



# Solebury Chronicle

The Newsletter of the Solebury Township Historical Society

## 2016 Spring Open House by The Events and Oral History Committees



### **CELEBRATE STHS 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY WITH US...AND BRING A STORY!**

We at STHS are so looking forward to our Spring Open House on April 17<sup>th</sup>, from 1pm–4pm

The little schoolhouse's newly refinished floors and fresh paint sparkle and the new desk, book shelves and filing cabinets make historical research so much easier. In addition to refreshments and great conversation, the Oral History committee is inviting you to video record a story about your life in Solebury Township. You can tell us why you live here, or why you moved here, or about an event you attended, or about the houses, the trees, floods, parades, art, whatever! If you can't think of a particular story you'd like to share, we'll have some questions to jog your creative thinking. Your story is actually history, but it is also the history of you within our community, and the history of our community is woven into the Great Events of our times. Come share your memories and stories and become part of the annals of Solebury history!

Darcy Fair, Oral History Co-Chairwoman, says "Most of us think of History, with a capital 'H', as having to do with Great Events and Important People in the Past". Darcy tends to think of *history* as *stories* about how people – not just the Great Men (and Women, thank you very much!), but everyday folks – lived in the past, and how that past influences us here in the present. Darcy believes she thinks that way because she had one of those grandmothers who told family stories. Her grandmother's stories were not from books or from famous folktales, but from the spoken memories that had been passed down to her through the generations: how her great-great grandfather saved the Great Seal of the United States during the Civil War (he was a spy for the Union); how her mother, and aunt, and uncle grew up on Lake Wallenpaupack during the summers of the Great Depression and lived on the fish they caught from the Lake;

*Story Continued on page 4*

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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.

## *Solebury Township Historical Society*

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Solebury, Pa 18963  
215-297-5091  
info@soleburyhistory.org  
website:  
www.soleburyhistory.org

### **Board of Directors**

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Oral History

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Web



## **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

2016 began with a blizzard, the polar vortex, a warm March and a cold early April, but something we can all count on, is the delightful display of Spring blossoms in Solebury. There is



nothing more uplifting than driving through the township when nature is waking up from its long winter nap. The flowering trees and spring blossoms are a feast for the eyes, the air is fresh and we can all get outside and enjoy our special corner of the world.

During the gloomy days of winter, the schoolhouse received a makeover, and is opening its doors to our members on April 17<sup>th</sup> for our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The renovations created a proper place for our books and archives, changed the flow of the interior making it easier to host lectures and visiting students and the re-finished floors look amazing!

The Impression-Sips 2016 was another success. Melody Hunt, Sandra Vallely, the volunteers and sponsors made this series so much fun for those who attended. There are many hours of prep work for Mel to present this series, but the reward is seeing people who have never painted in their lives leave the schoolhouse with a "work of art" they painted themselves! Mel

and her committee are working on some new fundraising ideas which will be announced in the coming weeks.

If you ever take some pictures of Solebury you'd like to share with us, please email them to us. They might be used on our website or in the newsletter.

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*

?

### *History Quiz*

How many mills had been built on the Paunacussing Creek between Carversville and Lumberville by the end of the 18th Century?

*Answer on page 6*

## **DO YOU LIKE SCRAPBOOKING?**

We are looking for someone to keep up our scrapbook? It's a job that can easily be done from home. For more details please call:

Judy Clarke 215-862-5522 email: jhclarke13@verizon.net

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.

## Second “Sips” Series: re-Sounding Success

Sign up was slow for the first in this year’s series, a beautiful snow scene inspired by Edward Redfield’s “Brook In Carversville”. Ironically, it was an impending snow storm that was keeping our fans away.



We postponed it for a week and at the recommendation of our new Events Chair and resident psychic, Mare Spencer, offered a Blizzard Special. And we were off and running with the re-scheduled Jan 30<sup>th</sup> party an immediate sell out and the Feb. and Mar. events filling up in advance as well!



Our Impression-Sips series taps the nationally trending BYOB Painting Parties while recognizing and celebrating the history of our own PA Impressionists. Many of these nationally known artists lived and worked in and around Solebury Township during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Of the 6 artists we’ve chosen to celebrate so far, only 2 lived “over the border” with George Sotter in Buckingham and Charles Evans in New Hope. Among the locals, Fern Coppedge lived in Lumberville. Edward Redfield in Center Bridge, Daniel Garber, famously, on Cuttalossa and Richard Wedderspoon on Phillip’s Mill Road.

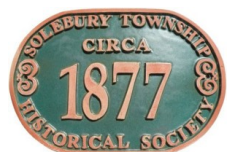


The breakdown of each painting is carefully prepared in advance by yours truly, Melody Hunt, and

cheerfully presented on the day of the event by artist, Sandra Vallely. The two of us, along with a small army of volunteers, put together a pretty entertaining event. Thanks to our volunteers: Will Tinsman, Renee Farely and Sally Phillips. Thanks also to Board Members: Stephanie Garomon, Charlotte Zanidakis, Marnie Leasure, Sue-Ann DiVito and Mare Spencer.

Our BYOB Painting Parties offer a little bit of everything needed for a special winter’s afternoon. With a little art history, a tad of painting tips, a couple of munchies and a few medicinal sips, it’s a recipe for a lot of camaraderie, laughter and fun. See you all next year!

All of the expenses for this year’s “Sips” were funded by our faithful sponsors:  
FREEMAN’S  
(Auctioneers and Appraisers) of Philadelphia  
Tinsman Bros. Building Materials  
Howard Barsky, DMD of Carversville  
Manoff Market Gardens



**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.*





Opening in 1756, it was called the Center Hill School. The original school building of field-stone was 21 by 33 feet.

## AN ARCHIVES UPDATE: “BACK TO THE SCHOOL- HOUSE”

BY JUDITH CLARKE

Marilyn Lanctot, Rita Flack and I have set up shop again in the Historical Society’s headquarters. I must say that it may be the same room, but the layout is altogether different and much more logical and useable. Before the renovation, there were mismatched file cabinets and book cases stuck about the edges, the desk with printer and computer at the back of the room, with space in the middle for meetings, programs or what have you. After the renovation, the work area is in the front of the room, next to the built-in cabinets which have all our supplies (no more traipsing back and forth) and now, dividing the room by perhaps one-third as working and two-thirds for program/meeting/event, are tall file cabinets with all the various files: historic districts, houses, families, etc. facing toward the front door, and backed by tall bookcases facing toward the room’s open area. New bookcases were built under the black (green?) board which run the width of the room to hold the archive boxes. And all of these sit on beautiful pumpkin pine floors that had been hidden under generations of grime. Our thanks to Robert McEwan who came up with the idea in the first place and who had the determination to see it through. We have the welcome mat out for any of you who want to see the transformation.

how her cousin William Wellington Smith borrowed his Aunt Maggie’s (her great-grandmother) good sterling silver teaspoons to feed the families of striking coal miners during a miners’ strike and managed to get them **all** back to her; why her grandmother named her kids what she did; how she met Darcy’s grandfather. It was these family tales, some of them involving Great Events of the history books, but mostly

involving everyday life, that has led Darcy to read history as story.

Actually, Darcy’s perception of history as story makes sense on many levels. Not only are the two words, *history* and *story*, linguistically related. (Both come ultimately from Greek and later Latin, which evolved into medieval French, into the Middle English.) In pre-literate cultures, the processes of *story* and *history* were synonymous.

*“...So we are asking, won’t you please tell us your story?...”*

Before writing, history was told as narratives, as stories, often in the form of poetry, song, or the spoken word accompanied by instrumental music.

These stories were passed *orally* from one poet or storyteller to another, from generation to generation, father to son, mother to daughter. It was when these oral tales were written down that our own concept of *written history as that which happened in the past* emerged, along with the bases of literature, science, religion, and probably just about every

other human intellectual endeavor including writing itself. And yes, that puts Darcy’s Grandma Banks in the company of Homer, Virgil, ancient bards, skalds, griots, troubadours and all the other wandering poets and storytellers of the past.



New shelves for library of books

*Well, cool, you might think, but what does all of this have to do*

*with you and me here in good old Solebury Township in good old Bucks County in good old P-A? I’m not a poet or a wandering storyteller ....* But you are. We all have our stories of everyday life -- growing up, going to school, getting a job, falling in or out of love. While wandering the roads here in Central Bucks, especially in Solebury and Buckingham Townships ever wonder about what the roads looked like two hundred years ago? Or who lived in the houses? What was on their minds? What made them happy, sad, and what were their thoughts about life? And we wonder about the people who live here now. How have we changed over the years? What have we experienced? Good times? Bad times? Local disasters? Special holidays? Well, the best way to find out is to ask, so we are asking...Won’t you please tell us your story?

## THANK YOU TO OUR LOYAL 2016 MEMBERS

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William Yandle  
Ted and Charlotte Zanidakis  
Edward Zekas

### STHS AWARDED JOE LUCCARO THE HONORED CITIZEN AWARD AT THE 2016 NEW YEARS DAY BRUNCH

Joe Luccaro is originally from New York and graduated from Hofstra University. He relocated to the New Hope-Solebury community in 1975. He is a devoted husband to Amy, father, brother and grandfather. In his youth he was an aspiring actor, who has since found his creative and artistic outlet through serving others. He is a chef and local entrepreneur, a respected business owner and a tireless community advocate. His career in New Hope began with a small bike and canoe rental business along the canal before opening his first restaurant in Stockton, which then led to Mothers, Misbehavin' Mommas, Havanna's, and Luccaro's in New Hope, before settling down to his current Pied-a-terre in Solebury. He is currently the owner/operator of HollyHedge Estate in Solebury and the co-owner/operator of the Lumberville 1740 House also in Solebury Township.



As an employer he has worked with hundreds if not thousands of community members over the last 35 years, providing multiple generations of New Hope & Solebury residents with their first jobs. While his children were younger, he was a long-time coach at the intramural and scholastic level of boys and girls soccer, baseball and basketball. He served as the New Hope-Solebury High School Athletic Director & Class Advisor for many years and was a former New Hope-Solebury School Board Member & President.

He and Amy are long-term supporters of the local arts and artists, along with the communities' historical societies and other civic groups; as well as a strong supporter of local and national environmental organizations. Joe is also the founding member of UMBB Foundation, a local charitable group devoted to providing emergency assistance to local families and non-profit organizations in their time of need.

## GRANTS COMMITTEE

By Charlotte Zanidakis

### Board Members take a field trip to Philadelphia

The Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts hosted 3 STHS board members for a private tour of their Center January 20th. Judy Clark, Archivist, Charlotte Zanidakis, Grants and Robert McEwan, V.P. enjoyed talking with more than ten specialists involved in conserving a array of articles including photographs, deeds, papers, books and paintings for framing. Of special interest was a 1850's map that is similar in condition and age

to one in STHS's collection that was undergoing a complete salvage job to clean, apply new backing and protect the map.

2015 saw STHS accepted into CCAHA's program which first will supply us with an audit and report on caring for our archives. This will be an invaluable tool to give our archiving work greater focus and to direct us on how to best fit our schoolhouse to house our collections. In the 2d or 3d year of our progress through their grant program we hope to apply for conservation monies.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2016 SCHOLARSHIPS

Since 2004, the Historical Society has awarded the Ned Harrington History Scholarships to students from New Hope-Solebury High School and Solebury School. As a community organization dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of Solebury Township's historical heritage, this scholarship honors students with a love of history and one who is active in his/her community. The scholarships are awarded at the end of the school year.

The scholarships are given in honor of Ned Harrington a long time Carversville resident; Harrington passed away in 2009 at age 89. After moving to Solebury Township in 1948, he was a congenial and productive member of the Carversville Christian Church, the Paunacussing Watershed Association and the Solebury Township Historical Society. As the Society's resident historian, he played a strong role in qualifying Carversville for historic designation by the commonwealth. Ned not only researched more than 400 old Solebury houses and their histories, but he also left behind a wealth of historical writings on many topics in the township. Pamphlets he authored and his oral history of Carversville may be read and listened to at the Society's center, the Solebury one-room schoolhouse. His passion for our local history is honored by these scholarships.



## History Quiz

**Answer: 5:**

Hough's Mill (1725)

Pryor's Mill (1770)

Fretz's Mill (1789)

Michener's Mill (1791)

Wall's Mill (1776)

The 2015 awardees include Nicholas Damarodis who graduating senior from New Hope-Solebury High School, an AP Scholar and honor roll student. Since elementary school, he knew he wanted to be a reporter. He was the editor-in-chief of the school newspaper, The Lion's Tale, as a junior and senior. A first generation college student, Nick planned to major in journalism.

Leah Hunt was a junior at Solebury School. She lives in Stockton and had interned at the Primrose Creek Watershed Association where she researched and wrote about the Grover Farm on Phillips Mill Road and early Solebury Township farming history. She has always loved family history, as told to her by her father and grandmother, and is grateful to live in an area with such a rich past and present culture. Kate Voynow, of Princeton, was a junior at Solebury School. The co-founder of the History Club, a discussion-based club that covers World and U.S. History topics, Kate believes history has opened many intellectual doors for her. She particularly likes the pre-American Revolutionary era and hopes to eventually become a history teacher.

**The Historical Society is currently accepting applications for this scholarship which will be awarded in May 2016. Please see our website or inquire with your school administration for additional information.**



## Meet Our Newest Board Members

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**Laura Kim** is an international aid worker and researcher whose focus is on inclusive development, the female labor force and socio-economic empowerment. She and her husband, who was born and raised in Solebury, live in a historic home in Lumberville. Laura is excited to bring her anthropology background to contribute to the Society's Oral History program.

*“The STHS board of directors embrace diversity, fairness, inclusiveness, innovation, and integrity, and work to advance the Society’s mission.”*



**Darcy Fair, PhD** is an Independent Folklorist, Musician, & Storyteller who received her PhD, from the University of Pennsylvania, 2009. She has a strong background in ethnographic fieldwork.

She is an Independent Musician and Teacher. “I have played and taught the small “folk” harp professionally since 1985, specializing in Scottish and Irish traditional musics and their instruction. I currently perform at the Golden Pheasant Inn, Erwinna, PA; Max Hansen's Carversville General Store, and the Dubliner-on-the-Delaware, New Hope, PA.” She is a Silver Medalist, 1986 Senior Harp Competition, Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann, Listowel, Co. Kerry, Republic of Ireland.

She substitute teaches all subjects for grades K-8 at Buckingham Friends' School and is Assistant Librarian, Free Library of New Hope and Solebury, New Hope, PA.



**Mary L. Spencer** (Mare) is an internationally recognized psychic, medium, empath, numerologist, spiritual teacher, healer and “Prayer Warrior”. Her education is extensive, spanning many years. She has studied under and now works with some of the finest mediums, psychics, healers and teachers around the world. Mare's first memory of speaking with spirit was at the age of four. By the time she reached adolescence, she knew that she was different, and from then on, her guides and protectors directed her and made themselves known to her in the most unusual ways.

Mare is skilled at identifying and crafting appropriate prayer to heal and restore one's life and relationships. She also provides guidance on the appropriate affirmations and prayers to invoke successful manifestation of one's desire of the heart. In addition to readings, Mare provides spiritual coaching to assist one in developing their psychic gifts and their connection to God. She is uniquely blessed to have a strong relationship with God and her Angels and works only in the presence of God's divine love and light. Mare considers it an honor to be used as a conduit for God's love, peace, healing, miracles and gifts.

Mare is the president and CEO of Heart Match, founder of the Philadelphia Area Society for Intuitives, Mediums and Empaths and project owner and ordained minister of New Hope Life Works prayer project and virtual church. Mary is Co-Chair of our Events Committee.



**Sue-Ann DiVito** Passion equals Positivity when it comes to Sue-Ann.. What gets her up in the morning is the idea that she can impact your life in a monumental way. A recent Real Estate Agent with Addison Wolfe Real Estate she has a strong dedication to helping her clients reach their goals. With the Bucks County Life Program she taught parents how to advocate for their children with mental health/educational differences. She brings the same passion to her real estate clients, advocating and negotiating for their best interests.

On the personal side, Sue-Ann believes in staying fit both physically and mentally. Balance is everything. Married to the love of her life, they have 5 children between them- totally did the Brady bunch thing, and 3 beautiful grandchildren. When not selling real estate, Sue-Ann can be found walking, strength training, playing with her grandchildren, traveling (Hawaii & California are favorites), or simply enjoying her family and friends. Sue-Ann is Co-Chair of our Events Committee.



*Solebury Township Historical Society*  
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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**

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Crews Surveying, LLC

Rockwood Wealth Management

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### **Guardian**

Delray Plus True Value

Mancuso Show Management

Nakashima Woodworker

Peter Augenblick

## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 17 1-4:00 p.m. 2016 Spring Open House & 35th Birthday Celebration.

April 25, 2016 5:00 p.m. Joint Lecture with NHHS at Trinity Church Auditorium

August 21 4-7:00 p.m. 2016 Annual Picnic

September 17 Solebury Day

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