



Disaster turns to planning lesson

By Amy Leiser

Executive Director

It's no secret that a small, nonprofit museum and library needs many people coming together to ensure that the organization is successful. For MCHA, it means that dedicated staff, board members, volunteers, members and friends, and the community in general work tirelessly to ensure Monroe County's past is not forgotten.

Building on this cooperative spirit, I had the amazing opportunity to give a presentation at the 33rd Annual Small Museums Association (SMA) conference in February. This year's conference theme was "All Hands on Deck," and all of the sessions focused on the museum community and how small museums can fulfill their missions while working with few resources and small budgets.

Former MCHA Administrative Assistant Brianne Shamburger and I presented a seminar on how the MCHA community responded to an ice dam on the Stroud Mansion's roof. The ice dam resulted from nasty weather conditions and freeze-thaw cycles during the late winter of 2014 which led to a disastrous water leak in the museum. The title of our session was, "When Walls Cry: Lessons Learned When a Natural Disaster Strikes Your Small Museum."

Brianne and I used the ice dam (and the subsequent replacement of the Mansion's slate roof) to emphasize how an institution needs to be ready for any emergency. Disaster preparedness is a crucial factor in safeguarding museum and library collections.

During the seminar, we drew on our experience in order to provide information to help others in the SMA to establish their own disaster plans. We highlighted the need for museums and libraries to have simple, but proper equipment (such as tarps, sponges, waterproof gloves and goggles, or waterproof storage solutions) on hand



From left, former MCHA Administrative Assistant Brianne Shamburger, MCHA Executive Director Amy Leiser, and Laura Heemer, curator at the Wharton Esherick Museum, who gave a presentation at the Small Museums Association annual conference in Maryland recently.

should disaster strike. We also stressed the importance of maintaining not only an internal chain-of-command but also an external open dialogue with the public to make sure that these types of emergencies are not hidden or confined within the museum's "walls."

Brianne and I were joined by Laura Heemer, curator at the Wharton Esherick Museum in Chester County, Pa. Laura spoke about the Alliance for Response, a disaster-preparedness network established to foster local-level partnerships between cultural heritage centers and

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2017 Meetings

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

May 23

June 27

No meeting in July

August 22

September 26

October 24

November 28

No meeting in December

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

2017 MCHA Calendar

Tuesday, July 4

Museum and Library Closed

Happy Independence Day!

Saturday, July 9

Bell School Opens for Season

1 to 4 p.m. • 6183 Cherry Valley Road,

Stormville (southwest of Stroudsburg)

Historic one-room schoolhouse is open

every Sunday in July and August, and other times by special appointment.

Saturday, September 2

Olde Time Fun at the Stroud Mansion

1 to 5 p.m. • Stroud Mansion,

900 Main St., Stroudsburg

Kid-friendly activities and crafts will be

held in the backyard of the Stroud Mansion

in conjunction with StroudFest in down-

town Stroudsburg. Free admission.

Thursday, September 7

2017 Raise your Glass

& Support the Past

The Lodge at Mountain Springs Lake, Reeder's

"Chairman's Selection" wine-pairing dinner

and fundraiser. Live and silent auction. 6-9

p.m. Ticket sales will be announced.

Friday, December 15

and Saturday, December 16*

Holiday Luncheon at the Mansion

900 Main St., Stroudsburg

11 a.m. -12:30 p.m. & 1-2:30 p.m.

Annual holiday luncheon at the Stroud

Mansion in a festive atmosphere with live

entertainment. Meal catered by Dave Cook

of The Cook's Corner. Ticket sales will be

announced. *Note: New Saturday options.

Planning

Continued from Page 1

emergency management professionals.

The Alliance for Response opens

its membership to all, promotes

cooperation among all types of cultural

and historical organizations, influences

local planning efforts, and enhances

the protection of cultural and historic

resources.

This was my second time attending

the SMA's annual conference; this

year, MCHA Board member Margot

Welcome, New Members

Mr. & Mrs. Charles & Ruth Freeman

Mr. Michael Healey

Mr. Kenneth B. LeSure

Mrs. Maureen Madden

Mrs. & Mr. Ginger Marshall

Mr. Michael S. McCartney

Mr. Chase Newhart

Ms. Lucy Ramdehaul

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Mr. & Mrs. Peter Sauvigne

Ms. Louise Sellon

Mr. Dennis Trach

Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Trakas

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New Small Business

Sponsors

Ken and Company Aveda Salon

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

Vagliardo attended the conference as well.

I plan to make this conference an annual professional development opportunity. I know I learned many new things, and Margot and I took away something positive from each session we attended! It was also wonderful to reconnect with my "museum friends," to network with peers, and to bring back lots of ideas to implement at MCHA.





MCHA website gets a redesign

A thoroughly redesigned Monroe County Historical Association website made its debut in February, and was shown off at the annual meeting.

A total redesign was required to catch up to the latest technology, since now websites must look and function well on all manner of devices — computers, tablets and smartphones.

The new site is more engaging, streamlined and dynamic, and automatically adjusts how it looks depending on the device it is viewed on. There are more photographs, many displayed in slideshows. Social media icons are prominent on every page to encourage engagement. And dues and donations are now payable online.

Check it out at:

www.monroehistorical.org

95th Annual Meeting at Shawnee Inn

More than 120 MCHA members and friends gathered on a beautiful February afternoon for the 95th Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon at Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort.

Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to come together for food and fellowship and to keep up-to-date on all of the exciting happenings at the historical association.

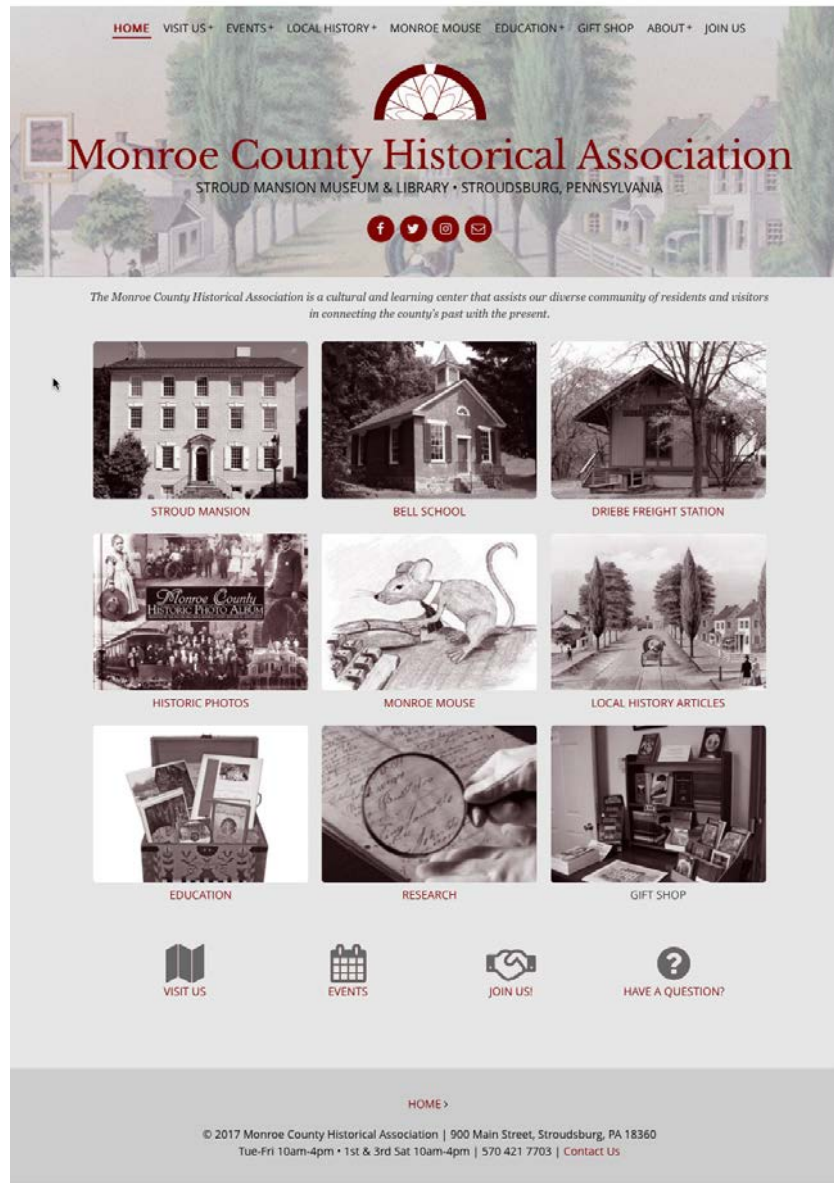
This year's silent auction featured more than 100 quality items and raised a record-breaking \$3,000 for MCHA.

Following lunch and a brief business meeting, the 12th Annual P.E.P. (Preserve, Enhance, Protect) Awards were distributed. Again this year, the awards ceremony was the program. Detailed descriptions and an informative slide show of each property were presented to show why that particular property was selected and the special architectural features that helped the structure stand out.

The four winning properties are shown and described on the next page.

The Monroe County Historical Association also presented the 2017 MCHA Volunteer of the Year Award to Donna Bisset of Barrett Township.

The Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon is held on the last Sunday in February. *Make plans to attend next year's event on Sunday, February 25, 2018 (snow date March 11) and be part of the fun!*





12th ANNUAL P.E.P. AWARD WINNERS

- ❶ **Commercial Property** – Jane Maughan Law Offices, Ann Street, Stroudsburg.
- ❷ **Nonprofit**– Shawnee Presbyterian Church, Shawnee-on-Delaware
- ❸ **Residential Property** – Kennedy Property, Hamilton Township
- ❹ **Heritage Resource** – Tobyhanna Ice Harvest Event.



PEP AWARDS: Preserve, Enhance, Promote

COMMERCIAL WINNER

Jane Maughan Law Offices, Ann Street, Stroudsburg

This structure is an example of late Federal or Greek Revival style architecture. James McCarty, who was born in Milford in 1825, settled in Stroudsburg and purchased the home in 1876. His profession was listed as “engaged in cabinet-making and undertaking.” Because McCarty made cabinetry, he started making wood caskets by request, and undertook other components of the funeral business. He assisted families with the necessary preparations for a funeral

service. He embalmed and prepared the body for viewing, he procured a church service, and he secured the burial site. McCarty’s business eventually became the William Clark Funeral home.

This two-story brick residence was sensitively rehabilitated into legal offices for Jane Maughan. The interior required some modification to accommodate business functions, but a large majority of the details remain apparent in the room layout, walls, wide plank floors, stairways, interior passage doors, moldings, windows, baseboards, and other interesting details.

NONPROFIT WINNER

Shawnee Presbyterian Church, Shawnee on Delaware

The church, located in the village of Shawnee, was originally a log structure and was Dutch Reformed. In 1750, the land was conveyed to Nicholas DePui by William Allen of Philadelphia for a Presbyterian meeting house. A brick church was built on the spot in 1753. The date stones of the builders, Nicholas Depui and Abraham Van Campen, are still located in the foundation of the existing church. The current brick church was built in 1853

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& Nephrology Associates
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William H. Kresge Funeral Home, Inc.

Corporate | \$250

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Municipal | \$250

Borough of Stroudsburg
East Stroudsburg Borough
Eldred Township
Hamilton Township
Middle Smithfield Township
Pocono Township Commissioners
Smithfield Township
Stroud Township Supervisors

Educational | \$250

East Stroudsburg University
Northampton Community College
Pocono Mountain School District
Stroudsburg Area School District

Contributor | \$500 or more

Barley Creek Brewing Co.
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Endowment Trust Report 2016-2017

Many thanks go to these generous donors. The Endowment Trust provides the essential stability needed to assure the future success of the Monroe County Historical Association. During the 2016 - 2017 campaign, contributions totaled \$5,275. We offer our sincere appreciation to our supporters for their generosity.

Please remember that your contributions and memorial donations are welcome throughout the year!

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Shirley B. Young

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by the descendants of original builders DePuy, LaBar, Dietrich and Bush.

The simple architectural details are typical of the early pre-Civil War period. Preserved is a rare “sounding board,” which hung above the pulpit to project the voice of the pastor toward the congregation. The burial ground associated with the church holds most of the prominent settlers in Monroe County, and is one of the oldest cemeteries in the county.

RESIDENTIAL WINNER

Kennedy Property, Hamilton Township

This home, owned by Gina and Robert Kennedy, is located in Cherry Valley, near the Cherry Valley United Methodist Church where the original owner's families are buried. The home is known as the Shaw-

McDowell House. The original owner was Peter Shaw and land deeds to the property date back to 1748 when John McDowell bought the land. The home, built in 1824, has cut stone walls, a Federal style fanlight doorway, and a barn and out buildings. John McDowell's daughter, Elizabeth, married Jacob Stroud in 1761 in this house. The home has been known for its sturdy architecture since built, and the Kennedys continue as stewards of important piece of county history.

HERITAGE RESOURCE AWARD Tobyhanna Ice Harvest Event

From the late 1800s to the early 1900s, ice harvesting was an important industry in the county. This natural resource, used for food preservation, could only be harvested in the winter months. The Pocono region provided many lakes that were essential to ice

harvesting industry.

William “Bill” Leonard Sr. knew that the ice harvesting he remembered as a child would be lost if someone didn't keep the craft alive. As part of the Coolbaugh Township Bicentennial celebrations, Bill designed and built a small icehouse of hemlock lumber. Eight-inch thick walls were used to house the sawdust insulation. The floor is gravel and loose planks for drainage. Unfortunately, Bill passed away before his true vision could be fulfilled. Friends and family members completed the project and today the Leonard family along with many volunteers keep the ice harvest tradition alive. Each year the Mill Pond #1 ice harvest continues to keep alive an important part of our history for future generations to learn from and enjoy.





My first conference

While mice (and many other rodents) do not migrate to warmer climates in the winter, I am proud to report that due to my cunning mind and small size, I was able to “go south” for a short but wonderful adventure at the end of February. I accompanied our director Amy (i.e. I snuck into) the 37th Annual Small Museum Conference in Hyattsville, Md.!

I had been eavesdropping in the MCHA office for the last few months and heard talk of the conference that sounded very interesting. Checking it out on the computer after everyone had gone home, I found out that the Small Museum Association “. . . is an all-volunteer organization serving small museums in the mid-Atlantic region and beyond. Its mission is to develop and maintain a peer network among people who work for small museums, giving them opportunities to learn, share knowledge and support one another, so that they, in turn, can better serve their institutions, communities, and profession.”

All it took was a jump into Amy’s big tote bag, and I was on my way! For three days and two nights, my daytime and nocturnal scampers were down the hallways of the Marriott Hotel where the conference was held, where I listened to the presentations and conversation of more than 300 diverse members of the group.

(I was thankful that the big space under hotel room doors so that the bill can be shoved under them provided me entrance to the rooms).

The conference theme, “All Hands on Deck,” set the stage for lots of sharing of big ideas, including: the strengths of small museums; new and exciting ways to connect museums to their communities; practical skills in various areas of technology, databases, human resource issues; reports showcasing creative, participatory programs and exhibitions; and stories of unforeseen museum events that necessitated quick, creative solutions.

I’m proud to say that Amy and Brianne, our previous administrative assistant, put on a very successful presentation of the event of 2014: problems and solutions related to the flooding caused by ice dams on the Stroud Mansion roof. Audience members were very interested in the critical information and tips for all small museums that

Amy and Brianne shared.

In another session, I pricked up my small ears upon hearing the term “Institutional empathy,” which was explained as “an authentic alignment of an organization with the experiences, values, and needs of the communities it serves.” I then took time to answer the questions the presenter prompted the audience to consider:

Who am I? A small, smart gray mouse, descended from the first mice to live in the Stroud Mansion when it was built in 1795

Who are my people? All the mice that now live in and nearby the mansion.

How did they get here? Some of them are directly related to me — many are from close by (other buildings) or from far away. Some who may have gotten here accidentally, being transported in the trunk of a car or back of a truck, or came here purposefully in a person’s bag or the luggage compartment of a Martz or Greyhound bus.

How are we connected to other groups? There are lots of answers to that question. I’m still thinking about them.

When it was time to sneak back into the tote bag to go home, my little legs were very tired, but I had learned a lot, I was proud of the Stroud Mansion and the historical association. Small museums are now considered “major models for communities.” A small staff makes for high efficiency, more collaboration, and more personal, and comfortable public accessibility. The specificity of collections, exhibits, and programs tend to be a direct result of close proximity to the surrounding community, “lifting the narrative of those whom they serve.” That makes me think of MCHA’s newly revised mission statement: “*The Monroe County Historical Association is a cultural and learning center that assists our diverse community of residents and visitors in connecting the county’s past with the present.*”

My trip to the conference got me thinking and taught me a lot. Talking about small museums as community space, one speaker asked: “What conversations do you want to have? What is your community interested in? Speak to them!” I’ll be hearing those conversations in the mansion, so I know that there are exciting things ahead for the MCHA!



**MONROE COUNTY
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

570-421-7703 admin@monroehistorical.org
Fax 570-421-9199
www.monroehistorical.org

STROUD MANSION

900 Main Street, Stroudsburg
10 am - 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday
10 am - 4 p.m. 1st and 3rd Saturdays
Tours daily at 11 am and 2 p.m.

DRIEBE FREIGHT STATION

537 Ann Street, Stroudsburg

THE BELL SCHOOL

6183 Cherry Valley Road, Stormville
Hamilton Township
1-4 p.m. every Sunday in July and August
Other times by special appointment

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Email admin@monroehistorical.org or call 570-421-7703.



Free wireless Internet service

is available to researchers
in the Elizabeth D. Walters Library
at the Stroud Mansion.

The secure Wi-Fi connection helps genealogists
and others with their research.



Visit the MCHA Web site
www.monroehistorical.org

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