



# THE FANLIGHT

Vol. 23, No. 6

Monroe County Historical Association • [www.monroehistorical.org](http://www.monroehistorical.org)

November-December 2012



*Jasper Glides Along,*  
Robert Rasely

## *'Outsider' Artists of the Middle Delaware* **Art auction fundraiser set for Nov. 10**

MCHA, in conjunction with the Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort and Hartzell's Auction Gallery, will hold the third annual art and auction fundraiser featuring the artwork of Justin McCarthy, Robert Rasely, Jack Savitsky, and Sterling Strauser. The exhibit is titled "Outsider Artists of the Middle Delaware," and will be held Saturday, November 10 at the Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort, 1 River Road, Shawnee-on-Delaware.

The galleries will be open for public viewing from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., with a \$5 admission fee.

A special evening gala event featuring a private viewing and dinner reception will be held at 5:30 p.m. Live music will be provided by Nancy and Spencer Reed.

Guests will be treated to a special viewing and an intimate four-course meal surrounded by the artwork. James Sittig, a local art professional, will give a short presentation and history about the featured artists following the meal. The live auction will begin at 9 p.m.

The cost of the Saturday evening gala is \$100 per person and includes entry for the all-day event.

### **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

**Robert A. Rasely II** (1950-2005) was born in East Stroudsburg and was a Stroudsburg High School Class of 1968 graduate. He was trained at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, studied abroad in Italy and the Netherlands, and was known as a magic-realist and surrealist. His work has been exhibited in major galleries from New York to San Francisco, including the National Academy of Design.

**Justin McCarthy** (1891-1977) struggled early in his life before gaining recognition in the art world. After failing law school, he was briefly hospitalized in a mental institution from 1915 to 1920 where he began drawing. In 1960, he was discovered by Dorothy Strauser at an art show in Stroudsburg. McCarthy was known to paint anything that interested him, including movie stars, politicians, historical events, animals, automobiles and more. His work is displayed in the Museum of Modern Art, the Brooklyn Museum, the American Folk Art Museum, and many other galleries and collections.

Story continues, Page 3

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## MCHA Calendar of Events

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**Saturday, November 10**

**'Outsider' Artists  
of the Middle Delaware**

Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort,  
Shawnee-on-Delaware.

*Public gallery – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.*

*Gala dinner and auction, 5:30 p.m.*

Art exhibit and auction fundraiser featuring the artwork of Sterling Strauser, Robert Rasely, John "Jack" Savitsky and Justin McCarthy.

**Public gallery:** \$5 admission

**Evening gala,** featuring dinner, private viewing and auction: \$100 per person.

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**Thursday, November 22 –  
through Saturday November 24**

**MCHA Closed for Thanksgiving Break**

Stroud Mansion and MCHA office will reopen on Tuesday, November 27.

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**Thursday, December 6  
and Friday, December 7  
Holiday Luncheon  
at the Stroud Mansion**

Two seatings each day. Join us for either an early lunch from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. or a late lunch from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Cost is \$18.50 per person.

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**Saturday, December 22  
through Monday January 14  
MCHA Closed**

**(Christmas/New Year Break)**

Stroud Mansion and MCHA office will reopen on Tuesday, January 15.

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## Volunteers needed for Holiday Luncheon

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The MCHA staff needs volunteers to bake desserts and help with the annual Holiday Luncheon.

Every year, Eleanor Bender, our pianist, graciously volunteers her time to provide the music for our luncheon. We are looking for additional musicians to showcase their talent for our fund-

raiser event. It will be helpful for one musician to take a break while the other musician is entertaining our guests with cheery holiday music.

If you would like to be part of the fun of the Holiday Luncheon at the Mansion, please call the office today at (570) 421-7703.

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## Coalition Corner

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**Historical Association of Tobyhanna Township** | [tobyhannahistory.org](http://tobyhannahistory.org) | 570-646-7235

**Wednesday, November 14,** 10:15 a.m. "The History of Tobyhanna Army Camp & Depot." Clymer Library, Firehouse Road, Pocono Pines.

**Saturday, December 15,** 1 p.m. "Home for the Holiday ... A Community Musical Celebration." Pocono Lake United Methodist Church, Route 940, Pocono Lake. (Free tickets)

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**Chestnuthill Township 250th Celebration Committee**

Third Thursday of every month, 7 p.m. Chestnuthill Municipal Building, Route 715, Brodheads ville. Citizens and organizations encouraged to help plan the 250th celebration. Historic documents and photos sought for book about West End. Deadline for submissions: March 1. Norm Burger, 610-681-7561 or Dave Fleetwood, 570-629-5509.

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**Barrett Township Historical Society** | [www.barretthistory.org](http://www.barretthistory.org)

**Friday, November 9** - 7:30 p.m., Mountainhome United Methodist Church, Routes 390 & 191, Cresco. Frogtown Players present "The Life of George Garrison Shafer," the story of an early settler, sawmill owner, undertaker, dry goods and grocery store owner, postmaster, Sunday school superintendent, county surveyor and father of seven children. Free and open to the public. Refreshments. Jackie Magann, 570-595-9233.

**Saturday, December 8,** 7 to 9 p.m., Lantern Tour – Leeanne Dyson, 570-839-9122.

**Sunday, December 9,** noon to 5 p.m. Barrett-Paradise Inn Tour. Tickets at holiday decorated Cresco Station Museum. Refreshments. Leeanne Dyson at 570-839-9122.

**Friday, December 14,** 7:30 p.m., general meeting with a guest speaker. All are welcome. Contact Leeanne Dyson, 570-839-9122.

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**Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm** | [www.quietvalley.org](http://www.quietvalley.org) | 570-992-6161

**Saturday, November 10** - 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - Market Basket Workshop. Make a colorful market basket for yourself or to give as a gift, just in time for the Christmas. Cost: \$55 non-members, \$45 members, includes all materials. Instructor: GERALYN DURHAM. Call or email to pre-register: 570-992-6161 or [farm@quietvalley.org](mailto:farm@quietvalley.org).

**December 1 & 2, December 8 & 9** - Old-Time Christmas. Guides dressed in period clothing lead lantern light tours through the historic buildings and displays. Storytelling, Christmas Putz, Victorian skit, live Nativity, caroling in one-room school, Bel-schnikel visit, holiday gift shop. Public tours 3:30–7 p.m. Groups of 12 or more, 2:30–3:30 p.m. by reservation and receive \$1 off. Rain or shine. \$10 adults, \$5 ages 3–12.

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**Coolbaugh Township Historical Association**

**Saturday, December 1** - 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., Holiday Festival with Pocono Mountain Public Library. Wills Mansion, Coolbaugh Township Municipal Complex, Route 611, Tobyhanna. Pocono Flute Society and Mountain Wind Quintet. Holiday story at the library. Visit by Santa Claus, holiday cookies and refreshments, tree lighting. Free. Coolbaugh Township Historical Association – 570-894-420 or Pocono Mountain Public Library – 570-894-8860.

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**Left:**  
Zebras  
Justin McCarthy

**Below:**  
Fire at the Fenner Hotel  
Sterling Strauser

## Art auction fundraiser

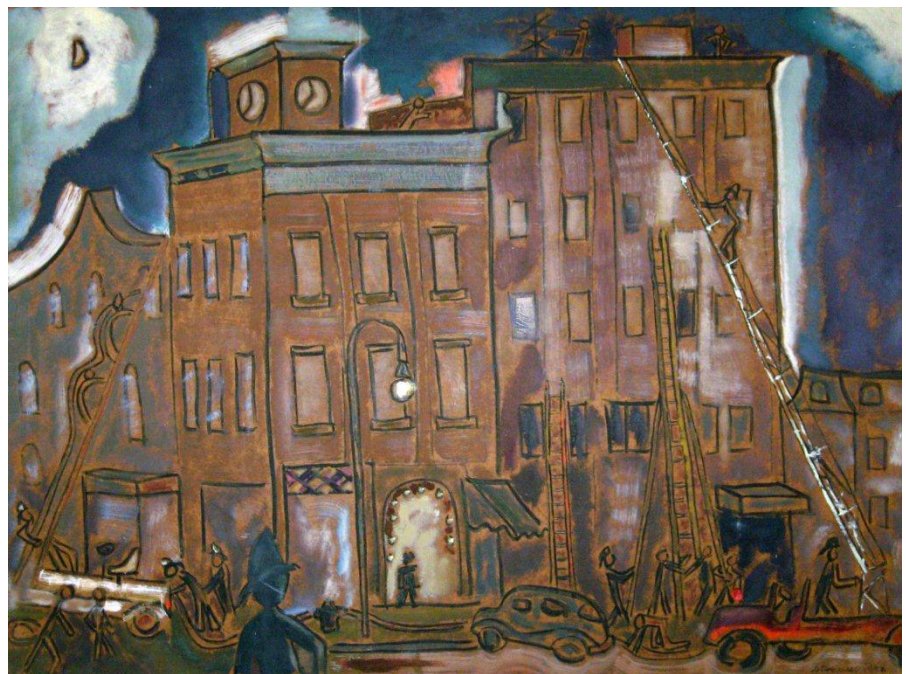
Continued from Page 1

**John "Jack" Savitsky** (1910-1991) was a coal miner by trade, but after the mine where he worked closed, he began to pursue a career in the folk art world.

Much of his work depicted coal mining scenes, biblically-inspired imagery, animals and more. Savitsky was recognized and promoted by Sterling Strauser.

Today his work is part of many well-known collections including the Smithsonian Institution, the National Museum of American Art, and the Museum of Folk Art in New York City, NY.

**Sterling B. Strauser** (1907-1995) was born in Bloomsburg and moved to East Stroudsburg, in 1928 where he lived for the rest of his life.



He was a self-taught artist who was well-known for his signature florals, figures and local scenes. Strauser and his wife, Dorothy, who was also an artist, were not only avid collectors of local art, but often promoted other local artists above their own artwork.

Sterling's artwork hangs in many museums and galleries including the Allentown Art Museum, Lehigh University, the Maier Museum of Art, and the Monroe County Historical Association.

*A special thank you to:*

**Hartzell's Auction Gallery**





Monroe County  
Historical Association

## Welcome, New Members

*As of September 1, 2012*

Donald Gilbert  
Kurt Lutz  
Peggy Wilson



## Boys And Their Toys

### Coming in November

Plan to see a new Pocono Doll Club exhibit that will be on display this winter in the Victorian parlor:

Rare boy dolls and toys that little boys would have found under the Christmas tree in days gone by.

This special exhibit will open for the holiday, and continue into March.

# Reaching out to students

## Education Committee presents at state conference

**By Joan B. Groff, Education Committee Chair**

The MCHA Education Committee was honored to accept an invitation to exhibit and present at the Pennsylvania Council for Social Studies Annual Conference, themed “Making Social Studies Relevant,” on October 12 in Bethlehem. Members Kathy Boyle, Joan Groff, Barbara Kopetskie and Dr. Linda Rogers wrote a proposal based on our two grant projects, the Colonial Traveling Trunk and the Civil War/Lincoln lesson binders and trade books. Council President Joe Labant presented us with an award for these educational lessons and references at last year’s annual meeting.

Very early Friday morning, we added our exhibit materials to the vendors’ room, and then we spent a wonderful 45 minutes trying to curb our enthusiasm and edit ourselves while we delivered an interactive group presentation to 18 college students, Social Studies’ teachers, professors and museum professionals.

We explained how we won the Target grant and part of the National Endowment for the Humanities grant to create new materials for educators, integrating local history to Colonial and Civil War periods.

Our audience was engaged in our photo game by matching area locations from “then and now.”

We described how a nonprofit museum can use its resources to enrich Social Studies curricula and reach out to the community. People saw how we use our primary sources such as the Stroud Mansion and its artifacts, as well as maps and newspapers, and realized they could adapt our methods.

Among the things participants said they learned were “usefulness of county historical societies,” “how to help students think historically,” “photos as writing prompts,” “idea of making students history detectives,” “group collaboration,” and “how to select what is important in a document.” We were also complimented for the “thoroughness and enthusiasm of speakers.”

We gained many ideas and new contacts, and thank the MCHA board for letting us share the importance of local history with other educators.



Four members of the Education Committee attended the conference.





# Looking to the future

## Mansion in need of costly roof work and other maintenance

By John Layton | MCHA Board  
Long-Range Planning Committee chair

The MCHA is in the process of preparing a comprehensive plan for the next five years. The purpose of this article is to bring the membership and interested friends of MCHA up to date on a current issue facing the association.

As part of the planning process, we have conducted an assessment of maintenance needs of the properties owned by the association. During the past year, we had a significant leak in the roof due to ice damming of the gutters as well as deteriorating slate shingles. These items have been fixed.

Unfortunately, during the course of repairing the gutter and shingles it was observed that more than half of the remaining slate shingles are absorbing water, and therefore it is anticipated that more of the roof will leak and further damage the interior of the Stroud Mansion if left unattended.

Replacing individual shingles and repairing interior damage is expensive. Furthermore, the area of the Mansion known as the addition is also in need of a new roof. That roof is composed of asphalt shingles.

Other needs include a climate control system to assist in preserving the Association's collections, and

there are many other items in need of attention.

We all know from our own experiences that property takes maintenance, and that deferring maintenance is easy to do but will eventually catch up to you with the need for a major expensive repair. The MCHA as arrived at that point.

In conjunction with the comprehensive planning, we have examined the annual budgets which have had relatively small allotments for maintenance. The current budget allows \$5,000 for maintenance for this year. The rough estimate to replace the slate and asphalt roofs is as much as \$100,000. We have not sought bids nor formal estimates to date since there is little prospect of funding such a large expenditure with our current financial situation.

The other maintenance items needing replacement or repair in the next few years will also require substantial additional funding sources.

We are now in the process of seeking assistance in funding these needed repairs and replacements. In the past some members have remembered MCHA in their wills and provided for improved operations of the Association. Another possibility is a capital campaign to raise funds.

### MCHA Sponsors

*Many thanks to our Sponsors.  
Please let them know you  
appreciate their support of the  
Monroe County  
Historical Association.*

#### Small Business | \$150

Bailey's Steakhouse  
Dunbar Enterprises, Inc.  
Frailey Insurance Agency  
The Frogtown Inn & 6 Acres Restaurant  
Huffman's Electric  
Inn at Pocono Manor  
Smuggler's Cove  
Thomas Funeral Home

#### Corporate | \$250

AMD Leasing  
ESSA Bank and Trust  
KNBT | National Penn Bank  
Newman, Williams, Mishkin, Corveleyn,  
Wolfe and Fareri  
Pocono Living Magazine  
Pocono Produce Company

#### Municipal | \$250

Borough of East Stroudsburg  
Borough of Stroudsburg  
Hamilton Township  
Middle Smithfield Township  
Pocono Township  
Smithfield Township  
Stroud Township

#### Educational | \$250

East Stroudsburg University of Pa.  
Northampton Community College  
Pocono Mountain School District  
Stroudsburg Area School District

#### Contributor | \$500 or more)

PPL Electric Utilities - \$1,000  
Rotary Club of the Stroudsburgs - \$500

*The Monroe County Historical  
Association receives generous  
support from the Cherry Lane  
Foundation and  
the Monroe County  
Commissioners.*

**Thank you!**



**Free wireless Internet service** is now available to researchers in the Elizabeth D. Walters Library.  
The secure Wi-Fi connection is helping genealogists and others with their research.





## MCHA Officers

**President** | Russell D. Scott III  
**Vice President** | Martin Wilson  
**Secretary** | Eugenia S. Eden  
**Treasurer** | Clarence J. Murphy

## Board of Directors

John Abel  
Ruth Sibley Bensinger  
Joan B. Groff  
John Layton  
Connie Mc Cool  
John K. Meixell  
Bonnie Rudeski  
Michael Shepard  
Jennifer Harlacher Sibum  
George Warden

## Staff

**Executive Director** | Amy Leiser  
**Museum Assistant** | Halle Smith  
**Collections Specialist**  
Bret Fowler  
**Bookkeeper** | Margie Manner  
**Newsletter Editor/Webmaster**  
Kim de Bourbon

## 2012 Meetings

The MCHA Board of Directors meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Stroud Mansion.

November 27

*December – No meeting*

**The mission of the Monroe County Historical Association is to promote, protect and preserve the rich history of Monroe County, Pa.**



**AWARD WINNER** Stroud Mansion Garden has been chosen to receive the 2012 Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Community Greening Award. The MCHA gardeners volunteer their time in our beautiful garden and all of their hard work has paid off. These dedicated individuals will be honored at a reception at the Governor's Residence in Harrisburg in December. The staff and board of directors thank the MCHA gardeners who help us keep the exterior of the historic 1795 Stroud Mansion looking its best!

## *Presenters wanted* **Local History Conference planned with ESU in spring**

The East Stroudsburg University History Department and the Monroe County Historical Association are planning their second Local History Conference for April 2013.

The proposed topic for the conference is "Coming to the Poconos," a theme that will allow a broad range of topics to be presented. The day will include talks on transportation (rail, roads, water) and on things that attracted people to the area (recreation, resorts, to live here in bedroom communities, etc.).

The committee is looking for individuals who have conducted research on any topic that might fit into the theme of this conference and who might be interested in presenting a paper for this event.

Please contact Dr. Martin Wilson at 570-422-3991 or [mwilson@po-box.esu.edu](mailto:mwilson@po-box.esu.edu) if you would like to participate or if you have any questions.





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# Musings from the Mansion

as told to Kathy Boyle

Reporter in Residence, Monroe Mouse



Illustrated by Joan Groff

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Fall is in the air and my routine has changed. It is time to spend nights tucked away in a cozy corner of the basement kitchen at the Mansion.

Of course I won't find a fire in the hearth, but the strange thing guests refer to as a radiator will do to make my nest under. Many visitors also ask why the radiator is here. They need to understand that many things change over time, and that this was one way of heating the home long after the Strouds were residents.

Now that I am spending evenings and nights in the original kitchen, I have time to investigate other changes. Much to my surprise, I spotted two things that delight me. Certainly, these items brought back memories of years when farms were very much a part of this area west of the Delaware River.

Now, I definitely know that the sausage stuffer (*wurst filla*) was not here before, nor was the meat grinder (*fleischmuel*). Someone must have added them to the Mansion's amazing collection of kitchen tools. How appropriate that both are here for this time of year! It made me reminisce of autumns of the past and how important the farm was to early settlers.

There was always work to be done on the farm no matter what the season. In the autumn, after making apple cider, apple sauce and apple butter, salting cabbage and putting potatoes in the cold cellar, the farmer and his family made sausage.

The pigs were butchered and much of the meat hung in the smoke house to preserve it for use throughout the cold winter months. The "pork butts" were finely ground in the *fleischmuel*, spices added, and the mixture placed in the sausage stuffer. The cleaned intestines of the pig were used as casings for the ground mixture. The seasonings used to make the sausage were unique to each farm family and



made the sausage maker known from the first taste.

Some of the sausage was canned for later use, set aside in trays that were then sealed with lard and placed in a cold location, or hung in the smoke house.

The exciting thing to know is that we still have folks in Monroe County who have sausage making as part of their fall routine. How do I know? One visitor to the Mansion recently was as excited

about the sausage stuffer as I am. He related the sausage recipe he used, but course I cannot share it with you. It's a secret! However, he did share a recipe using both sausage and apples — the perfect combination to serve guests on a fall evening.

Every visit to the Stroud Mansion leads to a discovery of something that the visitor did not know previously. I enjoy seeing first-time visitors and frequent guests experience learning something new when they visit.

Be sure to look for me when you visit! You never know in what corner I may be spending my afternoon.



*Fleischmuel* – Sausage grinder



## MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

(570) 421 7703 [mcha@ptd.net](mailto:mcha@ptd.net)

Fax (570) 421 9199

[www.monroehistorical.org](http://www.monroehistorical.org)

### STROUD MANSION

900 Main Street, Stroudsburg

10 am - 4 pm Tuesday-Friday

10 am - 4 pm 1st and 3rd Saturdays

*Tours daily at 11 am and 2 pm*

### DRIEBE FREIGHT STATION

537 Ann Street Stroudsburg

Now serving as the headquarters  
of the Jacob Stroud Corporation

570 424 0325

### THE BELL SCHOOL

6183 Cherry Valley Road, Stormville

Hamilton Township

1-4 pm every Sunday in July and August

Other times by special appointment



## MCHA Wish List Volunteers needed for Holiday Luncheon

- MUSICIANS TO ENTERTAIN
- COOKS TO BAKE DESSERT
- HELPERS AT LUNCHEON

Please call (570) 421-7703



Visit the MCHA Web site

<http://monroehistorical.org>

Click on the facebook logo on the right. Become a fan of the Monroe County Historical Association through your facebook account today and be sure to suggest it to all of your friends.

## Has your address changed?

If you have a new mailing address due to the Monroe County addressing project, please let us know. We don't want you to miss any of the exciting events, fundraisers, programs and workshops offered by MCHA. Please contact Halle Smith by emailing your new address to [mcha@ptd.net](mailto:mcha@ptd.net) or by calling (570) 421-7703.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Monroe County  
Historical Association  
900 Main Street  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360