



# Solebury Chronicle

The Newsletter of the Solebury Township Historical Society

## 2015 Annual Dinner

by Melody Hunt



partners and hosts. Lots of laughter and stories were shared until it was time for that get-together to disband and the other ten parties to begin.

So began our evening. The brainchild of our original president, John Touhey who agreed to contribute his time and energy this year, and labor of love of another former president, Donneta Crane, and board member emeritus, Beth Carrick, "The Dinner" was a rousing success with sponsorship exceeding our wildest dreams and over enthusiastic partiers visiting one of ten beautiful historic homes to sit down to a fabulous meal and buoyant conversation. (Please see the list of sponsors who helped make this fundraiser possible listed on page 4)

Renowned chef, Ian Knauer with the help of volunteers, Maria Fell and

### A BEAUTIFUL EVENING FOR "THE DINNER"

The weather was perfect for a late September evening, as was the setting for the pre-dinner party, a Pre-Revolutionary Era barn. The jolly participants, like the flowing Prosecco, were effervescent and crisply appointed. The stage was set for our second bi-annual Dinner Party.

The people milled about searching nametags for clues as to their dining



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Please consider a DESK donation! We are looking to increase the number of old fashioned small desks to add to our collection. If you have one you wish to donate, please email us or call Robert McEwan 215-479-4711 who will be happy to pick it up.

*Con't on page 4*

## *Solebury Township Historical Society*

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Solebury, Pa 18963  
214-297-5091  
email:  
info@soleburyhistory.org  
website:  
www.soleburyhistory.org

### **Board of Directors**

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Judy Clarke,  
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Donneta Crane,  
Membership

Beth Carrick,  
Web

Jesse Crooks,  
Historian



## **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

It has been a busy first year as president for me. Every committee has been hard at work accomplishing the goals they



set out to do. Plans for 2016 are underway with some school-house renovations beginning this month and projected to be completed early next year in time for our 2nd Annual Impression-Sips series. Robert McEwan will be overseeing the renovations that will include easier access shelving for our book collections, archival documents & files. Our archivists will now have a better workspace to review documents, maps, etc. and the old flooring

will be refinished.

Again, we cannot have a successful organization without volunteers. So, I am reaching out to our members to ask for you to donate an hour or two or three to the Society. I know how busy life can be so I'm not asking for a huge commitment but rather a few hours where your help will be greatly needed and appreciated. Call me if you would like to discuss opportunities. 215-595-7402

*Sincerely,*

*Stephanie Garomon*

## **HONORED CITIZEN OF SOLEBURY**

Do you know someone worthy of being considered to receive the Honored Citizen of Solebury Award? We are looking for nominations for our 2016 Honored Citizen Award to be announced at our New Years Day Brunch Festivities.

Check our website or call Stephanie at 215-595-7402 for a nomination form.

The advertisers in the Solebury Chronicle help offset the cost of producing the newsletter. These are local businesses and we urge your patronage. If you would like to advertise in the Chronicle please call 215-297-5091 and leave a message, or email info@soleburyhistory.org to place an ad in the next Solebury Chronicle.

## PLAQUES

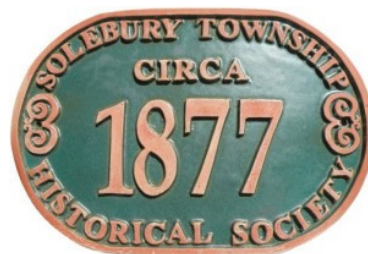
For those of you new to the Society or recently moved to the area, the Society has contracted with a local artisan to produce kiln-fired clay plaques to recognize your home and/or business with the date of origin or postal address of the building. The Society will assist you in determining the date of origin, when possible. If you have documentation on the date of your home, please indicate that when ordering. You may order a plaque on-line by going to our website and follow the instructions or If you prefer to order by phone, please call 215 297 5091 and leave a message.

Price, including sales tax: \$100 for members

\$125 for non-members

(Business membership support at the \$500 level and above qualifies for a free plaque.)

Tiles will be available approximately 6 to 8 weeks after ordering. We will call you to arrange pick-up of your order.



*Actual size measures 8" x 12"*

*Please note: the word "CIRCA" will be above the date for historic homes.*

## AN ARCHIVES UPDATE

By Judith Clarke

Janice Worthington and her cousin, both of whom went to school here in the school house, donated a small chair, first grade size, with good provenance, and a photograph, taken on the front steps c. 1915 and a list of as many of the students as they could remember—among them the fathers of Janice and her cousin.

On September 30, we were audited by Dyani Feige and Tamara Talanski from CCHA (Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts) They sat down with Robert McEwan, Marilyn Lanctot and me and we all went through the major preservation issues covered in the pre-survey questionnaire, focusing on collection storage, and building infrastructure and safety. After lunch, attended by several board members as well, we inspected the various areas including the basement. This audit will pinpoint our building and archive needs and how we can better preserve our collections. They suggested several things we can do before the report comes out in the spring of 2016: be specific in defining the scope of our collections, think of future projects, make emergency information, ie list of board members, list of contractors, such as plumber and electrician, readily available.

Marilyn Lanctot and I worked on accessioning the Clarence Overpeck archive. We also finished writing the introductions for several other files: the Solebury Township Property Tax Records and the School Tax Records. Although all these tax files might seem uninteresting, they all contain considerable amounts of information about the Township and, in one archive New Hope Borough, residents with names, property values, land values and residency which could be a source for someone researching family history.

?

### History Quiz

In 1686 Solebury was finally signed over to the American settlers by how many Native American tribe leaders?

*Answer on page 6*

## “THE DINNER” CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Flowers from Natalie Hamill of blossom hill flowers

And Shelley Wiseman created the delicious meal of beef bourguignon, scalloped butternut squash and farm fresh lettuce. The groceries for the dinner were donated by Giant.

Vessels from the hosts' own kitchens were retrieved, filled by the kitchen crew and delivered back by board members. Marnie Leasure, Robert

McEwan and Melody Hunt. The floral arrangements for each host's table, donated by Natalie Hamill of blossom hill flowers, were also delivered at this time. The peach crumble came from Manoff's as did the raspberries that enhanced the bubbly. The wine was chosen, selected,

*“...The delicious meal of beef bourguignon, scalloped butternut squash and farm fresh lettuce...”*

### Many thanks to all who sponsored “The Dinner”

- Delray Plus True Value
- The Living Earth
- Eagle Diner
- Gayle Goodman & Jim Searing
- Art Mazzei & George Kuebrich
- Rockwood Wealth MGT
- George Nakashima Woodworkers S.A.
- Tinsman Bros, Inc
- Professional Landscape Services, Inc
- Superior Woodcraft, Inc
- Univest Bank
- Solebury Orchards, LLC
- Peter Augenblick
- Bank of Princeton
- Curtin & Heefner, LLP
- Gratz Gallery

and collected by members, Peter Gatto and Pam Burrell. It was an excellent choice and really set the mood for the kick-off party, as did the volunteer bartenders, Eugene and Sandy Valley. Sandy also gets the photo credits for her beautiful shots of the evening.



board president Stephanie Garomon, and board members Robert McEwan and Melody Hunt. Many, Many thanks.

More thanks to the gracious homeowners who invited virtual strangers into their beautiful homes to break bread and hopefully not the stemware. They are: Alexandra and Robert Ellison, Suzanne Lowe, Malina and Tim Coffey, Karin and George Ashford, Chee Jamison, Gerry and John Merriam, Eleanor Miller, Bill Lutz and Marilyn Vaughn, Marie Noelle and Jay Wholley, Doug and Wendy Kale and Trey Wilson.

Other volunteers for the kickoff party include members Barbara Gross, Maria Fell, Bill Tinsman, Alex and Robert Ellison, Beth Carrick, Donneta Crane,



## EDUCATION COMMITTEE HAS BEEN BUSY THIS FALL

STHS hosted a Revolutionary War reenactor on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup>, from 11-3pm on the front lawn of the Schoolhouse. The reenactor and his son were extremely interesting and knowledgeable. They came with many artifacts and reproductions.

We are hoping he will give a lecture sometime this spring.



*Flag from the Revolutionary War*



The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual 1<sup>st</sup> grade school program was held 5 mornings in October. The first graders in the New Hope-Solebury Lower Elementary School were given the opportunity to experience what schooling was like in the past several centuries as they visited the schoolhouse in conjunction with their two-week learning unit on one-room schoolhouses. The children practiced penmanship on slates, did sums,

learned a little history about Solebury Township, and played schoolyard games. Superintendent Raymond Boccuti and Assistant Superintendent Steven Yanni joined the fun. Education chair Marnie Leasure and members Sally Jagoe, Linda Kenyon, Donneta Crane, and Gretchen Reilly helped make the sessions possible.

*Photos by Donneta Crane and Marnie Leasure.*



## Gift to a School- house Faculty Member Come Back!

Joyce Worthington Homan of Belle Mead New Jersey, recently donated a classic, and whimsical chair to the Society, where it was once a fixture. The chair, 2 feet tall and 11 inches wide, was evidently a student chair in its' day. Its' size testifies to the idea that the school was open to all grades starting with the very young and the very small! It was presented to Edith Pidcock MacKissic on her retirement from teaching at Solebury Elementary School. When Edith moved to Florida she gave the chair to her friend Joyce who now brings it full circle back to its original home. Originally the chair was natural wood, but Edith painted it blue and then Joyce painted it red. It is clearly a keeper for the Society's small collection of Solebury and Schoolhouse related articles. Archivist Judy Clarke fills in more of the story to report that Joyce was a member of Judy's husbands class at the schoolhouse in first grade... Small world. Joyce's father, Raymond Worthington and her Uncles also attended the school. We were delighted to receive from Joyce a photo of the School's class of 1915 which included her father and many other named students standing on the front steps. We have very few class photos in our collection so getting this is a wonderful addition to our archives .



## IMPRESSION-SIPS 2016

### The Impression-Sips, A Cure For The Winter Blues! Save the Dates.

Melody Hunt and the Development Committee are proud to announce that by popular demand, The Impression-Sips will be back for a 2016 Winter Series season. The late Sunday afternoon get-togethers celebrate the history of the Pennsylvania Impressionists while allowing all of the participants an outlet of fun and camaraderie. The dates of the BYOB painting parties will be January 24<sup>th</sup>, February 21<sup>st</sup>, and March 13<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 to 5:30. (And possibly, a Friday Pizza Date Night.)

We're currently working on the individual paintings we'll be using for our inspiration now, but they will be on our website by late November in time for the holiday shopping season. It's a really great stocking stuffer to ask for! Thanks again to Freeman's of Philadelphia and Tinsman Bros. of Lumberville for the easels, paints and brushes and Manoff's of Solebury for the apples, cider and cheeses.



## WE PARTICIPATED IN SOLEBURY DAY SEPTEMBER 19



Solebury Township sponsored the first annual Solebury Day at Laurel Park. STHS was one of many organizations participating. Thanks goes out to the board members and volunteers who donated their Saturday to sit at the STHS table.



Judy Clarke and Donneta Crane at the STHS table.



## History Quiz

Answer:  
13 Native American  
Tribe leaders.



## WHAT IS #GIVINGTUESDAY?

We have a day for giving thanks. We have two for getting deals. Now, we have #GivingTuesday, a global day dedicated to giving back. On **Tuesday, December 1, 2015**, charities, families, businesses, community centers, and students around the world will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give. Now in its fourth year, #GivingTuesday is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration.

Observed on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving (in the U.S.) and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season,

*“You can give by going to our website, or envelopes will be provided at the Annual Meeting on November 15th”*

when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving. Since its inaugural year in 2012, #GivingTuesday has become a movement that celebrates and supports giving.

It's a simple idea. Just find a way for your family, your community, your company or your organization to come together to give something more.

**Solebury Township Historical Society (STHS)** is seeking partners to donate “matching funds” to our #GivingTuesday Scholarship Fundraising campaign. STHS is a local historical society that is very active in preserving Solebury's history via our archives and postings on our web site. We physically preserve our headquarters, Solebury's iconic one-room schoolhouse: please visit! We are also a social organization that holds events to draw the local community together at picnics,

lectures, dinners and our annual, festive New Year's Day gathering.

### The Scholarships

One of our annual programs is awarding scholarships to New Hope-Solebury High School students and Solebury School students who look to further their education. We have selected #Giving Tuesday as an ideal vehicle to promote our scholarship giving and raise the funds to make it happen. Our 2014 effort raised just over \$2000 and we hope this year to raise \$2,500. Key to doing this is having matching partners and asking many of our members to participate at any amount level. All of the money we raise will go to the Scholarship; there is very little expense needed to run our campaign, and that is covered by the Society. Please consider offering a donation that we can use to encourage matches!

Preserve our past...  
Solebury Township Historical Society  
Become part of our future

**Giving Tuesday  
Scholarship Drive**

Tuesday, December 1, 2015  
Goal \$2,500

*Today's scholarship student will  
make tomorrow's history!*

[www.soleburyhistory.org/givingtuesday](http://www.soleburyhistory.org/givingtuesday)



### Matching gifts secured!

Good news! James Seward of Bowman's Tavern and The Haley Foundation have both pledged to match donated funds to help us reach our scholarship goal. (You can tell James thanks when you stop by Bowman's for a meal.)

Our 2015 Scholarship recipients were: Nicholas Damarodis, a graduating senior from New Hope-Solebury High School, Leah Hunt a junior at Solebury School & Kate Voynow, of Princeton, is a junior at Solebury School



Solebury Township Historical Society  
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Solebury, PA 18963

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## SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS

We are most grateful for the support of the local business community and encourage you to patronize these fine businesses.

### Steward

Addison Wolfe Real Estate

Bountiful Acres

Crews Surveying, LLC

First National Bank & Trust of Newtown

Rockwood Wealth Management

### Protector

Eagle Diner

Finkles Hardware

Holly Hedge Estates

Rago Art

Tinsman Brothers, Inc.

### Guardian

Delray Plus True Value

Mancuso Show Management

Nakashima Woodworker

## UPCOMING EVENTS

November 15 5-8:00 p.m. Annual Meeting & Covered Dish Dinner

January 1, 2016 New Years Day Brunch 12-3:00 p.m.

Impression-Sips BYOB Painting Parties

January 24<sup>th</sup>

February 21<sup>st</sup>

March 13<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 to 5:30.

Visit [www.soleburyhistory.org](http://www.soleburyhistory.org) closer to the dates for more details.