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HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF BENSALEM TWP

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NEWSLETTER FOR SEPT. AND OCT. 2023

Welcome back and we hope that everyone had a nice summer and is ready for the Sept. Flea Market .

MAY

The May Flea Market gave us a profit of \$1398.95. Many THANKS to all our volunteers: Hank Arment, John Dignam, Charlene Dornisch, Joe Gavaghan, Mary Ann Griffin, Rob Homolka, Renee Kitchenman, Amy Konyves, Russ Lake, Kathy Leighton, Vicki MacDougall, Sheldon and Carolyn Per, Joe Sadler, Charles Satterfield, Sally Sondesky, and the Community Service Club Members. MANY THANKS. The profit is as follows: Spaces \$990; Stand \$146.25; Books/Rec \$121.50; and Snacks \$141.20.

On May 4th, Andy Waski told us about the Grand Army of the Republic or GAR , as we call it, and how it was organized back in April 1866. This was the first veteran's organization in America. The GAR was comprised of Civil War honorably discharged men. Philadelphia had 36 posts with a total of 640 in all Pennsylvania. The first post to be established was on Oct. 16, 1866 and was held in the Union League building. Upon the death of General Meade on Nov. 16, 1872, this post was named for him.

“Old Baldy”, General Meade’s horse outlived him. Wounded 5 times during the war, this horse lived in retirement until he could not stand up and had to be put down in Dec. 1882.

The Medal of Honor was the only medal issued in the Civil War. Dr. Mary Walker was the only woman to receive it.

Descendants of veterans formed both the Sons and Daughters of Union Veterans Organizations.

Andy also explained some of the medals issued to the soldiers and about their uniforms. Thanks to Andy, Walt and the GAR Museum for the informative program.

On May 9th, we hosted the Girl Scouts of Troop 21318. They wanted to learn about early Bensalem and how it developed into what is here today. They had lots of good questions and enjoyed seeing items from the past. They presented us with several boxes of Girl Scout Cookies which we all enjoyed.

On May 20th, the Bensalem Library hosted a Community Information Fair and Kathy Leighton and Rob Homolka represented us that day. Thanks Kathy and Rob.

JUNE

It was a beautiful evening for our picnic on June 1st. It ended our meetings for the summer. A delicious food tray from Durham Deli with several special side dishes, donated by members, rapidly disappeared that evening. This event always gives everyone a chance to really get to know our members. THANKS to all who attended and we hope to see you in Sept. for the Ice Cream Social.

JUNIPER VILLAGE

On May 10th Kathy Leighton presented to residents and friends of Juniper Village, a program about “Growden Mansion”. This was the first of 3 scheduled programs for them. The second was on June 14th and was a “Trip Along Bristol Pike” and the third was done on July 12th and contained the “Mansions Along the Delaware”. Kathy ‘s presentations were well

received and the crowd grew bigger with each program. THANKS, Kathy for all your efforts.

Missing Mile Marker Found !!!

About 1 week after filing a police report about this missing marker #12T. It was found.

On Sat. 4/22, we received a phone call from a man living on State Road just over the line into Philadelphia, stating that it was at a home near him. Apparently, his wife had read about the missing marker and he called our office to report it.

We contacted the Bensalem Police and by Sat. late afternoon, it was picked up and was at the police station. It will remain with our member, who cleans and repairs tombstones, until he can put it back on Bristol Pike in the Andalusia section.

Many THANKS to the Bensalem Police, the Philadelphia Police and especially to the couple who spotted it and called us.

The Mile Marker and its' history have been returned to Bensalem!!!

Boscov's Coupon Sales

At Boscov's on July 1st, Kathy Leighton, Hank Arment, Joe Gavaghan and Sally Sondesky spent from 10 to 1:30 selling \$5 coupons for the special Boscov's sale day Oct. 18th. Each coupon sold benefited us and 9 (\$45) were sold along with \$29 in donations and we also sold soft pretzels (\$84) for a total of \$158 for the day. THANKS everyone.

NEW MEMBERS

Gloria Narvaez

**Mary Anne Pedrick
Keith Stauring**

Walt Lafty

ADDITIONS

Joe Gavaghan donated several pictures of events in 1992

Pat Grady donated 2 Bensalem High School Alumni directories 2001 & 2006

Linda Peasley donated a book about trolleys and Watson Annals vol 1 & 2

Joe Gavaghan donated five Bensalem Business's advertising magnets.
 Carol Butz donated Bensalem yearbooks from 1971 and 1981 along with a commencement program from 1949
 Ray Guim donated a 1996 BHS Soccer calendar and yearbooks from 1995, 1997, and 1998

FLEA MARKET
 See attached flyer

CONCERTS

Many THANKS to all who braved the heat this summer to sell the thousands of 50/50 tickets during the 13 concert evenings.
 The sellers were: Jill Freeman, John Tyciak, Peggy Thullen, Kathy Leighton and friend Terri B., Renee Kitchenman, Barbara and Bob Johnson, Rich Patton, Amy and Adam Konyves, Joe Gavaghan, Mary Ann Griffin, David Zaccardi, Marguerite and Charles Satterfield, Amethyst Bush, Eileen Keefe, Charlene Dornisch, and Sally Sondesky.
 Thanks, also to all who prepared the tickets to be sold.
 We receive \$200 for each evening we sell the tickets.

CALENDAR

Sept. 7th	Ice Cream Social	7:00 pm
Sept. 16th	Board Meeting	11:00 am
Oct. 4th	"History Beneath Your Feet" By Jim Bongiovanni of PA Historical Recovery Services	7:00 pm
Oct. 14th (raindate 15th)	"Growden Day"	10-2 pm
Oct. 21st	Board Meeting	11:00 am

Did you noticed the QR Code on the front page ? Place your camera phone on it, then touch the yellow bar that appears and see what happens!!!!



Welcome Back!
The Board

BENSALEM TOWNSHIP AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF BENSALEM
Growden Day
October 14, 2023
Growden Mansion
5408 Meshaminy Valley Drive
10:00am to 2:00pm
Tour the Mansion | DIY Kites | Pumpkin Painting
Local Organizations Attending



Multi-vendor flea market

Saturday, Sept. 23

8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

3211 Knights Road, Bensalem

Space rentals \$20; all vendors welcome

Reserve your space by calling 215-752-3673

Rain date Sept. 24

This is a non-smoking, non-vaping event for vendors and buyers

Benefits The Historical Society of Bensalem Township