

# *The Half-Moon*

The Newsletter of the Newtown Historic Association, Inc.  
October, 2002

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Greetings! Hope your summer was relaxing and cool. The Newtown Historic Association looks forward to another busy autumn schedule. Scheduled events include a tour of Tyler Mansion at Bucks County Community College, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Kitchin dedication and our special 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Open House Tour on the first Saturday in December.

This past summer activities included planting flowers along our Centre Avenue fence by Anita and Dave Walton and Dave Callahan, our annual picnic, the continuing restoration work at the Thornton\Hicks House and Market Day. These are busy times at the Court Inn.

I invite you all to join us at our special activities planned for this fall. Please check our schedule of events.

## **TYLER MANSION TOUR**

This years Annual Open House Tour is highlighted by a tour of the Tyler Mansion at BCCC. If your interested in a behind the scenes guided tour of the Mansion, please plan to join us on Monday, October 21, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. Eileen Zolotorofe has once again graciously agreed to give us an informative tour of one of Newtown's hidden historic treasures. Please call Paul Gouza (215-579-0298) to reserve a spot.

## **KITCHIN DEDICATION**

The NHA recently accepted Mr. and Mrs. Norman Kitchin's photographic collection, after the passing of Norman. Mr. and Mrs. Norman Kitchin's collection will be dedicated with a plaque on Sunday, November 17, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. at the Court Inn. Please join us in honoring Mrs. Kitchin and family members for a short ceremony and refreshments celebrating this unique collection and the memory of Norman. As you are aware, the Kitchin collection has been used in numerous books in the past, most recently the NHA's "Early Newtown". A picture collection will be on display at that time.

## **GARDEN COMMITTEE**

Anita Walton has volunteered to revive our Court Inn garden committee of the past. Annual flowers were planted this summer along the Centre Avenue fence. Dave Fleming, Jr. from Shady Brook Farm donated the planting mulch. Thanks to Dave Fleming and Anita for all their effort. The NHA is looking for members to join Anita in planning, planting and reviving our Court Inn backyard gardens. Anyone interested should call Anita at 215-579-4897.

## **NHA OPEN HOUSE PUBLICITY PERSON WANTED**

The NHA is looking for a volunteer who can help publicize this years Annual Open House Tour in December. Anyone interested, should call Mary Callahan at 215-968-3914, ASAP for details. Interested candidates would be asked to contact local papers and distribute posters.

## **MARKET DAY REVIEW**

This years 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Market Day was a success. Although the crowds were lighter than past years, the weather cooperated and the NHA was able to raise much needed funds to support our operating expenses. This year featured sixty crafters and artisans, new children's activities and an antique auction. The auction raised over two thousand dollars from items donated by NHA members and friends. Thanks to Mary Alice and Phil Hagen and Mark Craig and the auction committee for their hard work and everyone who donated items. The winner of the weekend in Cape May, NJ raffle was Susan Thompson of Newtown Borough. The Ways and Means committee chaired by Margaret Danese and Jeanette Rogers and volunteers sold a variety of holiday items. Susan Scherer provided the guidance for the new children's activities including quilting and briar painting with Skip Gittens demonstrating the art of candle making. Town Crier, Henry Ford announced the scheduled activities while giving out wooden nickels. The NHA thanks all the volunteers for their time, dedication and generosity in making this a successful event.

## **CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE ANNIVERSARY**

The NHA celebrates our 40<sup>th</sup> Christmas Open House tour on Saturday, December 7, 2002. The tour will run from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us to celebrate several unique historic homes and building in the Newtown area during the holiday season. This year's tour includes: Temora Farm owners Craig and Helen Smith on Swamp Road; Robert Black and Robert Thomas home on Mud Road; Patrick and Joyce Armstrong residence on South Chancellor Street; Tyler Mansion at BCCC; Joe and Lori Michelin residence on North Lincoln Avenue; Penny LaGrande residence on Liberty Street; Newtown Library Company at the corner of Centre and Congress St.; Newtown Presbyterian Church on Washington Avenue; the Newtown Friends Boarding Home on South Congress Street; Dr. Richard and Julie Borge residence

on Millers Road, The Court Inn and the Stocking Works. NHA members will receive further information in the near future.

### **THORNTON\HICKS HOUSE PROJECT**

Renovation work continued this past summer on our Thornton\Hicks House. Twining Construction finished replacing window sashes, painting the trim and installing shutters and the appropriate hardware. The house awaits a new front door in the near future. Future projects on the house are presently being discussed, including pointing the north wall. The grant process will begin shortly with another fund raising campaign to follow. Anyone interested in donating to the Thornton\Hicks Restoration Fund can do so by sending a check to the NHA, P.O. Box 303, Newtown, PA. 18940. Your donations are tax deductible.

### **COLLECTION'S COMMITTEE**

A collections committee has been recently appointed to oversee the NHA's ever growing Newtown collections. Board member Harriet Beckert, will chair the committee and be the liaison to the board. The committee will be reviewing present guidelines, inventory and future needs of our research center and Barnsley Room of Newtown history. Our dedicated volunteers continue to accession Newtown items through our computer network system.

### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Monday, October 21, 2002

Tour of Tyler Mansion @BCCC, 7:00 p.m.

Call Paul Gouza (215-579-0298) to reserve a spot.

Free Admission

(Will take place of Oct. General Membership meeting)

Sunday, November 17, 2002

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Kitchin dedication

The Court Inn, 2:00 p.m.

Free Admission

(Will take place of Nov. General Membership meeting)

Saturday, December 7, 2002

40<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Open House Tour

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tickets \$15.00

Tickets available at the Newtown Hardware House approximately November 18, 2002.