



# Solebury Chronicle

The Newsletter of the Solebury Township Historical Society

## *Solebury Township Historical Society*

Drawer 525, Solebury, Pa 18963  
215-297-5091  
[info@soleburyhistory.org](mailto:info@soleburyhistory.org)  
[www.soleburyhistory.org](http://www.soleburyhistory.org)

### **Board of Directors**

Charlotte Zanidakis  
President/Grants

Sue-Ann DiVito  
Vice President/Events

Wendy Appleton  
Treasurer/Genealogy

Robert Ainey  
Secretary/Newsletter

Darcy Fair, PhD  
Heritage

Craig Haney  
Property Mgt

Melody Hunt  
Impression-Sips

Marnie Newman-Leasure  
Education

Judy Clarke  
Archives

Carol Ann Della Penna  
Communications

### **Consultants**

Eric Jacobson  
Website

Jillian McGlone  
Publicity

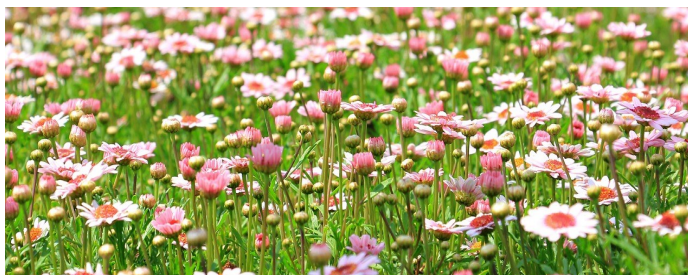
Marilyn Lanctot  
Pamela Sergey  
Archives

## Happenings from the President

Busy, busy, busy! Since the end of 2018, the board of directors has been diligently and meticulously revising the 3-year strategic plan to create a structure to carry STHS into the future. As we grow, new committees have been added to reflect the diversity of activities offered to our community.

Over the past three months, activities included:

- New Year's Day Brunch: record-breaking attendance!
- Impression-Sips sessions in January, February and March: each month sold out!
- Three Genealogy Workshops were held during March and presented by Wendy Appleton, STHS treasurer. Collaborating with the New Hope-Solebury Free Library, the success of this event leads to scheduling additional workshops in the fall. Look for additional info later this year on our website and on Facebook.
- Doylestown Historical Society gathering of area historical nonprofits: see story in this newsletter
- New Hope-Solebury School District Superintendent, Dr. Charles Lentz, initiated an outreach program to area historical societies to connect the school's Student Community Program as volunteers with STHS projects.
- Aquetong Spring Park with Solebury Township;
- Questers Organization, presentation about STHS: see story in newsletter
- Oral History and Souls of Solebury: continues to grow AND if you know someone or hear a story to be shared, let us know
- Archives: (a huge project!) To maintain and preserve the growing number of archival material, we need to purchase a scanner and new computer to scan, store and save items for easy access. Grant applications for \$5,000 have been submitted. **Keep your fingers crossed!**



## Future Events

Visit our website and Facebook for future events:

- Summer Picnic at Tinsman Brothers Lumberyard - date TBD soon
- "Perfect Pairings" Wine and Food Event on October 12th

For details, please click [Here](#) or visit [www.soleburyhistory.org/events/](http://www.soleburyhistory.org/events/)

- Annual Meeting on November 12th
- #GivingTuesday scholarship funds December 3rd

As we continue to grow, we would appreciate your ideas for walks, talks, events, etc. Please contact us at [info@soleburyhistory.org](mailto:info@soleburyhistory.org) Many thanks to ALL members for keeping Solebury Township the treasure it is!

## Charlotte

## News About Our Past Events



By Charlotte Zanidakis

Thank you to all who joined us to celebrate the New Year at the HollyHedge Estate with Bob Egan Entertainment.

Congratulations to our Honored Citizen, Bill Tinsman.

Also thanks to all of the wonderful sponsors for their contributions to this community celebration.

And a special thanks to our photographer, Carol Ross, for capturing the event with her beautiful pictures. To see a video montage please click [Here](#) or go to the Solebury Township Historical Society page on Facebook.

## Doylestown Historical Society

"Preserving and celebrating the creative and historic significance of Doylestown and its neighboring communities"

By Charlotte Zanidakis

Recently, Solebury Township Historical Society along with two dozen neighboring community sites were invited to attend the first Historical Societies Visitation Day on April 12th organized by the Doylestown Historical Society. The purpose of this outreach was to exchange information and awareness with other area organizations.

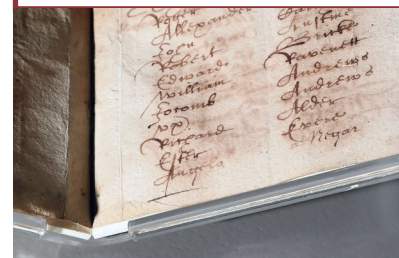
Asked to bring two representatives and handouts about their organization; Darcy Fair, Ph.D.— Folklorist and board member, and Charlotte Zanidakis, President of STHS board of directors; shared success stories about STHS along with some of the challenging issues of our projects.

We also shared how outside professional organizations have guided us with grant information, technical equipment, and assisted us to properly maintain archives in our schoolhouse.

### History Quiz

Who was the first slave recorded in the United States — 400 years ago?

Answer on Page 7





Informing the attendees about the Conservation Center for Art & Historical Artifacts [www.ccaha.org](http://www.ccaha.org) and the services it offers was of keen interest to many. Darcy spoke on intangible cultural heritage and the American Association of State and Local History, [www.aaslh.org](http://www.aaslh.org)

Being able to hear experiences from other organizations not only strengthened knowledge for everyone, but provided a repository for sharing archival and operational speakers, organizational tips and a network to continue professional outreach whenever needed.

The gathering was an exciting collaboration for everyone, extremely well received, and we formed future plans to organize reciprocal meetings for everyone to share nonprofit experiences in the near future.

Many thanks to Donna Carcaci Rhodes, Director of Operations, at Doylestown Historical Society for organizing a much-needed meeting of area colleagues in this nonprofit profession!



**By Charlotte Zanidakis**

**"QUESTERS KEEP HISTORY ALIVE BY SUPPORTING PRESERVATION, RESTORATION AND EDUCATION"**

The local Questers 1944 organization, [www.questers1944.org](http://www.questers1944.org) requested a 45-minute presentation about Solebury Township Historical Society. (To the right is a Questers restoration project of stained-glass windows)

Organized by Bonnie Long, an artist from Carversville, the group of 20 members mostly from the Yardley area were interested to learn more about STHS, our archives, early area settlers and the Lenape Indians.

The presentation held on March 19th included Judy Clarke and Marilyn Lanctot of our archive committee who shared stories about our artifacts, the archive procedure and the collections. In addition, Charlotte Zanidakis, shared the 'beginning years' of STHS from Sally Jagoe's oral history, our past events, current programs, a current project working with the Township to restore the Aquetong Spring Park area, and a project with Lenape National of PA that is overseen by fellow board member, Darcy Fair.

The attendees were very interested in the talk and were delighted to learn how involved STHS is in reaching out to other organizations, in addition to how we continue to grow to maintain and preserve the history of Solebury Township. STHS was also appreciative when presented with a donation from the Questers Organization.



## From the Archives

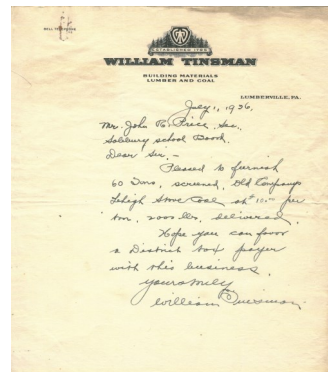
By Pamela Sergey



On a cold day, have you ever wondered what it was like to heat a school in 1936?

Most students walked to school. It was the Depression, after all, and there was no money for frivolities like transportation and janitors. Students were expected to pitch in with chores at home and at school. Older boys came in early to start the fire each morning. They would get the coal, pea size preferred, shake down the ashes, open the draft, light a thin layer of coal, adding another thin layer of coal every 5-10 minutes, and finally let it burn for the day. Starting an anthracite coal fire took time and patience. It was a learning process, and girls were expected to sweep out the schoolhouse when they arrived and before they left for the day.

In the Solebury Township Historic Society archives, there are numerous invoices for coal. On July 1, 1936 William Tinsman invoiced the Solebury School Board for 60 tons Old Company Lehigh Stove Coal at \$10.00 per ton, 2000 lbs, delivered. Of note: Tinsman Bros is the oldest, family-run, U.S. lumberyard still in business— founded in 1785.



## Come Visit the Schoolhouse

Built in ca. 1755, the one-room schoolhouse in Solebury Village was the first schoolhouse in the township. Originally established by the Buckingham Friends Meeting, it was deeded to the public school system in 1870 and has been used for education continuously up to the present day.

The schoolhouse was rebuilt in 1810 and 1870. The architectural style of the school is Federal with some Greek Revival influences.

The schoolhouse is open to welcome visitors on Wednesday afternoon from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Or by appointment. Plan to stop in for a visit; we'd love to meet you.



## Impression-Sips 2019

By Melody Hunt

By popular demand **Impression-Sips** was back for a 2019 Winter Series season— our 5<sup>th</sup> year! 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 were January 27<sup>th</sup>, February 24<sup>th</sup> and March 24<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. This year the artists featured all towpath paintings.

Thanks again to loyal sponsors: Freeman’s of Philadelphia and Tinsman Bros. of Lumberville for the easels, paints, canvases and brushes; Manoff’s of Solebury for the apples, cider and cheeses; and ShopRite, Flemington, for platters of cold-cuts.



Inspired by Antonio Martino’s “The Mist”, this season’s winter scene captures the mood of a misty winter morning along the towpath in one of everyone’s favorite towns - Lumberville.



This scene is inspired by Fern Coppedge’s “Lumberville Cottage”. Coppedge is known for her joyous use of color and her childlike strokes of genius. This painting is actually of her studio which was on the canal across the road

## Impression-Sips 2019



Our “Summer Towpath” is inspired by John Folinsbee’s work of the same name. He was a prolific painter, sometimes doing several in a day and throwing the ones he didn’t care for off the New Hope bridge! We love the loose style of his brush strokes. We think this view is close to Burgess Lea, north of Center Bridge.

And a special thanks to all our volunteers who made these cold, wintry days special for the artists:



Melody and Stephanie

Sustenance to keep going.  
Where’s the wine?



Sandy Valley holding a Masterclass

**STHS are looking for volunteers to help  
Do you have interest in any of the following areas?**

1. Membership
2. Fundraising
3. Authors/Artists/Historians
4. Open Board positions, as they occur

**Students: consider devoting some of your Community Service hours to our non profit Historical Society  
To volunteer please e-mail: [info@soleburyhistory.org](mailto:info@soleburyhistory.org)  
or call: Charlotte Zanidakis 215-297-5091**

## Meet Our Newest Board Members



Robert Ainey joined the board as Secretary, editor of the Newsletter and originator of member emails for upcoming events and items of interest. He hails originally from a small town in Northeastern Pennsylvania called 'Nicholson'. It's only claim to fame besides himself was a concrete railroad bridge built in 1912 that spanned a gap over the Tunkhannock Creek. Like a modern freeway today, it meant that his hometown remained a forgotten place that passengers on the train could look down on as they sped by.



Graduating from the University Of Pennsylvania with a degree in history was of limited use during the economic downturn and oil embargo of the early 70's so he undertook additional coursework in law, accounting, and, most importantly, computer science. The use of information technology in banks and financial institutions became his career for the better part of his life, first in the United States and from 1983 to 2015 in the Middle East. Returning to the U.S. he became a real estate associate, licensed in both PA and NJ, and works for Addison Wolfe Real Estate in New Hope.

In addition to his work for STHS, Robert is also a dedicated Rotarian, for 19 years at the Rotary Club of Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain in the Persian Gulf, and for the past 2+ years with the Rotary Club of Doylestown.

*(Erratum: In the Winter edition of the newsletter I used the phrase "your author of this newsletter" when it should have read "your editor...". The bylines that appear for each article are the true authors of their respective pieces, and, as editor, I just tinker around the edges of their originality)*

## Support our Business Members

### Stewards

Addison Wolfe Real Estate  
550 Union Square Dr  
New Hope, PA 18938  
215-862-5500

Crews Surveying, LLC  
PO Box 360  
New Hope, PA 18938  
215-766-2477

Rockwood Wealth Management  
6236 Lower York Road  
New Hope, PA 18938  
267 983 6400

Tinsman Brothers, Inc.  
6632 Old Carversville Road  
Lumberville, PA 18933  
215 297 5100

### Protectors

The Bank of Princeton  
10 Bridge Street  
Lambertville, NJ 08530  
609 397 0333

Freeman's Auctions and Appraisals  
1808 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
215 563 9275

Holly Hedge Estates  
6987 Upper York Road  
New Hope, PA 18938  
215 862 3136

Rago Arts and Auctions  
333 North Main Street  
Lambertville, NJ 08530  
609 397 9374

### Guardians

Bucks County Herald  
PO Box 685  
Lahaska, PA 18931  
215 794 1096

George Nakashima Woodworker, S.A.  
1847 Aquetong Road  
New Hope, PA 18938  
215 862 2272

### History Quiz

'Angela' - her given name, the first African woman documented in Virginia. Arrived 1619, recorded in the Jamestown census of 1624/25.

Courtesy: Washington Post





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Solebury, PA 18963

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## Support STHS with your Membership

Membership is our most important source of income. You should have received a renewal letter for your 2019 Society membership.

May we ask you to respond promptly and as generously as possible?

Membership is the Society's largest source of income so we rely on your support.

Thank you for your generosity

## Upcoming events

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>TBD</b>    | <b>Summer Picnic</b>                    |
| <b>Oct 12</b> | <b><a href="#">Perfect Pairings</a></b> |
| <b>Nov 12</b> | <b>Annual Meeting</b>                   |
| <b>Dec 3</b>  | <b>#GivingTuesday</b>                   |
| <b>Jan 1</b>  | <b>New Years Brunch</b>                 |

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