

Jenkins Journal

LANSDALE, PA

DECEMBER, 2015

Holiday open house December 5

Annual event to include tall clock, repaired organ

Join us Saturday, December 5, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for our annual Holidays at the Homestead open house. Our open house committee, chaired by Anne Scheuring, will have the homestead decorated for the holiday season in a manner befitting Lansdale's first family.

A number of special features are planned for this year's open house:

- * The Charles Jenkins Tall Case Clock, circa 1797, has been placed in the keeping room and will be dedicated as part of the day's festivities. The clock, which at one time stood in the home of Charles Jenkins Jr. in Towamencin Township, has been mechanically restored by clockmaster John Gill of Upper Gwynedd.

History suggests that the clock was originally the property of Charles Jenkins Sr., the first clerk of the Lansdale National Bank and inventor of the Jenkins Map Roller. It then passed to his son, Charles Jr. who operated a nationally-known Shetland pony farm



JENKINS TALL CASE CLOCK AND HUNBERGER PUMP ORGAN

just west of Lansdale.

The clock features a dial and movement made by a Birmingham, England clock works. The case is believed to be the work of a Southeastern Pennsylvania cabinetmaker.

Members of the Charles Jenkins family from upstate New York, who donated the clock to the society, plan to attend the event between 11 a.m.

and 1 p.m. for a brief dedication ceremony.

* For the first time in many years sounds of music will be heard from the Hunsberger pump organ. The 19th century organ was recently restored and is in playable condition. David Furniss, minister of music at St. John's United Church of Christ, will serenade our guests with

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Former LHS trustee Richard Stricker dies

By DICK SHEARER

The society and all of Lansdale lost a community icon recently with the death of Richard Stricker at age 84.

Richard, who was a trustee emeritus and a long-time member and supporter of our organization, was a genuine character in this town. He was easily identified by his booming voice, gold Cadillac, Cheshire cat smile and unfailing

habit of saying what was on his mind, no matter the consequences.

Yet he was beloved by many because he lived life his way and helped many along the way. To say his heart was as golden as the Caddy's paint job would not be a stretch.

The love of his life was the Lansdale Cemetery, which he rescued from disrepair more than a half-century ago, using much of his own money to keep it ship-

shape. For this he received the society's Edwin G. Holl Historic Achievement Award.

His contributions to the society were many. Perhaps the most important was his lobbying – yes, he was good at that – of borough council to buy the property adjacent to the Jenkins Homestead for us to establish a research center.

Richard also spent a good part of his

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Thousands view our Facebook page

Different people have different opinions about Facebook but from the society's standpoint, it's the best avenue for communicating with the public that we've found so far.

Six months ago President Dick Shearer began posting vintage photographs of the North Penn area along with caption information on a once-a-week basis. The response has been so positive that we're now posting a photo and caption every day with remarkable results.

Approximately 100 items have been posted since June. They've reached an average of more than 2,300 viewers

each, which means we're closing in on the 250,000 mark in half a year.

Our goal is to reach more people of all ages to ac-

quaint them with the society's mission, and hopefully encourage some of them to join as members.

Because of its world-wide

reach our Facebook page is attracting attention from former Lansdale residents around the world who remember

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SUZANNE WAINWRIGHT-EVANS POURS CANDY AT OUR 2014 OPEN HOUSE.

Tall clock, organ featured at open house

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Christmas carols and seasonal music between 1 and 2 p.m.

The organ is one of only two believed to be made by a Hatfield craftsman.

* A candy making demonstration by Suzanne Wainwright-Evans, which was so popular last year, will return. Suzanne uses 400 clear

candy molds in her work. Other vintage candy-making items will also be on display. The demonstration will go on throughout the open house.

There is no admission charge to the open house so please come out to share holiday cheer and bring along your friends and neighbors.



THE JENKINS HOMESTEAD

Jenkins Homestead and Historical Research Center

137 Jenkins Ave.,
Lansdale, PA 19446

Hours:

Wednesdays and Thursdays:

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturdays:

9 a.m. to noon.

Telephone:

(215) 855-1872

Email:

info@lansdalehistory.org

Website:

www.lansdalehistory.org

Like Us on Facebook

Please send mail correspondence
to 137 Jenkins Ave.,
Lansdale, PA 19446.

Autumn history programs geared to children

Autumn is here, and with the new season has come the beginning of a new school year. As in past years, a number of elementary school classes in the North Penn School District have participated in field trips sponsored by the Lansdale Historical Society.

The third grade class at York Avenue School walked to the Jenkins Homestead on a recent afternoon to learn about the Jenkins family and life in Lansdale as it was 100 years ago. The children were surprised to learn that their school had been located on the edge of farmland when it was built in 1926, and that Lansdale's Main Street had once been a toll road.

In October, sixth grade classes from York

Avenue and A. M. Kulp Schools visited the Towamencin Schwenkfelder Cemetery on Hunter Hill Drive in Towamencin Township. A volunteer from the Lansdale Historical Society led the groups in an historical exploration of the cemetery. The children learned about the Schwenkfelders, who fled persecution in Silesia in the 18th century to settle in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Moreover, they learned that a cemetery is a treasure trove of historical information... and not at all spooky!

We love our young visitors, and we hope they will return to the Jenkins Homestead for our history camp next summer.

Kinsey nominated as president for 2016

For the first time in 14 years, the society will have new leadership when members attending our February Community Programs formally elect a new slate of officers and trustees for 2016.

Dick Shearer, who has served as president since 2002, will relinquish the top post to concentrate on writing and research projects, something he has hoped to do for a number of years.

Clarence Kinsey, currently first vice president, has been nominated to replace him. Clarence, who has been a member for 10 years, has been responsible for digitizing and organizing our photo collections and has taken on additional administrative responsibilities this past year.

The board of trustees, meeting in early November, made a number of basic changes in the society's by-laws to allow for four vice presi-

dents, each with specific duties. The goal is to divide some of the president's responsibilities among the other officers.

Under this arrangement, Kinsey will serve as President and Administrator, Shearer as Vice President/Historian and assistant administrator, Pat Rieker as Vice President/Community Rela-

tions, Chris Cooke as Vice President/Collections and Archives, and Steve Moyer as Vice President/Special Projects. Janice Bennett will continue as secretary and Anne Scheuring as treasurer. Nominated as trustees are Marti Drumheller, Linda Evans, Bill Henning, Frank Krimm and Ruth Madison.

Just a reminder... ... Yes, it's dues renewal time again

The coming of the holiday season means that it's again time to renew your membership to the society for the coming year.

The good news is that the board of trustees voted to retain the existing dues structure. That means basic membership will remain at \$20 for individuals or \$25 for a couple.

But as you are well aware, the cost of

everything continues to rise and so do the society's expenses. That's why we encourage you to re-up at a Patron or Sustaining membership level so that more of our funds can go toward community outreach projects, displays and research center needs.

Another suggestion: Take the big step to lifetime membership and never have to pay dues again.

Lansdale Historical Society

Membership Application

Year _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ **State** _____ **ZIP** _____

Phone: _____ **E-Mail:** _____

PLEASE CHECK

INDIVIDUAL: Single \$20 _____ **Couple \$25** _____ **Patron \$40** _____

Sustaining \$55 _____ **Business \$100** _____

LIFETIME: 55 or older (Single) \$300 _____ **(Couple) \$500** _____

Additional Donation \$ _____

Don't Mail Newsletter _____

Make checks payable to: Lansdale Historical Society, 137 Jenkins Ave., Lansdale, PA 19446

Society bids farewell to Richard Stricker

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life collecting obituaries of the 3,400 persons buried in the Lansdale Cemetery which he donated to the society so families of the deceased can learn more about their predecessors.

He spent a four-year term on Lansdale Council in the late 1970s during

which he campaigned for a new Fairmount Firehouse. It became a reality in 1980.

Even after he left council, he remained a respected community watchdog to the end. And I, for one, will miss his bluster greeting – “MISSTERRR Shearer, we have to talk...”

May he rest in peace.

Services for Richard Stricker were held Saturday. He requested that donations in his name be made to the historical society.

Two other long-time members of the society passed away earlier this year.

Marie “Dolly” Wheeler died in November at the age of 100.

Dolly was secretary of the organization for a number of years, participated in many committees and was a wealth of knowledge about people and events in the area’s past.

Philip Miller passed away during the summer. A one-time president of the society, he successfully urged borough council to purchase the Jenkins Homestead for use by our organization.

Phil and his wife Janice were presented with the Lansdale Historical Society Legacy Award this past spring.

Facebook postings attract thousands

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growing up here.

The page has been a learning tool for us, as well. To no surprise we’ve found that our followers are most interested in relatively recent history – events and places they remember firsthand. For instance, this month we posted a photo and menu from Schrey’s Diner which was a mainstay in town into the 1970s. It reached

8,000 viewers in 24 hours.

That’s a great showing but the current leader is – of all things – a photo of a well toilet-papered intersection in Lansdale on Midchief Night 1978. At last count 20,000 folks took a look.

Check out our daily postings. It’s easy, free and there’s nothing to join if you want to see what it’s all about. Simply Google “Facebook Lansdale Historical Society” and it will take you to the page.

Lansdale Historical Society 137 Jenkins Ave., Lansdale, PA 19446



The Jenkins Historic Complex