



# DISCOVER <sup>LC</sup> <sub>HS</sub>

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF LUZERNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## GET READY FOR OUR 2ND ANNUAL ROAD RALLY!

**JOIN US ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 2 AT 1:00 P.M. FOR OUR SECOND ANNUAL "ROAD RALLY IN THE VALLEY"**

A scavenger hunt with a twist, you'll be challenged to decode clues about historic Wyoming Valley sites. The twist: You must drive to those sites using the least amount of miles possible! You'll drive to each site, take a photo of yourself, and make your way back to the finish line. The team with the most correct answers and that traveled the shortest distance wins. This is not a timed event.



Scenes from last year's Road Rally

More information will be forthcoming; check our website and Facebook page.



## 2020 GALA THEME ANNOUNCED

Join us at the Westmoreland Club in Wilkes-Barre on Friday, June 26, for the LCHS Annual Gala. Sure to take you down memory lane, featured speaker Bob Savakinus will cover the history of amusement parks in Luzerne County. More information will be forthcoming; check out our Calendar of Events for more Gala details.

## "DINING WITH FRIENDS"

Our next Dining with Friends event will take place at Le Manhattan Bistro in Wilkes-Barre on Wednesday, March 18. Check out our Calendar of Events for more details.

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**LUZERNE COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
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**Interim Executive Director**

## A NOTE FROM OUR INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This has been a whirlwind winter for both the Historical Society and me. Aimee Newell left the LCHS just before the holidays. I am excited to step in as interim executive director while our board conducts a search for our new executive director.

Since the new year started, the Westmoreland Club and LCHS hosted a portrait walk, we are sharing an exhibit with the Wyoming Valley Art League in March, and we are planning our annual meeting in April and our Gala in June. A women's suffrage exhibit will open at the museum in early May. Many items from our collection and the League of Women Voters will be on display.

The library and museum are open on Fridays and Saturdays in February. We started work on transferring our old collections database to a new online database. The staff has many hours of data entry ahead, but it is going to make collections in both the library and museum more accessible. We will return to regular hours in March.

And just to round things out, we are finally moving into the next phase of repairs and renovations at the Swetland Homestead. Watch for the exciting facelift.

Please stop by the library and visit. I look forward to meeting all of you in the next few months.

*Mary Walsh*  
**Interim Executive Director**



## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

In December, our executive director, Aimee Newell, Ph.D., departed for a plum position as executive director of the Stonington Historical Society, Stonington, CT. Dr. Newell capably served as executive director of the Luzerne County Historical Society for three years. Her steadfast dedication and her superior organizational skills ensured that she left the Luzerne County Historical Society in a much better place than she found it. We are grateful for her leadership.

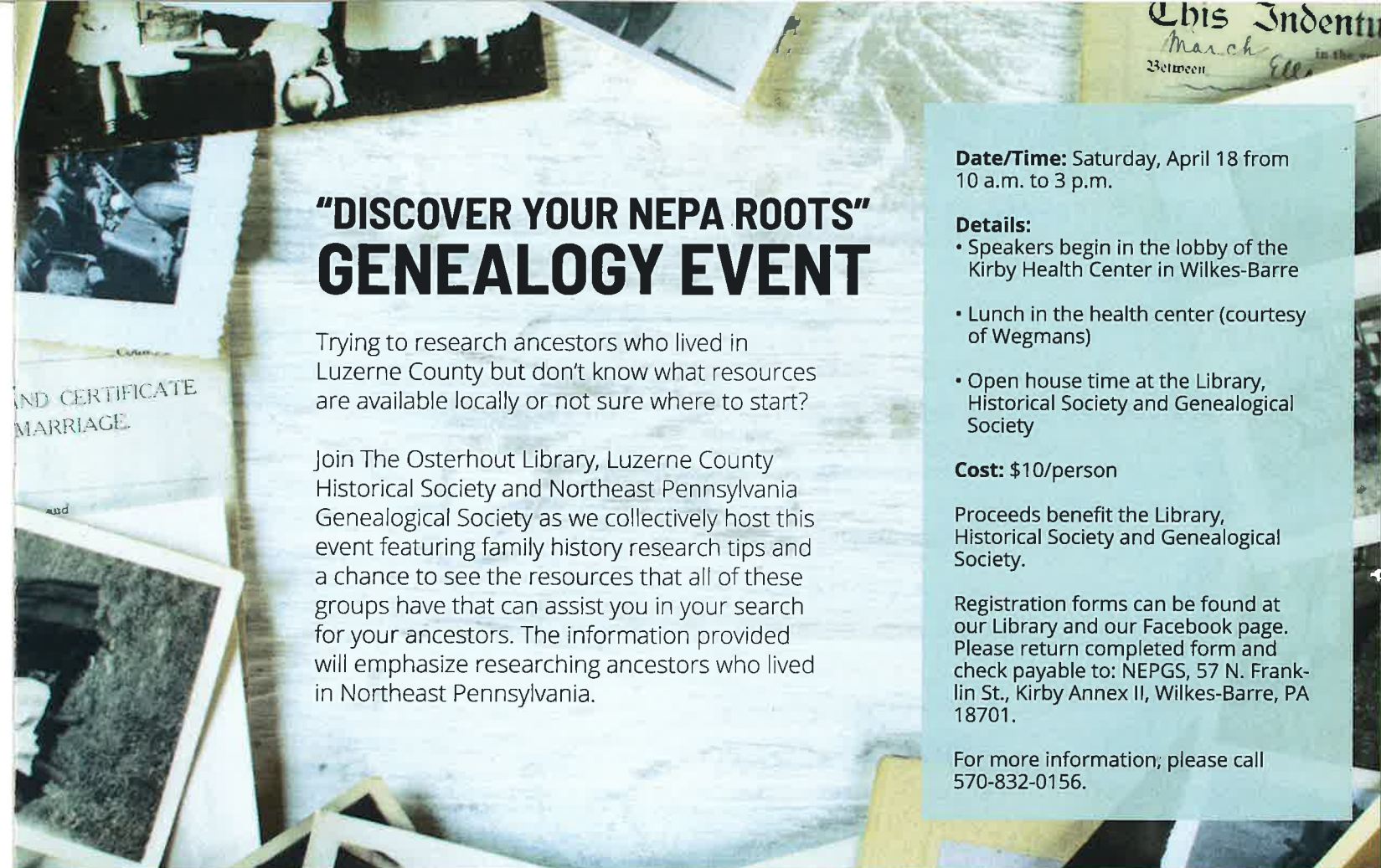
Our former finance manager, Mary Walsh, has stepped in as interim executive director and is keeping us moving full sail ahead. She and our talented staff and volunteers are working hard to assist with genealogical research, collaborative exhibitions and fundraising events.

In April, you should see scaffolding around the Swetland Homestead. We are completely replacing the roof with historically appropriate wooden shingles. Once the roof is complete, other exterior issues will be addressed and then our "historical treasure" will finally get a much-needed coat of paint. With the help of Milner and Associates, our goal is to complete the restoration project by September.

We continue to hunt for a new home for our museum, library and administrative offices. We require approximately 20,000 square feet to hold our nearly 250,000 artifacts. The space should be out of the floodplain, provide ample parking and be readily accessible to all audiences. If you know of such a place, please contact us!

Best wishes for a beautiful and early spring!

*Tish McCarthy Last*  
**President**



## "DISCOVER YOUR NEPA ROOTS" GENEALOGY EVENT

Trying to research ancestors who lived in Luzerne County but don't know what resources are available locally or not sure where to start?

Join The Osterhout Library, Luzerne County Historical Society and Northeast Pennsylvania Genealogical Society as we collectively host this event featuring family history research tips and a chance to see the resources that all of these groups have that can assist you in your search for your ancestors. The information provided will emphasize researching ancestors who lived in Northeast Pennsylvania.

**Date/Time:** Saturday, April 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Details:**

- Speakers begin in the lobby of the Kirby Health Center in Wilkes-Barre
- Lunch in the health center (courtesy of Wegmans)
- Open house time at the Library, Historical Society and Genealogical Society

**Cost:** \$10/person

Proceeds benefit the Library, Historical Society and Genealogical Society.

Registration forms can be found at our Library and our Facebook page. Please return completed form and check payable to: NEPGS, 57 N. Franklin St., Kirby Annex II, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.

For more information, please call 570-832-0156.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SPOTLIGHT

We are proud to announce that our Museum Manager, Allyson K. Earl, recently received a scholarship to attend the 2020 Small Museum Association (SMA) Conference, which took place from February 16-18 in College Park, Maryland. Earl is the second LCHS staff member to be a recipient of a scholarship to attend the national SMA conference.

The annual SMA conference attracted more than 300 museum professionals, board members and volunteers from a wide variety of small museums around the region and the country. It featured sessions on topics ranging from collections and museum education to staffing and board issues. The SMA also offers a museum resource hall and many informal networking opportunities for attendees to talk with and get ideas from other small museum professionals and volunteers. "This was an incredible opportunity for me," said Earl. "I'm extremely excited that I was able to continue my professional development. This is the first scholarship I have received since college, and I was humbled to have been chosen from among my peers in the small museum field. I am extremely grateful to both the SMA and the selection committee."

SMA is an all-volunteer organization serving small museums in the mid-Atlantic region and beyond. SMA's mission is to develop and maintain a peer network among people who work for small museums, giving them opportunities to learn, share knowledge and support one another, so that they, in turn, can better serve their institutions, communities and profession.

*Congratulations, Allyson!*



Museum Manager Allyson Earl



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## SPRING/SUMMER 2020

### MARCH

**18 DINING WITH FRIENDS**  
**LE MANHATTAN BISTRO, WILKES-BARRE**  
 Support LCHS – 10% of the proceeds come to the Society. *Call (570) 901-4040 for reservations and mention the Society.*

### APRIL

**18 "DISCOVER YOUR NEPA ROOTS" GENEALOGY EVENT**  
**KIRBY HEALTH CENTER, WILKES-BARRE**  
 More information is on page 2. The cost for the event will be \$10 per person and proceeds will benefit the three groups. Registration forms can be found at our Library and our Facebook page. *For more information, please call 570-832-0156.*

**19-25 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION WEEK**  
 We will proudly recognize our volunteers with a special program on Wednesday, April 22 at the Denison House Annex at 6 p.m., as Volunteer Recognition Week is slated for April 19-25. *Details will be posted on our website and Facebook page.*

**25 LCHS 162ND ANNUAL MEETING, SWETLAND HOMESTEAD**  
 The Annual Meeting is open to all members active as of February 29, 2020. The theme this year is A Salute to Suffragettes.

### MAY

**24 DENISON HOUSE OPENING DAY**  
 The Nathan Denison House in Forty-Fort will be open from 1 – 4 p.m. for tours.

### JUNE

**26 LCHS ANNUAL GALA WESTMORELAND CLUB, WILKES-BARRE**  
 Our Annual Gala theme is **A Carousel of Fun: Looking Back at Luzerne County's amusement parks.** Featured speaker Bob Savakinus will take us back to Angela Park, Hanson's Park, Sans Souci Park and Rocky Glen. *Tickets are \$90 for members and \$100 for non-members. Visit our website and Facebook page for additional information.*



### JULY

**04 142ND COMMEMORATION OF THE BATTLE AND MASSACRE OF WYOMING WYOMING MONUMENT**  
 Join us for the 142nd Commemoration of the Battle and Massacre of Wyoming. *This event will be held from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.*

### AUGUST

**02 SECOND ANNUAL "ROAD RALLY IN THE VALLEY"**  
 Follow the clues to historic sites in the Valley. The team with the most decoded clues with the lowest mileage is the winner! More information will be forthcoming.



#### WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE EXHIBITS:

- 2.21.20 – 4.3.20 Wyoming Valley Art League Exhibit
- 4.10.20 – 9.4.20 LCHS Museum Exhibit
- 9.25.20 – 11.6.20 LCCC Schulman Gallery Exhibit

# JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING

The 162<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Luzerne County Historical Society will be held on Saturday, April 25 at 1p.m. on the grounds of the Swetland Homestead in Wyoming.

All members in good standing are invited to come and participate by voting on items of business and election of directors. Friends and others are welcome but will not be able to take part in the business meeting.



This year's theme is **A Salute to Suffragettes**, recognizing the 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment and women earning the right to vote. Following the business meeting, a Reader's Theater program, **Women's Suffrage by Dorothy Alexander Sugarman**, will be presented. LCHS members including Owen Lavery, Sherry Emershaw, Jenna Vincenti and Wayne Hinkin will portray historical figures prominent in the Suffrage Movement.

*"I was surprised to realize how little I knew about the struggle for voting rights," commented Estella Parker Killian, volunteer coordinator. "Researching this presentation was eye opening. I would recommend Tina Cassidy's book, Mr. President, How Long Must We Wait? to anyone that wants additional information."*

Additionally, the Swetland Homestead will be open for tours, and a special display recognizing the 75th anniversary of the League of Women Voters will be presented.

## A SALUTE TO OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

The week of April 19-25 is designated as a national week for the recognition of volunteers. Thousands of volunteers throughout the country keep organizations running and provide services and support that would otherwise not be available.

We're proud of our cadre of 50+ volunteers. These are the folks that allow us to open Denison House and the Swetland Homestead for tours and special programs, work at the Bishop Library assisting with research and answering inquiries, help out with special events and provide skills needed for inventory and office support. And, we're always happy to welcome new volunteers!

We will recognize our volunteers with a special program on Wednesday, April 22 at the Denison House Annex at 6 p.m. Details will be posted on our website and Facebook page.



*Volunteer and re-enactor Jeff Smith discusses common ailments of the late 1700s with a group at the Denison House at a special Revolutionary-era medicine program last year*



# PORTRAIT WALK

More than 50 LCHS members, guests, and Westmoreland Club members enjoyed our recent Portrait Walk. Co-sponsored by LCHS and the Westmoreland Club Charitable Foundation, the event highlighted the portraiture on display throughout the Westmoreland Club.

Guests were greeted with champagne and hors d'oeuvres on the main floor. They were able to tour the building with a self-guiding booklet that allowed them to view the artworks at a leisurely pace. LCHS members were on hand to answer questions. The keepsake booklet included photos of each of the portraits as well as information about the individuals and the artists. The portraits on display are a combination of pieces on loan from LCHS and those owned by the Westmoreland Club.

From the impressive murals of the **Wilkes-Barre Vale of Wyoming** and the **Descent into the Wyoming Valley** to the pictures of well known (and lesser known) individuals including Francis Slocum, Abram Nesbitt, Mary Costello Stegmaier, William Powell, Jr. and Matthias Hollenback, the tour provided a unique educational overview of local history.



## LEGACY: PLANNED GIVING

A simple bequest is relatively simple, but so is procrastination. Most of us don't want to think about our own mortality, so we do little to plan for the future. In fact, a fairly recent Harris Poll survey suggested that 64 percent of Americans do not have a will!

A bequest can be unrestricted or restricted. An unrestricted bequest can be used for the general purposes and operations of the Society. A restricted bequest can only be used in the way the donor intended. Bequest language can be as easy as this:

*I give and devise the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars (or x%) to the Luzerne County Historical Society, 49 S. Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701, to be used for its general purposes or to be used for (stated purpose: e.g. museum, collections, facility or program.)*

Please, take a few minutes and consider including the Society in your planning with your financial advisors, tax accountants or estate planning attorneys. You can make an important contribution to the future of the Society!

# THANK YOU

## ANNUAL APPEAL DONORS

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