



# Hellertown Historical Society

Dedicated to Preserving the History and Heritage of Hellertown and its People

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## Upcoming Events

- Silent Auction – March 1  
 Spring Concert – April 16  
 SV Easter Egg Hunt – April 19  
 H-LS Heritage Day – May 17  
 Election Day Bake Sale – May 20  
 Music in the Park Series – July 27  
 \*\*More Events to Come\*\*



A Lehigh Transit Trolley Passes the A&P Market heading south on Main Street at Water Street with the Park Hotel in Background

## Newsletter Email Contacts

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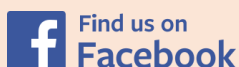
Hellertown Historical Society

150 W. Walnut Street

Hellertown PA 18055

610.838.1770

[www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org)



## Grant Assistance for HHS



In the past year, our non-profit organization received generous grant funding that has significantly impacted our ability to serve our community. Through the support of our grantors, we have made meaningful strides in fulfilling our mission and are deeply grateful for their commitment to our cause.

-Northampton County awarded a Hotel Tax Grant (Fiscal Year: 2024) \$6,100 grant for outdoor interpretive signs installed at six locations around the Heller-Wagner Grist Mill Complex.

-The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) awarded a \$10,000 Keystone Historic Preservation Planning (Fiscal Year: 2024) grant to apply for the inclusion of the Heller-Wagner Grist Mill Complex on the National Park Service National Register of Historic Places.

-A Community Development Block Grant of \$85,000 (Fiscal Year: 2024) was awarded to Hellertown Borough, in coordination with HHS, to build a new handicapped access ramp at the Mill Museum, replacing a decades-old ramp and supporting ADA compliance.

-A Martin Guitar Charitable Foundation grant of \$5,000 (2024) was awarded to produce educational videos of twelve historic buildings in Hellertown, including Hellertown Borough Hall, the Heller-Wager Grist Mill Complex, Detweiler Plaza, and many others that will be included in this project.

-A Northampton County Hotel Tax (Fiscal Year 2025) grant of \$10,000 to contract for marketing and public relations services. primarily for education and visitor programming.

The Society continuously researches additional grant funding opportunities, which are prime funding used to perform maintenance, repairs, and upgrades to the Grist Mill complex and support the Society's mission and goals.

Through these grants, generous donations, and the support of our community members and businesses, the Hellertown Historical Society is making great strides in preserving Hellertown's heritage.

## Hellertown Historical Society

### Officers –

President – Larry Sutton  
 Vice-President – Dennis Scholl  
 Recording Secretary – Tina Krasnansky  
 Treasurer – Gregory Stauffer

### Board of Directors –

Matthew Brady  
 Vivian Demko  
 William “Bill” Frey  
 James Hill  
 Sandra Malone  
 Gloria Michael  
 Donald Mills  
 Liz Thompson  
 Paul Tucker

### Financial Advisory Board –

Tina Krasnansky  
 Kimberly Rosario  
 Timothy Shantz



### Submit Articles or Stories

Hellertown Historical Society Newsletter seeks any stories or news articles pertaining to Hellertown’s History and its people. Anyone is encouraged to submit articles, stories or news to the newsletter Managing Editor for consideration in upcoming editions. Submissions may be edited for content and/or space requirements. Please use the contact information on this page to submit your entry.

## President’s Message:



### *Hello Hellertown Community!*

The central theme of my newsletter messages over the past two years has been “Community”. It is more than a word, it binds us together. This is my last message as President, for I believe community organizations should always make room for new leadership, and ideas. It’s been an honor for me to represent an amazing group of volunteers who continue to serve our community well. I’ll still be here, helping out.

In the past two years, this group of volunteers has provided you with an impressive list of accomplishments. In addition to the annual events of an Easter Egg Hunt, Open House, and Shopping at the Mill, they have presented a Speaker Series, placed the Walnut Street bridge on the National Historic Register, hosted a conference of the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills, held bake sales on election days, established two funds for *Education* and *Historic Preservation*, and offered an ongoing educational tour with exhibits and docents at the mill complex. Donors, like you, have made this possible, and volunteers got it done. In 2025, we hope to add the entire Heller-Wagner Mill complex as a National Historic site – it’s a big deal!

The new year also means it’s time to renew your annual membership at HHS. If you haven’t yet returned your membership form, please know we truly appreciate and depend on your support to continue what we do.

Our annual Members Meeting is March 13, 6PM in the Tavern. All members are invited, and have the opportunity to nominate and vote for available Board seats.

See you around town in 2025!

*Warm Regards,*  
**Larry Sutton, President**

## Hellertown Historical Society Member Spotlight

This is to introduce a new feature to the newsletter where we “shine a spotlight” on our valuable supporting members. Each edition will feature a member of the Hellertown Historical Society with a brief bio and photo, if available.

### Introducing – Mike Heffner



A Lifetime member and supporter, Mike first became an HHS member 30 years ago after touring the Grist Mill and the Hellertown Historical Society Museum. He is a “history buff” and supporter of the educational aspects of HHS. Mike, an auctioneer by trade, is heading up a committee to raise funds for the Society via an auction event that will be held on March 1st. For the future, as a strong civic supporter, he encourages stronger membership numbers that will allow the Society to grow and do more for our local community and youth.

## Hellertown's Historic Briefs

A new series featuring excerpts of historic events that helped define Hellertown

**1880** – Some of the oldest inhabitants of Hellertown remember visiting Rentzheimer's Hill when they were children and amusing themselves by throwing small stones into a crevice in the out-cropping limestone, listening to the reverberations while striking from side to side in falling, and finally splashing into the water far below. Dr. Charles Waidner of Hellertown was the first person to behold this beautiful natural wonder, when the cave was opened for numerous explorations. A long, narrow and tortuous corridor led to a chamber of large size, 186' X 20' with roof, walls and floor, beautifully decorated with the most grotesque and fantastic limestone formations imaginable. A stream of considerable volume flows noisily along under the floor of this chamber.

**1930** – In the spring of 1930, this plot of ground was purchased by E.C. Gilman, who enlarged the passageways, constructed good walkways and installed electric lights, and formally opened it to the public with the name **Lost Cave**. The length of the cave in a straight line from entrance to rear wall is 330' but the windings and side galleries make the route traversed about 900'. The highest ceiling is about 70' and the cave at its widest point is about 60'.

## Hellertown's Distinct and Historic Buildings - #12 Answer

The last of a series featuring distinctive and historic buildings in Hellertown

This was Hellertown's First High School located at 202 Main Street. The building was used as a school from 1896 through 1910. It was replaced by a new school built on Northampton Street, later becoming Reinhard School.

The old high school later served as a lumber company, seafood store, candy store and florist, not necessarily in that order.



### Cryptogram - Motto

GSO DHLYV IPUWT JUX KHZROM UAOP GSO ILQ JEG IOEP.

(Hint I=B)

### Word Scramble

LEMPA

SLOTUC

LEM

WOILWL

CIBHR

NTULWA

RACED

PENUIJR

RERCHY

LOGIMANA

RPPLOAU

PSUERC

If you think you know the puzzle answers, send them to the Editor via the email address below:

[editor@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:editor@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org)

Answers to appear in the next issue

Good Luck!

Last Issue Answers – "Hellertown Heritage – Preserve It"

All Hellertown Street Names – RENTZHEIMER, RIEGEL, LAUBACH, HARWI, THOMAS, HAMPTON, TOBIAS, DETWEILER, BACHMAN, ACKERMAN, WAGNER, HESS, KICHLIN, KIERNAN, CLAUSER, WHITAKER, BLEYLER, FURNACE

## Please Mark Your Calendars For These Upcoming Events

**First Saturday Each Month** – “Dine-to-Donate” Fundraising Event at Nick & Noah’s Cafe  
15% of all Proceeds Between 4PM & 8PM will be Forwarded to HHS

**March 1** – Silent Auction/Chance Raffle 2PM at the Grist Mill Tavern

**April 16** – Spring Concert 7PM at the Grist Mill Tavern, Free to Members, \$25pp Non-Members

**April 19** – SV Easter Egg Hunt Dimmick Park Starts Promptly at 10AM, **Arrive Prior to Start!!**

**May 17** – Hellertown-Lower Saucon Heritage Day

**May 20** – Election Day Bake Sale @ Miller House

**November 29** – Borough Light-Up Night 5PM-8PM – Dimmick Park

**\*December 6** – HHS Holiday Open House Doors Open 6:30PM

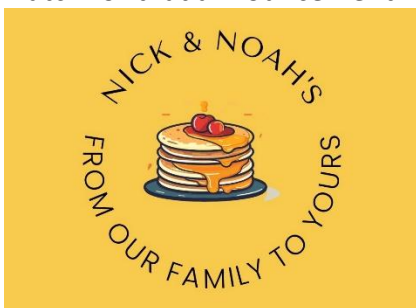
**\*December 15** – HHS Shopping at the Mill and Santa Visits the Mill  
Noon-4PM

\* HHS Events Held at our Heller-Wagner Grist Mill Site 150 W. Walnut Street Hellertown PA 18055

### “Dine-to-Donate” Helps Raise Funds for HHS

Hellertown Historical Society has partnered with some local restaurants to help raise funding.

In October, we held an event at Braveheart Highland Pub which was extremely successful. And, we will hold another there in spring, so keep watch for that announcement.



Currently, Nick & Noah’s Café at 501 Main Street is offering 15% of all proceeds to the Society between the hours of 4PM and 8PM the first Saturday of each month. Be sure to stop in and enjoy freshly prepared food with quality

items at reasonable prices – and help the Society at the same time. It can’t be any easier to help raise much-needed funding. All proceeds benefit the annual Hellertown-Lower Saucon Heritage Day event this year to be held May 17. Be sure to save that date!!

It’s probably the easiest way for you to secure funding for the Society. Simply go out to eat, enjoy an awesome meal with great service, pay your normal bill and BAM!...the Society receives a cut! What could be easier??



Soon, we will be participating with Jersey Mike’s Subs at the Creekside Shopping Center near the Giant Food Store. We also hope to add the following establishments:

Taste of Italy Ristorante, Drip the Flavor Lab, Vassi’s Drive-In, McDonald’s, Texas Roadhouse and several more participating restaurants.



If you would like your favorite establishment added to our list, drop us a message and we will see what we can do!

Be sure to check our Facebook page and website events listing for more info on these events as they are added. Thank you for your support of these fund-raisers!

## HHS Membership

Hellertown Historical Society is now accepting membership renewals for 2025. Anyone wishing to renew their membership may do so by paying their appropriate dues either by USPS or online via our website.

Additionally, previous members who haven't renewed their memberships for the last couple of years, may do so by paying their appropriate dues for 2025.

Our mission to procure, protect and preserve the history of Hellertown takes a lot of work. We are always in need of volunteers to help with that mission. During each year, we hold a variety of events that help to educate people about our mission, our historic site and the archive of items in our collection. We also host a few events that benefit the Community such as the Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Hellertown-Lower Saucon Heritage Day, Community Day, and Trick or Treat at our Jail. We also hold a few fund-raising events such as Music in the Park during the summer and Election Day Bake Sales. These events need volunteers to organize and hold.

Besides the events listed, we also have tasks that most anyone could handle at the historic grist mill site. General cleaning, lawn care, minor repairs and maintenance, computer database entry and much more. Anyone with a little free time to offer would be welcome to join our organization and be greatly appreciated.

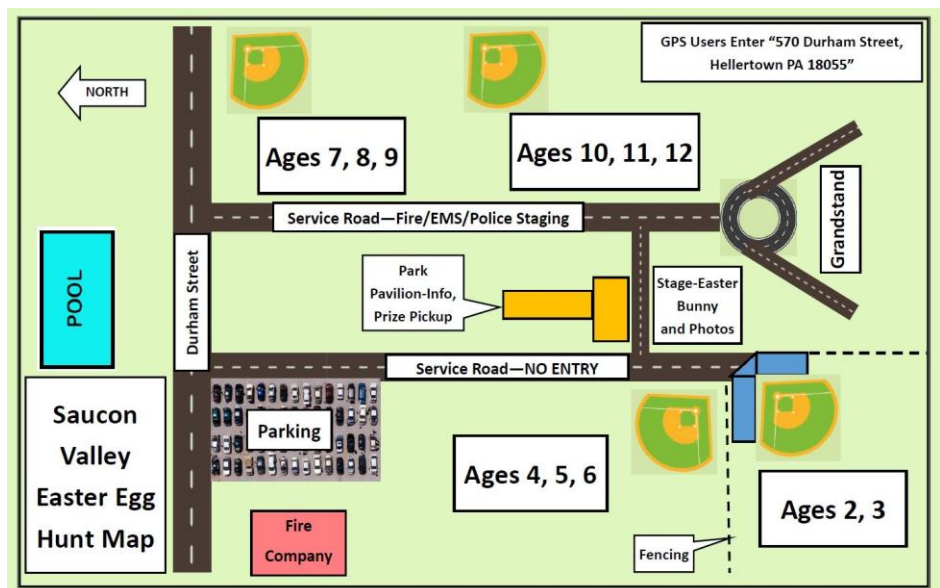
A member application form may be found on our website Under "*Support Us-Memberships*" then scroll to bottom of the page to "*Become a Member*" or you can download one by clicking [here](#).

## Membership Fees

- Individual (Student) \$10/Annually
- Individual (65+) \$15/Annually
- Individual (<65) \$25/Annually
- Family \$40/Annually
- Individual Lifetime Membership \$250/One-Time
- Silver Business/Organization \$200/Annually
- Gold Business \$400/annually
- Diamond Business \$1,000/annually

## HHS Presents the Saucon Valley Easter Egg Hunt

The annual SV Easter Egg Hunt is coming to Dimmick Park, Hellertown on April 19. All children aged 2-12 are welcome along with their parents and families. Each area is set-up via children's ages - see map for site plan. The hunt starts promptly at 10AM and it's over in 30 seconds. **That's why it's important for parents to have their children in their age-appropriate locations by 9:45AM!** The Easter Bunny will also be onsite for visits after the hunt. **Prize eggs will be in each field, check your eggs for prizes BEFORE leaving the park – bring them to the pavilion.**



## Hellertown Historical Society Presents a Silent Auction/Chance Raffle



On March 1, the Hellertown Historical Society will conduct a Silent Auction of select local antiques, sports memorabilia, and donated items from local businesses at the Tavern Room in the lower level of the historic Heller-Wagner Grist Mill Complex, 150-170 West Walnut Street, Hellertown PA 18055.

The event is FREE and open to the public. In addition to the auction, there will be raffles, entertainment, and light refreshments.

The auction will open at 2:00 PM and close at 4:00 PM. The auction and raffle winners will be announced at 4:30 PM. A sample of some of the items offered include...

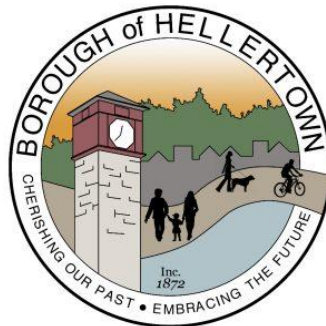
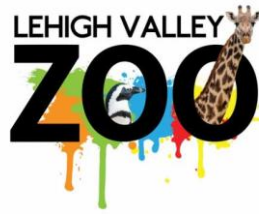
- Nolan Ryan Signed Display
- Yankee Stadium Lithograph
- 19<sup>th</sup> Century Tom Sayers Lithograph
- Phil Rizzuto Signed Batting Helmet
- Mickey Mantle/Don Mattingly Signed Display
- Original Wood Case of Hellertown Bottling Works Glass Bottles
  - Vintage Klein's Service Station Sign
  - Theater Seats from the Sauconia Theater
    - LV Phantoms Tickets
    - Four Rounds Steel Club Golf

Check our website for photos of some of the items being offered.

Some of the chance raffle items being offered include:

- Miller Symphony Hall Tickets
  - Family Pass to Hellertown Pool
  - \$25 Crossroads Gift Certificate
    - Starbucks Gift Basket
  - \$100 for Braveheart Highland Pub
    - Advanced Optics Sunglasses
      - Fresh Pet Dog Food
  - Andys/Pennywell Arrangement 50% off
    - Wine-Tasting for 4
    - Autographed Baseball Cards
- and much more.

Hellertown Historical Society would like to thank the following sponsors and donors on the next page that helped make this event possible. Please support their services...





Join us at the Hellertown Historical Society's historic 1760's Grist Mill Tavern for a weeknight Spring Concert. Sponsored by Hellertown Historical Society and The Lehigh Valley Mandolins. Featured performance by the Reading Mandolin Orchestra.

Wednesday, April 16.

Doors Open 6:30PM, concert begins at 7PM with a reception after.

150-170 West Walnut Street, Hellertown PA 18055

Hellertown Historical Society members and their guests enter free of charge – non-members \$25pp

The Reading Mandolin Orchestra will be performing a lively program of Italian and Latin beats. The orchestra is an acoustic group of stringed instruments who follow written scores, some dating from the mid 1800's. Many of the pieces performed have evolved from the height of mandolin orchestras popularity one hundred years ago.

Hellertown Historical Society  
150 West Walnut Street  
Hellertown PA 18055