



Hellertown Historical Society

150 W. Walnut Street - Hellertown, PA 18055 - 610-838-1770
www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org



Marcella Dimmick Honored on Her 100th Birthday

One of the original founders and staunch supporters of the Hellertown Historical Society, Marcella Dimmick, turned 100 years of age on October 14, 2014.

On October 11, Jeannette Boos (also an original founder of the Society) and Society President Stacie Torkos, presented Marcella with a bouquet of flowers and a Joseph Sofka framed painting of the Grist Mill. Stacie also presented Marcella proclamations honoring her 100th birthday from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and United States Congress. Marcella also received a special 100th birthday card from the White House signed by President Obama and his wife Michele.

The presentations were made during a special 100th birthday celebration organized by Marcella's relatives and close friends.

A teacher who is still very popular among her former Hellertown students, Marcella was very instrumental in motivating and guiding the organizers during the early days of the Hellertown Historical Society. In fact, until recent years she continued to maintain "hands-on" support of the society. She continues to attend, when possible, events such as History Day and Holiday Open House.

In addition to wishing her a happy 100th birthday, both President Torkos and Jeannette Boos expressed a special "Thank You" to Marcella for her continued help and support of the Hellertown Historical Society.

UPCOMING HOLIDAY EVENTS



The Society's Annual Holiday Open House will be held Friday, December 5th and Saturday, December 6th at 7:00 PM in the Tavern Room.

Join us for a festive evening of socializing, reminiscing, and live music by ***Norris and James*** and the ***"Lehigh Valley Idols."***

Tours, vintage train display and more begins at 6:00 PM. Complimentary light refreshments will be served throughout the evening. This event is free and open to the public.

Train Display

The evening would not be complete without a stop in the basement of the Miller's House to see the trains! The train display will also be open Sundays December 7th - 21st from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Pictures with Santa and Shopping at the Mill Sunday, December 14th

12:00 to 4:00 PM in the Tavern Room

Bring the kids for pictures with Santa and then shop for some last minute Christmas gifts. See the Tavern Room transformed into "The Grist Mall" featuring unique gifts from local vendors.

HHS Office is closed for the Holidays
 December 22, 2014 thru January 2, 2015
Happy Holidays!

The Real Scoop about Draining and Filling the Lower Pond

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EMERITUS

Marcella Dimmick
Stella Pasternak

MEETINGS

The Board of Directors meets the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM in the Miller's House. Meetings are open to the public. For more information call 610-838-1770.

Contact us at:

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www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org
610-838-1770 (Please leave a message)

Email:

info@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org

There continues to be stories and "letters to the editor" in the local press and in social media sites concerning the lower pond area located adjacent to the Grist Mill. Some of the material has taken a negative spin, while many of the comments are both positive and supportive.

Well...we are here to assure you the decision to drain and fill-in the lower pond area was not made impulsively. In fact, the idea was presented to the Hellertown Historical Society's Board of Directors nearly a year ago, and the pros and cons discussed at length. When the proposal was made to the Hellertown Borough Council by Board Member Earl Hill and President Stacie Torkos, the Council Members debated the issue during multiple meetings before the final approval to proceed was granted.

The list of reasons that prompted the proposal and ultimate decision to drain and fill the lower pond were:

- The bank that separates the upper pond from the lower pond was eroding. It was only a matter of time until a severe storm would cause a breach in the bank and the water would cascade from the upper pond to the lower pond area. The potential for damage was real and could have been expensive.
- Because the bank was so narrow from erosion, machinery could no longer be driven onto the bank to maintain it.
- During the warm summer months, the water in the lower pond would become stagnant and the resultant odor was objectionable. While there were some fish in the lower pond, there were no trout. Because of the putrid state of the water, eating fish caught from the lower pond was not recommended.

While the decision to re-do the lower pond area was driven by some degree of urgency, everyone involved agreed the process had to adhere to local and state regulations. As a result, permission to drain the pond was obtained from Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and from the DEP. In addition, all ground used to fill the drained pond area had to be tested to assure the material was free from harmful chemicals and other contaminants.

Even before the lower pond was drained, both Borough Council and the Hellertown Historical Society made sure there were confirmed sources for enough ground to fill the cavity left by the drained water...and to do so in a timely manner. The primary source turned out to be Lower Saucon Township. In fact, the township had enough excess ground to fill the entire pond area. The Hellertown Borough also used the opportunity to reduce their piles of excess ground fill.

While it is too late in 2014 to put top soil in place and plant grass, an aggressive landscape effort is being planned for Spring 2015. The resultant greenspace, which will be populated with trees, picnic benches, shrubs and flowers, will be available to the entire community. The Hellertown Historical Society will occasionally use the space for special events...events that will ultimately promote and enhance Hellertown's heritage.



2014 Speaker Series Ends with Dewey Fire Company History



The Hellertown Historical Society's Speaker Series left the Tavern Room on Sunday, September 21, to travel to Dewey Fire House. We were welcomed by Gerry Malone who gave an interesting account of Dewey's history. Dewey has been serving our community for over 115 years. Their service area has grown, as has their facility, which houses an impressive array of emergency vehicles. After the brief history, we were invited to tour their facility. We got up close and personal with the many vehicles required to fully provide needed services to our community. We toured their museum room where awards, photos and the old pumper truck are housed.

But Dewey is more than a building or equipment. Dewey is a group of wonderful volunteers, led by Chief Rick Delmore. These volunteers rolled out the red carpet for us. The volunteers showed us their gear, which is over 60 lbs to wear. We observed how an automatic CPR machine can provide CPR to a patient while EMT's hands are free to provide other lifesaving care. We learned that our four legged family members can receive lifesaving care via oxygen masks designed for pets!

Dewey provided even more surprises. Ron Smith, owner of Superior Auto, brought his retired Hellertown Fire Trucks to the event. Ron works to maintain Dewey's current fleet, but also maintains the former trucks, which he now owns. They were in mint condition and the children were allowed to climb into the cabs and dream of being firefighters!

One lucky audience member won the raffle of a copy of a vintage Dewey Fire House photo, plus a photograph sitting in one of Dewey's Fire Trucks. Congratulations to Susan Roeschke, our lucky raffle winner.

Thanks to everyone at Dewey for welcoming us. We wish them good luck as they plan their 100th Fire Company Carnival this summer. Sadly, this was our last Speaker Series for 2014. The good news is we are hard at work planning for our 2015 Speaker Series. Please look for details on our website in January.

Are You Planning to Make Donations Prior to December 31st?

If so...please consider us as you plan your 2014 year-end gift giving!

As president of Hellertown Historical Society, I am pleased to report the organization is making steady progress in our goal to increase membership, maintain buildings and grounds, and improve community access to the historical archives entrusted to our care.

Our volunteers are devoted to the continuing task of preserving Hellertown's heritage. Our goal for 2015 is to purchase a special software designed for historical societies entitled "Past Perfect." This comprehensive software package will track all our artifact donations and our hundreds of historical photographs and articles. It will even maintain a database of members, donors, and friends of the society. Obtaining this software is our "dream!" A dream we hope will come to fruition in 2015.

But we need your help. I hope you will consider making a year-end donation to the Hellertown Historical Society. At your request we will restrict your donation to purchase of Past Perfect Software.

Thank you...and best wishes for a wonderful holiday season!

Stacie Torkos, President



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Making an impact: Day of Caring 2014

On Thursday, September 11th, the historical society participated in Day of Caring, an annual event coordinated by the Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley. Employees from Aesulap, Inc., Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. and Guardian Life Insurance Company rolled up their sleeves and volunteered at our site for a day performing repair & maintenance and collection inventory tasks.

We can't thank these groups of employees enough for the work that was accomplished during the six hours that they volunteered their time for our organization. THANK YOU!