

Join Us!

## LCHS Night at the SWB RailRiders

Friday, June 7, 2019—6:35 p.m.



See the RailRiders take on the Syracuse Mets and support the Historical Society! Stay for the fireworks at the end of the game

Tickets are \$15, must be purchased by May 31.

To purchase tickets, or for more information:  
call 570-823-6244 x3 or email [reservations@luzernehistory.org](mailto:reservations@luzernehistory.org).

Give the Past a Future  
Bishop Memorial Library  
Luzerne County Museum  
Denison House  
Sweetland Homestead

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Luzerne County Historical Society  
49 South Franklin Street  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701  
570-823-6244  
info@luzernehistory.org  
www.luzernehistory.org

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Luzerne County Historical Society

## FORECAST

May 2019

### LCHS Gala Rockin' & Rollin' in the Valley!

Friday, June 21, 2019—6 p.m.  
Huntsville Golf Club, 1334 Market Street, Dallas



Don't miss the 2019 LCCHS Gala on June 21! The theme is Rockin' & Rollin' in the Valley—celebrating the 1960s. Feel free to come dressed in your 1960s finest! The program will feature "A Conversation with Joe Nardone," our silent auction, and we will honor the late Janet "Jefie" Flack as a Director Emerita. Our Honorary Chairs are Jefie's niece, Jamie Flack Eckman, and Richard Eckman.

Thank you to Rustique, our open bar sponsor, and to sponsors Community Bank NA, Berkshire Asset Management, Wells Fargo, McCarthy Tire Service and Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield. Tickets are \$85 for LCCHS members, \$95 for nonmembers. For more information or to purchase tickets, email [reservations@luzernehistory.org](mailto:reservations@luzernehistory.org) or call 570-823-6244 x3.

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### Road Rally in the Valley

Sunday, August 4, 2019—Registration at noon;  
Starts at 1 p.m.  
Wilkes University Parking #5, Entrances on S. River  
and S. Franklin Streets, Wilkes-Barre

We are thrilled to hold our first "Road Rally in the Valley"! Follow the clues to historic sites in the Wyoming Valley, take a selfie at each one and return to the finish at III Guys in Edwardsville. The team with the most correctly decoded clues in the lowest mileage is the winner! This is not a timed event. Thank you to our media sponsor, *The Citizens' Voice!*

There will be two classes—Vintage (1900-1979) and Modern (1980-present)—with prizes, plus special awards for Oldest Vehicle and Most Team Spirit. Enjoy great food and music by Bret Alexander at the finish. \$30 per carload for LCCHS members; \$40 for nonmembers. Email [reservations@luzernehistory.org](mailto:reservations@luzernehistory.org) or call 570-823-6244 x3.



### Dining with Friends

Have a wonderful meal and help raise funds for LCCHS

Wednesday, May 22, 2019—Le Manhattan Bistro

Join Society members and supporters on Wednesday, May 22, 2019, at Le Manhattan Bistro, 268 South Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, for the next "Dining with Friends" evening! The restaurant will generously donate 10% of its proceeds that night to the Historical Society. Please note that Le Manhattan Bistro is BYOB (bring your own alcoholic beverage) as we go to press.

Come out for a delicious meal while helping the Society at the same time! **Please call Le Manhattan Bistro directly at 570-901-4040** to make reservations and mention that you are with LCCHS. The Society would like to thank Rob Friedman and the staff of Le Manhattan Bistro for their generosity in sponsoring this "Dining with Friends" evening. For more information about Le Manhattan Bistro, visit <https://lemanhattanbistro.net/>. For questions about this program, call 570-823-6244 or email [info@luzernehistory.org](mailto:info@luzernehistory.org).





**LCHS Forecast**  
**Vol. 16 No. 2**  
**May 2019**

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*The mission of the Luzerne County Historical Society is to preserve and promote the collective history and heritage of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.*

**Message from the Executive Director**

Spring and summer are busy and exciting times at the Historical Society—we are bringing a variety of programs to our community—lectures, kids' crafts, a new series of guided meditation classes at the Museum and more (see page 3)! Our new event—the Road Rally in the Valley is coming up on Sunday, August 4 (see page 1) - do you like trivia? Local history? A summer drive? Then join us!

We are also busy behind the scenes—our Transition and Future Committees are hard at work on plans for a new home for our library and museum. Interesting developments are starting to happen and we will share them soon. We are also working on assessing and inventorying our amazing collection of 200,000 objects, documents and published materials. This is the first step in allowing us to share the collection more effectively with our community and visitors. We have so many fascinating stories to tell!

As always, thank you for your support of the Luzerne County Historical Society—we could not give the past a future without you!

*Aimee E. Newell, Ph.D.*



**LCHS President's Corner**

We had such a nice turnout for our Annual Meeting at the Swetland Homestead on April 27! Approximately sixty-five members attended the outdoor event. It was nice to see so many familiar faces, some I haven't seen since my days at Wyoming Seminary. Our speaker was Scott Stephenson, President and CEO of the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia. His presentation was riveting. I have told many people that I could have easily listened to him for another hour!

We have many special events coming up in the next few months. The one nearest and dearest to my heart right now is our Annual Gala and Silent Auction. This year we will honor the memory of a very valuable board member and past president, Janet Flack, known to many of us as Jefie. In September, Jefie died after doggedly fighting a courageous battle with cancer. Honorary chairs are Jefie's niece, Jamie Flack Eckman and her husband Richard Eckman. The evening promises to be a joyful celebration.

The event is slated for Friday, June 21 at Huntsville Golf Club. Our theme is Rockin' & Rollin' in the Valley, which will be reflected in many of our silent auction items and décor. Featured speaker is Joe Nardone, Sr., of *Joe Nardone and the All Stars*, a band that regularly played Sans Souci Park, Hanson's, and other popular venues. I promise you will be fascinated by what Joe has to share. Please join us and feel free to wear your favorite pair of bell bottoms!

Thank you all for your continued support. I hope to see you soon.

*Tish McCarthy Last, President*



**Calendar of Events—May through August 2019**

**May 22—Wednesday**

Dining with Friends at Le Manhattan Bistro. Support LCHS—10% of the proceeds come to the Society. 268 South Main Street, Wilkes-Barre. Call 570-901-4040 for reservations and mention the Society!

**May 25—Saturday**

LCHS Museum and Bishop Library closed in observance of Memorial Day.

**May 26—Sunday**

Nathan Denison House opens for the season! Tours offered Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. through September 29. 35 Denison Street, Forty Fort. FREE for members, \$5 for non-members, \$3 for non-member kids.

**June 6—Thursday**

Gallery talk on Frances Dorrance by LCHS Museum Manager Ally Earl, 6:30 p.m. at the LCHS Museum. FREE for members; \$5 for non-members.

**June 7—Friday**

LCHS Night with the SWB RailRiders at PNC Field. 6:35 p.m. vs. Syracuse Mets. \$15 per ticket.

**June 8, July 20, August 17—Saturdays**

Tours of the Swetland Homestead, 885 Wyoming Avenue, Wyoming. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. FREE for members; \$5 for non-members; \$3 for non-member kids.



**June 12—Wednesday**

Lecture, "The Badge of a Freemason": Masonic Aprons by LCHS Executive Director, Aimee E. Newell, Ph.D., 6:30 p.m. LCHS Museum. FREE for members; \$5 for nonmembers.

**June 19, July 17, August 21—Wednesdays**

Guided Meditation by Jennifer Ciarimboli. 6:30 p.m. at the LCHS Museum. FREE to all.

**June 21—Friday**

LCHS Gala—Rockin' & Rollin' in the Valley! (see page 1). 6:00 p.m. at Huntsville Golf Club, Dallas. Featuring "A Conversation with Joe Nardone" and honoring Janet "Jefie" Flack as a Director Emerita. \$85 for members; \$95 for nonmembers. **Reservations required by June 13, 2019.**

**June 30—Sunday**

Lecture—Revolutionary War Medicine by Jeff Smith. 2 p.m. at the Denison House, 35 Denison Street, Forty Fort. FREE for members; \$5 for non-member adults; \$3 for nonmember kids.



**July 4—Thursday**

LCHS Museum and Bishop Library closed; Join us at the Wyoming Monument! FREE admission to the Denison House after the ceremony—see a re-enactment of the capitulation between Nathan Denison and John Butler.

**July 11, 25, August 8—Thursdays**

Kids Crafts at the Museum! Sessions are about powder horns (7/11), fossils (7/25) and Native American beading (8/8). 2 p.m. FREE for members; \$5 for nonmembers.

**July 26—Friday**

Movie Night at Swetland! Film title to be announced; 8 p.m. FREE for all, refreshments for sale.

**August 3—Saturday**

Last day to see "Battle of Wyoming at 240: Revolution on the Homefront." 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. FREE for members; \$5 for nonmember adults; \$3 for nonmember kids.

**August 4—Sunday**

Road Rally in the Valley! (See page 1) Registration at noon at Wilkes University Parking #5; starts at 1 p.m. \$30 per carload for members; \$40 for nonmembers.

**August 17-18—Saturday & Sunday**

Encampment at the Denison House! \$5 for member adults. \$3 for member kids; \$7 for nonmember adults, \$5 for nonmember kids.

**August 25—Friday**

Lecture, "Deeply Rooted in North Carolina: The Story of Two Runaway Slaves" by Juanita Patience Moss. 6:30 p.m. LCHS Museum. FREE for members; \$5 for nonmembers.

**August 28-31—Wednesday-Saturday**

LCHS Museum and Bishop Library closed while LCHS staff attend American Association for State and Local History conference.

**To make a reservation for any event, or for more information, call 570-823-6244, ext. 3 or email [reservations@luzernehistory.org](mailto:reservations@luzernehistory.org).**



## Recent Donations Help LCHS Make Progress on Its Strategic Plan Goals

In our last issue, we shared the goals of our 2018-2021 strategic plan:

- Increase the **diversity** of LCHS programming and audiences
- Make the LCHS collection **accessible** to our community
- Properly **care** for our collection and buildings
- Maintain LCHS's **financial stability** and implement sustainable plans for growth
- Plan for the future of LCHS with **improved physical locations** for our library and museum

We are working hard on these goals and we would like to thank some very generous donors for helping us to make notable progress:

- **Ideaworks Marketing** in Wyoming ran focus groups for us in April to gain insight into current perceptions of the Society and into community needs for a combined library and museum building. They are also writing a marketing plan for the Society.
- **InterMetro** of Wilkes-Barre provided us with nine discounted new movable shelving units at the Bishop Library and LCHS Museum. These units are helping us to store our collection more efficiently and more appropriately. (see above)
- The **Luzerne Foundation** and **Gus Genetti**, as well as **Panzitta Enterprises**, helped us stabilize the roof and replace the doors on the garage at 49 South Franklin Street.
- **Dorothy Darling**, a Swetland family descendant, assisted us with funding a condition report for the Swetland Homestead. The report, produced by John Milner Architects, provides a detailed assessment of the house's current condition, as well as setting out priorities for repairs and restoration with cost estimates.



## Interested in Volunteering? We Need Your Help!

Do you want to learn more about history? Have you always wondered about how museums and libraries care for and research their collections? Or would you like to help out at Society programs and events? The Luzerne County Historical Society is looking for volunteers who can commit to short-term and/or long-term projects.

### Current volunteer opportunities include:

- **Tour guides at the Denison and Swetland Houses** – enthusiasm and curiosity are required, as well as good people skills. Training is provided.
- **Front desk help and researchers at the Bishop Library** in Wilkes-Barre – previous research experience is preferred, but not required.
- **Inventory volunteers** at the LCHS Museum and Bishop Library – computer skills are helpful and attention to detail is essential.
- **Special Events and Booth Sitters** – help out at our events and programs and/or at our information booths at local events, like the Fine Arts Fiesta.

Training is provided for all volunteer positions. Please call 570-823-6244 ext. 1 with questions or email [info@luzernehistory.org](mailto:info@luzernehistory.org)!

## 2018-2019 LCHS Annual Appeal

A huge thank you to all who donated to the LCHS 2018-2019 annual appeal! These donations are essential to our operating funds and allow us to bring you the programs listed in our calendar of events. There's still time to make your donation! Our fiscal year ends on June 30, 2019. We welcome donations in all amounts, which can be sent to the Luzerne County Historical Society, 49 South Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701. Please mark your check "annual appeal" on the memo line. As of May 2, we received \$54,313 from 155 donors!

### \$500-\$999

Tom O'Neill and Linda Ross

### \$250-\$499

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Louis Goeringer  
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### \$99 and under

Jerry and Ruth Chariton  
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Elaine and J. Martin Murphy  
Marion Smith O'Brien  
Frank and Kathy Poplaski  
Louise Schwartz  
Mary Jean and David Tarantini

## Thank You! Winter/Spring 2019 Donations to LCHS

We rely on the generosity of our community, members and supporters to continue to give the past a future. Thank you to these donors who helped us during the winter and spring!

### In-Kind

Ideaworks Marketing  
Alan Rosen, Rosen Real Estate, Inc.  
Barbara Williams

### Annual Meeting

Big Top Rentals  
Biros Utilities  
Linda Martin  
Price Chopper  
R. Scott Stephenson  
Wyoming Presbyterian Church

### Fraternal Orgs. Exhibit

Stephen B. Killian  
Marquis Art and Frame

### Donations

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Geoff and Amanda Fontenova  
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## Thank you to our Business Members!

Please help us to thank them by patronizing them. To join, visit [www.luzernehistory.org](http://www.luzernehistory.org) or call 570-823-6244.

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Visit Luzerne County  
Westmoreland Club



## LCHS Staff Inspired by Recent Conferences

Over the past few months, LCHS staff attended several regional conferences where they met new colleagues, learned new things and were inspired to try new ideas and programs here in Luzerne County.



- Executive Director Aimee Newell, Director of Operations and Programs Mark Riccetti Jr. and Volunteer Coordinator Estella Killian attended the **Small Museum Association (SMA)** conference in February in College Park, Maryland. We were proud to have Mark Riccetti attend as a conference scholarship winner. “It was nice to be able to hang out with like-minded professionals,” Mark said. “I also enjoyed visiting the College Park Aviation Museum and seeing how they displayed their collection.”
- Executive Director Aimee Newell attended the **Building Museums** conference, organized by the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums, in Brooklyn in late February. As LCHS plans for its own combined library and museum building, the conference sessions offered food for thought about best practices, all

of the steps involved in a building (or renovating) project and the unknowns that might pop up partway through.

- In April, Director of Operations and Programs Mark Riccetti Jr., Museum Manager Allyson Earl and Executive Director Aimee Newell attended the **PA Museums** conference put on by the Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Places in Chadds Ford. “I am inspired to include more interactive elements at our museum—perhaps having a typewriter and a rotary phone for kids to touch—we have ones that relate to local history—and some reproduction Native American beading and arrows so visitors can see how they feel,” Allyson said.



Above: Mark Riccetti at the SMA conference; Right: Mark and Allyson Earl at the PA Museums conference.

## Why Legacy Giving?

A legacy gift is a planned future donation to the Luzerne County Historical Society, given through a will as a percentage bequest, a specific bequest, or a property bequest. You may also consider other forms of designation such as a beneficiary, a life insurance policy or a trust. It is a decision that each person makes in their own financial planning process, taking into account their charitable wishes and values.

Past legacy gifts to the Society allowed us to purchase and maintain the Bishop Library, fund the research materials of the Library and maintain Swetland Homestead. We recently received a designated gift which will allow us to make significant and much needed repairs to the Swetland Homestead property and programs.

Legacy gifts ensure that we can continue our important mission to preserve and promote the collective history and heritage of Luzerne County. **Please consider discussing a legacy gift to LCHS with your financial advisors, tax accountants, or estate planning attorneys.** You can make an important contribution to the future sustainability of the Society!



## New to the LCHS Collection!

### Portrait of Frank English, President of Planters Nut & Chocolate Company by Mark Riccetti Jr., Director of Operations & Programs

The month of May means two things in the Wyoming Valley: spring turns into summer, and the Fine Arts Fiesta takes place on Public Square. This inspired us to take a closer look at one of the newest acquisitions to our collection—a portrait of Frank English (1896-1959). English was a longtime employee of the Planters Nut and Chocolate Company who, after four decades with the company, became its president in 1956, serving until his passing in 1959.

During his term as president, the company, originally founded by Amedeo Obici in 1906, occupied its world headquarters at 632 South Main Street (see one of the fence posts from the building below, now in the LCCHS collection), as well as a retail store on Wilkes-

Barre’s Public Square. Famously filling the Square with the smell of freshly roasted peanuts, the store would dispatch a nearly eight-foot-tall Mr. Peanut to greet visitors and hand out small bags of peanuts.

The portrait, which was donated to the Society by Marianne Horigan, was painted by Italian-American artist Niccolo Cortiglia (1896-1982). Cortiglia was primarily a portrait artist who studied at the Royal Academy in Florence Italy, before emigrating to America and setting up a studio in New York City. However, by the 1950s, Cortiglia was living in Noxen, Pennsylvania, and set up an art school in Wilkes-Barre. In addition to teaching, Cortiglia made a living painting portraits of famous Valley residents such as Frank English and Admiral Howard Stark, whose portrait hung in the ballroom of the Hotel Sterling. He received an honorary degree from King’s College in 1977. A collection of his papers and works currently resides in the Smithsonian’s Archives of American Art.

