

# HISTORIC HARMONY NEWS

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

Vol. 37    www.harmonymuseum.org    724-452-7341    hmuseum@zoominternet.net    July 2009

## **DER KALENDER (Stewart Hall unless noted otherwise)**

**QUILTING**: Every Tuesday, 10 a.m.-noon, Wagner House

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**: NO MEETING IN JULY

**SPINNING-WEAVING**: Sunday, June 28, 2 p.m., Passavant Retirement Community

**MENNONITE CEMETERY TRIMMING**: Tuesday, July 7, 7 p.m. (July 8 rain date)

**CHRISTMAS MARKET PLANNING**: Monday, July 13, 7 p.m.

**HORSE TRADING DAYS**: Thursday-Saturday, July 16-18, Zelienople

**HISTORY CAMP**: Monday-Friday, July 27-31, 9 a.m.-noon.

**ANTIQUE GUN SHOW**: Saturday, Aug. 8, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

**GERMAN DINNER**: Saturday, Aug. 22, 4:30 & 6:30 p.m. seatings (paid reservations required)

(Deadline for August HH News: July 24)

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).

**HISTORY CAMP** -- HH's annual Harmony Museum summer History Camp will be held Monday through Friday, July 27-31, 9 a.m.-noon daily. The program is designed for youngsters in third through fifth grades and includes museum, historic district and other tours, Harmony history, German culture, nature study and pioneer crafts. Preregistration with the museum office is required: 724-452-7341. The fee is \$30, with an additional \$5 one-year Youth membership fee for youngsters who are not already HH members

**ANTIQUE GUN SHOW**: HH's annual Stewart Hall antique firearms show and sale is set for 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 8, with an emphasis on 18th and 19th century guns and accoutrements made in the region. On exhibit will be largely pre-1898 non-cartridge firearms, many of them rare and historic. A display of privately owned percussion hunting and target rifles by 19th century Harmony gunsmith Charles Flowers will include an odd example that recently came home from Georgia via Tennessee.

**GERMAN BUFFET**: HH serves up another German buffet dinner in Stewart Hall on Saturday, Aug. 22. Look for the menu in next month's newsletter. Cost is \$15 per person, and all proceeds benefit the museum. **Prepaid reservations are required** for either of two sittings, at 4:30 and 6:30 p.m.; contact the office, 724-452-7341 for reservations. Remember, we are unable to accommodate walk-ins.

**CHRISTMAS MARKET PLANNING** continues on Monday, July 13, at 7 p.m. in Stewart Hall.

**SPINNING-WEAVING DEMONSTRATION**, 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 28, at 2400 Burgess Drive, Belfour Apt. 201, Passavant Retirement Center, Zelienople. Refreshments will be served. Phone the office if you plan to attend: 724-452-7341.

HBA SUMMER EVENTS: The Harmony Business Association invites the public to enjoy its 14th annual program of summer music events, with three Thursday evening band concerts in the diamond at the center of Harmony's National Historic Landmark District and three Saturday acoustic performances to accompany pizza parties in the Harmony Museum garden on Mercer Street. The diamond will be closed to traffic for free concerts by Eugene and the Nightcrawlers on July 2, Zelenople-Harmony Community Jazz Band on Aug. 6 and The Right Rhythm Band on Sept. 3, each beginning at 7:30 p.m. HBA reminds concertgoers to bring lawn chairs and that refreshments will be available. Unfortunately, a late demand for excess insurance couldn't be met within contractual deadlines, forcing cancellation of planned July 2 fireworks.

Between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. on June 27, July 25 and Aug. 29, Harmony's McPharlin Guitar and Violin Studio will provide musical interludes while HH offers old fashioned artisan European pizza from its reconstructed 19th century wood-fired beehive oven in the garden behind the Wagner House museum annex. Beverages will also be available.

Clarification: Summer concert series dates on 2009 calendars sold by HH were chosen before the Harmony Inn withdrew from participation in the HBA series and scheduled its own concerts for those dates. As a result, HBA had to revise its program to other dates.

MUSEUM SHOP: Shelby Miller Ruch's book *Harmony* is selling well and available at the shop for the HH member discount price of \$20.98 (\$24.98 by mail inc. S&H). Just added to the shelves are nice German language children's books. A very special offering is a rare copy of the late Karl Arndt's *Harmony on the Connoquenessing*, a documentary history of the Harmony Society's origins and Harmony's first decade, in good condition with Weingartner map in cover pocket. The first \$200 takes it; sorry, no discount on this item. Also, spruce up your house and yard in time for the family's holiday celebrations with our great garden iron and gift ware. And now you can follow HH on Twitter! Join at <http://twitter.com/historicharmony> so you don't miss twitters on events, sales and more. Phone 724-452-5509, shop anytime at [www.harmonymuseumshop.com](http://www.harmonymuseumshop.com).

MANY TO THANK: To those who made the May 12 open house and Shelby Ruch's *Harmony* book signing a success -- Shelby, Linda Burgner, Bob Franz, Carrie Franz, Susan Franz, Kathy Luek, Phyllis Metz, Lisel Moser, John Ruch, Cath Rape, Phyllis Metz, Ruth Voegtly.

To Pat Knoechel for conducting another Quilt in a Day program May 26 to benefit HH, which attracted an audience of 107, the HH quilters for organizing the annual event, and those responsible for arrangements and door prizes (won by Cindy Princeler and Beverly Martincek) -- Randy & Sharon Anno, Eileen Bernd, Donna Hauschulz, Kathy Luek, Leona Lutz, Sid & Joan Scheiver, Kathleen Steeb, Barbara Vickerman, Ruth Werner, Bob & Eleanor Wise, Betty Young.

To the many HH members, vendors, donors and other folks whose hard work produced a great Herb & Garden Fair on June 13 -- Chair Gwen Lutz & Kevin, Always Summer Herbs, Mary Barnes, Diane Brenner, Becky Burdick, Linda Burgner, Ann Carothers, Amy Core, Jo Annette Cynkar, Ted & Jan Eck, Susan & Bob Franz, Susie Giuliano, Mary Ann Grech, Joan Lapic, Kathy Ligday, Frank & Kathy Luek, Mazur's Greenhouse & Farm, Phyllis Metz, Lorene Moore, Lisel Moser, Barbara Pabst, Cath Rape, Suzie Rape, John & Shelby Ruch, Joan Schiever, Sadie Scheiver, Seth Scheiver, Nancy Stewart, Carol & Marc Stoecklein, Barbara Vickerman.

To everyone who welcomed the June 20 Ephrata Cloister group and prepared and served a German dinner to them and HH members -- Diane Brenner, Carrie Franz, Isaac Franz, Susan & Bob Franz, Sean Franz, Susie Giuliano, Mary Ann Landis & Jack Holbrook, Bernice Lewis, Frank & Kathy Luek, Lisel Moser, Cath Rape, Suzie Rape, John & Shelby Ruch, Nancy Stewart, Joan & Dave Szakelyhidi.

To Mary Ann Grech, who has volunteered to tally register tapes for the ongoing Shop N' Save fundraising program.

To Zelenople Area Public Library and Cranberry Barnes & Noble staffs for hosting *Harmony* book signings on June 10 and 19, respectively. Shelby Ruch displayed vintage local pictures and signed copies of her book for both events, and Jo Annette Cynkar handled sales at the library. Shelby also signed books at the museum shop booth during the Herb & Garden Fair.

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

DONATIONS: Historic Harmony is grateful for these contributions:

**Monetary:**

In memory of Nancy Van Why, by Charles & Barbara Pabst, Evans City.

In memory of Frederick W. Nickle, by Kathy & Fritz Ligday, Harmony.

In memory of James W. Kraus, by Kathy & Fritz Ligday.

For Mennonite cemetery maintenance fund, by Charles Jack Shontz, Delmont.

For purchase of pop-up tent, by John & Shelby Ruch, Harmony.

By Harmony Business Association and St. Peters Reformed Church, Zeligople.

**Artifacts:**

1847 Adam Hoerr coverlet half, by Willetta Rissel, Swanton, Md.

May 30, 1887, Decoration Day news clipping, by Margaret A. Cumberland, Zeligople.

Tools and farm implements, by Joe Columbus, Evans City.

GOOD-BYE POST OFFICE: The U.S. Postal Service announced the "temporary" closing of Harmony's Post Office in the Borough Building when its lease expires June 30, citing safety issues related to inadequate working space. Harmony box holders (such as HH) will now get their mail at the Zeligople Post Office, from which Harmony rural delivery carriers will operate. At this writing it is unclear whether the borough will install "cluster boxes" in Harmony. A USPS official told a public meeting he would have preferred to service Harmony boxes in the existing facility, but the borough couldn't accommodate that.

The official said a funding freeze blocked a proposed joint Harmony-Zeligople facility. Neither USPS nor the borough have explained why negotiations did not occur during the past three years to resolve the long-recognized Post Office space problems. Harmony has had a post office since 1852; previously, one that operated in Harmony 1813-1833 also served Zeligople.

The closing is perhaps Harmony's most severe business loss. About a dozen businesses have closed and only two or three opened since late 2006/early 2007, with varied factors cited for the closings. HH has urged Council reviving its Business Development Committee and include business representatives whose experiences would contribute to revitalizing local economic development. -- John Ruch

ATTENTION LOCAL MEMBERS: If you choose to change your mailing address because of the Harmony Post Office closing, notify HH immediately. If incorrect addresses are detected in bulk mail, such as the HH newsletter, the Postal Service may return the entire mailing at considerable expense to HH.

NOTE FROM RAYMOND GIBB While I was doing research for the book, *Harmony*, several people shared fond memories of former Harmony School teacher and principal Raymond Gibb, who now lives in York, Pa. He wrote to me after receiving a copy in May, saying the book is "a beautiful rendition of historical Harmony." I'm sure his additional comments will interest many HH members: "I was principal and taught grades seven and eight for six years 1938-1944. In the summer of 1949 the members of the Harmony School Board came to my home and coaxed me to return to the same position. I served another two years, 1949-1951. In 1956 I became supervising principal of the Connoquenessing Valley Joint School System which included Harmony, Zeligople and Lancaster Township. I was supervising principal of the Seneca system the first year of its existence. I was then invited to become assistant superintendent of the New Castle schools." -- Shelby Ruch

MENNONITE DESCENDANTS -- and all HH members -- are asked to contribute to a new fund to assure ongoing maintenance of the Mennonite cemetery, such as grass trimming and marker repair. The fund was suggested by Charles Jack Schontz, Delmont, a descendant of 19th century Harmony Mennonites who kicked off this campaign with a significant gift. Please be generous; use the form in this HH News.

If you have a string trimmer, you can also help us make immediate improvements by bringing it to the cemetery at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 7 (rain date July 8). Lots of trimmers would finish a lot quicker. -- JR

"THE FIRST SHOT", a painting by Deac Mong depicting a "French Indian" firing the first shot of the French and Indian War at Virginia Maj. George Washington in a clearing east of the Delaware Indian Murdering Town (Harmony) on Dec. 27, 1753, arrived at the Harmony Museum in late June. This is the first showing open to the general public in Butler County for the painting commissioned by Martin J. O'Brien, Washington 1753 Commemoration Chair, retired Butler County Common Pleas judge and HH member. It was unveiled at the Heinz History Center in April 2008 and displayed previously at Ft. Necessity east of Uniontown, Woodlands at St. Barnabas in Valencia, and most recently the Ft. Pitt Museum, Point State Park, Pittsburgh.

ACQUISITION for HH's Veith Library: The Harmony Society - Christiana Knoedler's *A 19th Century American Utopia*, published 1954, annotated by its late former owner, Vera Duss Houston, daughter of John and Susanna Duss, the commune's last leader and last trustee.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for HH's Horse Trading Days booth in Zelienople on Friday and Saturday, July 17-18. We'll sell *Harmony* and other items, and promote the museum and HH membership.

MORE NEWS: The concrete dam on the Connoquenessing Creek at Harmony Junction, the site called Eidenau by the Harmony Society when it built a large grist, fulling and oil mill there in 1811, was breached in early June in preparation for removal in July. The lower pool exposed adjacent substantial remains of the Harmonist mill's wood and stone dam. The concrete dam was built in 1905 by the Pittsburgh, Harmony, Butler & New Castle Railroad to provide cooling water for its generating plant there. The Harmonist mill dam apparently should have been removed at that time, but obviously wasn't. HH understands the Harmonist dam and what's left of its mill race will be removed before the newer dam is demolished, and we anticipate recovering some artifacts for the museum. The work is being done by Wild Waterways to improve the stream's ecology and recreational boating; a launch area for canoes and kayaks is planned there.

Meanwhile, Harmony's new canoe and kayak launch area was opened officially in mid-May. It was constructed by the state at the west end of Jackson Street on flood plain property acquired by the borough after the 2004 flood.

Historic Bridges of Butler County, a four-color illustrated brochure, is available at the museum. It was created by the Federal Highway Administration, PennDOT and Butler County as mitigation required by the National Historic Preservation Act as a result of the planned replacement of the Senn Bridge on Evergreen Mill Road, Jackson Township. The 1929 Warren pony truss bridge, which carries the road over the Little Connoquenessing, is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The award-winning Mercer Road bridge finished in 2001 and Harmony's Historic District receive prominent attention.

Harmony Borough Council reorganized on June 16. Vice President Michelle Barto succeeded Jeff Smith as council president, and John Rice was named vice president. Tim Sapienza was chosen to fill the vacancy created by Smith's resignation.

#### OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

Through Dec. 31, *Harmony in Wood: the Furniture of the Harmony Society*, Old Economy Village Visitors Center, 270 Sixteenth St., Ambridge. Charge. 724-266-4500 Ext. 101 or [www.oldeconomyvillage.org](http://www.oldeconomyvillage.org)

July 26, 1-4 p.m., woodcarving by Bill Vogel & cabin tours, Cooper Cabin, 199 Cooper Rd., Cabot. Butler County Historical Society. Charge. 724-283-8116 or [bchissoc@zoominternet.net](mailto:bchissoc@zoominternet.net)

July 19, 1:15 p.m., walking/trolley past-present-future tour of Main St./Downtown Butler, begins at Penn Theater, 149 N. Main St. Charge, reservations required. Butler Downtown, 724-256-5769 or [becky@butlerdowntown.org](mailto:becky@butlerdowntown.org).

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

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - HISTORIC HARMONY INC.**  
Box 524, Harmony, PA 16037

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

MUNICIPALITY \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CHILDREN \_\_\_\_\_

WANT TO VOLUNTEER WITH HH BY \_\_\_\_\_

- \$5 Youth                       \$13 International Youth\*                       \$100 Sustaining
- \$20 Individual                 \$30 International Individual\*                       \$500/more Sophia Group
- \$30 Family                       \$40 International Family\*

\* residing outside United States

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ NEW MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_ GIFT MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

Record membership as gift from: \_\_\_\_\_

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**MENNONITE CEMETERY MAINTENANCE FUND**  
**HISTORIC HARMONY**  
Box 524, Harmony, PA 16037

[Make checks payable to Historic Harmony]

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for Historic Harmony's Mennonite Cemetery maintenance fund.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

RECORD GIFT AS \_\_\_\_\_ IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_ IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

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