will be given away at Harmoniefest. Tickets are available at the shop and will offered at the dinner. Contents include decorative items, an HH cook book, restaurant gift cards/certificates, phone cards and a certificate for a complete estate plan.

ATTENTION, VOLUNTEERS: If you haven't already submitted them, be sure to get your 2009 volunteer hour logs to the HH office by Tuesday, Feb. 2. We tabulate totals so those folks who have been particularly generous with their time can be recognized at Harmoniefest. The organization's total is also reported at Harmoniefest, and is an important demonstration to the public and funders of how effectively our members and friends serve the community through their HH activities.

CHRISTMAS MARKET: Members and friends interested in helping to organize this year's Christmas Market are invited to the planning meeting in Stewart Hall, at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 15. The 2010 market will be held Nov. 13-14.

MUSEUM SHOP: The shop will be stocked with fresh new inventory starting the week of Feb. 8, so be sure to stop in early to take advantage of the best selection! There's sure to be something to please your valentine. Remember that books make great gifts too. Get your copy of the limited edition "Ghost Rails VI: Harmony Route" by Wayne Cole (our Harmoniefest speaker). We have signed and numbered copies in stock, so don't miss out. We also have, of course, "Harmony" and "Window on the Past" by HH's Shelby Miller Ruch. And our exclusive Butler County map print from John Melish's historic map of Pennsylvania would look great framed and hanging in your home. Visit us online at www.harmonymuseumshop.com or phone 724-452-5509.

NEW MEMBERS: Historic Harmony welcomes new members Sandy, Jason and Vinnie Ferrainola, Zelenople; and Marjorie Scheller, Zelenople.

DUES DUE: The new year is time once again for HH membership renewals. Benefits include free Harmony Museum admission, a 10 percent discount on most shop purchases, and this monthly newsletter. If your present membership category is Individual or Family, consider stepping up to Sustaining or Sophia Group. Please also consider memberships for family members, neighbors and others as gifts that have lasting value of benefit to the community.

THANK YOU to all who helped make HH's New Year's Eve activities a success (dinner service/setup/cleanup/outdoor food booth, museum hosts, bleigiessen, movie, shop, etc.) -- Katie Bauder, Nancy Brenneman, Diane Brenner, Audrey Budny, Linda Burgner, Jo Annette Cynkar, Susan & Bob Franz, Sean Franz, Judy Gerwig, Susie Giuliano, Mary Ann & Tom Grech, Shirley Kunz, Kathy Ligday, Frank & Kathy Luek, Kendra Luek, Jenna Luek, Marcy Luek, Phyllis Metz & David Ingram, Lisel & Al Moser, Cath Rape, Suzie Rape, John Ruch, Mark Sienkowicz, Scott Simmons, Nancy Stewart, Ruth Voegtly, Betty Wright.

To our next door neighbors at Bottlebrush Art Gallery and Shop, for including a "Harmony" book signing during their Dec. 18 holiday party. Shelby Ruch sold and signed copies of her book and displayed vintage community photos.

And to those who have been clearing museum property sidewalks this snowy winter.

DONATIONS: Historic Harmony is grateful for these contributions:

Monetary:

Giving Tree: Patrick Boylan, Zelenople.

HH membership for Ferrainola family, by Jenna Luek, Harmony.

In memory of Wilbur Rape, by John & Shelby Ruch, Zelenople.

In memory of Florence Boyer Winchell, by John Ruch.

Wagner House Paver Program: In honor of Hiram & Florence Ball, by John & Shelby Ruch.

By Hopping in Harmony Dance Committee; J. Michael Clawson, Evans City; Eleanor G. Wise, Butler.

Artifacts/Veith Library: Six books, "Historic Preservation, Curatorial Management of the Built World," "Keeping Time - The History and Theory of Preservation in America," "Keystone, A History of Pennsylvania," "Repair & Preservation Maintenance for Historic Older Homes," "Conservation of Historic Buildings," "Historic America - Buildings, Structures and Sites"; 1913 color post card of Eidenau Mill; photocopy, 1910 USGS topographic map of Harmony-Zelenople area; 1969 USGS Evans City Quadrangle topo map; photocopy, 1931 National Geographic Society map, Travels of G. Washington; late 1960s Penn State "Stream Map of Pennsylvania," by John & Shelby Ruch.

Four early 1800s deeds dealing with Harmony area John Boyer and Benjamin Moyer properties, by the Ed & Mary Bogacki Family, Zelenople.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

Feb. 12-14, Broadway Concert Series, Strand Theater, 119 N. Main St., Zelenople. Lerner and Loewe performed by John Shull, local singers, Strand Musicians. Charge. 724-742-0400, www.thestrandtheater.org.

Feb. 20, 10 a.m., Cherry Pie Hike, follow George Washington's footsteps with Butler Outdoor Club and Butler Chapter, North Country Trail Assn. Meet at Old Stone House, 2865 Wm. Flynn Hwy. (Pa. 8) south of Slippery Rock at intersection with Pa. 172-528, hike Venango Trail, Washington presentation with cherry pie and beverage at historic tavern. 724-283-0674 or 724-445-3315.

ZELIENOPLE SHOP N' SAVE register tapes are worth cash to HH. Bundle and bring to the museum.

BERNICE TO RETIRE: Bernice Lewis has been employed part-time by HH since 2002 as chief accountant, with responsibility for the organization's financial operations. Last fall she informed the board of her desire to retire. Shop Manager Jo Annette Cynkar has agreed to assume these responsibilities as an additional assignment. Bernice and Jo Annette have begun the transition. The duties of the vacated chief accountant post will be incorporated into the HH shop manager job description.

Bernice has been deeply involved with HH for more than four decades, as treasurer, corresponding secretary and chief accountant, and for most of those years entirely as a volunteer. In 2002 the board agreed that growth and increased complexity required a paid part-time staff assignment. During the succeeding eight years Bernice has also always been an involved volunteer, giving generously of her personal time. Bernice's dedication to HH and her organizational duties, as volunteer and employee, has always been reliable and responsive to the highest degree. We're appreciative of her extraordinary past service, and that she will continue to be an active volunteer. -- JSR

FROM THE PRESIDENT: Get your reservation in early for Harmoniefest to avoid disappointment. You'll enjoy an excellent meal, learn about the Harmony Route from author Wayne Cole, and help honor HH volunteers and approve the \$99,900 balanced budget recommended by the board for 2010.

HH's late '09 events went very well. The Nov. 27 hike/museum tour/displays commemorating Washington's 1753 mission attracted about 70 enthusiastic participants and obtained good media coverage. About 160 diners enjoyed the excellent Candlelight Christmas dinner on Dec. 13. And Harmony's third annual Silvester New Year's Eve celebration was the biggest yet, with a record number of 5-K runners, some 180 diners served at the museum buffet, many museum visitors for tours, bleigessen and funny movie, and a jammed diamond to welcome 2010 on German time watching a fireworks show.

Major positive income variances from budget for 2009 were dues from increased membership, contributions (including a bequest from the late Mary Hulton Phillips and an unexpected and generous late-year gift that alone matched what was optimistically budgeted a year ago), proceeds from the Boyer House sale, and proceeds of a very successful Christmas Market and other events.

For expenses, major negative variances were costs of replacing the office photocopier; largely unexpected museum, Stewart Hall and Wagner House maintenance, mainly roofs; kitchen freezer compressor replacement; advertising, entertainment and other Christmas Market expenses, and publication of two books.

Especially given the economic environment, we had a very good year. Exceeding our expense budget by only \$9,000 despite some unexpectedly large maintenance costs was quite an achievement to which many of you contributed. With economic uncertainties likely to remain throughout the year, the board felt it prudent to recommend a balanced budget much like the one under which we operated in 2009.

In recent weeks we have insulated the attic of the Main Street wing of the museum building, which will benefit the artifact storage area as well as utility expenses. Major improvements are also underway at the Mercer St. log house, including new stairs and completion of the second floor to increase its usefulness. The board has also approved replacement of Stewart Hall door locks and repairs of the Ziegler Log House. A weakened section of old but not original plaster fell from the ceiling of an artifact storage room a few weeks ago. The ceiling will be repaired in coming weeks.

At this writing, the future of Old Economy Village remains uncertain, and I can only hope that by Harmoniefest we will have received some positive news regarding our "sister" site. Meanwhile, the board of Friends of Old Economy Village, the site's volunteer support organization, is working toward resumption of public and student tours and maintain important events, but staffing and financial challenges are great and, at this writing, the outlook for support from the state and its museum commission uncertain at best. We continue to collect petitions in support of OEV. FOEV will appreciate your participation in the Feb. 7 benefit dinner to be held by Sewickley's China Palace restaurant. -- John Ruch

RECYCLING FUND-RAISER: Aluminum cans may be left at Stewart Hall at any time.