

Save the Date!

LCHS Annual Gala—The 1960s!

Friday, June 21, 2019—5:30 p.m.

A Conversation with Joe Nardone; Silent Auction; Feel Free to Wear Your Favorite 60s Look!



\$85 members; \$95 non-members

Huntsville Golf Club
30 Hayfield Road, Shavertown, PA

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Wilkes-Barre, PA
Permit No. 150



Luzerne County Historical Society

FORECAST

February 2019

Exhibit Opening

**Mysterious Customs and Warm Charity:
Fraternal Organizations in the Wyoming Valley**
Friday, April 5, 2019—6-8 p.m.

LCHS Museum, 69 Rear South Franklin Street,
Wilkes-Barre



161st Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 27, 2019—1:30 p.m.
Swetland Homestead, 885 Wyoming Avenue,
Wyoming



Plan now to attend the Society's 161st annual meeting—featuring guest speaker Dr. R. Scott Stephenson, President and CEO of the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia. **This event is FREE to LCHS members, current as of April 25, 2019, so renew or join now!** Dr. Stephenson will speak on "Making the Museum of the American Revolution," which opened to great acclaim in April 2017.

The afternoon will also include a short business meeting and recognition of Society volunteers and donors. Refreshments will be served and tours of the Swetland Homestead will be available. Please note that, per LCHS by-laws, only members current as of February 28, 2019, are allowed to vote at the annual meeting.

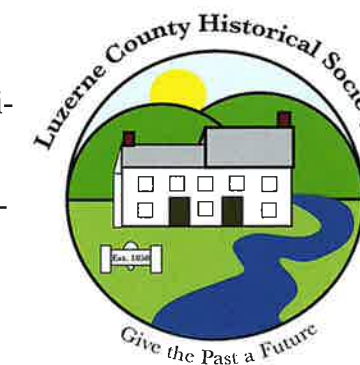
Join us for the opening of our new exhibition at the LCHS Museum! FREE for all!

"Mysterious Customs and Warm Charity" explores the history of fraternal organizations in our area, including Freemasonry and the Odd Fellows. How did these groups start? What do they do? What do the symbols mean? Come learn about how fraternal history is intertwined with our local history. The exhibition will draw on objects, photos and documents from the Society's collection.

Starting April 6, the exhibition will be open Wednesday through Friday from 2 to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The exhibit is supported by the Edith L. Reynolds Trust.

Is Something Different? We Have a New Logo!

With this issue, we unveil our new logo, designed by Service by Design at Misericordia University. You'll notice that the new design is colorful and inspired by the Society's Swetland Homestead, one of the oldest buildings in Luzerne County—and a true gem of local history. The logo includes the mountains and the Susquehanna River, helping us to convey our mission to preserve and promote the history of Luzerne County. We thank Service by Design for their wonderful efforts on our behalf!



LCHS Forecast
Vol. 16 No. 1
February 2019

Board of Directors

Tish McCarthy Last, President
 Molly Hinkin, 1st Vice Pres.
 Tom O'Neill, 2nd Vice Pres.
 Carl Goeringer, Treasurer
 Michael Ward, Secretary

Joe Butkiewicz
 Sherry Emershaw
 Stephen B. Killian, Esq.
 William Leandri
 Brian Leffler
 Nancy Lychos
 Joseph Matteo
 Jon Pollard
 David Reed
 Carl Rosencrance
 Susan Shoemaker, Esq.
 Richard Smith
 Mark E. Torbik

Directors Emeritus

Mrs. Betsy Bell Condron
 Mr. Henry C. Johnson*

*deceased

Staff

Aimee E. Newell, Ph.D.,
 Executive Director
 Mark J. Riccetti Jr.,
 Dir. of Ops. & Programs
 Amanda C. Fontenova,
 Dir. Of Lib. & Archives
 Allyson Earl, Museum Manager
 Mary Walsh, Finance Manager
 Bob Schertzer,
 Mature Worker Program

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

Happy 2019! Thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated and/or attended our events this past fall—we increased our attendance by almost 500 over 2017 and we are on a record-breaking pace for our annual appeal once again! Without your support, our work to preserve and interpret local history goes undone—so we are thrilled to have so much positive interest in our programs, collection and history.

This winter and spring we are offering a mix of programs about new topics and some favorites—details can be found inside! And, don't miss our 161st annual meeting on April 27. We are changing the format—our meeting will take place at the Swetland Homestead and will be FREE for all members who are current as of April 25, 2019. Be sure that you renew or join—we have a fascinating guest speaker—Dr. R. Scott Stephenson, President and CEO of the Museum of American Revolution—you won't want to miss it! And, save the date for our gala on June 21st—our theme is the 1960s!

Thank you for your support of the Luzerne County Historical Society—I hope to see you soon!

Aimee E. Newell, Ph.D.



LCHS President's Corner

I hope 2019 is off to a good start for all of you! At the Society, we are expecting a year full of change and growth, filled with exciting challenges.

Under the able leadership of LCHS board member, Joseph Butkiewicz, we have formed an ad hoc committee, called the LCHS Future Committee. The task of the Committee is to thoroughly research and, by year's end, bring forth a recommendation for the future long-term home of the Luzerne County Historical Society. The Society sorely needs an environment that is spacious, energy efficient, and handicap-accessible. Our extensive collection is crying to be seen! And, our staff deserves a workplace where they can more comfortably and effectively serve the public.

We are thrilled that the Future Committee will include: Elissa Garofalo, Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor; Bill Gladish; Donna Keyes, Visit Luzerne County; Lauren Pluskey McLain, F.M. Kirby Center; Larry Newman, Diamond City Partnership; Teri Ooms, The Institute for Public Policy and Economic Development; Janis Wilson Seeley, Luzerne County Community College; and board members Susan Shoemaker, Carl Goeringer, and Stephen B. Killian.

In the meantime, the Executive and Buildings & Grounds Committees will be searching for a temporary home for our offices, museum and library. Our current buildings are not meeting our needs for programming, storage and research space. Our goal is to find a temporary solution while we identify and fundraise for our permanent solution.

We have a great deal of work ahead of us, but that won't stop us from providing quality educational programming and hosting a variety of special events throughout the calendar year. On behalf of the Board of Directors, THANK YOU for your continuing support and interest. We are grateful!

Tish McCarthy Last, President



Calendar of Events—February through May 2019

February 9—Saturday

Community Conversation—Let's Go Shopping! Noon at the LCHS Museum. Share your stories and memories about shops and shopping in the Wyoming Valley. FREE for members; \$5 for non-members.

February 21—Thursday

Lecture—"The NAACP through the Eyes of Family" by Constance Wynn. 6:30 p.m. at the LCHS Museum. FREE for members; \$5 for non-members.



non-member kids.

March 14—Thursday

Lecture—"Woman Painting Woman: The Jennie Brownscomb Portrait of Frances Slocum by LCHS Executive Director Aimee Newell, Ph.D, 6:30 p.m. at the LCHS Museum. FREE for members; \$5 for non-members.

March 20—Wednesday

Dining with Friends at the Beaumont Inn. Support LCHS—10% of the proceeds come to the Society. 4437 PA-309, Dallas. Call 570-675-7100 for reservations and mention the Society!

March 23—Saturday

Lecture—"Let's Take the Trolley!" by Conrad Baut and Jim Wert. Noon at the LCHS Museum. FREE for members; \$5 for non-members; \$3 for non-member kids.

April 5—Friday

Exhibit opening—"Mysterious Customs and Warm Charity": Fraternal Organizations in the Wyoming Valley (see page 1). 6-8 p.m. at the LCHS Museum. FREE to all.

March 2—Saturday

LAST DAY to see "Let's Go Shopping! Shops and Stores in the Wyoming Valley." 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the LCHS Museum. FREE for members; \$5 for non-members, \$3 for

April 11—Thursday

Lecture—"Defense of the Western Frontier: The Battle of Wyoming and the Cherry Valley Massacre" by Terry McMaster. 6:30 at the LCHS Museum. FREE for members; \$5 for non-members.



April 20—Saturday

All LCHS sites closed in observance of Easter and Passover.

April 27—Saturday

LCHS 161st annual meeting (see page 1). 1:30 p.m. at the Swetland Homestead. Featuring guest speaker Dr. R. Scott Stephenson from the Museum of the American Revolution. **FREE for members who are current as of April 25.** Please note—Only members who were current at of February 28, 2019 can vote.

May 4—Saturday

Workshop—Caring for your Collection with Amanda Fontenova. 3-5 p.m. at the Bishop Library. Learn how to handle and store your family heirlooms to preserve them for generations to come. \$10 for LCHS members; \$15 for non-members.

May 16-19—Thursday through Sunday

Fine Arts Fiesta, Public Square, Wilkes-Barre. Visit the LCHS booth! FREE. <http://fineartsfiesta.org>.



May 18—Friday

International Museum Day, LCHS Museum FREE to all. 2-6 p.m.

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.

To make a reservation for any event, or for more information, call 570-823-6244, ext. 3 or email reservations@luzernehistory.org.

Thank You! Fall 2018 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 fall!

In Honor of Stephen B. Killian's 70th Birthday For staff training and development

Gordon Bigelow
Robert and Jeannie Clements
Frank E. Conyngham
William and Christine Conyngham
Christopher J. Crawford, Esq.
Robert and Nancy Edgerton
Martin and Mary Barbara Gilligan
Sarah, John and Maggie Gilligan

John H. Graham
Ralph and Beverly Johnston
Estella Parker Killian
Joseph Kluger, Esq.
Tish and Michael Last
William and Christine Leandri
Dr. William V. Lewis Jr.
Dr. Cynthia Mailloux
Ruth F. Major
Linda J. Martin
Aimee E. Newell, Ph.D.
Paula Opel
Vance Packard and Barbara Smith
Joseph and Patrice Persico
Maria M. Poggi
Molly Shaughnessy
James and Susan Shoemaker
Daniel Volpetti
Robert and Jeannette Williams

In-Kind Gifts

Country Folk
Stell Enterprises

Loan Exhibit for Festive Traditions

Richard Smith and Lissa Bryan-Smith

Donations

\$500+

Flack Family Fund of the Luzerne Foundation, *in memory of Janet Flack*
Sordoni Family Foundation

\$250-\$499

Friedman Properties

\$100-\$249

Assured Partners of NEPA
Stephen and Estella Killian
Tom and Chris Pugh

\$99 and under

Dorrance and Susan Belin
William and Christine Conyngham
Dial Rock Chapter—DAR
Thomas and Ann Grimes
Brian and Victoria Leffler
C. Allen Mullins
Michael Olekszul
Louise Schwartz
Gordon and Cecilia Williams



LCHS volunteers in character for Festive Traditions at the Swetland Homestead, December 1-2, 2018.

Dining with Friends

Have a wonderful meal and help raise funds for LCHS

Wednesday, March 20, 2019—The Beaumont Inn

Join Society members and supporters on Wednesday, March 20, 2019, at the Beaumont Inn, 4437 PA-309, Dallas, for the next "Dining with Friends" evening! The restaurant will generously donate 10% of its proceeds that night to the Historical Society.

Come out for a delicious meal in a beautiful setting, while helping the Society at the same time! The menu offers unique choices made from fresh ingredients. The Beaumont Inn has a long history of excellent customer service and is a haven for the most discerning foodies. And, it has been part of our local history for more than 70 years (built in 1948). Please call the Beaumont Inn directly at 570-675-7100 to make reservations and mention that you are with LCHS. The Society would like to thank Rob Friedman and the staff at the Beaumont Inn for their generosity in sponsoring this "Dining with Friends" evening. For more information about the Beaumont Inn, visit <https://thebeaumontinn.com/>. For questions about this program, call 570-823-6244 or email info@luzernehistory.org.



We hope to see you there! Bon Appetit!

Volunteer Information Sessions

Saturday, February 16 at 2 p.m. & Wednesday, February 20 at 10 a.m.

Denison House Visitors Center, 35 Denison Street, Forty Fort

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. Executive Director Aimee Newell and Volunteer Coordinator Estella Killian will hold two information sessions for prospective volunteers on Saturday, February 16 at 2 p.m. and on Wednesday, February 20 at 10 a.m. at the Denison House Visitors Center, just behind the Denison House at 35 Denison Street in Forty Fort, PA.

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.



The sessions will offer information about these opportunities and how to get involved. Training is provided for all volunteer positions. Please call 570-823-6244 ext. 1 with questions or attend a session and bring your questions!

LCHS Strategic Plan 2018-2021

In September 2018, the Luzerne County Historical Society Board of Directors approved a strategic plan for the organization through 2021. The document contains goals and action steps to help the Society move forward with its programs and collection. The goals are to:

- Increase the diversity of LCHS programming and audiences – become known as a place to learn about and experience local history that is relevant to our lives today
- Make the LCHS collection accessible to our community – work to make the Society's collection of 250,000 objects, books and documents accessible online and at its sites
- Properly care for our buildings and collection – be seen as a community leader in caring for object, library and document collections
- Maintain the 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 that are accessible for our community



"As the stewards of hundreds of years of local history through our collection of objects and documents, as well as our historic houses, we recognize our responsibility to the community," said Tish McCarthy Last, LCHS Board President. "This plan provides a roadmap for us to make our local history more relevant and accessible, while preserving it far into the future."

Look for updates on our progress in future newsletters!

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. 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 January 19, we received \$52,953 from 144 donors!

\$10,000+

Paul D. Wasserott Foundation
Yellow Zinnia Fund

\$2,500-\$4,999

Stephen B. and Estella Parker Killian

\$1,000-\$2,499

Tish and Mike Last

\$500-\$999

Brenton and Susan Downing
Molly and Wayne Hinkin
Theresa and Clayton Karambelas

\$250-\$499

Joseph Butkiewicz and Carole Poggi
Coach, Kopko, Shorts and Reid LLP
Henry B. and Deborah Cummings
Sherry Emershaw
Robert and Stephanie Finlay
Francis J. and Molly Hoegen
Sandy Insalaco
Linda Martin
Aimee E. Newell
John and Jennifer Ochman
Vance Packard and Barbara Smith
Jon Sordoni
Westmoreland Club
Barbara A. Williams

\$100-\$249

Elizabeth Bartle
Irene Blum
Bonner Chevrolet
Joyce and Harold Buckingham
Richard and Sandra Bunn
Sarah P. Carr
Richard and Marilyn DeHaven
E.D. Pons and Associates, Inc.
Geoff and Amanda Fontenova
Friedman Family Charitable Fund of Luzerne Foundation
Sidney Friedman
John and Jane Gaudio
Maribeth Girton
James Henry
Marla Hoskins
Ken and Ann Krogulski
Paul and Alice Rae Kutish
William and Christine Leandri
Morgan and Maureen Lewis
Joseph Loux
Rev. Raymond Lucasinsky

Luzerne Bank
Masonry Preservation Services, Inc.
Mayclaire McCarthy
Kathryn and Edward Miller
Robert Mischak
Frank and Lori Nocito
Helen T. O'Brien
Panzitta Enterprises
Joe and Rose Marie Panzitta
John and Sandra Panzitta
F. Charles Petrillo
Rick and Virginia Rose
Charles and Barbara Shaffer
Thomas and Margaret Torbik
George and Madalaine Volpetti
Wet Paint Printing and Design
Jacqueline R. Williams
Richard K. and Linda Casey Williams
Robert and Christine Yannes
W. Brooke and Libby Yeager III

\$99 and under

James Ahlbrandt
Robert C. and Jean C. Allen Jr.
Anonymous
Katherine K. Anselmi, Ph.D.
Mary Babcock
Benjamin Belinka
Michael and Jackie Boyle
Lisa and Charles Brand
Michael and Inez Stefanko Brinola
Jerard W. and Jerry Jean Brown
Mary Butash
Dara Callender
Mike Chmiola
Kate and Larry Churnetski
Molly and John Churnetski
Eileen and Joseph Cipriani
Frank E. Conyngham
Tish and Adam Crahall
Gene Crossin
Sal Deluca and Val Sartor
Diane L. Dickinson and Kevin J. Brooks
John Dubik
Bruce Dull and Elaine Johnson-Dull
Earth Conservancy
Patrick and Lara Endler
Phillip and Larice Farber
Gerald and Gale Flaherty
Diana and Donald Getz
Jeanette Godlewski
Edmund and Frances Grace Jr.
Paul D. Griesmer, M.D.
Frank Griglonis

Janet Gunther

Tom and Jean Harfman
Wilbur F. Hayes
Candice Hoffman and Alfred Pennesi
Georgia Jenkins
W.M. Kanyuck
Mimi Keba
Kimberly and Howard Kerrick
Rose Krakowski
Ruth and Richard Kramer
Mary Kruger
John and Stephanie Kurilla
Chris Lacy
Jason Lepa
Robert Lewis and Margaret Bakker
Nancy Lychos
Rebekah Malkemes
Marquis Art and Frame
Gerald Matcho
Robert L. Milford
James T. Moyer
Norman D. Nicol
Nancy O'Donnell
Frank R. Orloski Jr.
Andrea Petrasek
Preston Pierce
Mary T. Policare
Drew Regan
Elizabeth and Harry Reich
Jennifer L. Rogers & Vincent Cappellini
Linda L. Rondinella
Grace Rose
William and Joanne Runner Jr.
Mickie Savitski-Lacey
Durelle and Connie Scott
Bobbie Shurnicki
Mrs. H. Alex. Smith
Nelson and Dolores Snyder
Mark and Deborah Sobeck
Kathryn and Raymond Sweetra
Pauline and Richard Timko
Mark and Delphine Torbik
Carl Urbanski
Clement and Nancy Valletta
Frank and Jane Walsh Waitkus
John and Mary Wawrzyn
Diane and Lynn Wenger
Jim Wert
Patrick Young and Delia Spencer
Elaine and Robert Zavada
Shirley Zolner

Thank you to our Business Members!

Please help us to thank them by patronizing them. To join, visit www.luzernehistory.org or call 570-823-6244.

Children's Service Center of Wyoming Valley, Inc.
Chubb Insurance
Circles on the Square

The Citizens' Voice
Clements Dentistry
Francis J. Collini, MD FACS
Computer Visionaries, Inc.

Humford Equities
Times Leader Media Group
Wilkes University History Dept.

New to the LCHS Collection! Healing on the Homefront: A WWII-era First Aid Kit by Allyson Earl, Museum Manager

Johnson and Johnson began selling their "First Aid Cases" in 1888, first to railroads and factories, and soon after for use in cars, airplanes, the home, and even for the U.S. Army.

Enter: The Johnson and Johnson "No. 1 First Aid Cabinet"! First branded in the 1920s and standing at 11" x 16" x 6.5", the cabinet is filled with medical supplies and carefully organized into drawers labeled for quick access.

Bridget Godwin Trosper recently donated this First Aid Cabinet to LCHS. Her mother, Marijo Conlon Godwin, was a volunteer for the local Red Cross during World War II, and used the "Cabinet" to store her nursing supplies. In addition, Godwin donated blood, as indicated by the Blood Donor Certificate, found inside the cabinet. The Red Cross collected 13.4 million pints of blood from 6.6 million volunteers during World War II.

Needless to say, Godwin filled her first aid cabinet with more than just the gauze and bandages listed on its drawers. These additions included:

Camphenol - a general disinfectant suggested in Johnson's *First Aid Manual* (1903) to be used for all sorts of situations, including disinfecting the bedding and clothing of the sick, preventing odors and mold in damp areas, and washing garbage barrels to prevent the spread of germs.

Perfect Mustard Plasters - paper leaves with a layer of mustard meant to be soaked in water and applied topically to relieve inflammation, and recommended by Johnson's *First Aid Manual* as a remedy for croup, vomiting, lead poisoning, and nervousness, among other ailments.

Iodine Solution - intended to be applied to wounds to prevent infection.

Godwin most likely used the Cabinet through the years before and after World War II. It's a great addition to the collection, and we're pleased to have it!

