

Tidings from the Slate Belt Heritage Center

Carol Love, Editor

Early Fall Tidings

The Slate Belt Heritage Center will remain open on Saturdays and Sundays until the last weekend of October. Our hours of operation are from noon to 3pm both Saturday and Sunday.

The center operates year-round with private tours and monthly speakers, usually on the second Thursday of each month at 7pm. Many civic groups, school groups, class reunions, scouts, and others have used the center's resources free of charge. Additional parking for events at the center is available in the Special Events Theatre parking lot next door.



Yearly memberships are available. The membership form included on the last page of this newsletter has fee information and can be used for renewal, for new membership or for a friend.

The SBHC Officers, Directors and members welcome new members and volunteers from all of our surrounding communities.

If you are interested in becoming part of the Board of Directors, contact Lou Bray 610-588-3735 or Chip Turtzo 610-588-0781.

You can find the Slate Belt Heritage Center on the Internet at: www.slatebeltheritage.org

Check out Brian Carroll's website for many of the center's programs on-line. www.slatebelthistory.org

Current Officers & Board Members

President	Louis Bray
Vice President	Melissa Hough
Secretary	Cathy Heard
Treasurer	Ernie Dietz

Board Members

Jay Albert, Carolyn Bray, Karen Brewer, Brian Carroll, William John "Pete" Heard, Angela Herrlinger, Donald Jones, Sherwood Jones, Carol Love, Janet Miller, Diana Neidlinger, Linda Owens, Kelly Parsons, John Reinhart, Nick Rosato, Russell Stout, Edmund "Chip" Turtzo

Change in Date and Time for Speaker Monthly Program

From December through March our monthly speaker program will be held on the second Sunday of the month at 2:00PM. We hope to make it easier for people to attend during the winter months.

PHC Provides Another Speaker



On Sunday, October 11, 2009 Robert Langran, a professor of political science at Villanova University will present “The Supreme Court in Times of Crisis.” He will speak about the U. S. Supreme Court and the role the court had during the Great Depression, the current war against terrorism and previous wars in our history.

Professor Langran’s presentation is free to the Slate Belt Heritage Center and paid for by a Grant Program for the Pennsylvania Humanities Council.



Holiday Tour Scheduled---Mansions on the Delaware

Lou Bray has arranged for a Christmas tour of 3 mansions located on the Delaware River in Pennsylvania on December 9, 2009. The bus will leave the parking lot of Mr. Z’s at 7:45am and head to the Andalusia Mansion where guests will tour the beautiful grounds and enjoy the Greek architecture of this mansion.

The bus will travel to the Glen Foerd Mansion where visitors will tour the mansion and grounds for an hour and then enjoy a delicious lunch served in one of the mansion’s dining rooms.

The last mansion to tour will be William Penn’s 17th Century country estate and gardens, Pennsbury Mansion, pictured on the right. Guests will receive a 10% off coupon to be used at Pennsbury Manor Gift Shop on any purchase over \$5.



Finally, the bus will travel to the Old Country Buffet in Norristown for dinner. The cost of the trip is only \$89.00 (does NOT include cost of dinner). For additional information, contact Lou Bray @ 610-588-3745.



Andalusia Mansion



Glen Foerd Mansion

Penkernekek Holiday Tea



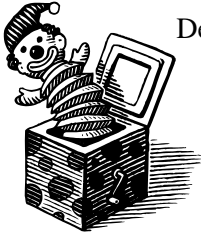
Penkernekek, the sponsoring association for the SBHC’s Cornish Room, will be hosting a Holiday Afternoon Tea at Grace United Methodist Church in Pen Argyl on Saturday, November 14th at 2pm. The tea consists of three courses and will include finger sandwiches, scones with clotted cream and jam, and pastries including saffron nubbies. The price is \$14 per person and reservations are required. There is a limit of 100 guests. Harpist Jo Lynn Dentith will provide entertainment during the tea. For reservations contact Lou Bray @ 610-588-3745 or Harry Bray @ 610-863-9537.

Upcoming Speakers, Exhibits, and Events

September 1 to November 22-- *Turkey Day in the Slate Belt*—Display of Bangor and Pen Argyl football memorabilia

Sunday, October 11 @ 2PM-- Robert Langran will present *The Supreme Court in Times of Crisis*

Thursday, November 12 @ 7PM--Harry Bray and Paul Farnan will present *Turkey Days of the 70's and 80's*



December 7 to March 14-- *Toys of Christmas Past*--Display of antique toys that require no batteries or TV



Sunday, December 12 @ 2:00PM--Marlin Evans, the owner of the antique toys will give a presentation about his collection.



Melissa Hough, Judy Piper, Lou Bray and Ernie Dietz (in the green shirt pictured below) worked at the Heritage Center booth the Blue Valley Farm Show.



During Slate Belt Heritage Days, Lou Bray presented the Angelo Polo Scholarship to Daniel Hilton, a graduate from Bangor High School. The award was presented at the Slate Belt Heritage Center on Saturday, July 18.



Picture courtesy of Ernie Dietz

Cornerstone Returned to Historic Bangor Church

By Brian Carroll



Sixty-three years ago, the dwindling congregation of Shiloh Welsh Methodist Episcopal Church at 25 S. Fourth Street in Bangor joined the First Methodist Church (FUMC) on N. Third Street. Accompanying the parishioners to their new place of worship were the slate pulpit, deacons' chairs, and the original building's cornerstone. The solid chunk of marble was simply inscribed, "Welsh M.E. Church, 1890."

Although the chairs and the pulpit were displayed in FUMC's Shiloh Chapel, the cornerstone eventually found its way into a closet.

By 1948, the former Shiloh Welsh Methodist Episcopal Church was rechristened the Jewish community Center. Bangor's Jewish congregation was the smallest organized in America. The building remained a synagogue until 1965 when it was donated to the borough and became the Bangor Cultural Center.

In 1985 the Cultural Center ceased operations. The building had one more religious incarnation, as the New Life Baptist Church, before being sold as a residence in 2001. Anna Maria Caldara and I were the first people to call 27 S. Fourth Street "home."

Two vintage bronze plaques, denoting the structure's Jewish history and its borough ownership, are still affixed to the bricks. While an old photograph showed the cornerstone in place, its whereabouts were a mystery. "We didn't know about the Methodist custom of bringing the cornerstone to the next church," said Anna Maria.



Pictures courtesy of Donald Jones



But recently, after speaking with FUMC parishioner Ken Kahl, I realized that the artifact was just one street away. Expressing my desire to have it reinstalled in the building, negotiations ensued. A Cornerstone committee was formed, and serious deliberation regarding the fate of the marble lock began.

A few weeks ago, permission to transfer the stone was granted to Anna Maria and me. Augustine Sebastianelli mortared it into its original niche on Friday, August 21, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

"We are so grateful to FUMC for the return of the cornerstone," stated Anna Maria. Without it, no one looking at the building knew what kind of church it had been or when it was erected. Now both its Welsh and Jewish heritages will be represented."

Did You Know?

Roseto will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of its incorporation. Karen Brewer is on the lookout for any books or memorabilia for the Italian Room. If you have anything that you would like to donate, please contact Karen @ 610-588-8615.

***Receive the Tidings newsletter via e-mail in living color
Send your current e-mail address to:
carol.love@verizon.net***

Did You Know? (cont'd)

We are looking for people of all ages to help us collect the **oral history of the Slate Belt**. Many of us delight in the forgotten details of local history and hearing the stories that our grandparents tell of what it was like to live when they were young. Whatever your memories or experiences, we would like to hear about them.

If you would like to see the personal history of the Slate Belt collected and retold by the people who lived it, why not consider joining the Oral History Team of the Slate Belt Heritage Center? You could also conduct interviews with your neighbors and family.

There are many areas in which help is needed. You could collect or transcribe these stories or create a multimedia presentation of collected yester-year's tales.

If you are interested, please contact Marc Blau at blau@epix.net or Walter Cole at wrcole3@gmail.com.

An **Endowment Fund** has been established at the SBHC for those interested in making contributions to the center. All money contributions will be invested and the interest will be placed in the general fund for operating expenses. We have a 501C3 with the IRS so that under the present tax code you will receive a tax write off. It is also something you may keep in mind and include in your estate planning.

The **Endowment Fund** was established thanks to the estate planning of Lucy Anderson Schalamb. Lucy was a lifelong resident of Bangor and an ardent supporter of the community.

We Welcome the Class of 2009

Four new members have been added to the Slate Belt Heritage Center Executive Board.

Angela Herrlinger graduated from the Bangor Area High School and East Stroudsburg University where she earned a Master of Public Health in Community Education. She went on to do research and teach in the Health Department.

Angela is experiencing the joy of raising a 16 year old male who she claims is a clone of Jeremy from the cartoon *Zits*.

Her passions are horticulture and writing and she is currently on the SBHC Ethnic Book Committee and will author a book on the heritage of the Italians in the Slate Belt Area. The book is due to be published in the spring of 2012.

Angela spent some time in China at the end of July where she injured her knee. She has had surgery and is now in rehab.

Diana Neidlinger has been married to Walt and they celebrated their 40th anniversary on September 7th. They have 3 sons: Darryl, Dan, and Corey.

She had worked for 4 different local State Farm Agents over a period of 25 years but she is now unemployed.

Diana is currently enrolled in Northampton Community college and taking some medical courses. She is still looking for a job locally while taking classes.

She enjoys bowling with her family, and making crocheted blankets which they take to a wonderful camp in central Pennsylvania called Camp Victory. It's a weekly camp that operates from April to October for children with a myriad of illnesses. Each week the attending kids select a blanket for security through the week and then take it home with them at the end of their week. Diana is always looking for donation of yarn to help with this project.

Kelly Gaffney Parsons was born and raised in Pen Argyl. She is a licensed funeral director and with her husband and family operates the Gaffney Funeral Homes in Pen Argyl, Bangor, and Johnsonville.

Kelly is currently serving as the President of the Bangor Exchange Club for the second time within 10 years. She also served as the Secretary of the Upper Mt. Bethel Twp. Recreation Board.

Kelly resides in Johnsonville with her husband Curtis and children Grace and Evan. She collects paintings done by artists of the Slate Belt.

Russell Stout— Information unavailable at press time.



SBHC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Become a member of the Slate Belt Heritage Center

Students/Seniors	(under 18, over 60)	\$10	Family	\$50
Individual	(ages 18 to 60)	\$20	5 Star	\$75 over more

Sign up now.

Mail this form to Slate Belt Heritage Center,
c/o Carol Love, 5783 Shady Lane, Nazareth, PA 18064

Make checks payable to SBHC

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

E-mail Address _____