

HELLERTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May 2012

www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org

Issue 2



The Tavern Room

Book Your Event

One of Hellertown's best-kept secrets is Hellertown Historical Society's colonial Tavern Room and adjoining room on the lower level of the Grist Mill. The 800 square foot Tavern Room is an elegant 18th century room featuring interior stone walls, stone fireplace, period chandeliers, deep window wells with lighted candles, and a pumpkin pine hardwood floor. The Tavern Room accommodates up to 60 people and is heated in the winter and air conditioned in the summer.

The adjoining room is the 840 square foot rustic wood-floored lower level of the Grist Mill with a rest room and plenty of open space for dancing or other activities. This room accommodates an additional 60 people and overlooks an indoor lighted trout pond! The entire one level suite is handicapped accessible. There is ample parking alongside the Grist Mill and in the overflow parking lot across Walnut Street.

These rooms are perfect for meetings, birthday parties, showers, anniversary celebrations, graduation parties, reunions, bereavement luncheons, scout courts of honor, recitals, banquets, and other social gatherings. The rooms are available for a nominal donation to the Historical Society. Tables, table cloths, and chairs are available gratis. The rooms are available for daytime or

evening events. You may furnish your own refreshments or request our list of local caterers.

Please call 703 405 3886 (Cell Phone) or email dlborovics@gmail.com (Dianne Borovics, Tavern Room Coordinator and Society Member) to arrange a tour and to discuss your event and suggested donations. Book early to reserve your first choice date.

History of the Tavern Room

When Christopher and Simon Heller arrived in the New World in 1738 on the ship "Winter Galley", another passenger on this same ship was Christopher (Stoffel) Wagner. Hellers and Wagner were to eventually become neighbors, and in 1748, Wagner received a license for a tavern which was built along the road passing through Hellertown. The exact spot of the tavern has never been 100% verified; however, local lore believes it might have been in or adjacent to the sawmill. This is the basis for the name of the Tavern Room adjacent to the lower level of the actual Grist Mill building. Together these two rooms are called the Tavern Room.

Hellertown Historical Society is a 501(C)(3) Non Profit Organization

"Grill At The Mill"

3rd Saturday of each month - May to October 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

The Wagner Grist Mill and Museum, The Barn Museum, and the Miller's House will be open for tours and the grill will be fired up with the Society's famous hot dogs on the grill. Other snacks and beverages will be available including fresh fruit and water. The Hospitality Room and Gift Shop will also be open. Come visit from the Rail Trail or the Roadway; take a break, a tour, a visit, and/or have lunch with us. Congratulations to *Emily Hahr* who won the contest naming this event!

Hellertown Historical Society Bus Trip
Saturday, August 25th
A "FUNd" Raiser for the Society
Broadway Musical and South Street Seaport

Winner of the 2011 Tony for Best Revival of a Musical, "Anything Goes" is still wowing audiences with its spectacular choreography and musical standards. Bus will leave from HHS, Hellertown at 8 AM. Bus will drop passengers off at South Street Seaport Museum for touring, shopping, and lunch. The bus will pick everyone up at 12:30 PM for transport to the newly renovated, beautiful Stephen Soundheim Theatre on West 43rd Street. The show starts at 2 PM, and ends at 4:45 PM when the bus will be waiting outside for the nonstop ride back to Hellertown.

The cost of \$145. Per person (HHS member) and \$155. Per person (non HHS member) includes orchestra seats, bus transport, and driver gratuity. The price is based on a minimum of 40, so please invite friends, relatives, and neighbors. Questions? Call Dianne Borovies, cell 703 405 3886 or email Dianne @ dlborovies@gmail.com. **Deadline for tickets is June 14.** Print out this page, complete the chit below, and mail it with your check payable to ENZO TRAVEL, 3320 Airport Road, Allentown, PA 18109.

_____ @ \$145.00 Member

_____ @ \$155.00 Non Member

Your Cell Phone Number

_____ (For emergency use on 8/25 only.)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are seeking volunteers for gardening and grounds maintenance, administrative tasks, special events, etc. We also need tour guides and greeters to help at the Heller-Wagner Grist Mill. Come help preserve Hellertown's heritage while making an impact! Contact Stacie Torkos, volunteercoordinator@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org, 610-838-1770.

Support Hellertown Historical Society
Participate in July Lottery

A major part of Historical Society's operating budget is proceeds from sale of mid-year and end-of-year lottery tickets. In fact, 2012 lottery proceeds are earmarked for: new planking for Pony Bridge, a chimney liner for Miller's house, and refurbishing of restroom facilities in lower level of Grist Mill.

The donation for each lottery ticket is only \$5, and two tickets are enclosed for you to buy (or sell). Each ticket brings you three ways to win on the **evening** number during month of July:

*\$50 if you have the exact number

*\$10 if your ticket is one number above

*\$10 if your ticket is one number below

You can return ticket stubs and your check by mail in the enclosed envelope...or return the envelope at the Miller's House any Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday morning.

Please call (610-838-1770) or visit the Society for additional Lottery Tickets. Don't worry, if we run out of tickets, we'll print more!

No purchase required

Saucon Valley Farmer's Market
3rd Sunday of the month, May - September

The third Sunday of every month, come visit with us to catch up on past and current events and projects of the Society. Hot dogs, beverages, and select items from our gift shop will be available for sale. Don't miss our beautiful Hellertown pottery items. Raffle tickets for Joe Sofka's Watercolor will also be available for a donation.

"Tavern Room Playhouse"

Hellertown Historical Society Announces
Summer 2012 Theater Workshop for Kids

Offered by Encore Studios

In Association with The Society

To be Held in The "Tavern Room Playhouse"

"The Sound of Music"

Mon., Aug. 6 - Fri., Aug. 10, 9 AM - 1 PM

A mini-musical production & original adaptation

Two live performances on

Friday Evening, August 10, 2012

"Oliver,"

Mon., Aug. 13 - Fri., Aug. 17, 9 AM - 1 PM

A mini-musical production and original adaptation

Two live performances on

Friday Evening, August 17, 2012

For Details on Encored Kids Summer Workshop Series,

Visit: www.encorestudios.info

Hellertown Historical Society By-Laws Updated

During December 2011 meeting of the Society's Board of Directors a committee was formed to review and recommend changes/adjustments to the organization's By-Laws. Research into history of the organization revealed the By-Laws - the rules that set guidelines for structure and operation of the Society - had only been updated once since formation in early 1980s.

After discussion of the recommended changes during three consecutive Board Meetings, and a vote by the full Board (after the third reading), the following updates were adopted:

1. Article III, section 2 - The annual meeting of the members shall be held on the fourth Wednesday of April each year if not a legal holiday, and if a legal holiday on the next full business day, at 7:30 p.m.
2. Article V, section 1 - There is no limit to the number of terms an individual may serve as a director.
3. Article VI, section 1 - Each office shall be elected for a term of three years. Each person in that office may serve a maximum of two terms in succession. The offices are: President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer...
4. Article VII, section 3 - The books and records shall be audited annually, no later than March 31, by an auditing committee appointed by the Board of Directors.

Copies of the By-Laws of the Hellertown Historical Society are available for review by visiting the Society any Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday 9:00 a.m to 11:30 a.m. You may also request a copy via the website www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org.

Once Again...Monte Carlo Night Exceeds Expectations

Monte Carlo night is always a special...almost magical time...for the Hellertown Historical Society. This evening of chance brings together silver-haired Hellertonians who spend the evening renewing old friendships, and reminiscing about days when life was perhaps simpler and carefree.

Oh, yes...they had fun playing Blackjack, Craps, and wagering on the Horses, too!

Most of all, Monte Carlo Night is a major fundraiser for the Historical Society. And, this year was no exception. The Board of Directors and staff extends a hearty "Thank You" to the many local business men and women who donated prizes for the event: Adams Plumbing, Bechdolts Orchards, Braveheart, China Moon

Chinese Restaurant, The Cupcakery, E. J. Hill and Sons, Hellertown Diner, Gary Hillegas Contracting, Klein's Sunoco, KNBT, Lowe's, Marie King Beauty Shop, Mike's Doggie Shop, Neighbors, Puffins Restaurant, Saylor's Fine Meats and Italian Specialties, Subway, and Saucon True Value. In addition, many individuals donated wine, flower arrangements, figurines, etc.

We have received many requests to hold Monte Carlo Night more than once a year. While it's a great idea, too much of a good thing could dilute the "magic."

By the way...it's less than eleven months until the next Monte Carlo night. Mark your calendars for the last week in April! Don't forget!

2012 Activities & Events

Third Saturday of Every Month, May to October

"Grill at the Mill" - 10:00 to 1:00 PM

Stop by for a hot dog and tour of the Grist Mill

Third Sunday of Every Month, May to September

Visit us at Saucon Valley Farmer's Market

Gift Shop Items and Refreshments for Sale

Lottery Month at the Society, July, 1-31

Visit www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org

Speakers' Series Night, Tuesday, June 19

7:00PM, Tavern Room, Joe Sofka

"Capturing Our Valley in Watercolors"

Speakers' Series, Tuesday, September 12

7:00 PM Tavern Room, The Hobo Lifestyle

Hobo Meal Served Sunday, October 7

Grist Mill Site, Time to be Announced

Annual Holiday Open House, Friday, December 7

7:00PM, Tavern Room, Sofka Painting Raffle

Candlelight Tours of the Grist Mill & Museums

Donations Appreciated, Music, Refreshments

For Up-to-date Additions & Changes, Visit us @

www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org



Speakers' Night at the Hellertown Historical Society



Hellertown Historical Society's Speakers' Series was launched on March 19th with an entertaining and fun-filled presentation by Bud Prosser. Mr. Prosser took those in attendance back through the organizational and exciting days of Hellertown's Centennial Days of 1972.

On Tuesday, May 8th Dick Kantor presented slides from materials which he originally prepared for Hellertown's Centennial Celebration. Attendees were taken back on a tour of Hellertown from the 1800s through the 1900s.



ROGER SHAFFER COLLECTION OF HELLETTOWN SCALE MODELS NOW ON DISPLAY



Hellertown Historical Society's newest exhibition is a very special treat for Hellertonians of all ages! The incredible collection of Roger Shaffer's handcrafted 3/16 inch to 1 foot scale models of Hellertown's landmark buildings and sites was unveiled for view on April 28, 2012...Saucon Valley History Day. These miniature gems are on display in the front room of the Miller's House.

Models include: Boehm House (Hellertown's first house), Wagner Grist Mill, Wash House at the Grist Mill, Walnut Street Pony Bridge, Hellertown Lock-up, Hellertown's Lodge Hall, Hellertown's Reading Railroad Station, Hellertown's first Elementary School, Hellertown's First High School, Hellertown's Borough Hall with Addition, Weisel Harness Shop, Prosser's Drug Store with Bowling Alley, and the Detweiler Plaza Clock Tower and Fountain.

Mr. Shaffer created in excess of forty-three scale models over a thirty-five year period. His initial focus centered on railroad stations, and gradually shifted to buildings and related structures of historical interest in Pennsylvania communities. His models are on display - not only at the Hellertown Historical Society - but also in six other locations throughout Pennsylvania.

You can read more about Roger Shaffer's model building skills and accomplishments in *Model Building to Scale* a book edited by Dean Shaffer.