

# The Half-Moon

The Newtown Historic Association, Inc. Newsletter

## Third Printing for "Early Newtown"

### Brisk Holiday Sales

Due to an overwhelming demand in the community, the recent publication of *"Early Newtown, a pictorial presentation of Newtown"* has gone into a third printing. In just three months, the 164 page book, which captures the everyday life of Newtown as it was at the turn of the last century, through the eyes and lens of famed Newtown photographer Willie Randall, has sold more than 1000 copies.

Co-Editors, Dave Callahan, President of the Newtown Historic Association, and board members Paul Gouza and Brian Rounsavill who updated and enhanced the material from the first two editions of *"Newtown Then... A Pictorial Presentation of Early Newtown, Pennsylvania"* are thrilled with the demand.

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*Open House Success  
New Postcards on Sale  
2000 Calendar*

The proceeds from the book go to the NHA to support and maintain our ongoing programs including the enhancement of the Research Center and Barnsley Room of Newtown History.

Though they often defined their efforts as madness, these three members agreed, "This project is really geared toward educating the new members of this community, because not many towns have such a rich history like Newtown's and it is nice to be able to showcase it and share it with the next generation," said Rounsavill. In summation, Callahan said with a smile, "the book offers readers, old and new, a timeless resource and insight about Newtown's 315 years of historic history."

The centuries old photographs used in this publication were carefully selected to represent many aspects of the town which have either faded into the past or have changed drastically, such as agriculture, businesses, churches, social & community events, early structures, and

taverns & inns. Also, the book was printed in an oversized 7" x 10" format, which allowed many photos to be magnified to enable the reader to see many hidden aspects of each portrait. Additionally, a map is included so readers can actually take a walking tour and view the historic sites and structures both "now and then."

Any NHA members who would like to purchase the book may do so for \$13.77 (tax included) at the following other locations: the Court Inn, Newtown Hardware House, and Goodnoe Farm Dairy Bar; or can order a copy by mail by sending a check for \$18.27 (tax, postage and handling included). For more information either stop by the Court Inn or call (215) 968-4004.



## Christmas Tour draws hundreds

The 37th Annual Open House tour, presented by the association was a major success. Over 850 interested people came to view the thirteen homes and historic sites that were featured this year. Those included were the Stocking Works (1889), the Newtown Friends Meetinghouse (c. 1817), the Sarah Buckman House (c. 1830), the Ann Buckman School (c. 1835), the Court Inn (1733), the Betsy Kennedy House (c. 1830), the Legacy Gallery (c. 1800), the Macedonia Baptist Church (c. 1953), the Charles Willard House (c. 1869), the Jennie Watson House (1912), the Gallagher House (c. 1910), the Ross House (c. 1910) and the Kelsey House (c. 1890).

Thanks to all the members, families and friends who volunteered their time to make the Open House a day to remember.

## Chancellor Street School replica

On sale now, while supplies last, the limited edition ceramic replica of the Chancellor Street School. These attractive one-of-a-kind

Schools are equipped with a light and make a great gift. The Schools can be purchased at the Court Inn and Newtown Hardware House for \$40.00, plus tax. For more information either stop by the Court Inn or call (215) 968-4004.

## Volunteers Needed

Any member who would be interested in volunteering their talents in writing articles for the newsletter should contact Dave Callahan at 215-968-3914 or Paul Gouza at 215-579-0298. Volunteers are also needed to donate their time at the Research Center.

## Board Announcements:

Ann Balderston who chaired the successful *37th Annual Open House Tour* is looking for any members who would like to help her with the *38th Annual Open House Tour*. Anyone interested in helping should contact Ann at 215-968-1834.

NHA now has a fax machine, thanks to Brian Rounsavill's generous donation.

NHA is happy to announce we have a new

parliamentarian, Paul Kester has volunteered his professional services. Please welcome him aboard.

## On the Web

The NHA is now on the web. Thanks to the talents of board member Brian Rounsavill the NHA has entered the computer age. Please visit our site for all NHA information and events at:

<http://www.twp.newtown.pa.us/historic/nha.html>

## 2000 Calendar of Events

### Presidents Day Dinner

Monday, February 21, 2000

\*Location to be determined.

### Clean Up Day at Court Inn

Sunday, February 27, 2000

### Annual Cocktail Party

Saturday April 29, 2000

### General Membership Meetings

January 17, 2000

March 20, 2000

### Annual Meeting- Election of Officers

April 17, 2000

All NHA members and guests are invited to attend the meetings. Meetings are at 8:00 PM at the Court Inn.

## Presidents Day Dinner

Our annual Presidents Day Dinner is scheduled for Monday, February 21, 1999. Location and details are forthcoming. Lorraine Pentz and Skip Gittens are coordinating this special night. Please join us in thanking the gracious homeowners who open their homes to make our Annual Open House tour a must see in Newtown!

## Postcards for Sale

Dave Callahan, Paul Gouza and Brian Rounsavill commonly known as the "Gang of three" are pleased to announce their new project is ready for the market. Eight Postcards depicting early Newtown scenes are now available for purchase. Scenes include the White Hall, Carriage Sales on North State Street, the Bird in Hand, the Grist Mill on Barclay Street, the Newtown Cigar Store, the Cornet Band, the Newtown Trolley and Brick Hotel.

Any members who would like to purchase the postcards may do so for \$4.00 (tax included) at the Court Inn or the Newtown Hardware House or by mail by sending a

check for \$4.50 (tax, postage and handling included). For more information either stop by the Court Inn or call (215) 968-4004.

## Open House Slide Presentation

Please plan to join us at our general membership meeting on January 17, 1999 at 8:00 p.m. at the Court Inn. The scheduled topic is going to be a slide presentation on this past years open house tour. Pictures were taken by Art Miller.

## March Speaker Focuses On Gardens

The March Meeting of the NHA will be held on Monday, March 20th at 8:00 PM at the Court Inn.

The special guest speaker will be Kathy Knight, a member of the BCCC Science Department and the Historical Preservation teaching staff. She will speak on "The Care and Feeding of Gardens." She teaches a course on the restoration of formal gardens and is in charge of the restoration of the Tyler gardens.

Members and Guests are invited and welcome and

refreshments will be served.

## Market Day Volunteers Needed

The Market Day Committee is looking for volunteers to assist in planning Market Day. Anyone interested should call Laurie Gouza at 215-579-0298. Mark your calendars, this years Market Day is Saturday, September 16, 2000.

## Clean Up Day at Court Inn

Our annual clean up day at the Court Inn is scheduled for Sunday, February 27, 2000 at 9:00 AM. Please plan to help make the Court Inn shine!

