

LIMERICK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

545 West Ridge Pike
Limerick, PA. 19468
Phone: (610) 495-5229

Summer 2009

The **Limerick Township Historical Society** meets the second Monday of each month, 7:30 p.m.
In the Limerick Township Municipal Building, 646 West Ridge Pike, Limerick, PA.

OFFICERS

President.....Dorothy Jones (610) 495-6102
Vice President.....Pat Miller (610) 287-8189
Secretary.....Elaine Fillman (610) 287-9273
Treasurer.....Bill Walker (610) 287-2058

Historian.....Virginia Collins (610) 326-3467
Chairman of the Board...Bill Miller (610) 287-8189

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The message from the President is the memorial to Chester Kanach written by Dot Jones and Elaine Fillman.

If you need to come to the Historical Society on a Wednesday, please call ahead of time, due to construction of a wall on the side of the driveway and a new porch being redone.

As construction vehicles will be on the premises, you may not have a place to park. This will not be a problem for anyone visiting the Hunsberger House on Sundays.

Stick flags and 3 x 5 nylon flags are available for the upcoming holidays.

Don't forget to pick up your index for the "Journey Through Time" history book. This is a must for anyone who owns the history book. The cost is \$3.00 and it's green color blends in nicely with the history book.

*Dorothy Jones
President*

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 8, 2009: ANNUAL FIELD TRIP. This year our annual field trip will be to the Sunnybrook Ballroom in Sanatoga. Tom Sefhakis was instrumental in forming a foundation dedicated to restoring this famous landmark. It is once again being used for dances and many other special events. We will meet at the Township Building at 6:30 p.m. and car pool to Sunnybrook. If you know the way, you may meet us there. Tom will give us a tour and an update of future plans for Sunnybrook Ballroom. We will start our tour at 7:00 p.m.

JULY 13, 2009: ANNUAL PICNIC. We will have our annual picnic at the Township Pavilion on Ridge Pike. Members will bring their place settings, a salad or desert. The main dish and beverage will be provided. We plan to eat at 6:00 pm. and after the meal will go into the meeting room for an evening of accordion music provided by John Rutkowski. Don't eat too much, as we may be asked to "sing along".

AUGUST 10, 2009: "WATER 101" Monday, 7:30 p.m. in the Limerick Township Municipal Building, Crystal Gilchrist of the Perkiomen

Valley Watershed Conservancy will be presenting a program she calls "Water 101". This will address concerns about the impact of modern life on our water supplies.

SEPTEMBER 14, 2009: This will be our annual school reunion. The schools covered this year are Fairview, Medinger and Steinmetz. These three schools in the Neiffer area were one room schools and all three have been turned into private homes. We will contact former students and have them tell about school days. If you know anyone who attended any of these schools, give them the information or give their name to Doris Callow who will send them a flyer.

Meetings are held the second Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Limerick Township Municipal Building. **However for the June and July meetings, the times and details have changed. Please keep your newsletter handy to check these changes.** In case of bad weather, the meeting will be cancelled. If in doubt about the meeting, call Dot Jones at (610) 495-6102 or Doris Callow at (610) 948-8306.

ACTIVITIES AT THE HUNSBERGER HOUSE



The house is now open on Sunday's from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Visitors have been coming for tours and family research information. At least two society members are on hand.

The start of the stone wall at the driveway will begin June 1st....please call Dot Jones (610-495-6102) at her home to schedule any visits made by members on Wednesday.

MUSEUM DONATIONS

Bill Wells donated a booklet of the 1976 celebration of Lower Milford Township and an Ice house drawing and information on an ice house In Pottstown as well as Ziegler Family information. Michael Ziegler lived in Perkiomen Township in the 1700's.

Sheila Holtz recently donated a plate with a picture of Limerick Elementary School as it looked in 1957. The school has been added to several times over the years, and looks quite different today.

David Ziegler donated two invoices showing material purchased in 1951 to be used by Kinsey Distilling in Linfield. These are original invoices and will be added to the numerous items David has donated to our museum.

John and Anne Epps Family donated a very nice pump organ which has been in the Epps family since 1945 but is probably much older. This has been placed in an upstairs hallway at the Hunsberger House along with other articles found in early chapels in the area. Elaine Fillman has played this organ and it sounds great.

Rev. Jim Roth donated a book "building a house for religious worship in Limerick" 1808-2008. This booklet was prepared for the St. James United Church of Christ 200th anniversary in October 2008. Pastor Roth also gave the program at our May meeting and showed many pictures of early church history.

Robert W. Evans III of Pottstown brought a book to the Hunsberger House. It is a copy of a History of the Family of William Evans of Limerick, Pennsylvania written by Frank Brooke

Evans III. We appreciate having this book as it was not widely distributed.

Virginia Hookway donated a pair of pruners to help keep flowers and plants trimmed. Virginia has done a lot of work in our flower beds and planter boxes. She is also doing a good job of setting up displays in the museum.

Kathleen Carpenter (Dot's sister) from New York City recently donated a white wicker doll high chair and a white doll cradle. These look nice with our doll and doll related items in the quilt room.

Alice Lang has added more plants to our Wildlife Habitat garden at the corner of the Hunsberger House. All the plantings are doing well and are a nice addition to the pretty garden which was planted a number of years ago.

Betty Wlazalek of Linfield brought to the house a sturdy wooden arm chair which was used in a Limerick barber shop. We think this may have come from the barber shop of B.F. Schlicter who was a jeweler and barber. This information comes from our history book "Limerick Township: A Journey Through Time 1699 to 1987".

SYMPATHY

Society member Vivian L. Kurtz died in her Sanatoga home in March 2009. Our sympathy goes to her two sons and a daughter. We remember when Vivian and Jane Centrella did a program displaying Christmas decorations they had made using natural materials. Vivian had some very wonderful decorations she had made. Her name will be added to our memorial plaque at the Hunsberger House.

Our sympathy goes to Arlen and Scott Major on the passing of Gloria Rafalski, Arlene's mother.

Society member Harry Hepburn died in April in Maine where he had been living for a number of years. He and his late wife Ruth were active in the Society for many years. Harry moved to Maine to live with his son.

Society member Lynne (McNelly) Witte died in April 2009. Lynne, wife of Martin Witte, was a member of St. James Lutheran Church. She also taught third grade at Limerick Elementary School from 1964 to 1969. Lynne visited the Hunsberger House a number of times to use our library and reference material to do research on family history. Lynne was primary caregiver for her son, Michael. Her name will be added to our memorial plaque.

Society member Chester J. Kanach (see Memorial article).

GIFTS

Wooden flag poles\$5.00
Flag holders.....\$2.00
Flags can also be ordered to whatever size you need.

Christmas ornaments of Limerick Township Historical Sites\$9.00.

(If you broke any of yours we may have a replacement).

MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE FOR 2009
.....\$10.00

In Remembrance...

Chester Kanach

October 8, 1919 – May 1, 2009



On a cloudy day on May 5, 2009, ten members of the Historical Society stood by a flag-draped casket. As a gun salute echoed through the hills and taps was played, we watched the flag being folded and handed to John. We placed our flowers on the casket and walked away in silence. This was our good-bye to Chet.

But, what you may not know is how instrumental Chet was in making the Hunsberger House what it is today. He spent many hours painting, sawing, cutting, nailing, etc. He made chair rails from a small piece that was left in a room. He put two of Herstein's benches and lights together and made one good one of each. He also made the large quilt rack upstairs. There is not a room in the house that does not have Chester's name in it.

We also received many donations—monetary and otherwise (sewing machine, radio, pictures, etc.) Chet and his wife, Eleanor, were instrumental in creating the pictures on the Christmas ornaments of the Bernhart's Dam Lighthouse, the Hunsberger House and the Fruitville Hotel. Eleanor spent many hours keeping Chester company while he worked. Following Eleanor's death, the Summer Kitchen was dedicated to her through contributions from the Iowa and Kanach families.

Chester, along with Raymond Sosa, was instrumental in establishing the World War II Memorial that is located at the Township Building. These men spent many hours researching and compiling the list of veterans' names to go on the memorial.

It was Chester who was influential in getting money to build the Cider Press House donated by Francis Smith, widow of Lester Smith, former owner of Smitty's Garage. The cider press, built in the 1800's, was owned and operated by Jacob Medinger, potterer from Neiffer. It was moved to the Jacob Bowman farm where it was also used in pressing apples for cider. In 1991, the press was donated to the Society where it was placed in a structure built by Chester's grandson, Brian.

There is so much more that Chet has given to the Society. We all miss him, but Chet is here with us everyday in every way at the Hunsberger House.

Dorothy L. Jones, President, and
Friends and Members of the Board