



# The Half Moon

- The Newsletter of the Newtown Historic Association -

## Welcome

The Newtown Historic Association presents this newsletter to the Newtown community with the goal of providing news and information on related historic and preservation events in our area. We welcome any suggestions for future articles.

## Officers

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David Callahan, *First Vice President*  
Jeff Marshall, *Second Vice President*  
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David Mahler - *Parliamentarian*

## Newtown Historic Association

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[www.newtownhistoric.org](http://www.newtownhistoric.org)



## New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

- Robert & Lisa Daries, *Newtown, PA*
- Peter & Amy Sargent, *Newtown, PA*
- Holland Floor Covering (*Corporate Member*), *Newtown, PA*

## October Meeting

The October meeting of the Newtown Historic Association was held on Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 8 PM at the Half-Moon Inn. The meeting featured a lecture by Jeffrey L. Marshall, NHA Board Member and Vice President of Resource Protection for the Heritage Conservancy, on his new book entitled, “*Bucks County Farmhouses.*” The book is a 136 page photo essay that traces the various types of farmhouses built in the county prior to the Civil War Era. While the book devotes a number of pages on log houses and brick houses, the majority of the book focuses on the iconic Bucks County Stone Farmhouse. With text and 400 photographs/illustrations, the book provides something for the casual old house fan as well as the serious architectural historian. Books are \$24.95 available at the following locations: Newtown Bookshop, Doylestown Bookshop, Farleys Bookshop, Bucks County Historical Society, and Canal Frame Gallery in Washington Crossing. Autographed copies can be obtained by calling (215) 579-1976.

## Open House Tour

The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Open House Tour will be held on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 4 PM. In the event of inclement weather, the tour will be held on Sunday. These private homes and public buildings will be featured:

- **The Edward Buckman House** - 211 Washington Avenue (1867)
  - **The Abbie K. Rice House** - 110 North Lincoln Avenue (1896)
  - **Firman’s Block** - 128 North Congress Street (1867)
  - **The Foley House** - 432 East Washington Avenue (2008)
  - **The Annie M. Skeer House** (*Goldenrod*) - 35 South Chancellor Street (1900)
  - **The Joseph Schofield House** - 113 Court Street (1834)
  - **The Tyrol-McGrath House** - 2 Dunham Court (2009)
  - **Newtown United Methodist Church** - *Greene & Liberty Streets* (1896)
  - **Wesley Hall** (*Quilt Display*) - *Liberty Street* (1846)
  - **Newtown Fire Association** - 14 Liberty Street (1901)
  - **Newtown Library Company** - 114 East Centre Avenue (1912)
  - **Half-Moon Inn** - *Court Street & Centre Avenue* (1733)
  - **The Stocking Works** - 301 South State Street (1889)
- The Inn will feature open hearth cooking, colonial music and re-enactors. Cheese and cider will be served. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased in advance on the [NHA website](http://www.newtownhistoric.org) or at the Newtown Hardware House For information, call (215) 968-4004.



## Market Day Scheduling

We would like to thank everyone who attended and volunteered to help coordinate Market Day this year, as it was a great success seeing hundreds of people enjoying the day. Market Day is one of the two main fundraising events that the Newtown Historic Association plans each year on which we rely to support our operations and preservation activities within the Newtown community.

As you may have read in the Courier Times,<sup>1</sup> despite proactively distributing a press release openly apologizing for the scheduling conflict this year,<sup>2</sup> we have received letters from individuals, including our State Representative, who chose to boycott the event and accuse the organization of purposefully scheduling Market Day on Rosh Hashanah to exclude a segment of Newtown's population.

As President, I would like to take this opportunity to dispel these accusations and more importantly provide a better understanding of the many factors that go into coordinating a community event of this magnitude.

First, for over three decades Market Day has been held on the second Saturday after Labor Day each year. This custom revives an old harvest season tradition in Newtown, where long ago, local farmers brought their crops to town to sell and enjoy a day of festivities and contests that culminated with a horse race down State Street.<sup>3</sup> As a result, Market Day is an event that has become etched on both the minds and calendars of many community members.

Second, by establishing a regular, reoccurring date each year, we have gone to great lengths to avoid scheduling conflicts with other local historical events and community activities scheduled each fall. This is

essential because many of the vendors, re-enactors, volunteers, and attendees participate each successive weekend in other local community events throughout the fall, such as Harvest Days and Craft Fairs, and have their schedules booked years in advance.

Third, although we deeply regret the fact that Market Day conflicted with the second day of Rosh Hashanah this year, in keeping with our planning schedule, the date of September 19<sup>th</sup> was chosen well over one year ago. Unfortunately, with the lengthy planning, permitting and publicity processes either well underway or completed, the event being filled to capacity and with many vendors travelling from miles to participate, it was simply not feasible to reschedule Market Day this year with only two week's notice.

Fourth, as a volunteer organization, we do our best to work around religious observances and other events when developing our future calendar of events. Accordingly, we surveyed all the vendors who participated in this year's event and have officially moved the date for Market Day next year to October 2, 2010 to avoid a similar conflict with Yom Kippur. We understand the significance of the Yom Kippur holiday to many in our community and have specifically made an accommodation next year out of respect for those who celebrate this solemn holiday.

As always, we encourage community members to channel their energies in a positive manner by volunteering to give back to their community and help to build a deep heritage upon which we can both reflect and celebrate. As such, we look forward to seeing you next year at Market Day and at the many other events that take place in our historic town.

Respectfully,  
Brian Rounsavill  
President

<sup>1</sup> September 10, 2009, Bucks County Courier Times, p.B6  
[http://www.phillyburbs.com/news/local/courier\\_times/courier\\_times\\_news\\_details/article/28/2009/september/10/group-regrets-scheduling-market-day-on-jewish-holiday.html](http://www.phillyburbs.com/news/local/courier_times/courier_times_news_details/article/28/2009/september/10/group-regrets-scheduling-market-day-on-jewish-holiday.html)

<sup>2</sup> September 8, 2009, Newtown Historic Association Press Release,  
<http://www.newtownhistoric.org/MarketDay2009PressRelease-DateConflict.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Half Moon, Vol. 8, No.2, March 2009, "Market Days: How They Went to Market"  
[http://www.newtownhistoric.org/NHANewsletter\(03-09\).pdf](http://www.newtownhistoric.org/NHANewsletter(03-09).pdf)



## Postcards from Newtown

In response to community demand, the Newtown Historic Association has just released a set of thirteen special edition postcards. The postcards have been handpicked, professionally photographed, and printed to reflect thirteen different views of early and contemporary Newtown life, some excerpted from "*Newtown: Past & Present*," a popular publication of the Newtown Historic Association. Postcards can be purchased at the Half Moon Inn and at selected retail locations in Newtown.

## Diamond Flower Show

The Countryside Gardeners held their Standard Flower Show "Celebrating Diamonds" on September 25th & 26th at the Half Moon Inn. The judges awarded the show the Staging Award, which means the Show was beautifully presented and carried the theme throughout. "Breakfast at Tiffany's" was displayed on the windowsills. The miniature class, "Square Cut Diamond" was displayed on the bookcase. "Champagne Diamond" was displayed on the bar in the Tavern Room. The show was open to the public and a great many people came through on both days and everyone commented on the beautiful venue. Lee Gittens won the Horticulture Sweepstakes award and Karen Bradley took home the Design Sweepstakes. Ray Mathis and Susan Thompson won The Award of Appreciation for their entries in "Champagne Diamond," which was the class opened to members of the NHA. On behalf of Countryside Gardeners, Co Chairs, Diane Barkley and Eva Sagesse would like to thank the Newtown Historic Association for the use of the Half Moon Inn for the show.



## Half-Moon Inn Garden

The Countryside Gardeners have been revitalizing the gardens behind the Half Moon Inn since 2004. This effort was to increase awareness of the club, showcase the horticultural talents of the members, and thank the Newtown Historic Association for allowing us to hold our monthly meetings there. It has been a successful relationship between both groups. CSG is grateful to the NHA for a home base and the NHA is pleased with the transformation of the gardens.

We have applied for and received grants from Bucks Beautiful Garden Competitions which is a 501(c)(3) program of the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce. As a grant recipient the gardens must be judged in either July or September. Both last year and this we have won 3rd place in the Community Garden category. We have received a yellow Award Tiles for 2008 and will receive another one for 2009 at the Awards Ceremony on October 22nd at the Mercer Museum Elkins Gallery.

We have also applied to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society for their Community Greening Award, which we have won and will receive at their Awards Ceremony on November 8th at PHS headquarters.

The gardens are doing well in spite of a growing season with many challenges, and canine elimination issues. The removal of the large ash tree two years ago changed the dynamics of the garden from semi-shade to full sun. We are in the process of moving the shade plants across the yard and adding new and exciting sun perennials. We look forward to 2010.

Lee Gittens,  
Committee Chair  
Half-Moon Inn Garden

## Corporate Members

We are proud to highlight our corporate members:

- Anthony Petsis & Associates, Inc.
- Carriage House Collection
- David J. Witchell Salon & Spa
- DeFrehn Corporation
- Final Coat Exteriors
- First National Bank of Newtown
- Harold Beck & Sons, Inc.
- Holland Floor Covering
- James H. Hefelfinger & Associates
- Johnson, Kendall & Johnson, Inc.
- J.R. Maxwell Builders, Inc.
- Newtown Hardware House
- Newtown-Jamison Physical Therapy
- Peruzzi Automotive Group
- ReMax Properties, Ltd.
- Stuckert and Yates
- The Law Office of Paul R. Beckert, Jr.
- Thomas-Guy Design, Ltd.
- Waitkus Design Landscape Architects

## November Meeting

The November meeting of the Newtown Historic Association will be held on Monday, November 16th at 8:00 PM at the Half Moon Inn. Susan Halteman, Curator of the Harold F. Pitcairn Wings of Freedom Museum in Willow Grove, will present a lecture entitled, "*Aircraft Manufacturing in Newtown during World War II.*" Focusing especially on Newtown, Ms. Halteman will discuss the role of the C-46 which was produced in part by Lavelle Aircraft and saw service flying the "Hump" in the China/Burma/India theater. Ms. Halteman may be accompanied by Mr. John Morris, a C-46 crew chief and World War II veteran. Accompanying this lecture will be actual black & white film footage of the manufacturing process for the C-46 assembly lines filmed on location at Lavelle Aircraft Corporation in Newtown during World War II.

## Market Day Recap

The 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Market Day colonial craft fair was held on Saturday, September 19th with clear skies and beautiful weather.

We had a full house with over 50 craftsmen and demonstrators registered this year. There was candle making in the backyard of the Half Moon (Court Inn). Our re-enacting group had to cancel at the last minute so that was a bit of a disappointment. Our children's craft activities in the Boone Garden were very successful with a lot of children making corn-husk dolls, punched tin and other crafts. The main feature of Market Day this year was our live Country Auction featuring vintage Newtown items, furniture, silver, dolls, china, primitives, and simply elegant junk. We had a new open hearth cooking person – Mercy Ingraham who cooked a variety of things and drew a constant crowd. We also had our hayrides by "A Better Way Farms". The out-door entertainment was "The Boys from County Bucks" and the "Out of Tuners" played inside the Inn. Restaurants who participated in our "Festival of Foods" were Isaac Newton's and Lee's Hoagies. We had kettlekorn by "Best Darn Kettle Korn" and funnel cakes by the "Irish Lassie" and Annie B's offered dessert selections. The winner of the raffle for a gift certificate to Cape May was Rich Seidner. The Countryside Gardeners had tables for flower arranging demonstrations. The Half Moon Inn was open all day for visitors to tour. The committee felt we had a very good day for the event.

## Volunteers Needed

The Newtown Historic Association is looking for interested members willing to assist with the planning and organization of Market Day. Interested individuals should contact Mary Callahan at (215) 968-3914 or [dcnhh@comcast.net](mailto:dcnhh@comcast.net).

## Boone Garden

The Newtown Historic Association would like to recognize Beverly Holub for the many hours she donates on our behalf by handling the ongoing maintenance of the Boone Garden. In addition to the many hours she devotes, she has added many new plantings to the Boone Garden. As a result, the Boone Garden looks wonderful and has been restored for the community to again enjoy.

## Southampton Railroad Society Memorial

A memorial service is being planned to honor those who lost their lives in the train wreck on December 5, 1921 in Bryn Athyn. Details coming soon. If you have more info on this incident, please contact Charles Liberto at 215-715-8017 to share your story.

## Upcoming Events

- **General Membership Meeting**, "*Bucks County Farmhouses*," October 19. 8:00 p.m. @ the Half-Moon Inn
- **General Membership Meeting**, "*Aircraft Manufacturing in Newtown during World War II*," November 16. 8:00 p.m. @ the Half-Moon Inn
- **Open House Tour**, December 5.

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