



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 Pres.*
Mary Jo Garner, *Recording Sec.*
Caroline Bennett, *Corresponding Sec.*
Rich Seidner, *Treasurer*

Board of Directors

Keyna Crawford
Paul Gouza
Dan Griffin
Bronwyn Jones
Betsey King
Geno Peruzzi
Richard Speranza
Susan Thompson
David Walton
Honorary Life Dir. – David Callahan
Parliamentarian – Tim Potero

Newtown Historic Association

P.O. Box 303
105 Court Street
Newtown, PA 18940 USA
Phone: (215) 968-4004
www.newtownhistoric.org

Callahan Research Center

100 Mercer Street
Newtown, PA 18940 USA
Research Center Hours:
Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
And also, by appointment

New Members

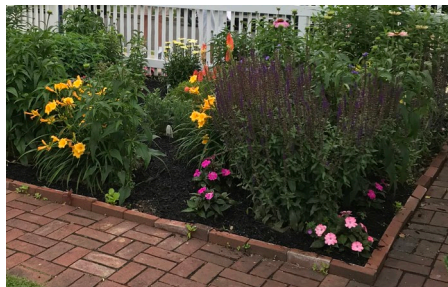
Denise Alexander & Gary Albaugh
T. Jeffrey & Barbara Clarke
Elizabeth Hoffman
Thomas Lynskey
Dominick Manobianco
Craig Ogelby
Barbara & Brian Snyder

New Corporate Members

SDG Holdings I, LLC

NHA Historic Gardens

The NHA gardens are cared for by the Countryside Gardeners, a local garden club. They are members of the National Garden Club, District XI Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP), Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, and Bartrans's Gardens.



Members of the Countryside Gardeners maintain the back garden of the Half-Moon (Court) Inn each year from March until November.

Across the street from the Court Inn, the Boone Garden is maintained by Karen Groff and other volunteers. This garden is dedicated to the memory of Missy Boone who owned and donated the plot to NHA. Some of her plantings are still blooming each year and the NHA plans to preserve them as well as make other

improvements. Volunteers are welcome and needed for flower bed preparation and planning. Interested volunteers may contact Karen Groff at (267) 566-4400 or kessc@verizon.net.

Annual Spring Cleanup

Our annual spring cleanup day at the Half-Moon (Court) Inn will be held on **Saturday, April 30th, beginning at 8:30 a.m.**



We are seeking volunteers to assist with the cleanup. No experience necessary. Please come help us and have some fun making

the Court Inn shine again! If you have any questions, please contact Paul Gouza at pgouza12@gmail.com.

Upcoming Calendar

April:

- 4/18: **Annual Meeting** at 7:30 p.m.
- 4/30: **Annual Spring Cleanup** at 8:30 a.m.

May:

- 5/16: **General Meeting** at 7:30 p.m.
- 5/30: **Tribute to Local Veterans** at 10:00 a.m.

June:

- 6/1: **Annual Student Walking Tour** at 10:00 a.m.
- 6/4: **Annual Spring Garden Cocktail Gala** at 5:00 p.m.
- 6/18: **Annual Garden Walk** at 9:00 a.m.

For further details, visit www.newtownhistoric.org.

The Half Moon Spring 2022 Page 2

Tickets are Still Available

A few tickets still remain for the **May 21st event** at Kevin and Becky Kerchner's home in Newtown. The Kerchner's are hosting an evening of heavy appetizers, wine, and antiques in support of the NHA. The tickets are \$50.00 per person. For additional information or tickets, send an email to info@newtownhistoric.org or call (215) 968-4004.

Annual Spring Garden Cocktail Gala

Save the date for the Newtown Historic Association's annual Spring Garden Cocktail Gala on **Saturday, June 4th, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at the Half-Moon (Court) Inn.

Join your neighbors and friends as you wander among the gardens of the Half-Moon Inn, sipping a glass of wine or a cocktail. Hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer, and cocktails will be served.

Tickets are \$45 a person for members and \$50 a person for nonmembers. All proceeds will go towards continuing maintenance of the Half-Moon Inn. Tickets can be purchased online at www.newtownhistoric.org.



Did you know?

It was reported on March 3, 1877,

that there were Riotous Proceedings. On Tuesday evening last, there was a party at Newtown Hall, and some young men who were not allowed admission concluded to have their fun outside. They sang, and yelled, and cursed, and shot off their pistols. They broke down a panel or two of yard fence, and carried off gates. Constable Copland got after them, but they were too fleet of foot for him.

(As written in the Newtown Enterprise. Note that Newtown Hall is now the Newtown Theatre.)



Callahan Research Center Improvement

If you have not seen it yet, we invite you to stop by the NHA Callahan Research Center (100 Mercer Street, Newtown) to see the new exhibit wall on Tuesday (9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) or Thursday (7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.). It looks great!



Annual Garden Walk

The NHA is looking for homeowners in Newtown to proudly present / show off their beautiful front or back yard gardens in our annual Garden Walk planned for **Saturday, June 18th**. If you are interested in participating, please contact Mary Jo Garner at (215) 858-0939.

The Garden Walk will begin at the Half-Moon (Court) Inn. **Check in time will be 8:00 a.m. until 8:45 a.m. The walk will commence at 9:00 a.m.** Hope to see you on Saturday, June 18th!



Corporate Members

We are proud to highlight our corporate members:

- ALP Supply Inc.
- Anthony Petsis & Associates, Inc.
- C&N Bank
- DeFrehn Roofing Services
- Mary Dinneen, Realtor
- First National Bank & Trust of Newtown
- Gilbert, Wilson & Hunter LLP
- Harold Beck & Sons, Inc.
- J. McLaughlin
- Johnson, Kendall & Johnson, Inc.
- Newtown Business Association
- Wm. B. Parry & Son, Ltd.
- Quantum Learning, Inc.
- SDG Holdings I, LLC
- Stuckert and Yates
- T & T Tree Service
- The Dave Marcolla Group - Keller Williams Real Estate
- Waitkus Design

Soaring to New Heights

In July 2020, the Newtown Historic Association was approached by Council Rock North student and Boy Scout, Gavin Kohler, about the possibility of creating an iPhone app so that people could walk around historic Newtown and learn about the town. This project, along with the 47 merit badges that he has already earned, would count for Gavin's Eagle Scout project.

The Education Committee of the NHA enthusiastically agreed to the project and has been working with Gavin for almost two years to gather content, photos, and other information on approximately 42 historic sites throughout town. Each of these sites will be a 'stop' in the app with an audio-visual display that users can watch and listen to on their iPhones.

The app will be useful, entertaining, and informative for visitors to our town as well as for our residents.

There will be signs on businesses throughout

Newtown with QR codes for easy downloading of the app.

This app augments the current Newtown walking tour marked by the informative signs that the NHA placed in town over ten years ago.

The app will guide you from stop to stop using a map contained within the app. It will also provide information on the NHA and a link to our website.



The app will be available on the iPhone platform initially, with plans to add an Android version in the future.

We at the NHA are extremely grateful to Gavin for all of his hard work and plan to join the community in congratulating him at his Eagle Scout court of honor this summer.

Come Be a Docent at the Half-Moon Inn

The Half-Moon (Court) Inn will be open this summer on Sunday afternoons and year-round on Tuesdays for visitors and tours.



We need volunteers to help with staffing these openings and will be conducting a training session for docents. A docent acts as a guide to the Inn and shares information about its history and contents.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a docent, please email Susan Thompson at sethompson.newtown@gmail.com or leave a message at the Half-Moon Inn at (215) 968-4004.



"100th Anniversary of the Bryn Athyn Train Wreck of 1921"

The February general meeting of the Newtown Historic Association was held at the Newtown Theatre.



The evening began with a special viewing of the documentary film, *"The Bryn Athyn Train Wreck of 1921"* by Thomas Lynskey, a local historical filmmaker. It was followed by a lecture on the Bryn Athyn Train Wreck by David Rowland, President of the Old York Road Historical Society.

Approximately 200 people were in attendance. Afterwards, many people provided positive feedback on the program.

The NHA is planning to partner with the Newtown Theatre on future events. Stay tuned!



Half-Moon Inn Window Improvements

Historic buildings and energy savings don't always go hand in hand. That was a challenge we faced year-round while trying to preserve the beauty of the 289-year-old Court Inn along with saving on our energy costs.



A report produced by the Preservation Green Lab, a project of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, offers insight for homeowners weighing the financial and energy tradeoffs between replacing or repairing older, less efficient windows. This report, *Saving Windows, Saving Money: Evaluating the Energy Performance of Window Retrofit and Replacement*, concludes that “a number of existing window retrofit strategies come very close to the energy performance of high-performance replacement windows at a fraction of the cost.” The bottom line from the report: “Retrofitting windows with high performance enhancements can result in substantial energy savings across a variety of climate zones. Selecting options that retain and retrofit existing windows are the most cost-effective way to achieve these energy savings and to lower a home’s carbon footprint. Retrofits extend the life of existing windows, avoid production of new materials, reduce waste, and preserve a home’s character.” (For

further details, visit <https://bit.ly/36yCOVV>.)

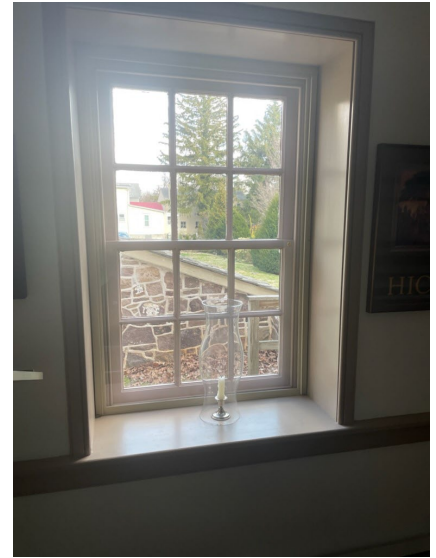
With retrofitting in mind, we began to look for ways to preserve the historic look of the Court Inn windows while, at the same time, stop the significant energy loss through these windows.

After much research, Dave Callahan found Innerglass—a company that manufactures glass inserts to not only eliminate energy loss, but also provide ultra-violet protection. These inserts were a perfect solution to our challenge and more. They would eliminate our energy loss as well as help preserve the many antiques on display and the wooden interior structure of our historic Inn.

The exterior picture below is proof that anyone interested in preserving the historic look of their building or home can accomplish the same goals with these inserts while preserving the historic integrity of the building.



The interior picture that follows shows how well these inserts blend in with the historically-restored wooden windows. An added benefit of these inserts is that they provide significant sound deadening to the interior of the Court Inn.



A total of 32 glass inserts were installed. The total project cost was \$12,000. This significant investment was made possible through our annual fundraising events (like Market Day and the Holiday Open House Tour) along with a \$2,500 Bucks County Tourism Grant from Visit Bucks County as well as private donations from community members who greatly value the preservation work the NHA has done for the past 58 years.

Protecting and preserving the historic significance of Newtown is the mission of the Newtown Historic Association. Achieving our mission would not be possible without the financial support from our members and the community that we serve.

The window inserts were installed by David Kirkpatrick of Doylestown. If you are interested in learning more about the inserts, call Innerglass at (800) 743-6207 or send an email to david@stormwindows.com.

We encourage you to stop by and take a look at the windows when the Court Inn is open, and to continue to help us protect historic Newtown through your donations and/or by volunteering for our community events.

Market Day Announcement

We are pleased to introduce Ashara Shapiro as the new Chairperson for Market Day. Ashara has always been an Arts Ambassador both in her career and personal life. As an owner and founder of ARecherche, a design firm, she has moonlighted in many different creative arenas from her own brand creation of edgy wearable art to her interior design work both for businesses and private homes. Her most recent freelance project was as the Creative Director of Mercantile in Doylestown.

Ashara brings a new vision to all her work with a goal of creating harmonious, exciting spaces and wearable art for the community to enjoy. She focuses on empowerment in her own work and the importance of conversation. It is the experiential nature of art as well as the marriage of Patron and artist that she finds at the pinnacle of expression.

Ashara is honored to be named the new Market Day chairperson, and looks forward to creating a dynamic and impactful experience that weaves local history and art through the fabric of Newtown.

Tyler Formal Gardens & Landscaping Lecture

The 14th annual Tyler Formal Gardens and Landscaping Lecture will be held on **Saturday, April 30th, at 10:00 a.m.** at the Zlock Performing Arts Center at the Newtown Campus of Bucks County Community College. Jenny Rose Carey will lecture on her new book, *The Ultimate Flower Gardener's Guide*.

Jenny is a renowned gardener, educator, historian, author, and the Senior Fellow in Horticulture at Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. A tour of Tyler Formal Gardens will follow the lecture.



Register online at <https://www.bucks.edu/discover/foundation/events/tyler-formal-gardens-landscaping-lecture.html>. For more information, send an email to lyle.rosenberger@bucks.edu.

Please note that the Tyler Park historical book will be available for purchase at this event (\$15). This limited-edition, 100-page book contains rare photographs and detailed descriptions of the many historic properties and farmhouses, including the construction of the Tyler mansion, and how they were acquired by the Tyler family in the early 1900s.



Tyler Park History Book cover.

The book is designed to provide a self-paced and self-guided walking tour of the many historic Tyler

State Park properties.



In case you are unable to attend the lecture event, the book can also be purchased at the NHA Callahan Research Center at 100 Mercer Street, Newtown, PA on Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. For more information, go to <https://www.newtownhistoric.org/visit/walking-tours/tyler-park/>.

Annual Student Walking Tour

On **June 1st (rain date June 8th)**, the Newtown Historic Association will resume a tradition offered to elementary students for many years.

After a two-year hiatus for COVID, we will be hosting the young students as they visit seven sights around Newtown and learn about the history of their town.



Among other sites, volunteers will be located at the Half-Moon Inn, Newtown Fire Association, Newtown Borough Hall, and the Newtown Library to greet the students.

The tour will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with over 150 students participating.

Market Day 2022

Market Day is one of the largest annual community events in Newtown. This year will be our 46th year hosting this event, which is free to the public.



Several thousand people attend Market Day each year to visit and enjoy historic Newtown.



Holding this event requires many dedicated people and many hours to do all the hard work that is necessary to have a successful day.



We have been very fortunate over the years to have many people, like Mary Callahan and Andrea Bayford—to name only two, to take on the monumental task of organizing this event. And we were very excited this year when Ashara Shapiro contacted us about volunteering to take on the critical role of Chairperson for organizing Market Day 2022. The experience and energy that Ashara will bring to our Market Day event will help to continue the annual tradition that so many enjoy.



For those who would like to volunteer to help with Market Day 2022, please send an email to info@newtownhistoric.org. We hope to hear from you!



Tribute to Local Veterans

The Newtown Historic Association will hold its annual Memorial Day tribute to honor local military veterans of World War II, Korea, and Viet Nam on **Memorial Day, Monday, May 30th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Callahan Research Center, 100 Mercer Street, Newtown.**

Come and see over 100 pictures of local soldiers who fought in these wars. This collection was created by Mike Donovan, a past NHA member and history buff.



Do you have historic items to donate? (Pictures, letters, research on a property or family, furniture, etc.) If so, please contact us at (215) 968-4004.