



THE FANLIGHT

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Fall 2024

Members of Pocono Chapter 678 Vietnam Veterans, Congressman Matt Cartwright, and MCHA Executive Director Amy Leiser gather around the Monroe County Vietnam War Memorial at Courthouse Square, Stroudsburg.



A HISTORY OF VETERANS DAY

Oral history project preserves local Vietnam vet experiences

By Amy Leiser
Executive Director

Veterans Day was established to honor servicemen (and now servicewomen) who had enlisted or were drafted into the armed forces. The day, however, was not always called Veterans Day — its original name was Armistice Day, and it was created following World War I to honor those who had served in the “War to End All Wars.”

Although the United States had delayed its involvement in WWI until the summer of 1917, by the summer of 1918, our “doughboys” were arriving in Europe at the rate of 10,000 per day. In Monroe County, as throughout the nation, many men served their country by going “over there” to fight. One such soldier was Floyd L. Treible of North Water Gap. Treible was the first Monroe County casualty — he was killed in action in France in 1917.

The official end of World War I came on June 28, 1919, when the Treaty of Versailles was signed. Interestingly, the Allied Nations agreed to a cease-fire with Germany eight months before the signing of the treaty. This cease-fire, or armistice, was a formal, but not necessarily permanent, suspension of hostilities. The armistice occurred on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918.

One year after the end of the war, President Woodrow Wilson (1913-1921) declared November 11, 1919, to be Armistice Day in America. Congress recognized the day in 1926, and in 1938, passed a resolution officially recognizing Armistice Day as a national holiday.

This holiday was a day for national celebrations and parades. Local pride was high. On November 7, 1919, Carl Brown, burgess of East Stroudsburg, and C.L. Edinger, burgess of Stroudsburg, declared November 11, 1919, as Armistice Day in Monroe County. Both men encouraged “every Citizen big and small, male and female, to be on hand at the big celebration.”

An effort was begun that year to collect money to create a monument to honor Monroe County men who served in World War I. A county-wide celebration was held on August 11, 1924, with the dedication of the monument. The Doughboy statue at Courthouse Square was erected by the Jacob Stroud Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Three-year-old George N. Kemp unveiled the statue to the large crowd.

It was not until years after World War II that the name of the holiday changed to Veterans Day. As many Monroe

Story continues, Page 2



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2024 Meetings

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

Now meeting via Zoom

January 23
February 25– Annual Meeting
March 26
April 23
May 28
June 25
July – No meeting
August 27
September 24
October 22
November 26
December – No meeting

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.

MCHA receives Gold Star Seal of Transparency

The Monroe County Historical Association recently earned a Candid Gold Seal of Transparency.

GuideStar is part of Candid, a nonprofit that collects, organizes, and presents information about every single IRS-registered nonprofit organization.

The Monroe County Historical Association has received a GuideStar Gold Seal of Transparency, a symbol of recognition that a nonprofit organization has provided a high level of disclosure.

GuideStar is a resource for donors and foundations considering philanthropic investments, and its



seals indicate different levels of transparency and completeness in an organization's profile.

The Gold Seal highlights an organization's programs and successes and is considered to be one of the most prestigious awards a nonprofit can receive.

We want to make sure our members, friends, sponsors, and supporters always have the information they need to support our work with trust and confidence.

See the Monroe County Historical Association's GuideStar listing at [guidestar.org/profile/22-2442646](https://www.guidestar.org/profile/22-2442646).

Veterans Legacy Project

Continued from Page 1
County residents remember, WWII saw the largest mobilization of manpower in the history of the United States to defend freedom around the globe.

In the 1950s, thousands of servicemen and women responded to the call of duty in Korea. As a result, in 1954, an act of Congress replaced the word "Armistice" with "Veterans" so that the day would honor the American veterans who had served their county on all battlefields.

About the Vietnam Legacy Project

The Monroe County Historical Association is honored to partner with the Vietnam Veterans of America Pocono Chapter 678 on the Vietnam Legacy Project, which invites local veterans to share their experiences serving our country and the challenges

they faced upon returning home. As an organization dedicated to preserving and promoting local history, we recognize the importance of documenting the stories and experiences of those who served. Through this collaboration, we will be collecting and archiving written and recorded histories from local Vietnam veterans, ensuring that their voices are not lost to time.

We are excited to be a part of such a meaningful and impactful initiative and encourage you to join us in preserving this legacy for future generations.

For additional information or to schedule your oral history appointment, please call the office at 570-421-7703 or send an email to librarian@monroehistorical.org.



9th ANNUAL WINE PAIRING DINNER AND AUCTION

2024 'Raise Your Glass' fundraiser raises \$50,000

"So much fun!"

"The event of the season"

"The most organized fundraiser I've ever attended"

"I won four items in the auction ... I hope you continue these auctions. They are fun!"

These were just some of the comments from members and friends regarding this year's 9th annual "Raise Your Glass & Support the Past" wine-pairing dinner and auction fundraiser.

On September 5, the Monroe County Historical Association hosted this popular event at the picturesque and historic Skytop Lodge to a sold-out crowd. There was such energy in the room, and guests enjoyed delicious food, great friends, a beautiful venue, premier wines, and exciting online and live auctions.

The event raised over \$50,000 for the Monroe County Historical Association. Funds raised from the annual "Raise Your Glass & Support the Past" event directly support the Stroud Mansion Museum and Library and allow the organization to meet the needs of historic preservation and work with the public to instill an appreciation of the past.

Wine expert Melisa Mersini of Momento Restaurant in Stroudsburg shared her passion and knowledge about the wines selected to complement each course.

The Erin McClelland Trio, featuring the talents of Erin McClelland on guitar and vocals, Chuck Cooper on drums, and Stephen Kurtz on bass, performed live music throughout the evening.

This year's Premier Sponsor was the Monroe County Bar Foundation. As part of the evening's program, Executive Director Amy Leiser shared this year's "History Moment" about the area's early attorneys. Monroe County Bar Foundation President Bill Reaser was welcomed to the stage to share what the foundation does and how it gives back to the community by funding projects and programs.



THE 2024 WINE PAIRING EVENT COMMITTEE

First row, from left: Julia Burns, Lori Siegle, Robert M. Moses, Joann Farda, Meredith Rettaliata, Ray Hartzell. **Second row, from left:** John LeFante, Nicole LeFante, Theresa Yocum, Sarah Toot, Jennifer Harlacher Sibum, Amy Leiser, Carrie Wetherbee. Not present for photo: Stephanie Lefferson.

The Board of Directors would like to thank the entire "Raise Your Glass & Support the Past" committee for their hard work, dedication, and devotion to this year's event. From creating beautiful centerpieces and collecting auction items to securing sponsors and assisting during the evening, this event would not have been possible without the committee members' commitment and enthusiasm.

Thank you to chairperson Jennifer Harlacher Sibum; auction chair Robert M. Moses; dinner co-chairs Joann Farda and Theresa Yocum, and committee members Julia Burns, Ray Hartzell, John LeFante, Nicole LeFante, Amy Leiser, Stephanie Lefferson, Meredith Rettaliata, Lori Siegle, Sarah Toot, and Carrie E. Wetherbee.

Mark your calendars! The 2025 "Raise Your Glass & Support the Past" wine pairing dinner and online auction will be held on Thursday, September 4, 2025, at Skytop Lodge.





The Heritage Center addition to the Stroud Mansion is taking shape on 9th Street.



Lots going on inside the addition as well.

Heritage Center construction update

By Bill Leonard
MCHA Facilities Chair

Work is progressing well at the Heritage Center. The membrane roof is complete, exterior masonry work is nearing completion, and the exterior glass curtain walls are underway.

Interior wall framing, along with mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and drywall work, are all in progress.

MCHA is coordinating additional contracts for the Heritage Center project, including high-density storage shelving, a security system, closed-circuit TV, and an audiovisual system for the Community Room.

We are also working on improvements to the Stroud Mansion, including refinishing the exterior façade and undertaking interior wall and flooring repairs and painting.

Once construction is complete, MCHA staff and volunteers will tackle the significant task of moving into the Heritage Center. From creating new museum exhibits, setting up the library in its new space, and reestablishing the offices, we will be hard at work preparing to welcome visitors.

If you're interested in volunteering your time to help, please reach out to the office. We anticipate completing construction this winter, with a grand opening next summer.



Workers from Mesko Glass in East Stroudsburg install a window.



PERSONALIZED ENGRAVED PAVERS AND BRICKS



To order your personalized engraved paver or brick that will become a lasting part of the new Kinsley Family Courtyard at the Heritage Center at the Stroud Mansion Museum and Library, please complete the attached order form and return with payment to:

Monroe County Historical Association
748 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Please print clearly. Engraving is limited to text only (no images, logos, or iconography).* Use additional pages for orders of multiple pavers or bricks. Payments may be combined.

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

16" x 16" Paver 8" x 4" Brick Additional Donation \$ _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____ Payment Method Cash Check Credit Card

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Expiration Date _____ Zip Code _____ CSC Number _____

16" X 16" PAVER (\$1,200 DONATION)

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8" X 4" BRICK (\$250 DONATION)

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For more information or to order online, please scan the QR code or visit monroehistorical.org/heritagectr.html.

*The Monroe County Historical Association reserves the right to cancel any order that includes offensive or inappropriate text.

Sponsors of the MCHA



Premier Sponsor
\$5,000
Monroe County
Bar Foundation

Past Premier Sponsors

2023 | Skytop Lodge
2022 | Lehigh Valley Hospital-Pocono
2021 | Pocono Raceway
2019 | Buck Hill Falls
2018 | Bushkill Falls
2017 | Camelback Resort

History Maker | \$2,500

Lester G. Abeloff Foundation

Preservation Advocate | \$2,000

ESSA Bank & Trust

Local History Enthusiast | \$1,500

Saylorsburg Lumber Company

Curator's Friend | \$1,000

John Campbell and Jacob Petersen
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Library Supporter | \$500

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Bentzoni Machine, LLC
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Ken and Company Salon
Pocono Magazines, LLC
Ray Price Cars

Grants

Ann and Joseph Farda Foundation
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Lester G. Abeloff Foundation
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Monroe County Commissioners
Monroe County Industrial Development Authority
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Pennsylvania Library Association
R. Dale and Frances M. Hughes Foundation
The Weiler Family Foundation

New Members

Jim and Soreida Ashcroft
Jeffrey Cemelli
Deborah D. and Patrick Logsdon
Zena McCarty Paice and Gary Paice
Susanna Silva



De Puy / Brodhead Family presents new books

The DePuy/Brodhead Family Association held its annual reunion in September and stopped by the Historical Association for a visit. Family members traveled from across the U.S. to participate in this yearly gathering.

Before participating in our guided Walking Tour of downtown Stroudsburg, family members presented Amy Leiser with indexes to their published family histories.

Indexes are now available for the 21-volume set of “The Brodhead Family: The Story of Captain Daniel Brodhead His Wife, Ann Tye, and Their Descendants” and the 15-volume set of the “DePuy Family History – Nicholas and Francois from France.”

The Historical Association thanks the DePuy/Brodhead family members for their hard work compiling the indexes and for donating copies to the library. They will certainly assist future genealogists and will make researching the family names much easier.



Barbara and James Brodhead, left, and Kevin DePuy, right, of the DePuy/Brodhead Family Association, with MCHA Executive Director Amy Leiser.



Rotarian of the Year

The Monroe County Historical Association congratulates Executive Director Amy Leiser on receiving the Rotarian of the Year Award from the Rotary Club of the Stroudsburgs.

Amy constantly dedicates her time and energy to community involvement and volunteer work.

We are thrilled to see that her hard work and dedication to the Monroe County community have been recognized in such a meaningful way.

Congratulations, Amy!

Local Jewish history help needed

Did you know there have been Jews living and working in the Stroudsburgs for over 120 years? Did you know that in the mid-20th century, there were close to 50 Jewish-owned businesses in the county?

MCHA is undertaking a project to document and display a comprehensive history of the Jewish community in Monroe County, and we need your help! Did you attend temple, Hebrew school, or summer camp here? Did your family own a business in Monroe County? Do you remember shopping at a Jewish-owned store?

If you, or someone you know, does or did have ties to the local Jewish community in any way and at any time, we would like to hear your stories. We are seeking information and accounts of your experiences and connections. This may include sharing anecdotes, sitting for video recordings, donating photos and artifacts, and connecting with old friends and neighbors.

And, as we move toward reopening the Mansion next year, please consider volunteering to help process these donations. If you have an interest in curatorial work and can offer us some time, please get in touch. Your assistance would be greatly valued and appreciated in our small curatorial department.

If you have information or items or time to share, or have questions about the project, please contact MCHA volunteer David Koster at dakoster6@gmail.com or 704-658-6856.





**A SPIRITED TOUR
OF STROUDSBURG**

The Monroe County Historical Association hosted the inaugural Spirited History Walking Tour of Stroudsburg's Main Street on July 25.

The event was sold out.

Those attending learned about the art of mead-making at Stonehäus Meaderi, located in a longtime shop space, savored the rich notes of wine at The Renegade Winery, located in the old J.J. Newberry's store, and indulged in the finest brews at Downriver Brewing Co., located in the back of the former Wyckoff's department store.

A fun and impromptu trivia session rounded out the evening.

MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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