

HELLERTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

August 2012

www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org

Issue 3

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

2012 SPEAKER SERIES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012
7:00 PM in the Tavern Room of the Grist Mill
150 W. Walnut Street
Hellertown, PA

Hobo King "Redbird Express"
&

Hobo Queen "Double B"

Both well-known local Hobos will cover the history of hobos over the past 100 years.

Tours of the Mill @ 6:30 PM

Light refreshments will be served
Event is free, but donations are appreciated



The [Hellertown Historical Society's](http://www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org) 2012 Speakers' Series continued June 19 with a fascinating presentation by local watercolor artist Joe Sofka. While discussing the steps and methodology he follows when capturing one of Saucon Valley's scenes on paper, Joe demonstrated his amazing skills by painting a watercolor while talking with the guests! The attentive audience was mesmerized by Mr. Sofka's talent. At the conclusion of the evening, the watercolor which Joe painted for the audience was raffled off to a lucky winner, Donald Mills of Hellertown. Mr. Sofka also demonstrated the correct way to frame a painting.

Sunday, October 7, 2012

Tavern Room of the Grist Mill
150 W. Walnut Street
Hellertown, PA

Hobo King "Redbird Express"

will return to prepare a hobo milk can meal -
sausage, cabbage, carrots, potatoes,
corn on the cob
along with salad, dessert & beverage

**4:30 PM - Hors d'oeuvres & Guided
Walking tours of the Grist Mill Buildings**

5:30 PM - Dinner with Live Entertainment

\$30.00 donation per person

Limited Seating!

For reservations call 610-838-1770 or email
info@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org

Upcoming NYC 911 Site & Broadway Show Trip

Plans are being finalized for a November, 2012, bus trip to New York City as a Fundraiser for the Society. The morning will include a direct "no waiting in lines" visit to the Ground Zero Site. The usual wait in line runs several hours. After lunch and shopping in the Theatre District, the group will attend a matinee show on Broadway. Possible shows include *Annie* or *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Watch our website www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org for details or send your email address to info@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org and we will make sure to send you a personal update as soon as plans are final.

Have You Renewed Your 2012 Membership?

If you have not already paid your 2012 Membership dues, please remember to do so. We need more members to help the Society with its efforts and programs to be carried out.

Visit Us from the Comfort of Your Home

www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org In March, 2012, the Society launched our new website. The site provides information on the Grist Mill site, upcoming events, fundraisers, and the Tavern Room rentals. We are now only a few clicks away for our local as well as distant friends. Click in for a visit soon and send us a message from the Contact Us page to tell us what you think and what you'd like to see added to our website.

You Can Make a Permanent Mark On Future of Hellertown Historical Society

Members tell us the friendships they formed and the experiences they had growing up in Hellertown continue to have a strong and lasting impact on their lives. One of the questions we receive most often from members is "How can we do more to preserve those memories for future generations?"

As you know, the mission of Hellertown Historical Society is to preserve Hellertown's heritage. In today's economic environment it is a daily challenge to raise the funds necessary for a nonprofit organization – like the Hellertown Historical Society – to support the buildings, grounds, research materials, displays, etc. that make us such a valuable community treasure

We understand that tight family budgets affect charitable giving, but there is an easy way you can support Hellertown Historical Society and ensure a strong future for the organization. **Simply include**

Hellertown Historical Society as a beneficiary in your Will, Life Insurance, Retirement Plan or Life Income Plans.

By directing a portion of your estate to the Hellertown Historical Society you are making a permanent mark on the future of the organization. Your support will ensure the Hellertown Historical Society will face the future in a stronger financial position, continue to provide resources that will preserve history, and provide tools for research and education of future generations of Hellertonians.

First...please discuss your gift with your attorney and/or financial consultant. Then, contact Earl Hill, President, or Gil Stauffer, Treasurer at Hellertown Historical Society for additional information.

Hellertown Historical Society is a 501c3 nonprofit organization

Walnut Street "Pony" Bridge Slated for Refurbishing

Earl Hill, President of Hellertown Historical Society, recently announced plans to refurbish the Walnut Street "Pony" Bridge. "A very generous local donor is providing the funds to purchase materials and cover any non-volunteer expenses."

The bridge, which no longer handles day-to-day vehicular traffic, is located on Society grounds adjacent to the Barn and Saucon Creek. Constructed in 1860, it is the last cast and wrought iron Bridge remaining in North America. Through a widely publicized "Rehabilitation and Restoration" project the bridge was completely restored in the late 1990s by a cadre of community volunteers and local university students.

Unfortunately, over the past two decades the bridge has gradually experienced weather-related deterioration. "The Pony Bridge is a destination for tourists, students and historians," Hill noted. "We have a responsibility to make sure the structure is not only safe but is preserved for future generations."

While a target date for completion was not included in the announcement, volunteers are actively seeking sources for special weather resistant lumber, and making plans for sand blasting and painting.

Visit www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org for photos and periodic updates.

Spread the Word About the Tavern Room

As our web site says, "The Tavern Room is one of Hellertown's best kept secrets." Help us spread the word by suggesting the Tavern Room to friends or relatives looking for a local location for daytime or evening parties, reunions, luncheons, showers, weddings, etc. Spring and summer have seen numerous fun-filled graduation parties and lovely bridal showers in the Tavern Room. A recent patron noted in her thank you note to the society that she and her guests were pleasantly surprised at what a lovely venue we have here in our town.

Contact our volunteer Tavern Room Coordinator, Dianne Borovies, at cell 703-405-3886 or dlborovies@gmail.com for information or to arrange a tour. You may also call the society's office at 610-838-1770.

We Need You!

You can help Hellertown Historical Society continue to be a viable and important part of the community. Come share your talents and help preserve Hellertown's heritage while making an impact!

We are seeking volunteers for various rewarding positions. Opportunities are available in the following areas:

Docent/Tour Guide
Archives/Research/Collections
Grounds maintenance/Cleaning
Computers/Graphic Design
Development/Office/Data Entry
Marketing/Social Media
Special Event/Fundraising
Museum Exhibits/Design

Interested? Please contact Stacie Torkos, Volunteer Coordinator

volunteercoordinator@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org
or 610-838-1770

HHS WISH LIST

Please contact us at 610-838-1770 if you have a donation source for any of the following:

- Small under-counter refrigerator
- Window or portable air conditioner units
- Gently used picnic tables and benches
- Folding five foot long tables
- Dress mannequins
- Outdoor garden benches
- Digital Slide Projector
- Indoor microphone system
- Black locust or white pine tree logs (for sawmill to turn into planking for Pony Bridge)
- Free standing podium or table-top podium
- Flat screen computer monitors

Memorials in Lieu of Flowers

"Recently, we've experienced an unexpected source of donations," noted Earl Hill, President of Hellertown Historical Society. "And, it is dramatically helping the Society meet financial obligations associated with our mission to preserve Hellertown's Heritage."

That "unexpected and unplanned" source of donations is "memorials in lieu of flowers." Families of deceased loved ones are suggesting family and friends send a donation to the Hellertown Historical Society in lieu of flowers.

"While we are approaching this source of financial help with mixed emotions, we really appreciate the thoughtfulness of the deceased's family," said Hill.

Should you have questions concerning "memorials in lieu of flowers" for your loved one, please discuss them with your funeral director. You may also contact the Hellertown Historical Society at 610-838-1770.

The funds received through memorials are used to maintain and refurbish the Grist Mill, Miller's House, and surrounding grounds...and to preserve the many artifacts associated with Hellertown's heritage.

2012 Activities & Events

Third Saturday of September & October

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

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

Sunday, September 16

Visit us at Saucon Valley Farmer's Market

Gift Shop Items and Hot Dogs for Sale

Speakers' Series, Tuesday, September 11

7:00 PM Tavern Room, The Hobo Lifestyle

Hobo Meal Served Sunday, October 7

In the Tavern Room of the Grist Mill

4:30 PM - Hor d'oeuvres & guided walking tours of the Grist Mill Buildings

5:30 PM Dinner with Live Entertainment

Annual Holiday Open House, Saturday, December 7

7:00 PM Tavern Room, Sofka Painting Raffle, Candlelight tours of the Grist Mill & Museums, Music, Refreshments, Donations appreciated

Drawing for Watercolor Painting



Local artist Joe Sofka has donated a one-of-a-kind beautiful matted and framed watercolor painting, featuring Hellertown's Grist Mill, Miller House, and Wash House, to be used as a year-long fundraiser. A drawing to determine the winner of the painting will be held during the Society's Holiday Open House in early December 2012.

Mr. Sofka has been painting watercolors since 1970. He has studied with Fred Bees of Bethlehem, Randolph Bye at the Bucks County Academy of Art, and with Lee Everett of the Baum School of Art. His specialties include landscapes and special commissions. He has won numerous awards in art shows and juried shows in the Northeast, and has had many one-man shows.

The painting is on display in the office area of the Historical Society's Miller's House. The Society's hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

For tickets please contact the Society at 610-838-1770.

Ticket price is a \$5.00 donation.

No Purchase Required.

A new shipment of Westerwald Pottery has arrived at the Mill! Stop by the Miller's House to see our selection of hand-made decorated pottery by ***Westerwald Pottery***. All of the stoneware is blue and gray in color, with Hellertown imprinted on each piece.

Looking for old yearbooks... We have a lot of interest shown in old yearbooks from Hellertown High School and Hellertown Lower Saucon High School. People are especially asking for yearbooks from the 1940's and 1950's. If you come across any yearbooks that you no longer want, please think about donating these books to the Society.

Hellertown Historical Society Seeking Officers and Directors

A recent change to the By-Laws limiting the number of consecutive terms of Society's Officers has prompted a call for members/volunteers to step into leadership roles within the organization. In addition, the By-Laws has set the maximum number of members/volunteers for the Board of Directors at thirteen...currently there are eight active Board Members. Please contact Earl Hill, President, at 610-838-1770 or email info@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org to volunteer your services in the Society's efforts to preserve Hellertown's heritage.

Hellertown Historical Society
150 W. Walnut Street
Hellertown, PA 18055
610-838-1770

Hellertownhs@enter.net
www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org

Hours:

Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday
mornings 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Board Meetings - 1st Thursday
of each month