



# 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

Barry Fleck, *President*  
William Mahler, *First Vice President*  
Brian Rounsavill, *Second Vice President*  
MaryJo Garner, *Recording Sec.*  
Mary Callahan, *Corresp. Sec.*  
Marge Torongo, *Treasurer*

## Board of Directors

Keyna Crawford  
Paul Gouza  
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Betsey King  
Geno Peruzzi  
Richard Speranza  
Susan Thompson  
David Walton  
Carrie Wetherby  
Honorary Life Director – David Callahan  
Honorary Life Diector – JoAnne Nardo  
Parliamentarian – Kathy Gonsalves

Newtown Historic Association  
P.O. Box 303  
105 Centre Avenue  
Newtown, PA 18940 USA  
Phone: (215) 968-4004  
[www.newtownhistoric.org](http://www.newtownhistoric.org)

Research Center Hours  
Tuesdays 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
Thursdays 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM  
And also by appointment

## New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following:

New Individual and Family Members  
Sharon Hulihan

New Life Members  
David & Patty Lynch



100 Mercer Street

## “A Letter from the President”

The Newtown Historic Association is very pleased to announce that it will be acquiring the property at 100 Mercer Street from the Veterans Association of Newtown. For those who grew up in Newtown, this building was known as the former Ambulance Garage. We were very fortunate to find a property this close to the Court Inn that fits our needs. It will provide the NHA with much needed space for our growing research center. This is a very important opportunity for the continued growth of the NHA Research Center and for its use by the community.

Today the NHA Research Center is

located on the second floor of the Court Inn. We are out of space for storing the many artifacts that we have and continue to receive. We also face accessibility issues for many people who use the stairs to reach our current Research Center. There is also concern that we have reached the weight limitations for the second floor of the Inn. Lastly, there was no off-street parking available for those using our research center. Fortunately the new research center will resolve these immediate needs. Additionally, acquiring this property also preserves the character of the community and this is the mission of the NHA.

The NHA is a non-profit organization which hosts many fund-raising events throughout the year and these events bring in thousands of people. These events also promote the historic character of Newtown, which the NHA has been instrumental in preserving. The NHA Research Center is used by nearly 2,000 people each year searching for information on people, properties, old pictures and viewing artifacts from the Newtown area. Protecting Newtown’s Historic properties and character along with maintaining the Historic Court Inn and gardens is very expensive. Beyond membership dues, the NHA receives limited direct financial support from the community.

Our new Research Center will require a significant investment to renovate the building. To support this effort, we have been offered a \$25,000 matching grant. For every dollar that we raise, we will get a dollar from the grant. We ask that you consider

2018 Holiday Open House  
Pictures

Half Moon Inn  
January 2019  
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making a donation so that we can realize the full amount of this grant opportunity. With your financial support, we can accomplish great things with this building for our community. You will be able to follow our fund raising and renovation efforts on our web site [www.newtownhistoric.org](http://www.newtownhistoric.org)

The February Meeting will be held on Monday, February 18th at 7:30 PM at the Half Moon Inn. Our speaker Kevin Kerchner is an avid collector of early 18th century furniture and decorative arts. He has been collecting since college when he started attending small auctions in Illinois where he grew up. His interest in history, the provenance of special pieces and over forty years of collecting have led to his outstanding personal collection. Some of his fields of study and collecting include travel-related artifacts, metalwork, wine/punch-related items and unusual objects found in early homes.

Kevin will be sharing his knowledge of collecting and his love of exceptional pieces! Learn about early American, English, and Dutch decorative arts, what to look for when you are purchasing an antique and try your skill at identifying "what is it?" items.

Annual Spring Cleanup Put Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> on your calendar to come and help with the annual spring cleanup at the Half Moon Inn. We usually start around 8:30 am – come and give a couple of hours to help restore some luster to the many historical items and furnishing there.



Hilbert House



Newell House



Coane House



Schottmiller House



Freudenthal House



St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Tavern Room



Minno House



Newtown Fire Assn.



Connie Unangst and helper



The March Meeting will be held on Monday, March 18th at 7:30 PM at the Half Moon Inn. Our speaker will be Mercy Ingraham, a noted open hearth cooking expert and instructor will be giving a demonstration of the art of cooking over an open fire.

The Annual Meeting of the Newtown Historic Association will be held on Monday, April 15th at 7:30 PM.

The Annual Business Meeting will be conducted and will include election of directors and officers for a new term. Also some committee reports will be presented for events over the past year.

Following the Annual Business Meeting, the program will be “**Show and Tell**”. Bring an antique or historical Newtown item from home and tell a little about it or we can guess.

All are invited and you don’t have to be a member to attend. There will be refreshments and social hour following the meeting. This will prove to be a very interesting and informative meeting. For further info call 215-968-3914 or visit our website [www.newtownhistoric.org](http://www.newtownhistoric.org).

Do you have historic items to donate? (pictures, letters, research on a property or family, etc.) please contact us.

## Corporate Members

We are proud to highlight our corporate members:

- A. L. Patterson
- DeFrehn Roofing Services
- First National Bank of Newtown
- Mary Dinneen, Realtor
- Gilbert, Wilson & Hunter LLP
- Global Mortgage Network Inc.
- Harold Beck & Sons, Inc.
- Johnson, Kendall & Johnson, Inc.
- Monument Bank
- Wm. B. Parry & Son Ltd.
- Stuckert and Yates
- T & T Tree Service
- Upper Makefield Bus. Assn.
- Waitkus Design

## Upcoming Events

- Monday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm  
Kevin Kerchner – Antiques
- Sat. March 16<sup>th</sup> 8:30 am  
Clean Up Day
- Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm  
Mercy Ingraham – Open Hearth Cooking Demonstration
- Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm  
Annual Meeting and “Show and Tell”

*The Half Moon* is published quarterly by the Newtown Historic Association, Inc., P.O. Box 303, Newtown, PA 18940