



Stroud Mansion needs your help

ESSA Foundation gift gets fundraising rolling

By Amy Leiser

Executive Director

Happy New Year! It's been a wonderfully busy year at the Monroe County Historical Association, and I plan to keep that momentum going into 2014!

Over the past couple of years, the staff and volunteers have worked hard to beautify the museum space in the Stroud Mansion. Exhibit rooms were painted, display areas were redesigned, and artifacts have been rotated throughout the building.

In 2012 and 2013, we focused on our interior design. It looks as though 2014 will be the year to focus on the Stroud Mansion as a structure. The building itself is in desperate need of attention, and the Facilities Committee has identified three major projects that need to be completed.

The first and most important project is the replacement of the 1920s slate roof. Articles updating our membership and friends on the process and progress of the new slate roof have appeared in past editions of *The Fanlight*. I am very pleased to report that you, our members, have stepped up and donated several thousand dollars to help us reach our goal.

Since the last edition of the newsletter, we have also received a very generous gift of \$35,000 from the ESSA Foundation to help cover the cost of the new roof. This contribution is essential, not only for the funding it provides, but also because it strengthens a subsequent grant proposal that will hopefully secure the rest of the

funding needed for this project.

I have applied for Local Share Account (LSA) funds to complete the fundraising needed for this important project. No matter the amount, every donation by our members is important when MCHA asks grantors for large sums of money. Donations from our general membership show grantors that the public believes in our worthwhile cause, the grantors become more inclined to offer additional funding.



A special thank you to the ESSA Foundation for a gift of \$35,000 to help replace the Stroud Mansion's slate roof.

The second major project for the Stroud Mansion is the replacement of the furnace. The inconsistency of the heating system in the Stroud Mansion has been an issue for years.

Anyone who has visited us knows that some rooms are way too hot while other rooms are way too cold.

The gas furnace in the Stroud Mansion is on its last legs. The "beast," as we like to call it, was converted to natural gas in 1966. Working with contractors, members of the Facilities Committee are striving to determine the best size furnace for our needs. Furnaces are much more energy-efficient now, and we want to get the best one we can that will last another 40+ years. So far, the estimate for a new furnace is about \$15,000.

The third project is to address the Stroud Mansion's front door. The heavy solid wooden door has begun to sag and rub along the floor and frame. The Facilities Committee is currently securing estimates from skilled crafts people to remedy the problem while maintaining the integrity of the

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2014 Meetings

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

January 28

Annual Meeting:

Sunday, February 23

March 25

April 22

May 27

June 24

August 26

September 23

October 28

November 25

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

MCHA Calendar

December 24, 2013 — January 13, 2014

**Holiday break
MCHA offices closed**

Re-open Tuesday, January 14

January 18, 2014

**Monroe County
Historic Coalition Meeting**

9 a.m. at the Stroud Mansion

Sunday, February 23

**MCHA Annual Meeting
and Awards Luncheon**

Snow date: Sunday, March 9

Noon to 4 p.m., Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort, Shawnee-on-Delaware

Speaker: Roger Spotts, Monroe County Conservation District environmental education coordinator discusses "The History of Pocono Natural Resources."

April 18 — April 22

Easter Break – offices closed

Re-open Tuesday, April 22

Sunday, April 27

**22nd Annual Victorian
Tea and Luncheon**

1-4 p.m., Versailles Ballroom, The Château, Tannersville

Program: "Curves, Carpets and Color: Victorian and Romantic Gardening in America" presented by Marta McDowell, gardener and author.

Tickets: \$30/MCHA members or \$35/non-members

Table of 10: \$300 MCHA members or \$350 for non-members

Tables must be paid in full at time of reservation

Saturday, June 21, 2014

History in Bloom Garden Tour

Save the date!

Details in the Spring 2014 edition of The Fanlight.

Stroud Mansion needs your help

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door. Careful consideration needs to be in place as the door sits on iron pintels and is held together with strap hinges. The early estimates to repair the door are \$1,200.

When it comes to choosing projects around the Stroud Mansion, our decisions are not taken lightly. Every course of action is thoughtfully reviewed, and the ramifications carefully considered.

Is slate the best material to use on the roof? Should we remove some of the baseboard heat in rooms that are not used every day for a more cost-effective heating plan? What was the true royal blue color of the Stroud Mansion's front door, and can we get a color that

matches it?

The decisions made by myself, the board, and the committees are designed to spend MCHA's (and grantor's) funds as wisely as possible. This building and its artifacts truly are on loan to us by future generations. We are simply the stewards of history until the time passes that the next generation takes the reins.

The Monroe County Historical Association has an established "MCHA Preservation Fund," and donations to this fund not only help directly with these projects but also show your continued commitment to MCHA. We work so hard to preserve and protect the items inside the building. Now is the time to focus on the building that houses these valuable and unique items.



Annual event offers delightful afternoon **Holiday Luncheon sold out quickly**

As always, the holiday decorating at the Stroud Mansion began in November. The MCHA staff and volunteers began to “deck the halls” before Thanksgiving to ensure that the building was ready for the Christmas season.

The 1795 Stroud Mansion was adorned with nine trees, 16 wreaths, and evergreen arrangements on every windowsill and mantel.

Gardener and holiday organizer Kathy Boyle worked alongside Mary Ann LaPenna, Sandy Dickl, Holly Gravel, and Charles Lutte to create the various decorations. Greens, holly and magnolia leaves were donated by John Meixell, Ian and Elaine Ackroyd-Kelly and Mary Jane Drake. Thank you to these talented and green-thumbed-minded members who donated their time and talents to our organization.

The Holiday Luncheon at the Stroud



Mansion, held this year on December 12 and 13, is an enjoyable afternoon for all, and word has spread about this exclusive fundraising event. Once again, we offered two luncheon seatings each day, which allowed us to accommodate more guests comfortably.

Because of the rave reviews of last year’s menu, Wendy Schroff from the Farmhouse Kitchen was hired to provide the delicious meal.

The menu featured a Christmas

spinach salad, apple cider marinated pork loin, butternut squash lasagna, whipped sweet potatoes, fresh green beans, rosemary rolls and a selection of fabulous homemade desserts. It’s not that much of a stretch to say that most people attend the luncheon for the dessert table alone! Many guests filled their dessert plates before their luncheon plates!

A complementary glass of wine was offered through a donation from John K. Meixell, MCHA board member.

As last year, the food and the wine received rave reviews! Soft holiday music filled the room, and the spirit of guests and volunteers was very merry.

Thank you to the volunteers who worked so hard to ensure that this event was enjoyed by our many guests and that everyone had a pleasant afternoon.

Metzgar Family Genealogy

The Metzgar family book is complete, and highlights the family and descendants of Hans Jonas Metzgar (1712-1779) and his eight children, Christine, Catherine, Johannes, Andreas, Casper, Mary Magdalene, Elizabeth and Anne Marie.

To obtain a copy, contact Joel Hahn at 570-402-7439 or hahnnl@yahoo.com.

Barrett Township Historical Society cookbook

Barrett Township Historical Society has published “Memories from Mountain Kitchens,” a culinary history of selected inns, holiday homes, bed and breakfasts, cooks and family kitchens of the Poconos. The book includes recipes that were used daily, along with a brief history of the properties they came from. Favorite dishes from Buck Hill Inn, The Homestead, Rettstadt’s Farmhouse, Wyckoff’s New York Store and Bigg’s American Restaurant are included. Copies are available at the Stroud Mansion Gift shop or Theo B Price Store in Mountainhome. Or contact Donna Bisset at 570-595-2857 for a mailed copy. The cost is \$20 per copy.





Monroe County
Historical Association

Welcome, New Members

Barbara Bond
Tanya Brown
Kathleen Campbell
Jacqueline Depuy-Banahan
Catherine Folio
Gary and Sharon Galbraith
Marie Haisan and Family
Jim and Carol Hillestad
Ann Hoehne
Janis Kelley
Barbara Kopetskie
Ida McIntyre
Shirley Merring
Dr. Erin O'Donnell
Janiece Oblak
Charles Petchel
Josh Porter
Peg Stahler
Donna Townsend
Dr. Margot Vagliardo
Alan and Marie Young

Benefits of Membership

- Pride in preserving the history of Monroe County
- Free admission to all MCHA sites
- 10% discount in our Gift Shop
- *The Fanlight*, our newsletter, issued quarterly
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Genealogy Assistance
- Discounts on MCHA events
- Advanced notice of all MCHA programs, events, workshops
- Discount research assistance



From left are Alex Karangis, Samuel Velez, Isaac Schefer, presenter Neil Hartley, Emily Beckere, Kaung Kyaw and Matthew Horton.

Students experience 1930s in FDR presentation

Students in four Monroe County high schools experienced history beyond their text books in November when Neill Hartley, a professional actor, educator and re-enactor portrayed President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in local schools.

A small sample of student comments attests to the learning experience:

"I was very pleased to hear him say that all the quotes were actually real and that he had put so much work into his research to allow for such an accurate performance."

"My favorite part was how Mr. Hartley managed to seamlessly transition from his part of being the narrator into the role of FDR."

"The way the information was presented was very unique, which made it a lot more interesting and allowed us to truly realize the feelings of the people during this time period. I also learned about the fact that Roosevelt was able to overcome being paralyzed from the waist down and used his sons in order to be able to stand. I found it interesting that there are only two pictures of him in a wheelchair."

This unique opportunity was made possible by a National Endowment for the Humanities challenge grant, secured by Northampton Community College. Monroe County Historical Association, a grant community partner, worked with schools to schedule the presentations and the MCHA Education Committee designed lesson plans to support the Hartley presentation.

The lesson plans are on the MCHA web site, www.monroehistorical.org — click on teachers tab and then lessons. Teachers of grades 6-12 are encouraged to visit the site. They will find lessons there that meet their curriculum needs and a variety of learning styles and skills.



Welcome, Brianne! New MCHA administrative assistant

Please help us welcome Brianne Shamburger as the new administrative assistant at the historical association.

Brianne lives locally and graduated from Notre Dame High School in East Stroudsburg. She received her degree in English communications and European history from Salve Regina University in Rhode Island.

Brianne has worked at the Women's Resource Center of Newport, R.I., and has a great deal of experience volunteering and working with nonprofits. She enjoys baking, and is interested in learning new hobbies like sewing and knitting. She is very excited to be a part of the MCHA family.



Farewell, Joan!

The Monroe County Historical Association is losing a valuable board member and volunteer as Joan Groff relocates to Lancaster County to be closer to her family.

Over the years, Joan has been an active member and volunteer of the organization. From proofreading *Fanlight* articles and illustrating *Monroe Mouse* to serving on the Education Committee and offering tours to visitors and children, she will be greatly missed.

The board of directors, staff members and volunteers wish Joan well as she begins a new chapter in her life!

We are always looking for interested members to volunteer their time and talents. If you would like to get involved with all of the exciting activities at the Stroud Mansion, please call or e-mail the office and fill out a volunteer application.

ESU Internship program offers great service to MCHA

During the Fall 2013 semester, Caitlin Arnold, a senior history major at East Stroudsburg University, worked at the Stroud Mansion fulfilling her internship requirements.

Caitlin performed many tasks, including tackling a huge project to uncover, document, sort and catalog deeds that have been donated to our organization over the years.

During her internship, Caitlin organized the many deeds located in the MCHA library. She began her project by visiting B.J. Bachman at the Monroe County courthouse archives to learn about deeds and how the county indexes them.

She then took the information and cross-referenced the deeds based on grantor (person selling the property), grantee (person buying the property), and the location of the property.

"This project showed me the importance of deeds for historical and genealogical research, as well as the importance of organization in a museum," Caitlin says. "I found plenty of interesting deeds, including a couple dating back to the 1760s and a stack of deeds with property from Philadelphia."

Thank you, Caitlin, for all of your hard work!



MCHA Sponsors

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

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In-kind contributors

Hartzell's Auction Gallery
Pocono Living Magazine
Printing Craftsmen, Inc

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

Thank you!

Women Artists art show and auction a success

The fourth annual art exhibit and auction fundraiser was held November 16 at the Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort. This event was a collaboration between MCHA, Hartzell's Auction Gallery and the Kirkwood family of Shawnee Inn.

The theme, "Women Artists of the Middle Delaware," was well-received, with many community members lending pieces from their personal collections. There were 123 works of art on display, with 22 up for auction. Artists represented were May Banta, Edna Palmer Engelhardt, Violet Clark-Eddy, and Dorothy Strauser.

The galleries were open to the public throughout the day and more than 50 viewed this amazing collection.

A gala reception with a private viewing was held that evening, followed by a delicious and unique four-course meal. The live auction followed the dinner with many individuals bidding in person or by phone on original artwork by the featured artists.

This event continues to be a successful fundraiser for MCHA — more than \$3,000 was raised — and the Art and Auction Committee is already thinking about the 2014 event. Details will be confirmed in early spring and will be announced in the next edition of *The Fanlight*.

We would like to have more individuals to volunteer for this hard-working committee. Please contact the office and help us put on another great art show and auction. We need your help to ensure this event will continue to be a success!



The dining table at Shawnee Inn was elegantly set.





Monroe's Christmas memories

It is the time of year when I reminisce about Christmases past. My greatest pleasure was seeing children's delight while enjoying a new toy.

Of course, the Stroud Mansion's seasonally decorated Victorian parlor contributes to my fond memories. This year was even more fun because of a road trip with Education Committee members to the "Tree Lighting" festivities at Stroudsmoor Country Inn.

Our volunteers were asked to do a craft activity with children. Of course,



not known to them, it was my subtle hints (a photo strategically placed) that made them decide to do a paint-stick snow man.

This experience led me to recall the toys Victorian children enjoyed. A climb to the third floor children's room encouraged my reminiscing. The wonderful variety of toys represents items found in many homes.

Much like today, the toy often depended on the resources of the family. Boys in wealthy families found toy boats, rocking horses, clockwork trains, a jack in the box, and pretend villages under the tree. Girls would delight in china dolls, tea sets, and detailed wooden doll houses.

Of course, such toys were not found in the homes of the less fortunate. Clothespin dolls were as well loved as any china doll. Sawdust-filled bags substituted for a football for boys.

Just as there were contrasts in children's toys in the society of the second half of the 1800s, there were also dramatic differences in the everyday life of children. Children of poor families, especially in urban areas, often worked under the worst of conditions in factories, as chimney



sweepers, and in workhouses. They were exposed to dangerous machinery and chemicals. Others supplemented family income selling flowers, bootlaces, matches, and buttons. They ran errands and swept busy roads.

Children of the wealthy were often raised by nannies, dressed like little adults and taught to behave that way. Some may think that these children missed the freedom and spontaneity of youth.

However, today's young and adults alike can enjoy the delights of childhood play through the years by simply visiting the Stroud Mansion's children's room. This is a wonderful place to start intergenerational conversations. "Remember when" stories are often the highlight of family holiday occasions for years to come.



MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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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

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Now serving as the headquarters
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6183 Cherry Valley Road, Stormville

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1-4 pm every Sunday in July and August

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AUCTION ITEMS WANTED

for Annual Meeting Silent Auction on Feb. 23

The donation of a wide variety of items makes the auction interesting and competitive for bidders. Gift certificates, antiques, artwork, jewelry or service offers are needed.

**YOUR CONTRIBUTION WILL
HELP US ACHIEVE OUR GOAL**



Visit the MCHA Web site

www.monroehistorical.org

Become a fan of the Monroe County Historical Association through our 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 we offer.

Email mcha@ptd.net or calling 570-421-7703.

The Fanlight is a quarterly publication of the Monroe County Historical Association and is distributed in January, April, July and October of each year.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Stroudsburg, PA 18360

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Monroe County

