



2005-2006

Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center

January, 2006

# Friends of the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center

## Back Porch Seminar Hereford Township Revisited Sunday, February 5, 2006



A Back Porch Seminar will be presented by a panel of current and former residents of Hereford Township who grew up during the one room school house era in Hereford Township, Berks County. Their comments will be related to selected slides from the recently published book "Early Times in Hereford Township". The presentation is focused on a period of time that is rapidly becoming a fading memory of the past when business was done with a handshake, the butcher brought their meats to your door, a teacher taught all eight grades at the same time, and the news and gossip of the day was discussed around the pot-bellied stove in the general store.

## Annual Meeting: March 19, 2006 Kristin Pedemonti

Put March 19, 2006 on your calendar now so that you won't miss the 13th Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center. The most important business at hand will be the election of several key Board positions. The Board is always looking for interested volunteers to assist in the mission of the organization. If you are interested in helping out the Heritage Center in this manner please see one of us at the February meeting or call the Heritage Center and leave a message for one of us to return your call.

After the brief business meeting, Kristen Pedemonti, a professional storyteller, will present a program on what to do with the family photos. No, this is not a scrapbooking workshop, rather, an entertaining and informative presentation on how to elicit and use the treasured family stories that are captured within the family photos. If you have never met "Mrs. P" as she is known in the Valley, you are in for a delightful afternoon. In her effervescent manner, she will help you unlock the memories that are stored in your family mementos. There will be a display table for you to bring a family photo to display with other Friends and guests. Please encourage your family and friends to attend this sure to be captivating program.

If you have any questions about the meeting or the free and open to the public program please call the Heritage Center (215 679-3103) and leave a message and one of us will be happy to return your call.



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have worn many hats at the Heritage Center but in some ways there has not been one as important as a member of the Friends of the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center. For a small amount of money each year, a Friends membership does so much more than one would think.

First and most importantly, it helps support the Heritage Center by acknowledging that there is a large group of people who believe that the Heritage Center provides one of the most important functions in our communities- "HONORING THE HERITAGE, CONTINUING THE JOURNEY"

The very small amount that we ask of Friends for yearly membership fees does so much in many ways. Each year we provide the staff (as detailed elsewhere in this newsletter) with a specified amount of money to help them secure items on their wish list. A non profit museum needs many things to promote the Heritage and I know first hand that this is a valuable part of what we do.

Secondly, I also know that the programs, planned in advance of the coming yearly the Friends Board, offer the community, a chance to see the Heritage Center in a more interactive way that is not exhibit related. It gives the people in attendance the chance to share their memories, and knowledge of the subject matter as well as learn new and relevant pieces of information.

Finally, by being a member of the Friends you become our ambassadors to the world, letting them know that the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center is one of the most amazing gems in Pennsylvania, if not the entire East Coast (or maybe even the country). I have never left an exhibit or a program without a sense of wonder, and amazement at the life that was led here in the area, long ago.

Please renew your membership and help the Friends grow. We need more people, new ideas, an hour here or there to bake cookies at Christmas, or help out at one of the programs. If you cannot give your time-- please consider joining to receive the newsletter and help us as we HONOR THE HERITAGE AND CONTINUE THE JOURNEY.



## Looking Back...At the Year 2005

### Pennsylvania German Decorative Needlework

Sunday, February 6, 2005 at 2:00 pm, Sandra Highhouse presented an excellent presentation on local styles of PA German decorative needlework. She showed many wonderful examples from the Heritage Center collection. A nice turn out enjoyed and learned quite a bit from this very excellent presentation.

### Annual Meeting, March 13, 2005

The thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Schwenkfelder & Heritage Center was held Sunday, March 13, 2005 at 2:00 pm at the Heritage Center. Peter Reigner conducted the meeting. He welcomed everyone and reviewed the activities and projects that the Friends conduct and sponsor on behalf of the Heritage Center.

The Minutes of the March 21, 2004 Annual Meeting were read by Secretary Roselyn Parry. There being no corrections, they were approved as read. Treasurer Kim Jacobs reported a checking account balance of \$ 3,029.57, a savings account balance of \$ 2,624.26, and a CD valued at \$ 4,685.12. An audit is in process, the results of which will be reported at the next Friends meeting. The Treasurer's report was unanimously received.

Membership Chairman Betty Hildenbrand reported 55 Life Memberships, 87 Individual Memberships, 101 Family Memberships and 14 Student Memberships for a total of 257. Of that total, 76 memberships have not been paid up to date. The Nominating Committee report was given by Peter Reigner as follows: Vice President: Lucy Kern; Secretary Roselyn Parry; Members at Large for two year terms: Betty Hildenbrand, Ruth Yoder and Robert Schong. There being no further nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed and the Secretary cast the ballot for their election. They were unanimously elected.

David W. Luz, Heritage Center Executive Director, thanked the Friends Board members for their services to the Heritage Center. He reviewed some of the purchases for the Heritage Center that have been possible using funds contributed by the Friends, such as shelving in the kitchen, dishes and flatware to serve 72 people, table skirting and collections boxes totaling approximately \$1,500 from the wish list.

The Annual Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

### Baseball in the Upper Perkiomen Valley

Following our Annual Meeting on March 13, 2005, we held a famous back porch seminar with a panel of former Upper Perkiomen Valley baseball "stars": Vic Stahl, Ralph Graber and George Bonnekemper. Local historian Larry Roeder moderated the panel of "old-timers" and the stories flowed non-stop!

The over 100 local baseball enthusiasts enjoyed the memories and added quite a few stories of their own. All assembled enjoyed seeing the memorabilia on exhibit from the Heritage Center collection which also now houses the collection of items originally donated to the Upper Perkiomen Valley Library in Red Hill.

Audience and panel members alike were treated to a Seventh Inning stretch of hot dogs, popcorn and sodas! After extra innings, "the game had to finally be called" and the wonderful walk down memory lane was concluded.

### Broadsides of the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center Collection—Alan Keyser

The Friends sponsored a very informative program on Sunday, November 13, 2005 in coordination with an exhibit of Broadsides from the collection. Alan Keyser, well known local scholar, presented a slide program describing some 75 broadsides from the Heritage Center collection.

Keyser explained that a broadside was a printing, usually large, which was intended to be seen or read and then thrown away. Broadsides were frequently advertising an event or local sale. But they were also stories or songs, but sacred and secular, which would catch the purchasers eye and interest.

The Heritage Center has an extensive and important collection, Keyser told the audience, and the images shown were just a sampling. Images shown included Mourning songs, hymns for special occasions, auction notices, land sales plus many more.

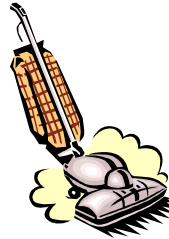




## Friends Support The Heritage Center

The Friends of the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center once more came through with a very generous donation of “wish list” items for the Heritage Center. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are extremely important and appreciated by the board and staff of the Heritage Center. Some of the items you provided:

- A head for an adult Mannequin for the Costume Collection
- Two Heritage Center flags
- A commercial Vacuum Cleaner
- Three Chair Mats for SLHC offices
- A Commercial Dry-Erase Board
- An Air Blower for the Closed Stacks area
- Digital Camera



*Many thanks for your generous support of the staff and the Heritage Center.*

### 2006 Programs and Events

January 28—8:00 pm, Northpennsmen in Concert—\$15.00/ticket

February 5—2:00 pm, Hereford Township Back Porch Seminar

February 17—7:30 pm, What's going on in Egyptology today!  
Pat Dunn, Perkiomen School Teacher

March 4—10:00 am—3:00 pm, Used Book Sale

March 19—2:00 pm—Annual Friends Meeting and program by “Mrs. P”

March 26—2:00 pm—Hidden Herbarium Treasures—Aaron Heckler

April 20—2:00 pm—PA Stone Houses & book signing, Greg Huber

May 4—7:30 pm—More Truth or Fiction in DaVinci Code—Dr. Peter Erb



### 2006 Exhibits

Thru January 30:  
Thru February 26:

**Christmas Putz**  
**Carol Ross Noyes Art**  
**Vintage Toys & Games**  
**Lehigh Miniature Club**  
**Images of Stars in Folk Art**

March 15—September

**PA Germans and the Victorian Taste, 1835—1900**

March 26—June 30

**A Link to the Past: Uncovering the Hidden Treasure of the Mysterious Schwenkfelder Herbarium**

May 1—September 30

**Fraktur from Printed Sources**

### Heritage Center Christmas Boutique December 3, 2005, 10:00—5:00 pm

The Friends of the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center helped to make this a special time for a record number of visitors. The Friends Board of Directors created quite a spread of cookies for our shoppers to nibble on. And beautiful music filled the galleries as gifted pianist Betty Hildenbrand played cheery music on our Steiway baby grand piano. Over 200 shoppers browsed the special Father Christmas Boutique and our ever popular gift shop for fine gifts and one of a kind treasures. Many people visited all three venues for the day: Goschenhoppen Historians in Green Lane, Mennonite Heritage Center in Harleysville and, of course, the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center.





**SCHWENKFELDER LIBRARY  
& HERITAGE CENTER**

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**2006 Membership Categories**

(Please circle one)

Individual	\$10.00	Family	\$15.00
Student	\$ 3.00	Corporate	\$250.00
Please call the Heritage Center for information on Life Memberships			

***RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!***