



NEWSLETTER

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Nominating

David Flint 733-5871

Newsletter

Sandy Hamer 733-0196

Program

Pat Bowman 413-738-5420

Refreshments

Alice Mather 733-5668

20th Anniversary Celebrates Many Improvements at Heritage Center

At the Historical Society's 20th Anniversary meeting in May, Meredith and Richard Rhindress presentation brought out many "Oohs", "Ahhs", laughs and fond memories as audience members viewed slides of early efforts to shore up and restore the then-newly-purchased Heritage Center



building. Turn to Page 3 for more photographs of the early years of the Heritage Center and volunteers' efforts to rehabilitate and restore the building for the benefit and use by the residents of Stephentown. (Photo David Flint)

New Insulating Panels will Help Offset Pain of Winter Heating Bills

New window insulation panels were recently installed at the Heritage Center, just in time to help offset the jump in heating fuel bills this winter.

At left, Advanced Energy Panels representatives install the panels, which are expected to achieve up to a 55% reduction in the Historical Society's annual heating bills.

Drop by the Heritage Center any Friday between 1 & 4 pm to check out the new panels, along with the 40 comfortable new folding chairs purchased with an anonymous \$1,000 contribution. (Photo David Flint)



Old Stephentown Revealed in Recently-Acquired Set of Postcards



Berlin resident Jean Carr recently contributed the two postcards, above, to the Stephentown Historical Society. On the left is District School #7 on Garfield Road, now the home of the Joseph Rieger family. It operated independently until 1951, the last Stephentown school to centralize.

The postcard on the right depicts the Smith Dam, also on Garfield Road. The view is quite different today. From the postmark on the back of this card, both postcards were created in the 1920's and 1930's. SHS Collections and Heritage Center Chair Bev McClave, welcomed these additions to the organization's collection.

Annual Membership: The Best Deal in Town

A \$10 annual membership fee is a thing of the past, except at the Stephentown Historical Society where this bargain rate still exists. Take advantage of the deal, interesting meetings and good fellowship and help support our efforts to maintain the Heritage Center for future generations. Membership categories and annual fees are:

Individual	\$ 10
Family	\$ 25
Supporting	\$ 50
Life	\$ 200

Please make your check payable to: Stephentown Historical Society and mail it to us at PO Box 11, Stephentown, NY 12168.



2008 HERITAGE CENTER HOURS AND DATES OF CLOSURE

The Heritage Center is open from 1 to 4 pm on Fridays and by appointment. It will be closed on the following dates in 2008: Labor Day August 29, Thanksgiving November 28, Christmas December 26 and New Year's Day January 2, 2009.

Community Tag Sale August 9

The Historical Society's annual Tag Sale will be held on August 9 at Gardner's Field on Route 22 from 9 am to 3 pm. The rain date is Sunday, August 10.

You may donate clean, usable items to the SHS (no furniture, big appliances or clothing please, and small appliances must work) or purchase your own selling space for \$10. Setup begins at 8 am on the day of sale or deliver donated items to the Heritage Center on Garfield Road on Friday, August 8 between 1 & 4 pm.

For more information, contact Bev McClave at 733-5170 or Libby Kogan at 733-6662.

Road Challenge October 25

The second annual Road Challenge will be held on Saturday, October 25, followed by a potluck supper and prizes at the Heritage Center. Mark the date on your calendar. Last year's participants had a great tour of our community, learned a bit of history and enjoyed every minute of it. Save the date and join us this year.

FALL PROGRAMS OFFER INTERESTING TOPICS

The programs that SHS Program Chair Pat Bowman and her committee (Isabel Krebs, Meredith Rhindress and Lucille Salitan) have planned for the last half of 2008 promise to stimulate considerable audience discussion while making us more aware of the history of the Stephentown area. The calendar of events is in the box to the right. Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month, are free and begin at 7:30 pm after a brief business meeting (the December potluck supper will begin at 6:30 pm). The public is always welcome at meetings.

In Memoriam

Helen Feeny 1918 - 2007
 Dorothy Haley (Life Member)
 1928 - 2007

Fall 2008 Program Topics

August 4 - "Vintage Trail Bikes"

presented by James Hoellerich

September 8 - "Music of Yesteryear"

presented by Wallace Stock

October 6 - "World War II Experiences in Germany"

presented by Stephen Sell

November 3 - "Native American Cuisine"

presented by Lisa Ballantyne

"Little Wolf"

December 1 - (Christmas Potluck & Party @ 6:30 pm)

Program: "Christmas Decorations"

presented by Kathryn Sheehan

January 5 - "One-Room Schoolhouses"

presented by Paul Rocheleau

The Stephentown Heritage Center 20 Years Ago...



On April 11, 1988, Historical Society representatives (l to r.) Jane Dwyer, President; Ellen Lewis, Treasurer; and Betty Feathers met with lawyer Henry Zwack to sign the papers for the purchase of the 1870 Methodist Church building that was subsequently rehabilitated and is now known as the Stephentown Heritage Center.



The long process of restoring the Heritage Center began shortly after its purchase in 1988. Here, scaffolding has been erected and a pay-loader has been brought in to lift lumber to the roof so that volunteer workmen can repair some lumber in the steeple that was destroyed by carpenter ants and to fix a six inch sag in the roof. Inside, a buttress was also built to shore up beams while repairs were under way.

Initial Cemetery Survey Reveals Debris, Broken Markers, Need for Cleanup and Landscaping Work

Stephentown Historical Society volunteers have been generously donating their time this spring to conduct a comprehensive inventory of more than 40 of our town's 70 cemeteries. It's a daunting task, but one that is long overdue.

Although all surveys were not completed by press time, it is clear from those turned in so far that considerable work needs to be done to rehabilitate some of the neglected, overgrown plots.

"We're so fortunate that so many of our members have volunteered to conduct these surveys," noted SHS President Patricia Flint. "We're especially grateful for those property owners who have agreed to be responsible for maintaining the cemeteries located on their property. Alice LeBlanc, owner of the Stephentown Center Baptist Church property on Calvin Cole Road, for example, worked along with Bill Zimmerman and Bev McClave on May 17th to clear trees and small brush on the site. We are hopeful that others will come forward to 'adopt' a cemetery and to help restore their dignity," she concluded.



This marker at the Denison Cemetery fell against the tree so long ago that the tree has grown around the marker.

(Photo Richard Rhindress)



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