

Jenkins Journal

Newsletter of the Lansdale Historical Society

November, 2019

Community Program Nov. 14

1960s: A time of protests, war, assassinations, Urban Renewal

Assassinations, an unwinnable war, civil rights marches, a musical invasion from Great Britain, protests in the streets, men on the moon, Woodstock. They were all a part of the 1960s.

Here at home, we faced a water crisis, work began on a bigger-than-big North Penn High School, revitalization rocked downtown Lansdale, major fires found their way into the headlines, and all the while we paused to bury our Vietnam war dead.

Arguably, the Sixties were the most divisive and transitional years in the 20th century. They will be the subject of the society's first Community Program of the 2019-20 season to be held Thursday, Nov. 14, 7:30 p.m. at Lansdale

Borough Hall, 1 Vine St.

The 60s is the first in a series of shows that will focus on the news, trends, sights and sounds of the 1940s, 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s here at home and on the national-international scene.

The first presentation will be narrated by society president Dick Shearer. The second program, *The 80s* will be hosted by Bill Henning in January.

As usual, there is no admission charge but donations are appreciated.

A REMINDER: Our programs will now be held on Thursday nights at a new venue, Lansdale Borough Hall,



Holidays at the Homestead: Dec. 7

A labor of love in pictures

The holidays are a time for reminiscing and so it will be this year at the Jenkins Homestead.

At the annual Holidays at the Homestead open house we will decorate the rooms with an extensive collection of photographs tracing how the society converted the Jenkins house back to a colonial farmstead after serving as an apartment house for more than a century.

The photos will show early LHS volunteers working as a team to restore both the interior and exterior of the house over five decades. The long hours and heavy lifting paved the way for earning

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Rites slated for unmarked Vets' graves

Since the time of the Civil War, the federal government has honored military veterans by making flag holders and markers available for placement on their graves.

But not every veteran's grave has been so honored with an official marker. Some veterans have chosen to mark their graves with private markers. And some veterans have been overlooked, their graves remaining unmarked for decades.

Through the efforts of society members Marti Drumheller and Lisa Phillips, the unmarked graves of 10 veterans who have been interred in Lansdale Cemetery and Mausoleum have been identified.

These 10 veterans served our country during the Civil War, Indian wars, World War I and World War II.

Some were lifelong residents of Lansdale, and others were only remotely connected to the North Penn area. All served honorably in the Army or Navy.

On Veterans Day, November 11, at 11 a.m. the public is invited to a ceremony honoring these 10 veterans at the cemetery.

Official military markers have been placed on each grave, thanks to the Veterans Administration and the generous donations of area residents.

The ceremony will include a color guard from the North Penn High School Junior ROTC and buglers from the North Penn High School Band, as well as the Hatfield American Legion Riders.

A guide and a veteran will be available at each grave to provide information about the life and military record of each of the honored servicemen.

Time to renew your membership for 2020

November 1 marks the beginning of our annual membership renewal campaign.

Now is the time to re-up your financial commitment to the society as we continue on our mission to preserve, protect and promote the unique history of Lansdale and the North Penn region.

Entering its 49th year, the Lansdale Historical Society has:

- restored and maintained the 1770-era Jenkins Homestead.
- opened an extensive research center which contains tens of thousands of vintage photographs and memorabilia of all sorts.
- provided educational and outreach programs for schools, community organizations and the general public.
- launched an internet website and a daily Facebook page which has generated more than five million views since 2015.
- established a museum annex at Lansdale Borough Hall.
- partnered with Discover Lansdale to assist with the restoration of the historic Lansdale Freight House.

Holidays at the Homestead

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the homestead a place on the National Register of Historic Places, the only residential property so honored in Lansdale.

We'll also include pictures of the volunteers celebrating their good works with a party or two along the way. They struck up friendships that lasted a lifetime and left us with a landmark to maintain for the ages.

"Holidays at the Homestead" will be held Saturday, December 7, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. The event is open to the public. There will be no admission charge but donations are appreciated. Please bring your neighbors and friends and offer a special invitation to newcomers who haven't toured the homestead.

Your membership renewal for 2020 is essential to our success. Basic membership at \$20 per person helps us meet our ever-rising operational costs, but we encourage you to consider upping your contribution to Patron (\$50), Sustaining (\$55) or Lifetime (\$300 single/\$500 couple) so we can expand our outreach efforts in the community.

Please fill out the membership form on the next page and return it to us as soon as possible. The membership renewal campaign ends January 31.



LHS members join Judy and Dick Shearer at Chamber banquet.

Chamber honors Shearer

Society President Dick Shearer was presented with the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Montgomery County's Community Service Award at the chamber's annual awards banquet October 17 at William Penn Inn.

Shearer was honored for his five decades of service to the North Penn Area as a newspaper journalist at The Reporter and as president/administrator of the society.

He was introduced by Mary Fuller, Lansdale Borough Council vice-president, president of Discover Lansdale and herself a recipient of the Chamber award in 2017.

Attending, in addition to Dick and wife Judy, were LHS members Pat Rieker, Linda Evans, Ruth Madison and Helen and Bruce Schwartz.

Lansdale Historical Society

is a 501c3 registered non-profit organization.

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Lansdale, PA 19446

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Facebook: Facebook/Lansdale Historical Society



The Jenkins Homestead and Historical Research Center

are open to the public
Wednesdays-Thursdays 11 am-4 pm
Saturdays 9 am-noon.

There is no charge for tours of the 1770 homestead. Charges may apply for research projects.

Membership Application

Individual Member \$20/yr.

Couple \$25/yr.

Patron \$40/yr.

Sustaining \$55/yr.

Business \$100/yr.

Lifetime (55 & Older)

Single \$300 Couple \$500

Additional Donation \$_____

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

State_____ Zip_____

Telephone_____

E-mail_____

Please make checks payable to the

Lansdale Historical Society

137 Jenkins Ave., Lansdale, PA 19446

215 855-1872

www.lansdalehistory.org

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