

***The Annual Report of the  
Newtown Historic Association***  
*April 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018*

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# Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

## **2017-2018 Report of the President**

The Newtown Historic Association had a very busy 2017-18 year. We were very fortunate last year as the weather cooperated with us for our most important fund-raising events. It requires a lot of money to support the maintenance of our historic buildings and the gardens that surround these properties. In addition to our Hicks Museum and research center that not only require financial support. They require a very significant commitment of time from some very dedicated members.

In addition, this year we have begun an outreach effort to promote collaboration between the NHA and other community associations. We are planning a very active year to find new ways to connect to our community and increase support for our preservations efforts.

As an organization we share and give back to our community. We bring in thousands of people into Newtown for our events that promote one of the most Historic towns in Pennsylvania.

We show off the beauty of our Historic Court Inn when we host events like the our Spring Cocktail Party that was held on Saturday April 21.

We provide many educational tours to the public showing off Newtown.

This year Newtown is part of the Visit Bucks County Photo Walks which will be held Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup>.

For the first time we are holding a Trolley Tour of Newtown on Sunday May 20<sup>th</sup>.

A Garden Walk on June 2<sup>nd</sup> showing off the beautiful gardens in Newtown Borough

June 6<sup>th</sup> is the annual 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Walking Tour of Newtown which has been held for over 40 years.

June 15<sup>th</sup> a Historic Walking Tour of Newtown by Jeff Marshall

October 6<sup>th</sup> will be our Market Day

December 1 will be our Holliday Open House Tour

We have many dedicated people who have committed their time and efforts to making Newtown a better place to live, visit and work. We appreciate their efforts for without them we would not be able to accomplish our Mission.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barry Fleck, President

# Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

## **2017 Holiday Open House Tour Report**

**Report of Head Hostess Chair – Lorraine Pentz  
December 2, 2017**

Being a part of our house tour is an event that Newtown Historic Association members and the community enjoy. I have been fortunate over the years to have people willing to assume the job of being a head hostess for each of the homes. They have taken the task of staffing the home with approximately 15 volunteers for each house for the day. This requires contacting, scheduling and meeting at the houses prior to the tour with the volunteers. Written instructions are given along with descriptions of the assigned locations. The Head Hostesses oversee the shift changes and are responsible for maintaining a smooth flow of visitors into the homes. Their work is a critical part of the tour. A list of the homes and Head Hostesses is below:

### **Homeowners**

Rose Crane  
106 S. Chancellor Street

Keith & Keyna Crawford  
116 N. Congress Street

Steven & Gloria Cugine  
119 N. State Street

Chris & Joanna Hager  
237 S. Chancellor Street

Kevin & Rebecca Kerschner  
148 Liberty Street

David Leder & Cristie Prater  
230 S. Chancellor Street

### **Head Hostesses**

Tricia Linkenheimer

Mary Jo Garner

Heather Lewis

Meg Newell

Bronwyn Jones

Betsey King

A special thanks to Terri Keane who manages to get the message to all the media.

The homeowners of Newtown are so gracious to share their homes. It allows an opportunity for all of us to come together in the spirit of embracing what makes Newtown so special.

Report of the Head Hostess Chair  
Lorraine Pentz

# Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

## **2017-2018 Building and Grounds Committee**

The Buildings and Grounds Committee had another busy year, recognizing and addressing any maintenance issue on our properties.

Girl Scout Marie Larounis with the support of her parents, members, Alex and Georgia did a wonderful job of scraping and repainting the iron fence around the Boone Garden property. At the Court Inn, member Jimmy Garner repaired and repainted the boroughs best and most comfortable brown bench. The committee would like to thank the Countryside Gardeners for taking care of the Court Inn backyard - providing beautiful plants and flowers for the Newtown community to enjoy all summer long. Also, we would like to thank Karen Groff for her efforts in maintaining and beautifying our one-of-kind community garden.

We took possession of the Thornton-Hicks House in late spring with Dave Callahan and Dave Walton spending the summer clearing out the house. Danny Knott Electric and crew spent the fall rewiring, putting in much needed outlets and lighting on the second floor. Randy Yardley and his crew spent the winter painstakingly hand sanding, fixing and plastering the bedroom walls back to their original look. At this time, the committee and board of directors continue to discuss the possible uses and future of the property.

Our annual Clean-Up Day was a huge success. Special thanks to Keyna Crawford, Bronwyn Jones, Charlie Ponciroli, Dave and Mary Callahan, Kevin Brooks, Paul Gouza, Barry Fleck and his grandsons, Brandon and Ethan., Joanne Nardo, Susan Thompson, Karen Groff, Carrie Wetherby, Charlie Lewis and Bruce Stevens.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Buildings and Grounds Committee  
Paul Gouza, Dave Callahan, Barry Fleck, Geno Peruzzi, Jeff Marshall and Dave Walton

# Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

## 2017-2018 Treasurer's Report

**Date of Report:** 04/01/18  
**Period Ending:** 03/31/18  
**Balance on Hand:** 04/01/17 \$29,341.00

### Receipts

Amazon	5.00
Bird in Hand appraisal Donation	2,200.00
Building Use	75.00
Cocktail Party	1,934.00
Donations	11,210.00
House Plaques	728.00
In/Out	2,135.00
Insurance Refund	42.00
Maps	70.00
Market Day Sponsors	5,201.00
Market Day 2017	6,770.00
Market Day Raffle	1,767.00
Market Day 2018	1,000.00
Mayer Book	70.00
Membership-Corporate	850.00
Membership	6,249.00
Membership-Cntrb&Dstng	1,500.00
Miscellaneous	279.00
Museum Shop	220.00
Open House Tickets	25,648.00
Open House Ad & Sponsor	1,400.00
Open House Dinner (Jan. 18)	1,917.00
Past and Present Book	480.00
Photos	355.00
Programs	481.00
Queen Victoria Tea	373.00
Research Center	221.00
Sales Tax and Shipping	71.00
Tavern Night	399.00
Tours	52.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$73,527.00</b>

### Disbursements

#### Thornton-Hicks House

Interest on Mortgage	293.00
Electric	215.00
Fuel Oil	1,034.00
Lawn Maintenance	640.00
Maintenance	300.00
Sewer	202.00
Snow Removal	260.00
Taxes	4,164.00
Water	26.00

#### Operating Expenses

Audit	2,500.00
Advertising	50.00
Bird in Hand Appraisal	2,200.00
Boone Garden	204.00
Cocktail Party	334.00
Countryside Gardeners	375.00
House Plaques	703.00
Insurance	12,053.00
In/Out	2,188.00
Market Day	4,264.00
Market Day Raffle	534.00
Membership Dues to others	100.00
Memorials	50.00
Miscellaneous	214.00
Museum Shop	680.00
Office Supplies	240.00
Office Supplies - Bldg	303.00
Open House tour	4,148.00
Pa. Charity Registration	150.00
Photographs	128.00
Post Office Box Rent	160.00
Postage	511.00
Programs	200.00

**Disbursements – continued**

Research Center	2,627.00
Safety Deposit Box	25.00
Sales Tax	53.00
Tavern Night	406.00
Trolley Tour	260.00
Visa Charges	151.00
Website	770.00
Winter Dinner	2,372.00

**Outside Services**

Alarm	650.00
Cleaning Service	350.00
Copier Maintenance	421.00
Electric	3,554.00
Electric – Boone Garden	336.00
Fire & Boro Inspections	426.00
Fuel Oil	2,923.00
Gutter Cleaning	150.00
Lawn Maintenance	1,502.00
Maintenance	612.00
Sewer	325.00
Snow Removal	655.00
Telephone & Internet	1,796.00
Tree Works	600.00
Water	204.00

**Total Disbursements**

**\$ 60,591.00**

**Ending Balance**

**\$42,277.00**

**Thornton Hicks Account**

**Date of Report: 04/01/18**

**Period Ending: 03/31/18**

**Balance on Hand: 04/01/2017 \$72,207.00**

**Receipts**

Interest	88.00	
Verizon Dividend	817.00	
Frontier Dividend	22.00	
Frontier Sale	56.00	
Donation	500.00	
Grant – Visitors Bureau	15,000.00	
Grant – Visitors Bureau	8,000.00	\$22,484.00

**Receipts and Beginning Balance \$94,691.00**

**Disbursements**

Grace Lauer	30,000.00	
Mortgage payoff		
Stuckert and Yates	500.00	
Knott Electric	8,217.00	
Checkbook	38.00	\$38,854

**Ending Balance \$ 55,937.00**

**Newtown Historic Association  
Savings Account**

**Date of Report: 04/01/18**

**Period Ending: 03/31/18**

**Balance on Hand: 04/01/2017 \$ 17,602.00**

**Receipts**

Interest	18.00	
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**Disbursements**

**Ending Balance \$17,620.00**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Marjorie Torongo, Treasurer

# Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

## **2017-2018 Education Committee Report**

The Newtown Historic Association coordinated the following educational lectures and special educational events this year:

- April 2017 – “Show and Tell” with interesting pieces from the NHA collection displayed and discussed (Annual Meeting)
- May 2017 - “Celebrating 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Newtown Friends Meeting” held at the Friends Meeting. About 100 people attended (General Membership Meeting)
- June 2017 – Fifth Grade Walking Tour of Newtown coordinated by Peg Walker. Over 400 students, teachers and parents from Goodnoe Elementary and St. Andrew Grade School participated in a tour of 10 historic sites in Newtown, including the Half Moon Inn.
- June 2017 – “Historic Walking Tour of Newtown” led by Jeff Marshall, President of the Heritage Conservancy. The tour covered quite a few of the back streets of Newtown and about 70 people attended.
- July 2018 – “A Garden Walk” was held, chaired by MaryJo Garner – exploring numerous private gardens in the borough. About 45 people attended.
- October 2017 - Market Day Artisan and Craft Fair with plenty of educational opportunities, open hearth cooking, woodworking, blacksmithing, chair caning, rug hooking, candle dipping and the favorite re-enactor’s encampment and firing of the muskets.
- October 2017 - “That’s Unusual” Carl LaVo BCCT author discusses funny and odd anecdotes about Bucks County’s history from Wrightstown and Doylestown to Newtown and Fall.
- November 2017 - “The David Library of the American Revolution” Katherine Ludwig, Head Librarian gave an interesting presentation of what is available in the library and their history. (General Membership Meeting)
- December 2017 “Holiday Open House Tour” A tour of eleven historic homes and public buildings decorated for the holiday season.
- February 2018 – “Presidential Assassins” presented by Hugh Boyle, noted historian (General Membership Meeting)
- March 2018 – “Behind the Scenes at the Half Moon Inn” presented by David Callahan about the evolution of the building from the beginning up to present day (General Membership Meeting)

There are 3 self-guided walking tours with maps and directions, as well as an Architectural Scavenger Hunt, available on our website [www.newtownhistoric.org](http://www.newtownhistoric.org).



Each year, efforts are made to develop special educational programs and coordinate outreach efforts aimed at promoting the history and culture of Newtown and the surrounding community.

Respectfully submitted,

Keyna Crawford, Education Chair

# Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

## **2017-2018 Research Center Report**

### **Edward R. Barnsley Room of Newtown History**

The Edward R. Barnsley Room of Newtown History or Research Center continues to be open to the public on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Thursday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

In the last year, almost 2,400 people called or visited the Court Inn and Research Center, primarily for tours and research. Over 55 people called, emailed or visited the Research Library to research Newtown history, genealogy and properties.

The main emphasis of our work in the Research Library continues to be updating our computer catalogue with information from new accessions and with data from items in the collection that have not been previously catalogued. From April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018, we processed 50 gifts and a total of over 1,276 new items were added to the collection. The donation from the Newtown Library Company of approximately 500 books has been catalogued and we are now in the process of adding them electronically to our collection. In addition, the computer entries of approximately 565 items already in the computer were updated to complete the entries. As of the end of March, our computer inventory included 17,819 photographs, 1,770 books, 4,005 objects and 19,264 archival items for a total of 42,858 items. This total reflects an increase of 1,841 items over last year.

In the past year, twenty-eight volunteers have worked over 1,650 hours in the Research Center. Our very able researchers, David Callahan, Kathleen Gonsalves, Leigh Clark, Mary Beth Palestini and Paul Gouza aid visitors and process larger accessions. Leigh Clark also curated an exhibit on World War I for our display case. Bik Remmey continues to scan copies of the Advance into the computer. Sarajane Dallas works to update the obituary file. Rebecca Woodward and Richard Vitti are working on reorganizing and inputting data from the vertical files. Carolyn Cavallo is new and is learning. Harriet Beckert is in charge of accessions and deals with problem areas. Rick Speranza has taken over most of the computer responsibilities. In addition, we had eight Links high school volunteers and four community service volunteers who helped with many projects including everything from tours, data entry and washing windows. Mark Connor catalogued the entire collection from the Library Company. In addition, Mary Callahan, Joanne Nardo and David Walton have donated their time to work on special projects.

Unfortunately, our most prolific volunteer, Richard Mansley retired this year. Richard has worked many hours for many years in the Research Library and Richard knows the collection better than anyone. Richard's many contributions and his helpful personality are greatly missed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Harriet Beckert, Curator

# Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

## **2017-2018 Publication & Technology Committee Report**

The Publications Committee is charged with maintaining and updating the Newtown Historic Association's print and electronic publications. The Publications Committee is pleased to report that several projects were undertaken this year.

Web – The NHA website [www.newtownhistoric.org](http://www.newtownhistoric.org) continues to be updated on a regular basis and serves as a repository for information related to the NHA and events. We also now have internet service at the Court Inn installed by one of our NHA members, Brian Titus who also is in charge of our website.

We now have a page on “Facebook” maintained by Rick Speranza, one of our research center volunteers – who posts interesting pictures and articles from the past and also publicizes upcoming events.

Newsletter – The “Half Moon” newsletter is published quarterly in the spring, summer, fall and winter. The newsletter typically highlights events sponsored by the NHA, as well as listing new members, corporate members, recent acquisitions by the archives, articles for sale, as well as feature articles of interest to the Newtown community. Ideas for future articles are always welcome.

Past & Present Book – The “Newtown: Past & Present” book continues to be a steady seller, with approximately 36 copies remaining of the initial pressrun of 2,000 copies. The book consists of 81 historic photos rephotographed and presented side-by-side to highlight the evolution of Newtown. Photographed and written by Brian Rounsavill, with contributing editors David Callahan and Paul Gouza, the book is 168 pages, with a hard-bound cover, in an oversized coffee table style format. The cover price is \$39.99, plus tax. To date, we have almost sold out our supply of these books and have made over \$81,000 through this project.

Newtown Heritage Walk – Although it is not a true publication, the Newtown Heritage Walk is a visual display of Newtown's history for the public to enjoy. The Newtown Heritage Walk is a self-guided walking tour consisting of thirty-four wayside panels in Newtown Borough and Newtown Township that integrates historically significant sites along State Street (Borough) and Sycamore Street (Township). An 18” x 24” wayside sign has been installed at each stop that consists of a blend of text and photos. Each stop has been selected because of its historical value to the Newtown community, featuring sites from the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Heritage Walk is modeled after similar programs in Gettysburg, Harrisburg, Carlisle, the Delaware Canal, and other historic locations in Pennsylvania. We continue to receive many positive comments about the Newtown Heritage Walk waysides.

Limited Edition Postcard Series – In response to community demand, we produced a limited edition series of thirteen postcards. A mix of old and new photos were chosen from “Newtown: Past & Present” that represent the main attractions in town. Postcards were sold to individual businesses and are also for sale at the Half Moon Inn.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brian Rounsavill, Chair

# Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

## **2017-2018 Museum Shop Report**

The Museum Shop had available to the public for purchase embroidered apparel, tee-shirts silk screened with the Half Moon Inn logo, stoneware mugs, postcards, and books throughout 2017.

Items purchased from Land's End are embroidered with our Half Moon Inn logo. These items include fleece vests, pullovers, sweatshirts, polo shirts, and tote bags.

All items were available for sale at Market Day and the Open House Tour.

Books, postcards, and stoneware are available on our new website [www.newtownhistoric.org](http://www.newtownhistoric.org) and apparel will be available upon restocking.

Respectfully submitted,  
Geno Peruzzi, Museum Shop Chair

# Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

## **2017-2018 Market Day Report**

Historic Market Day was held Saturday, October 7, 2017. The weather was unseasonably warm and the sun was bright and hot. The event kicked off at 10:00 am and ended at 4:00 pm.

### Marketing & Promotion

- A press release was distributed to local new outlets
- Write-ups about the event appeared in *The Advance* before & after the event (by Jeff Werner)
- Postcards about the event were distributed in bulk to crafters, NHA board members and sponsors for them to distribute to their clients & contacts
- Posters were distributed by NHA Board Members to businesses around Newtown Borough & Township
- The event was promoted on NHA's facebook page and as a facebook event
- The NHA website contained all important information and was continually updated
- NHA volunteers posted yard signs and an outdoor banner at key locations in the borough

### Event Participants

- 34 crafters & artisans (Revenue: \$2,640)
- 6 Food Vendors serving ready-to-eat or cook-to-order food (Revenue: \$1,250)
  - Joey G's
  - Styers Orchards
  - Isaac Newton's
  - The Black Horse Tavern
  - Best Darn Kettlecorn
  - McCaffrey's Market
  - Friends Home Bake Sale
- 3 Farm stands & gardeners
  - Charlann Farms
  - Indian Head Farms
  - Countryside Gardeners
- 9 Demonstrators showcasing colonial-era activities & trades
  - Crossing Volunteers
  - Blacksmith
  - Wood Turning
  - Chair Caning
  - Quilting
  - Rug Hooking
  - Open-hearth Cooking
  - Candle dipping
  - Town crier

- 4 types of Family Activities & Entertainment
  - Hayrides by A Better Way Belgians
  - Scarecrow Making
  - Penn's Woods Puppet Theatre
  - Music by Bill Dooley & the Coyotes

#### Education

- Board Members, Members & Volunteers of the Newtown Historic Association provided education about Newtown History at the NHA Table on Court Street & inside the Half Moon Inn

#### Fundraising

- The Cape May Raffle
- Sales from deaccessioned artifacts, newly published books, clothing & gift shop items
- Soda & Water sales

#### Sponsorships

- 13 Corporate Sponsors (revenue = \$6,450)
  - First National Bank & Trust Co., of Newtown
  - Johnson Kendall Johnson
  - Passanante's Home Food Service
  - Breezy Point Day School
  - Fred Beans Family of Dealerships
  - Pickering, Corts & Summerson, Inc.
  - Mary Dinneen, Berkshire, Hathaway, Fox & Roach
  - Whistle Building Maintenance
  - The Dentists of Newtown
  - Rick Steele's Gulf
  - Gilbert Wilson Hunter
  - Allergy Asthma & Arthritis Associates
- In-Kind Donors
  - Leck Waste Services (trashcans & dumpster)
  - Sixthirteen Creative (graphic design of poster & postcards)
  - Mercer Digital (printing of poster & postcards)
  - Starbucks (coffee for break room)
  - The Stocking Works (off-site parking for crafters)
  - Queen Victoria Bed & Breakfast (50% of raffle prize)
  - Fall decorations (mums, straw bales, cornstalks)
  - Scarecrow supplies (shirts, jeans, straw, plastic bags, hats, gloves, etc)

#### Fees were paid to:

- Borough Council (event permit application fee)
- Borough Police

- Materials Fees for Demonstrators
- Raffle Prize gift certificate (50%)
- Postage for mailings
- Soda, water & ice
- Donuts for break room
- Yard & outdoor signs
- PayPal credit card fees (for crafter applications paid with credit cards)

Dozens of Volunteers spent hundreds of hours coordinating all aspects of the event:

- Planning
- Recruiting & communicating with all participants (crafters, restaurants, demonstrators, entertainment, sponsors, donors, volunteers)
- Receiving, processing & judging crafter applications & photos
- Coordinating with local partners including borough council, police, EMT, the Library 5K team, and neighbors who live on the closed off streets
- Purchasing, gathering & storing supplies
- Preparing the street, including putting out no parking signs & marking down all spaces
- Cleaning & decorating the Half Moon Inn for fall
- Gathering & distributing firewood for open-hearth cooking
- Putting out signage & distributing information
- Writing & distributing press releases & conducting news interviews
- Social Media postings on facebook
- Updating the Website & sending email newsletters
- Coordinating vendor move-in and move-out & off-site parking
- Working at the Newtown Historic Association Table outside, inside the Half Moon Inn, and at various activity & demonstration stations
- Move the street barricades for the hayride
- Photography during the event
- Cleaning up the streets & storing away items for next year
- Financial accounting

We want to thank those companies and businesses who helped to sponsor a successful Market Day. And once more, we extend our thanks to the many volunteers, including our members, friends, and students, who helped with donations, all of the planning, set-up, the day's activities and clean-up. Without your efforts we could not produce this event. Thank you for helping us to continue the Historic Market Day tradition.

Respectfully submitted  
Carrie Wetherby, Market Day Chair

# Newtown Historic Association ~ Annual Report

## **2017-2018 Membership & Events Committee**

Once again, lovely decorations were provided by the Countryside Gardeners for our Annual Holiday Open House Tour held on Saturday, December 2, 2017. Two new members joined our association via an offer made to new on-line subscribers of the NHA website in conjunction with the annual Open House Tour.

The “Sunday Socials” that have been held over the last few years to encourage new membership, were still suspended this year in lieu of exploring other means of expanding membership. The socials may be reinstated in future. Membership information continues to be distributed at summer Sunday openings of the Half Moon Inn and at events. These include activities such as: membership applications in the Market Day welcome bags and at the ticket sales tables at the Holiday Open House Tour.

On February 11, 2018, the NHA served its first afternoon tea. This event was held in conjunction with the Victoria PBS TV series. Ms. Alisa Dupuy, a NHA member and owner of “The Ladies of History”, portrayed Queen Victoria in her wedding dress. NHA board member and Research Center volunteer, Kathy Gonsalves, put together a wonderful display of clothing and accessories from the NHA collection, dating to the time period of Queen Victoria’s reign, which everyone enjoyed. Tea, sandwiches and scones were served to a *sold out* audience of 25 delighted guests in the Tavern Room. NHA members had first priority for tickets to the event. Our thanks to Alisa and Kathy for their contributions to a very successful event.

Our social media exposure continues to expand through the NHA website and Facebook pages. Participation in NHA events via online ticket sales has increased. Many thanks to NHA members, Brian Titus and Rick Speranza, for their continuing efforts in our social media endeavors.

We are happy to report that the new level of membership, Distinguished Donor at \$100 per year, has increased by 81%. We have added 9 new members at this level in 2018.

<b>MEMBERSHIP TYPE</b>	<b>BEGIN YEAR</b>	<b>END YEAR</b>
Regular and Contributing	189	184
Life Members	15	15
Distinguished Donors	11	20
Corporate Members	19	16
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>235</b>

We are pleased to welcome our new members to the NHA and thank all of our members for their ongoing support. We continue to highlight the generous support of our Corporate Members on our website and in our Quarterly Newsletters.

Once again, we thank our members for their support and encourage them to invite friends and neighbors to join the Newtown Historic Association.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan E. Thompson and Bronwyn Jones  
Membership Chairs