

The Clifton



House News

The Historical Society of Fort Washington Newsletter

473 South Bethlehem Pike Fort Washington, PA 19034

215.646.6065



"FortWashingtonHistoricalSociety"

WEBSITE www.FortWashingtonHistory.org

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March 2019

An Imperfection in the Kitchen Floor

Tuesday March 19 7:30 pm

Presented by Author, Heather Greenleaf



An Imperfection in the Kitchen Floor tells the story of two women who are living one hundred years apart in the same house in Willow Grove PA. Ms. Greenleaf's novel intersperses local history of the past century and present, how the characters lived then and now and deal with events surrounding their lives.

Heather has a degree in Art History from *the George Washington University* and a degree in Culinary Arts from *the Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College*. She has worked as a private chef and has written continuously running food columns in various publications. She currently works as an Exhibitions Manager, handling various art and science exhibitions as they travel to museums. In her free time, Heather is the Archivist for the *Upper Moreland Historical Association*. She lives in an historic home in Willow Grove.

An Imperfection in the Kitchen Floor is Heather's debut novel and will be for sale at the meeting.

The program is open to the public and, after the presentation, light refreshments will be served in the *E. Hamilton Parke Memorial Research Library*, which houses over 3,500 reference sources on local history, genealogy, American history and a good number of family histories. ❖



Mother Nature is not always dependable and inclement weather may cancel our meeting. If in doubt, please call the Society 215.646.6065 for an update or check your email. ❖



Donations Needed for the Victorian Tea

The Vic Tea Committee is in need of donations of wine which will be used as door prizes or part of baskets to be raffled during the fundraiser.

Bottles of wine will be greatly appreciated.

Please bring to next meeting March 19.

Questions? Call Renee 215.643.4169



Buck Amey
215.646.0858
Buck0858@aol.com

Celebrate Upper Dublin 300th Anniversary!

The event was held February 24th at the Upper Dublin Township building. Genealogy, history and antique experts were available to help learn about your historic home, antiques and/or ancestry.

Myles Pettengill, Robin Costa (pictured), Joan and Buck Amey attended the event, representing the *Society* with a table of *Clifton House* brochures, books, and historical items. We spoke to quite a few folks and one couple joined the *Society*. ❖



From the desk of

Myles Pettengill, President
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215.783.6912

WEB NEWS: On this eve of Spring, I would to thank our Trustee, Jim Bowe, for being our webmaster and creating our presence on the WEB. Jim and his wife are enjoying the birth of their second child, and as Jim steps away we wish their family well! Colin Webb, Renee's son, has agreed to step-in and run our WEB and social media footprint. Many thanks, Colin!

EVENTS: This year marks the 300th Anniversary of Upper Dublin Township. On February 24th, our neighbors to the north, invited our Board and members to participate in a "Tracing Your Roots" event, held at their Township building. I would like to thank Robin Costa, Buck and Joan Amey for hosting our table. The seminars were well attended, and it was a pleasure meeting so many folks interested in local history. Thanks again to Chris Pastore and Lauren Smyth for the invitation!

Please book your reservation to our annual *Society Victorian Tea* FUND RAISER EVENT. The dress-up event will take place on Sunday April 28, 1PM. Tickets \$30.

On February 27th I attended a standing -room only Public Meeting at the *National Constitution Center* to hear the outline plans on the future of the *Atwater Kent Museum*. The *City of Philadelphia* has closed the Museum on 7th Street and is partnering with *Drexel University* to oversee the collection and chart a new future. Presently the entire collection of over 130,000 items is housed in one climate controlled location. This formal announcement outlined the *Museums'* history and strategies, its collection, and the proposed plan for its future. There was a Q&A, and many in the audience stepped up to the microphone with tales of visits as schoolchildren, and pleas to retain its collection. Others shared thoughtful and sincere regrets that conditions of funding by the *City* were at the center of its demise. In general, there was a not any doubt that this treasured collection must stay. I personally think this will be a good marriage, and with the public's input, a chance to boost.

Of interest to our members, and one of the reasons I attended was to hear them discuss the possibilities of loaning certain materials in the collection out to other museums and historical societies that are relevant to their collections. More of these possibilities will be discussed at a later time. If you are interested in this unfolding story, go to www.PhiladelphiaHistory.org ❖

Happenings at Clifton House

Joan Amey, Museum Tours
215.646.0858
JoanAmey@aol.com



On Feb 6 the *Salt Cellar Quester Chapter* held their meeting at the *Clifton House* with Barbara Schaubel as Hostess. The program - instruction of "sponge painting" a fun project, a great time was had by all, and many budding artists revealed. Please come and join us on Wednesdays from 2:00 till 4:00 PM. ❖



10 March 1876
Alexander Graham Bell
Spoke Into Completed Telephone

March Facts

Welcome to the third month of the year—or, if you were born before 150 B.C., the first! According to the oldest Roman calendars, one year was ten months long, beginning in March and ending in December. Traces of this old system still exist in our modern calendar: December was the 10th month, named for the number ten in Latin (*decem*); likewise September is named for 7th month (*septem*). January and February are two nameless months called "winter," proving that winter is literally so awful it doesn't even deserve a spot on the calendar!

March wasn't named for its Latin number because the Gods had dibs on it. March was named for the Latin *Martius* — aka *Mars*, the Roman God of War and a mythical ancestor of the Roman people via his wolf-suckling sons, *Romulus* and *Remus*. With the winter frosts melting and the ground becoming fertile for harvest again in the Northern hemisphere, March was historically the perfect month for both farmers to resume farming, and warriors to resume warring.

Incidentally, the Pentagon still seems to agree with this Roman tradition: with the exception of the recent *War on Afghanistan*, almost all major **US-NATO** led military operations since the invasion of *Vietnam* (initiated March 8, 1965) have begun in the month of March - *Iraq* (March 20, 2003), *Covert War on Libya* (March 9, 2011), *Yugoslavia* (March 29, 1999), *Yemen* (March 25, 2015) and more on

<https://www.rd.com/culture/month-of-march-facts/> ❖

February Program

Thanks to Jim Adams, Myles Pettingill, Joan Amey, Buck Amey, Marie Gallagher (Society Guest) and Pam Callanan for an enjoyable February program of the "*Show and Tell Variety*." Think about what you can contribute to a future program. ❖

Robin Costa, Program Coordinator
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Society Calendar

PHILADELPHIA ARCHITECTURE

SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING

TUESDAY APRIL 16; 7.30 PM
PRESENTED BY DR. ALICE RUDY PRICE

SOCIETY VICTORIAN TEA FUND-RAISER

SUNDAY APRIL 28; 1.00 PM; TICKETS \$30 ADVANCE
RENEE WEBB 215.643.4169

DAVID RITTENHOUSE

SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING

TUESDAY MAY 21; 7.30 PM
PRESENTED BY SUSAN BOCKIUS

SOCIETY PICNIC

SOCIETY MEMBERS & THEIR GUESTS

TUESDAY JUNE 18; 5.30 PM; DINNER 6.30 PM
RAIN OR SHINE ❖

Click button for Membership,
Donations, and/or Events

The Historical Society is a 501(c) (3) and your
membership and/or any donations to the
Society are tax deductible. ❖



The Historical Society of Fort Washington is a non-profit educational institution. Clifton House, headquarters for the Society, leased from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The Premises, situated within Montgomery County's Fort Washington State Park, which is under the auspices of the Bureau of State Parks. ❖

SOCIETY IMPORTANT INFO

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**SOCIETY MEETS 3RD TUESDAY OF MONTH; 7.30 PM
SEPTEMBER–NOVEMBER & JANUARY–MAY**

**TWO ANNUAL EVENTS FOR MEMBERS & THEIR GUESTS
JUNE PICNIC & DECEMBER WASSAIL OPEN HOUSE**

**THE HAMILTON PARKE MEMORIAL
RESEARCH LIBRARY AND MUSEUM**

**OPEN WEDNESDAYS; 2 – 4 PM
SEPTEMBER – JUNE; WEATHER PERMITTING
AND BY APPOINTMENT**

**Editor's Note: If you have anything to contribute or
know of an event that would interest our members,
please email**

Renee Webb ReneeSpectorWebb@gmail.com

"Victorian Tea Party"



Step back in time at the Clifton House where history comes alive!
Sunday, April 28, 2019 @ 1 PM

The Clifton House
473 South Bethlehem Pike
Fort Washington, PA

The Historical Society of Fort Washington is hosting their annual Victorian Tea.

Tea served at 1PM Hats optional, own a Victorian dress. Now's the time to wear it!

This Exciting Event Includes:

Tea, Scones, Tea Sandwiches and desserts

The Sophisticated Strings of Upper Dublin School serenading the attendees throughout the tea.



It has been a sold-out event for the past five years! This fundraiser helps to the Historical Society host free speaker programs for the general public, preserve our local history, and support the history museum and library where many people research information on their homes and ancestors.

Advance Tickets are \$30. Please call Renee Webb at [215-643-4169](tel:215-643-4169) or Email ReneeWebb999@gmail.com.



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