

Solebury Chronicle



A newsletter of the Solebury Township Historical Society

Annual Meeting

Sunday November 15, 2009

4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Audubon Visitor Center,
2877 Creamery Rd., New Hope

The STHS Annual Meeting is NEVER boring! While it is a required meeting, we keep "business" to a minimum and just plain have fun. Come enjoy delicious home-cooked food and experience a performance of "*Julia Child, Bon Appetit*", a one-person show featuring our own Linda Kenyon. For those of you lucky enough to have seen her performance of Eleanor Roosevelt a few years back, you know Linda's ability to bring a character to life. And what a character Julia Child was!



Linda Kenyon as Julia Child

Julia Child (1912-2004) introduced French cuisine to America. She was best known for the 1961 cookbook *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* and her television series, *The French Chef*. While her public face and voice became familiar to all of us, this play focuses on her private side, growing up in California, her adventures during WWII, and learning to cook and teach French cuisine, but especially the relationship with her husband Paul.

Linda Kenyon, a Solebury resident, is a veteran of stage, film and television. See her as the screaming society woman in Chris Rock's recent movie *Head of State*. On stage she has been the Duchess of York in *Richard III*, Lady Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*, and numerous other roles. Her voice can be heard at the Holocaust Museum in Washington DC and the Gettysburg Visitor's Center, as well as on the Discovery Channel in *The Last of the Czars* and *France's Forgotten Shame*.

Please bring a main course, salad or dessert for 6. If you have a favorite "Julia" dish, that would be most appropriate!

Space is limited for this popular event, so reservations are required. Call 215-297-5091 or email soleburyhistory@verizon.net to reserve your space. Free to STHS members; guests \$10.

Solebury Township Historical Museum Grand Opening

Sunday, December 6, 2009, 3-5 p.m.

After years of planning, the Society is pleased to announce the opening of the Solebury Township Historic Museum. Housed in the lobby of the Solebury Township building, the display is available for viewing weekdays from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. "We couldn't have asked for a better location. It's a bright and beautiful space, available to the public for 40 hours a week, and has security," said Sally Jagoe, board president and founder of the museum.

Two tall display towers were donated by the Michener Museum and faux finished to blend with the wood in the lobby. An 8-foot oak display case was acquired at reasonable cost. The township board and staff have been most gracious in allowing us ample space in the lobby.

The exhibit will change several times a year, and a reception will be held for each new exhibit. The towers will contain general historic items of interest; the display case will be dedicated to local Solebury history.

We thank the Museum Committee members and contributors: Sally Jagoe, Lisa Gladden-Keys, Richard Carlson, Rhoda Renschler and Cristain Blackwood. We are also grateful to Bruce Katsiff and Holly Brown of the James A. Michener Museum for helping to make this dream come true.

On display will be a fine collection of vintage toys which depict comic characters, transportation and circus memorabilia from the early 19th century on loan to the Society from Jim Hill of Lumberville. Jim will speak to the group about his collection.

Join us for the gala museum opening on December 6, and bring your friends, family and neighbors. Refreshments will be served.

New Year's Brunch

New this year — Auction

See page 6

Presidents Message

Exciting things keep happening for your historical society.

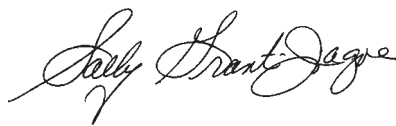
I'm thrilled that the dream of having a Solebury Township Historical Museum is becoming a reality. The Museum will display wonderful local artifacts and community collections.

An opening reception and lecture is planned at the Solebury Township building. The collection will then be self-guided. There will be three different displays per year: we don't want our displays to "dust over"! If you have information about any collections that are worthy of display, please let us know. We would contact the owners to discuss the possibility of displaying their collection in the Museum.

And Ned Harrington keeps giving to the Society. When his obituary requested donations be made to the Society for the Ned Harrington Scholarship Fund, we had no idea of the outcome. But donations are flowing in and the Fund keeps growing. We have heard from folks as far away as Arizona. We will continue to accept donations to the Fund in Ned's memory. When a scholarship was awarded, Ned always made a point of contacting the student. He wanted to learn about their plans for college and beyond. Chris Rees, the New Hope/Solebury High School student who received the 2008 scholarship, visited with Ned and kept in touch. What a wonderful legacy this has become.

Accessing the internet at the School House is opening new doors for us. Joan Fitting and Dick Carlson are creating a cross reference file for the old house research using a public County database. Our digital listing of historic houses currently does not have the present street address, making it difficult to locate the records. When the computer work is completed, we will be able to locate the research file by simply knowing the street address. This is tedious work but well worth the effort.

Our annual meeting is Nov. 15th. Hope to see you there.




Solebury Township Historical Society
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Solebury, Pennsylvania 18963
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soleburyhistory@verizon.net

Board of Directors

Sally Grant-Jagoe, <i>President</i>	
Beth Carrick, <i>Vice-President</i>	
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Donneta Crane, <i>Secretary</i>	
Mary Jackson Powell, <i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	
Joan Fitting	Patricia Petrie
Gwen Davis	Rhoda Renschler
Don Harris	Donna Trenchard
Martha Harris	Franca Warden

Great ideas for Christmas gifts



Coverlets

The Society has new coverlets for sale depicting many of the historic gems of the township. High quality 100% cotton, size 4' x 6'. Choice of dark blue and white or dark red and white. Perfect for your home and for gifts! \$50.

Scenes of Solebury Notecards

Beautiful notecards featuring some of Solebury's cherished historic sites. Each box of 10 notecards and envelopes contains two each of five drawings by Solebury artist Jim Underberg. The historic sites include the Samuel Ingham House, Solebury Village one-room schoolhouse, VanSant covered bridge, Lumberville Store and Solebury Friends Meetinghouse. Box of 10 cards; \$10.

Solebury Post Office Notecards

Boxed set of notecards featuring the Solebury Post Office. High quality cards and envelopes. Box of 6 cards; \$13.

Call 215-297-5091 or email soleburyhistory@verizon.net to arrange the purchase.

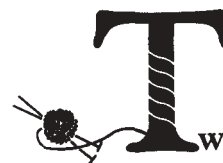


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Historic Inns of Solebury

Solebury Township is home to a number of historic inns, some of which are still operating today. This is the second in a series of articles that focus on these inns and taverns.

Hotel du Village

The area surrounding and including Hotel du Village in Phillips Mill Road was part of a large tract of land granted to the Ely family by William Penn in the seventeenth century. In 1895 Dr. George Morley Marshall of Ohio bought 27 acres of the Penn Grant from Ely descendants to establish a country residence for his family. Marshall operated the mill for many years. Dr. Marshall's sister, Caroline Wood, chose the site of the Hotel du Village for her country estate. The Tutor-style building was built in 1915. Named "White Oaks," it was designed by famous architect Morgan Colt⁽¹⁾.

Karline Holmquist, a friend of the Lathrops, came to Phillips Mill in 1910 to regain her health. She was a pianist of the old school trained in Paris and Berlin and a skilled teacher who had been on the faculty of the Bennett School in New York. In 1917 she founded the Holmquist School in a converted barn with six students and five teachers. The school was established on the philosophy that the whole person should be educated. Recognizing the unique character of the artists colony in which she lived, Holmquist realized that her students, while being given a sound classical education, would benefit from instruction by the local artists and in this way develop their latent talents in music, painting, etc. The success of her school required expansion, so she acquired White Oaks and adjacent Appledore, a converted stable, from Mrs. Wood in 1925.

At first the classes were for "new girls, old girls and seniors". Six classes were held in the mornings; afternoons were spent in outdoor recreation such as horseback riding. Evenings were devoted to study. In lieu of formal report cards, personal letters detailing the girls' progress were sent to the parents. As enrollment increased, a more formal routine was decided upon, and Miss Holmquist engaged the services of Margaret Dewey, a graduate of Smith College, who acted as academic dean. By 1931 the faculty numbered 19, the student body about 100. The formal courses included a College Preparatory program designed to meet college requirements, a Fine Arts Course for girls especially interested in painting or music, and a General Secondary Course for students who did not anticipate going to college.

Margaret Mead, the distinguished anthropologist, was among the students who benefited from the combined classical and arts education.

Unlike many other preparatory schools, the Holmquist School had no religious or other affiliations, and its major source of funds was private donations. It was greatly handicapped by a lack of endowments.

In 1925 the Solebury School, a progressive preparatory school for boys, was established in the former residence of Dr. Marshall but was soon moved outside the district (further down on Phillips Mill Road). It, too, was under-financed. The death of Karline Holmquist in 1943 and the resignation of Margaret Dewey in the same year, together with the lack of funds, made it impossible to



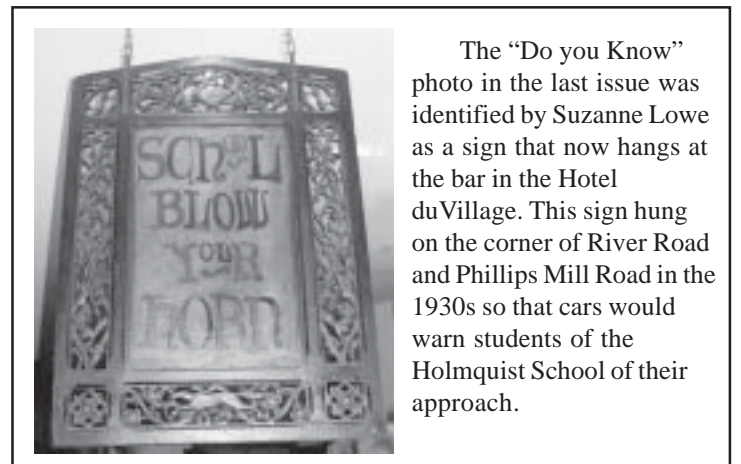
Old postcard of the Holmquist School from our collection.

continue the Holmquist School after World War II. The two schools merged in 1949 with White Oaks, Appledore and stone cottage on River Road constituting the lower campus, and Solebury School on Phillips Mill Road as the upper campus. Solebury School maintained the two campuses until 1976, when Omar and Barbara Arbani purchased the "Lower Campus." Lodging became available in Appledore during the summer of 1978.

Hotel du Village operates today as a charming country inn with an accent on classic French cooking. Omar and Barbara Arbani bought "White Oaks" in 1976. There are nineteen bedrooms at the Inn and at the lodge known as "Appledore" next door. The dining rooms are paneled in American chestnut wood, doubtless on the inspiration of architect Morgan Colt. The banquet room was added to the main building in 1995.

(1) MORGAN COLT (1876-1926)

Morgan Colt created much of the physical complex that makes up the village of Phillips' Mill today. Born in Summit, New Jersey, in 1876, Colt studied architecture at Columbia University. He came to Solebury in 1905 to study with William Lathrop. He was a skilled craftsman in the tradition of the arts and crafts movement. In 1910 Colt bought an old pigsty and an acre of land from Lathrop and converted the building into a residence and a workshop that he called the Gothic Shops. There he crafted furniture and other household objects. Over the years, Colt designed and built several additional buildings at Phillips' Mill, which served as homes and studios for various artists and craftsmen.



The "Do you Know" photo in the last issue was identified by Suzanne Lowe as a sign that now hangs at the bar in the Hotel duVillage. This sign hung on the corner of River Road and Phillips Mill Road in the 1930s so that cars would warn students of the Holmquist School of their approach.

Remembrances of Ned Harrington

To say that Ned Harrington will be sorely missed is a gross understatement. Folks like us who have had the pleasure and challenge of working with him over the years know that people like Ned don't come along often in our lifetimes. Ned had an unmatched passion for history – particularly local history. Partner that with his amusing writing skills, obsession for details, and tireless devotion, and you have an unforgettable personality who has forever left his mark on Solebury Township.

Ned was born in Philadelphia and attended Germantown Friends and William Penn Charter schools. He earned a degree in historical geography and languages at Haverford College. He and his wife Elizabeth moved to Carversville in 1947, and raised their two children in a beautiful property they called Hillside.

During his career in water and soil analysis, he started the Paunacussing Watershed Association, still an active and important group. He was also a founder of the Historic Carversville Society, and his first historical work was to document the history of that village. His other writings about Solebury include Places of Worship, Schools, the Great Spring.....too many to list here. But the Historical Society will make copies available for purchase.

During the last 10 years or so, Ned has been diligently researching the history of some 500 historic homes in Solebury Township. When he asked for helpers, we had several volunteers. Pat Petrie, Wendy Kale, Trish Harrison, and others helped to complete a lot of research. Sadly he was unable to finish them all. The Society is committed to finding a way to complete this important documentation.

Ned's commitment to the importance of interpreting and recording our local history is an inspiration to us in the Society. He will be sorely missed, but remembered in perpetuity as the greatest recorder of local history this township has ever seen.



*Edwin Harrington
1920 - 2009*



Ned spent many hours in his office at Hillside researching the history of Solebury's buildings and villages.



Ned on the steps of Hillside, his Carversville home.



Ned once raised donkeys at what he then referred to as Jackass Farm.

Eats, Shoots & Leaves

On the day of William F. Buckley, Jr.'s funeral, a cartoon appeared in the New York Times. It depicted St. Peter and his Angel secretary on one side of the gate and WFB, Jr. on the other side. "Who goes there" said St. Peter to his Angel. "It is William F. Buckley, Jr.," the Angel replied. "Oh dear," said St. Peter, "we are going to need a much larger dictionary!"

And so it will be with Ned Harrington. Not only will the "big" dictionary be pressed into service, but Rogets Thesaurus. Ned, at one time in his career, worked for a printer. His margins were perfectly balanced and never, oh never, did a line end with a hyphenated word. I asked what would happen if he found that a word must be hyphenated. He replied ... "re-write the sentence until you get it right!"

When it was time for me to write *The Presidents Message* for the Chronicle, I ask Ned to look it over for me and to make any corrections. He, in return, bought me the book *Eat, Shoots & Leaves* ... the zero tolerance approach to punctuation by Lynne Truss. Soon thereafter, a *Sweepings* article appeared in the Gazette, *The Happy Hooker*, the story of misplaced commas.

His message was clear. Do it yourself and you might learn something! So much for the easy way out.

Sally Jagoe

Ned's family honored the Society by asking that memorial donations in his name could be made to the Ned Harrington Scholarship Fund of the Solebury Township Historical Society. Annual scholarships are given to qualified seniors at New Hope Solebury High School and Solebury School each year.

Crowds enjoy the Society's Annual Summer Picnic

On August 30 – one of the very few beautiful summer days this year – nearly 100 Society members and friends enjoyed sunshine, great food and companionship at our Annual Summer Picnic. And what a setting! Owners of historic Rolling Green Farm, **Dick Carlson & Tim Hargus**, were perfect hosts, offering guests the opportunity to tour their lovely home and sharing their newly refurbished historic barn.

A special thanks to Donna Trenchard who coordinated this event and to everyone who attended and shared their delicious dishes.



Photo by Charles Worth

About 100 guests enjoyed great food, perfect weather, and an idealic setting at our annual picnic.



Pat Petrie (left) STHS Board member, shared historic details of the farm, after being introduced by president Sally Jagoe.



Dick Carlson shared stories of Rolling Green Farm with guests.



Inside the beautiful barn an array of desserts tempted guests.



Picnic organizer Donna Trenchard presented a Solebury coverlet to hosts Tim Hargus and Dick Carlson.



(l-r) STHS Board members Marti Harris, Donna Trenchard and Beth Carrick with host Dick Carlson

Don't miss the New Year's Brunch

Plans are well underway for the Society's ninth annual New Year's Day brunch on Friday, January 1, 2010 at Holly Hedge Estate, 6987 Upper York Road in Solebury Township.

This annual event features a social time from noon to 12:30 followed by a complete gourmet brunch, including meats, omelet stations and poached salmon. Complimentary cider and a cash bar are available and musical entertainment will be provided.

Following the meal the Society will announce the names of the recipients of our Honored Citizens of Solebury Awards, recognized for their significant contributions to Solebury's rich heritage.

The popular raffle this year includes dinners at Sweet Lorraines, Phillips Mill Inn, and Hotel duVillage, a party at Gigglesberry Fair, a designer bird house, and a private participating cooking class for 4 by "The Everyday Gourmet" (Robert Hartzell)

NEW THIS YEAR. Some of our high value items will be auctioned, including an oil painting by Jan Lipes, one night stay in the River Suite with dinner for 2 at the Black Bass Hotel, and a 4 day, 3 night stay in a luxurious condo on the Savannah River in Savannah, Georgia. **Don't forget to bring your checkbooks!**

You will receive an invitation in late November. Seating is limited and advanced paid reservations of \$45.00 per person are required. See you January 1st!



Beautiful framed oil painting by Jan Lipes. Magnolia branch.(15" x 18")



Overnight and dinner at the historic Black Bass Hotel



Enjoy an enchanting long weekend in this exclusive condo in Savannah with stunning river views.

From the desk of your archivist

Our library is gradually getting well organized thanks to the new computer generously donated by Richard Carlson and the technical skills of Beth Carrick and Donneta Crane who set it all up. We now have all of our books listed by subject in both a notebook and on the computer. Dick (R. Carlson), who has been diligently working on updating the names of present property owners and their addresses, was even able to access the Bucks County web site where all this information is available to anyone with just a click of the mouse! He was ecstatic with joy!

Our own new web site designed by Elaine Crooks has already brought us several requests for information about family names or houses which we have been able to supply – one such request even came from a gentleman in England!

In addition to Beth and Donneta, Pam Blake has now joined our staff of volunteers, Dick, Donna Trenchard and I. We are all working on filing the rest of Ned Harrington's files containing his research on more of the historic houses in Solebury.

We are open to the public every Wednesday afternoon from 3 to 5 p.m. Come visit us and let us show you around.

Joan Fitting, Archivist

Email request fulfilled: A gentleman from Georgia found us on the web and emailed a request for any information on his ancestor, John Scarborough of England. We were able to provide him with more than 40 pages of information concerning the Scarborough family of Solebury, including a legible copy of a 1689 deed signed by William Penn.

Donneta Crane

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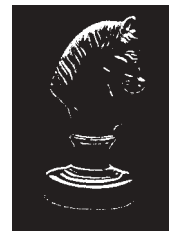
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Addison Wolfe Real Estate

With Gratitude . . .

Members are the backbone of our organization. We are deeply appreciative of the support of the residents listed below who have renewed their membership or joined the Society since the last newsletter.

New Members

Ashby & Ginnie Saunders
Ed & Carole McGahan

Members who renewed

Paul & Marianne Bogen
Steven Cohen and Pamela Blake
Jim & Mary Borthwick
Dale & Ruth Broderick
John Cannon
Richard Carlson
John and Carol Carpenter
Mrs. M. Curtis Chianese
Joe Chiesa
Richard & Gerry Cooper
Frank & Patty Cosner
R. Scott Creighton
Elaine & Malcolm Crooks
Gwen Davis
Jonathan & Diane Downs
Ruth Durnin
Geoffrey & Kathleen Fisher
Paul & Rita Flack
Michael & Jean Fowler
Bruce and Sheryl Fredendall
Dr. Philip & Valerie Gerbino
Alix & Chris Hansen
Peggy & Bill Hecht
Margaret Jamison
Douglas & Wendy Kale
Gregory D. Kirk

Richard G. & Margaret Knoster
David Linehan
Diane Glossman & Richard Magruder
Thomas and James Markey
David R. McShane
Sarah Melson
Ruth J. Palmer
Art and Gail Pasquarella
Megan & Ken Peterson
Stephen and Marie Raab
Roger & Ginny Riedley
Jeanne Ann Robinson
Paul and Lisa Ruo
Suzanne & Edward Sanson
Paul Schwehm
Michael & Lavinia Smerconish
John & Irene Szykowski
Daniel Telep
The Lexington House
Melody Hunt and William E. Tinsman
Sue & Bill Tinsman
Michael Prediger and John Touhey
Jon Volwieder
Franca C. Warden
Curt Wary
Elaine Whitman

Every effort has been made to publish a complete and accurate list of memberships received since the last newsletter (June 2009) and up to October 27, 2009. We regret if there are any omissions.

Many Thanks . . .

The generosity of so many folks help the Society throughout the year. We deeply appreciate the support of our friends and neighbors:

Dick Carlson & Tim Hargus for hosting our annual picnic at Rolling Green Farm.

Donna Trenchard for chairing the picnic.

Pat Petrie for sharing the history of Rolling Green Farm with our picnic guests.

Linda Kenyon for offering to present *Julia Child* at our annual meeting.

Solebury Township supervisors and staff for the use of a portion of the township building lobby and their cooperation in setting up our new museum.

The **advertisers** in the *Solebury Chronicle* who help offset the cost of producing the newsletter. These are local businesses, and we urge your patronage.

(Call 215-297-0885 or email soleburyhistory@verizon.net to reach the Solebury community with your ad in the next *Solebury Chronicle*.)

We are deeply saddened by the death of William Tinsman, Jr. of Lumberville. Bill passed away on October 28, 2009. Bill was a lifetime resident of Solebury Township, a long time supporter of the Society and very active in community affairs. Our deepest sympathies to his wife Sue and his entire family.

Short Quiz

What was the location of the first ferry across the Delaware River?

Answer: Centre Bridge

Plan for the Future

The Solebury Township Historical Society has an Endowment Fund to help secure our future. Please remember us in your estate planning.

Holly Hedge
ESTATE

JOE LUCCARO
Owner

6587 Upper York Road
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Distinctive Events



Solebury Township Historical Society
Drawer 525
Solebury, PA 18963

Calendar at a Glance

Mark your calendars for our fun-filled upcoming events.

Sunday, November 15, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Annual Meeting
"Julia Child"; pot luck dinner

Sunday, December 6, 3 - 5 pm. Grand Opening
Solebury Township Historical Museum

Friday, January 1, 2010, 12- 3 p.m. New Year's Brunch
Holly Hedge Estate

*The Mills of New Hope walk was postponed due to rain and
will be rescheduled in the spring.*

Visit soleburyhistory.org for updates and lots more!

Did you Know?

Renowned artist Edward Redfield was known for
completing his paintings in one day!

Do You Know?



Do you know where this is? It's a public place in Solebury Township.

Call 215-862-5033 or email soleburyhistory@verizon.net with your answer. Be the first to guess right and win a prize!