



# Old Morlatton Village MESSENGER

*The Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County*

Volume XVII

Number 1

Spring 2009

**SPRING LUNCHEON  
and  
PLANT SALE**

**Saturday, MAY 9, 2009  
11:00 am and 1:00 pm**

**The Stone House  
1216 Parkside Drive North  
Wyomissing, PA**

**Menu**  
**Shrimp Remoulade**  
**Perfection Salad**  
**Dessert Buffet**  
**Tea and Coffee**  
**Cost: \$30.00**



Those who attended last year's luncheon will remember what a lovely affair it was. We can't promise the beautiful weather but we can promise another delightful event.

This year the music will be provided by violinist, Barbara Lanya. In addition to the plant sale, Dr. Susan Munch, botanist from Alvernia University, will be on hand to give advice and answer questions.

The luncheon is the day before Mothers' Day. What a wonderful way to honor your mother and the Historic Preservation Trust at the same time!

*To make reservations, please send in the appropriate form with your check. Reservations are limited to 30 people per seating.*

If you have plants you would like to share, please bring them to the Stone House Saturday morning or call Anne Coldren (610-987-9249).

Dedicated to maintaining and preserving historically and architecturally significant properties

**SPRING EVENING AT THE KEIM FARMSTEAD**  
**Boyer Road, Lobachsville**  
**SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2009**  
**4 pm-7 pm**



Enjoy an evening of hot hors d'oeuvres, fruit, cheeses and a selection of wines in the bucolic setting of the Keim Farmstead.

Basic tours of the buildings and grounds will be provided as well as discussion of the Keim family and the 18th century vernacular German architecture. An open hearth kitchen demonstration will be provided by Peggy Gingrich, living historian.

*Tickets: \$20 for adults, \$10.00 for students (You must be 21 to sample wine)  
To make reservations, please send in the appropriate form with your check.*

**OLEY VALLEY BUS TOUR**  
**Saturday May 30, 2009**  
**9:00 am to approximately 3:30 pm**  
**Cost: \$50.00\***  
**Meeting at Daniel Boone Homestead**

This is a joint fund raising event for the Trust and Daniel Boone Homestead. The entire day will be guided by Jim Lewars, site director of Daniel Boone Homestead and a Trust representative.

The day will begin at the Homestead with light refreshments and a brief tour of the grounds. Next we will travel to the Exeter Friends Meeting House and then to the Yellow House Hotel for lunch (included in the ticket cost). Following lunch will be a visit to the Keim Farmstead (Trust property) in Lobachsville and then a driving tour of Oley. Up to this point in the tour we will have been looking at examples of English and German architecture and identifying important local examples. Next we will look at the important early settlement area of Morlatton Village and tour the Mouns Jones House (oldest recorded structure in Berks County), Bridge Keeper's House, the George Douglass Mansion, and retire to the White Horse Inn for refreshments, harpsichord music performed by Dr. Helen May and a short talk on the Trust. We will then return to the Daniel Boone Homestead via Birdsboro.

\*The cost includes two snacks (morning and afternoon), lunch at the historic Yellow House Hotel, a knowledgeable local historian as tour guide and your seat on the bus.

***RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST. Please send in the appropriate form with your check or call Daniel Boone Homestead (610-582-4900)***

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## STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING



On February 24 the staff and board of the Historic Preservation Trust were privileged to meet with Anne B. Brown to focus on the beginning steps for strategic planning.

Ms. Brown has more than thirty-five years experience as an administrator, curator, collections manager, program, project and special event planner, strategic planner and fundraiser for museums and non-profit art and community organizations. For the past fifteen years, she has concentrated on strategic planning, collections management, administration and fundraising for small and mid-sized non-profit organizations that are beginning, building or reinventing themselves. Her broad experience allows her to bring an in-depth understanding of all the components necessary to the daily operation of non-profit organizations as well as their long-term growth.

Ms. Brown spent the majority of the day with executive director, Lee Zelewicz, visiting the Trust's sites and getting to know the scope of our organization and effectively assess our current situation. The evening was spent with the board of directors where she asked thought provoking questions which precipitated lively and fruitful discussion. The board will meet with Ms. Brown again in the near future when she will present her thoughts, insights and recommendations for the Trust.

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### E-MAIL

Become a better informed member of the Trust by sharing your e-mail address with us. Doing this not only will keep you current on the latest happenings it will also help us reduce our printing and mailing expenses. Every little bit helps. Please send the information to Priscilla Walsky at [walskyinvest@verizon.net](mailto:walskyinvest@verizon.net) or call 610-372-3807. Thank you.

### CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

Although Christmas is several months past the Trust would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Johnson for graciously opening their lovely home for the Christmas Tea.

The tea table was laden with its usual array of delicious cookies and tea sandwiches and tempting jams, jellies and breads were sold to happy guests.

The beautiful weather enhanced the lovely rural setting. It was the perfect way to begin the holiday season.

The Historic Preservation Trust would like to gratefully acknowledge and thank the Antique Dealers Association of Berks County for their gift of \$1000. This money will be used for the creation of an educational museum panel to be on permanent exhibit in the White Horse Inn.

## WORDS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Preservation: “to keep alive or in existence; make lasting” -Random House Dictionary

The word preservation is the embodiment of the Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County, and it is aptly placed because this organization began fourth-five years ago. Since our inception, we have diligently faced the task of preserving many of our area’s most important historic properties and advocated for the preservation of our community’s shared heritage. We have held countless educational programs and property tours, restored specific important historic structures, and acted as a local advisor on historic preservation laws and projects, just to name a few accomplishments.

Now, as we face difficult economic times, we hold onto the lessons learned from years of preservation experience. We will face the current issues as we have faced issues in the past. The firm foundation, our membership, is in place, and now we shall button up the shutters and firm up the roof of our organization through careful planning. As many funding resources are dwindling, we will use calculated leverage to continue operations by cutting expenditures and relying more heavily on volunteerism from the board of directors and the membership at large.

The Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County plays a vital community role in preserving the cultural landscape and shared heritage and providing numerous local events. This year in particular, we are offering even more events open to the public and the membership (see calendar of events)! We have done our best to offer an increased diversity of programs at affordable prices. We invite you and your friends to help us in our preservation and become more involved. With our strong foundation couched in over four decades of tradition, the Historic Preservation Trusts of Berks County will move forward in 2009.

Lee Zelewicz

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 9 – **Spring Luncheon** 11 am and 1 pm  
Stone House  
1216 Parkside Drive North  
Wyomissing  
\$30.00 Limited seating

May 23– **Spring Evening at Keim Farmstead**  
4 pm-7 pm  
Boyer Road, Lobachsville  
Adults \$20 Students \$10

May 30- **Oley Valley Bus Tour**  
9 am –3:30 pm  
Meet at Daniel Boone Homestead  
400 Daniel Boone Road  
Birdsboro  
\$50.00

**4th Sunday May, June, July, August**  
Summer Open Houses - Old Morlatton Village  
Noon to 4 pm

June (to be decided) **Annual Membership Meeting**  
Potluck supper  
Tour buildings, vote on important issues including induction of new board members and officers.

June 19 and 20 –**Antiques in the Valley**  
Oley Valley Middle School

September 26 –**Mouns Jones Country Fair: Harvest Festival**  
10 am –4 pm  
45th annual fair with a new look

Think about how you can be a dependable volunteer. There will be many opportunities coming up so keep posted and become involved.

If you haven’t remitted your annual membership dues, please do so at your earliest convenience.

