

# 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](http://www.FortWashingtonHistory.org)

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## WASSAIL

For our members and their guests

**Sunday December 9; 4 - 7 pm**



Celebrate this Holiday Season with  
your fellow members  
and their guests.

We bring and share our prepared  
delectable appetizers and desserts, and  
"finger food" dishes.

*Eat, drink and be merry is our motto!*

**And**, to add to the festivities,

**Rich Wilhelm**



will be  
accompanying the  
carolers on the  
piano throughout  
the evening

*Partake in our  
Silent Auction Table as well  
Questions; Call Joan Amey  
215.646.0858 ❖*



### Help Decorate Clifton House

Joan Amey 215.646.0858

**Thursday Dec 6; 6 - 8 pm**

Please join us to help decorate Clifton House for the  
holidays. Contributions of fresh greens will be greatly  
appreciated. Leave cuttings on porch in advance ❖

### Gertrude Hawk Chocolates Fundraiser Results!

Thank you to the members who supported this fundraiser -  
13 orders @ \$1150 of which 50% comes back to the Society.  
We will do this again ....possibly Easter or next Christmas...so  
watch for info in future *The Clifton House News*.

Jim Magaziner [jtim826@gmail.com](mailto:jtim826@gmail.com) ❖

### Happenings at Clifton House

#### Joan Amey, Museum Tours

215.646.0858

[JoanAmey@aol.com](mailto:JoanAmey@aol.com)



On November 17<sup>th</sup> *The Clifton House* hosted members of  
several chapters of the DAR. A large group of members  
attended this meeting, enjoyed a beautiful lunch, and  
toured our museum rooms. THANK YOU to those who  
helped with this successful event: Arthur Bagdasaryan,  
Tom Rivel, Joan and Buck Amey, Barbara Schaubel, Robin  
Costa, MaryAnn Matt, Dottie Mariotz, and Gwen Myer. ❖

#### Clifton House Garden Project

Linda Pettengill

484.344.5270

[LLPettengill@gmail.com](mailto:LLPettengill@gmail.com)

MJ Fischer, Sharon Shapowall and Linda Pettengill did  
some additional raking, digging, and wall mending in the  
"lost garden". We found bricks and stone in the

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### Garden Project Continued from Page 1

wooded area right of the parking lot. We also dug up a master cylinder, spent shotgun casing and many more oyster shells. Sharon used a tree log as a steam roller to flatten the soil bed...very creative.



Sharon Shapowal



MJ Fischer and Linda Pettengill



MJ Fischer and Sharon Shapowal ❖

### Rocky Pistilli, Trustee

[CRPistilli@comcast.net](mailto:CRPistilli@comcast.net)

## Trustee Report

The maintenance and upkeep of an historic building involves planning, time, work, and finances. I'm sure you know this from your own homes and residences. This responsibility at *Clifton House* falls upon the **Trustees**. Though the building and property are owned by the Commonwealth, the *Historical Society of Fort Washington* is responsible for *Clifton House* and surrounding property.

continued next column

## Clifton House Donation

**Buck Amey, Librarian**

215.646.0858

[BUCK0858@AOL.COM](mailto:BUCK0858@AOL.COM)



This is a framed copy of the **North Penn Railroad map plate 27**. It has been donated to the *Society* by Mr. John Kane who purchased this item from a dealer in Chestnut Hill while their family lived in the Elliger Park section of Fort Washington. It is now hanging in our entrance hallway. ❖

It should be comforting to know that your dues as a member help in this effort.

**Trustees** are members who volunteer to serve in this capacity for a four year term. We make the decisions on accepting historic donations, selecting tenants/caretakers, and all work and improvements to preserve *Clifton House*. Current **Trustees** are listed on the last page of this newsletter.

We had a building inspection performed by Building Consultants, Inc. in the fall of 2016. The report indicated a general good condition for a building of this age but also items in need of improvement. The areas of highest priority were upgrading the electrical to bring it up to code and landscape changes to keep water away from the building.

The electrical work is near completion and includes improved lighting in the museum areas. Still to be done is exterior lighting to highlight the building for security and to bring more attention to the building. The Caretakers/tenant's third floor apartment also received a badly needed new coat of paint. More painting of the 2nd and 3rd floor hallways is planned. Also planned, when the weather improves in the Spring, is a fresh coat of paint for the building's large front porch/entrance way.

The overgrown shrubs and bushes have been nicely cut back and are no longer against the building. Additionally the window wells were deepened to keep water away from the windows and a berm created,

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Trustee continued from Page 2

behind the building, to divert runoff water from the hill, away from the building.

Future plans include power washing the exterior for mold remediation and eventual exterior wood repair and repainting. We are also looking into a backup sump pump system to prevent basement flooding in the event of a power failure and improvements to the driveway and parking area.

We have a wonderful historic building to use, but to maintain *Clifton House* many hands are required. Please consider volunteering as the needs arise. ❖

## *Society Calendar*

### **PHILADELPHIA DURING WWI YEARS**

*SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING*

TUESDAY JANUARY 15; 7.30 PM  
PRESENTED BY PETER WILLIAMS

### **MEMBER'S SHOW AND TELL**

*SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING*

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 19; 7.30 PM

### **"AN IMPERFECTION IN THE KITCHEN FLOOR"**

*SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING*

TUESDAY MARCH 19; 7.30 PM  
PRESENTED BY HEATHER GREENLEAF

### **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**

### **MYLES PETTENGILL, PRESIDENT**

215.783.6912 [ARCHWAYMYLES@COMCAST.NET](mailto:ARCHWAYMYLES@COMCAST.NET)

### **VICE PRESIDENT, JOAN AMEY**

215.646.0858 [JOANAMEY@AOL.COM](mailto:JOANAMEY@AOL.COM)

### **JIM ADAMS, RECORDING SECRETARY**

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### **GWEN MEYER, CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

215.885.3324

### **ROBIN COSTA, TREASURER**

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### **TRUSTEE, ROCKY PISTILLI**

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### **TRUSTEE, H. ROY THOMPSON**

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### **TRUSTEE, JIM BOWE**

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### **TRUSTEE, DOMINIC COSTA**

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### **TRUSTEE/CURATOR, MARIANNE MATT**

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### **EMERITUS TRUSTEE, JOHN KAFES**

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### **BUCK AMEY, LIBRARIAN**

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### **JIM MAGAZINER, PRESERVATION**

610.505.2347 [JTIM826@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JTIM826@GMAIL.COM)

### **RENEE WEBB, NEWSLETTER**

215.643.4169 [RENEESPECTORWEBB@GMAIL.COM](mailto:RENEESPECTORWEBB@GMAIL.COM)

### **MUSEUM TOURS –**

**JOAN AMEY** 215.646.0858

**BARBARA SCHAUBEL** 215.872.1750

### **SOCIETY MEETS 3<sup>RD</sup> 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](mailto:ReneeSpectorWebb@gmail.com)



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### **Thomas P. Murt** Member 152<sup>nd</sup> District House of Representatives Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

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