

The Carversvillian

THE VOICE OF THE HISTORIC CARVERSVILLE SOCIETY

October 2014

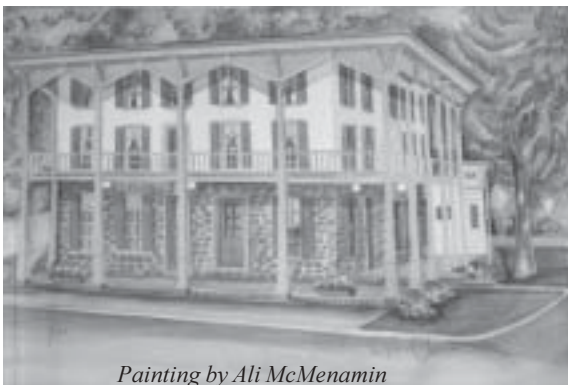
Happenings in Carversville

General Membership Meeting

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Historic Carversville Society is **Monday, November 17th** at **The Carversville Inn**. Will and Deni Mathias are graciously hosting again this year. **The doors open at 6:30 p.m.** for **social hour**. Spend an evening with friends and neighbors, meet new residents of the Village and get an update on the activities of your Society. It is also the time to renew your membership per household. During the social hour, enjoy a glass of wine compliments of HCS as well as delicious appetizers from the Inn.

The meeting will begin at 7:30. The agenda follows a usual introduction of Board Members, a summary of the events of the year, updates on what we have been doing and a guest speaker. In accordance with its mission of promoting interest in and preservation of the historic character of Carversville and its landmarks, the HCS has been sponsoring and collecting house histories for properties within the historic district. We will have a map of the historic district on display at the Annual Meeting highlighting those properties with completed histories, which are available from the HCS.

Come to the meeting and get to know your Board Members. We are interested in your input and ideas. All of us on the Board are volunteers; we do this because we love Carversville! We hope that you will consider volunteering in some capacity as well. We have a vacant seat on the Board. The Historic Carversville Society survives because of the dedication of community members who choose to give back to their community. We look forward to seeing you on November 17.



Painting by Ali McMenamin



Pumpkin Carving Time in Carversville is just around the corner!

**Sunday, October 26 from 2 to 4 p.m.
in the Meadow beyond the Inn**

We've enjoyed a wonderful summer after such a long winter and now the leaves are turning so it's time to think about your Halloween pumpkins! Save the date and join us on Sunday afternoon, **October 26th from 2 to 4 pm** to carve a Jack-o-lantern while sipping cider and nibbling on fresh donuts. We supply everything (including the pumpkins!) and you supply the creativity and Halloween fun.

Caroling in the Square

Mark your calendars for Caroling in the Square on **Sunday, December 21st at 6 p.m.** in front of Max's Carversville Grocery. Howard Perloff is ready to serenade all of us on his keyboard as we ring in the season with good cheer around a campfire with warm cider for all. Keep a look out for Santa! He loves stopping in on Carversville especially when we are caroling with gusto.



From the President . . .

To the Membership,

One year ago I wrote my letter to the membership right after watching the Thompson Bucks County Bicycle Race go through Carversville 6 times. I just came in from watching this 3rd Annual international race again, which drew people from all over the world. Although it is now raining, fortunately most of the rain held off during the race.

As a community, we have so many events throughout the year that we are able to congregate and “hang out with all our neighbors.”

It was a great summer for Films in the Field, with no rain interrupting our movies. Coming up this fall is Pumpkin Carving on Oct 26th, the Annual Meeting on November 17th, and then of course Caroling in the Square on December 21st. We will be sponsoring the planting of a tree to go with the plaque in memory of Sally Leisure with the help of Susan Perloff. We hope to have a Wine Tasting at the Inn in January, and then we will be gearing up for Clean-Up Day and Carversville day on May 30th, 2015.

We are continuing to try to advocate for our community by actively making recommendations to Zaveta Construction on the placement of the homes that are being constructed on Stover’s Mill Road.

Along with our objective of promoting and conducting research into our history, we continue to try to research all the homes in the Historic District. If you believe your home has never been researched, please contact one of us and we can check if it has been done or put you on the list to have it done.

So come and join us, help us, and volunteer with us so that we can all continue to enjoy living here in Carversville.

Susan Hollander Whitman

Board Membership Changes

Three Board Members stepped down this year: Sue Crilley, Claire Harrington and Michelle Stulpin. We thank them for their years of service, dedication and contribution to many aspects of our HCS efforts especially Research and Preservation. Claire was a hard worker willing to buckle down and get her hands into anything that was assigned to her. Importantly she also was able to lend a sense of history – accurate history – to what went on in Carversville. Sue followed up on the house histories and could be counted on to be a stabilizing voice on all board business and Michelle went beyond the call of duty right out of the gate by co-chairing Carversville Day in 2013 along with House History research. Each of their work was integral to our mission and we will miss them.

We’d like to take this opportunity to formally announce that Kathy Shaw and Marc Stiefel volunteered to fill two of the open seats, and we are delighted to welcome them. They have already jumped in with enthusiasm! We have one vacant seat. If you are interested, please email us at events@carversville.com.



Historic Carversville Society Board of Directors 2014

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Carversville Day 2014 was Tremendous!

This year's Carversville Day was a terrific success thanks to all involved. The weather was perfect and the village and our community shined especially after such a long Winter.

A heartfelt round of gratitude goes out to all of our many volunteers and participants for our 2014 Carversville Day. There were so many people behind the scenes making this year, like the years that preceded it, work seamlessly. We start the process in January when the temperatures are low and Spring bulbs are nestled underground. The list of Thank You's is long but I want to take a moment to mention a few volunteers who went beyond the call of duty and always smiled no matter what the hour: ALL the HCS Board members and their families, Carol & Wayne Yetter, Susan & Dr. Stanley Plotkin, Betsy Muzina, Shelly Beck, Susan Perloff, Joyce Burian, Bill Waldman, Bob Grady, Sam Bellucci, Marne Dietterich, Bryce Long, Jackie Tracy and ALL the volunteers who made the Raffle Sales a huge success. The Raffle is especially critical to ensure we cover our out-of-pocket expenses should the event be rained out or we experience low attendance. Many generous business owners and community members filled the 'Great Carversville Raffle Jars' with exciting offerings this year. To all - we are deeply grateful. The Live Auction was also a remarkable event with Mark Baum-Baicker at the helm with high energy and enthusiasm and a full compliment of items that went to excited and happy winning bidders.

As most of you know, Will and Deni Mathias close their business during the day to facilitate our hosting the event in front of the Carversville Inn in the Village Square. They have graciously done this year after year! It goes without saying that we could not do this without them! Another show of gratitude goes to the Hansen's and Dan Stern for allowing us to use the Grocery's parking lot to host our Food Court and new Dunk Tank and a portion of the front area for Music and Raffles. The tank was a big hit, so yes, it's coming back next year and Bob Grady has already promised to come back to be dunked. Isn't he the best?!

Our Village Square was filled with talented vendors, excellent crab cakes & lemonade from Chef Will and specialty Tacos from Max Hanson and our ever-popular HCS grill along with Julia's Lemonade stand. This year we were pleased to include Bob Kling as he sold many treasures



from his Cabinet and Furniture Restoration business. We wish him the best in his endeavors and look forward to his visits! We also welcomed back artisans who, in previous years were otherwise committed to other festivals, since we moved Carversville Day later in May to the Saturday after Memorial Day. This allowed others to join for the first time for the same reason. We plan to continue this trend in 2015 since the attendance was spectacular. Save the date, the Saturday after Memorial Day weekend: May 30th 2015!

The day was not complete without hearing one of *the best* jazz groups in the area. We were truly blessed to have Michelle Wiley and the Hazelrigg Brothers with our own David Stier on drums perform all afternoon.

The Prestigious Pet Parade was as popular as ever. Cindy and Mark Baum-Baicker donned their masks and inspired all our pets to rise to the occasion with pride! Best Trick and Best Costume Awards were given out with gift certificates for the winners. Cindy and Mark reported it was difficult to choose the winners since there were so many excellent entries. Of course, the contests will be running next year, so you know what to do during the dull winter months: plan your costumes and tricks!

Another encore will be presented next year for the Village children, young and old. We are bringing back Rob Melissa who amazed us with his magic that defied all logic.

The ever-popular Cookie Contest that Dr. Howard Barsky has organized for many years was brimming with treats for all. Awards were bestowed for the best in all the categories, while the Village members themselves awarded the coveted 2014 Carversville Day Cookie Jar, a handmade beauty created by Nan Kirstein, to Alex Crawley for her Chocolate Chip Cookie. Congratulations!

Carversville Day is HCS's fund raiser providing our community such events as our General Meeting in November, Pumpkin Carving, Caroling in the Square, Cleanup Day, Films in the Field, along with Scholarships to college bound students, Oral and Written Histories of our community members and architecture and the ever important task of Land Preservation and community spirit.

Kathy Stein- Carversville Day Chairperson

(More photos on page 7.)

Farewell to Bob Grady



Dear Friends,

It was not an easy decision to transfer to the Cheltenham Post Office.

My new Post Office is one mile from my front door versus twenty five miles to Carversville. It was a matter of travel time and financial savings.

During my ten years in Carversville I made many friends; I did not have customers, I had many friends.

Transferring was the hardest thing I have done during my twenty eight years with the Postal Service.

There is a huge hole in my heart that only Carversville can fill. I will be working in Cheltenham but not making friends.

You opened your hearts to me and I will never forget it.

I will see all of you at the Dunk Tank on Carversville Day!

Your Friend,

Postmaster Bob Grady



Our Old House *(see article next page)*



Res. and seminary of Rev.S.R.S.Hunsicker
Carversville, Bucks Co. PA

Films in the Field

What does one do for occasional fun, great food, and camaraderie on a quiet summer's eve in the Carversville area when the weather is beautiful and the bugs are otherwise pre-occupied? Grab your folding chair and head to Films In The Field!

On the last Monday of June, July and August, the Historic Carversville Society sponsors a good old-fashioned film night with classic movies projected onto the side of Max Hansen's Carversville Grocery. We greatly appreciate Max allowing us to take over his parking lot for the evening!! We run a snack bar starting about an hour before dusk and serve up some of the best burgers and hotdogs in Bucks County!

This year the weather cooperated perfectly and we ran all three events without a hitch! Our films this season were "The General" with Buster Keeton, "Duck Soup," a Marx Brothers major hit in 1933 and "The Lavender Hill Gang," one of the best crime caper movies of all times! Thanks Noel Barrett for the film selections! As always Jack McMillan and Scott Petersen were our generous projection staff! While not residents of Carversville, they always volunteer their time to help with this event. This year Jack even ordered and picked up fresh popcorn from the County Theatre to add to the film experience!! Thanks Jack and Scott!

Many members of the Society served as planners, grillers, and cashiers in order for each event to run smoothly. Mark your calendars now for next season — June 29, July 27 and August 31. Grab your chairs and meet us there!

Rhonda Heffern

Our Old House

The Schoolhouse/Ward Studio

This article follows upon last year's description of our house on Carversville Rd. Just next to the main house, and across from the intersection with Stover Mill Road, sits a c.1860 one-room schoolhouse. This structure was originally located next to "The Parsonage" up the hill on Wismer Road. The Parsonage was built as the residence for the Rev. Hunsicker and family, who ran the Excelsior Normal School across the road, which operated as a non-sectarian boarding school until the 1870's. The one room schoolhouse, then called the Seminary or Academy, was constructed off-site to provide religious education, first Mennonite and later Presbyterian, to students who volunteered, or were directed there by their parents.

After the Excelsior Normal School was closed, the little schoolhouse building was sold c. 1883 to Dr. Josiah Hellyer, who, looking to the future, wanted to move the building down the hill across from the mansion of his sister, Amanda, and her husband Henry W. Stover. But for the next decade or so the structure stayed put and was rented to Mark Hall for use as a carpentry shop.

Finally in 1894 or thereabouts, log rollers were placed beneath the structure, and using teams of horses at both ends, it was guided down the hill to its current location, where a fieldstone foundation had been prepared with useable basement space. It must have been a day to remember in the Village! Here it served as Dr. Hellyer's local dental office after he retired from his practice in Trenton. An advertisement in the Bucks County Intelligencer in July 1896 contained an offer by Josiah Hellyer, Dentist, Carversville, of "Artificial teeth of the best quality inserted from \$12 to \$15 per set, warranted."

The structure did serve again as a school taking overflow from the Cottageville school c. 1910 - 1914, but also at various times was "Wils" Wilson Miller's Lunch and Ice Cream Parlor, Ed Doane's Barber and Harness Shop, and much more recently the Luli dress company for a short time. But most importantly it served as Charles Ward's Art Studio for approximately 25 years from the late 1930's until his death in 1962. His artwork continued to be stored in the studio basically untouched until his widow, Anna, sold the property in 1986.

Charles Ward was "best known for his oils, water colors, and etchings" and "exhibited his work throughout the U.S." Notable as the first of the Depression-era Public Works of Art Project muralists, "His murals are in post office buildings in Trenton, N.J. (now the Court House), and Roanoke Rapids, N.C., as well as the Playhouse Inn at New Hope." (Daily Intelligencer, 12/10/1962). Ward's paintings are held in numerous museum and private collections. A major



Photo from the 1930s



Present day



Charles Ward studio, 1940

retrospective of his work was held at the James A. Michener Art Museum in 2009-10. The book that accompanied this show, "Charles W. Ward, Paintings for People", is well-worth acquiring from the Michener gift shop.

Locally Charles Ward also gave individual art lessons in his Studio, as well as a children's class into the 1950's. He lived in the studio for a period of time before he moved into the main house, which he initially shared with Ned Stull, another artist and architect with whom he travelled to Mexico in 1939, a very important trip in the development of Ward's artistic vision.

The only other residential use of the Schoolhouse that we are aware of was our own wonderful, golden year (well, 15 months) with an infant and a 4 year old during renovation of our home in 1999-2000.

The Schoolhouse itself was restored in the early 1990's including the original milk-based painted "blackboards" covering three sides of the interior. A cement slab replaced the dirt floor of the basement to make that space more useable, initially as a ceramics studio.

We remain grateful to the Ward family, and to Ned Harrington for sharing his research on this and other structures with us.

Robert Stein

Changes to HARB

Solebury Township's HARB (Historic and Architectural Review Board) serves as an advisory board to the Board of Supervisors. In 1984 the residents of Carversville voted to place the village under the protection of the Historic District Ordinance. What this means is that any homeowner in the district must apply to the HARB before making ANY changes to the exterior of their property that is seen from the public road. The goal is to preserve and protect the historic character and integrity of the village. We realize that we are asking property owners to submit to additional regulation. On the other hand, without these protections it is very possible if not probable that the historic village as we know it today could be irreversibly altered.

In 2008, the township adopted a set of guidelines that clarifies for homeowners those things that require HARB approval and also makes recommendations and suggestions for repairs and alterations to historic buildings. During the last 3 years, the HARB board has been busy working on changes and updates so that these guidelines, as well as the whole approval process, can be clearer and more user friendly. One of the biggest changes is the addition of a provision that allows homeowners to repair or replace elements of their property if the repair or replacement matches exactly the original. The process for this will be greatly shorter than the current one. An example would be replacing a porch post that is rotten. If the replacement is the same in style and color as the original, the homeowner will be eligible to use the shortened process called administrative review. We have also made allowances for emergency repairs. Many of the changes add clarity to existing regulations addressing things like solar panels.

At present the HARB has just submitted our recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Their approval is required before these changes actually go into effect. Hopefully they will act quickly. The current guidelines are available on line, and it is a good idea for homeowners in the historic district to become familiar with them. They provide a great deal of information not only about HARB but also about the importance of maintaining historic buildings. A secondary resource is also being presented to the supervisors. This document compliments the guidelines by providing additional "how to" information about home repair and maintenance. We are hopeful that the community will support our efforts. We believe that this is a very large step forward in our ongoing efforts to preserve and protect our historic village.

*Betsy Muzina
HARB Board Member*

Historic Carversville Society Scholarship

Each year, the Historic Society presents at least one scholarship to a graduating senior from the New Hope-Solebury High School. This year we presented 3, totaling \$2000. This award is presented to a student or students going on for further education, who have shown civic involvement, historic concern and/or have been involved in community volunteer work. Applications are submitted through the New Hope-Solebury High School Guidance Department and are reviewed by the Historic Society each May.

The award this year was given to Julia Stein, Mia Kaminoff and Austin Botelho. Each of these students is well deserving of a scholarship for community service and we are pleased to have chosen them. All 3 were members of the National Honor Society and were excellent students.

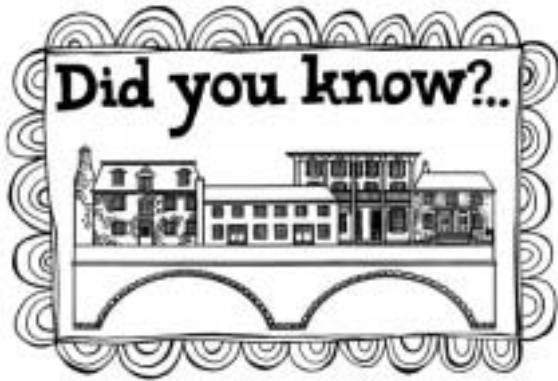
Julia has grown up in Carversville. She has participated in and helped with all community activities that include years of Clean-Up Day, Carversville Day, Films in the Field, and Pumpkin Carving. She also started an Alex's Lemonade stand in which she sells lemonade on Carversville Day. In the broader community she has volunteered at Doylestown Hospital and in the New Hope Library. She is currently attending the University of Pittsburgh, Honors Program.

Mia Kaminoff is currently attending the University of California at Berkeley. While her volunteerism has been more throughout the broader community and world, she has clearly shown an interest in helping others. She has helped organized more than one program for the outside community, such as cleats for Costa Rica, donations for Life Straw, and collecting college apparel for the school in Harlem. She has also been fortunate to have had the experience of living in Thailand while doing community service projects for the community she lived in. She is ultimately interested in entering the Peace Corps and it is clear that she is heading in that direction.

Austin is attending Lafayette College. He has participated in a variety of different community projects through school and through his family. He has been to Fisherman's Mark, Pine Run, helped with an Alex's Lemonade Stand, and PSIC, which promotes community service. He has spent time in programs outside of this community, and has been exposed to different cultures which many people have not been able to do.

This is one of the many areas that we as a Historic Society are proud to be able to sponsor. You can directly support this at any time by giving a donation to be used specifically for this scholarship.

Susan Hollander Whitman



Did you know that Carversville was a Lenni Lenape village when William Penn granted this tract of 500 acres to his steward James Harrison? In the same last quarter of the 17th century, it was deeded over to Randall Blackshaw originally from Hollinger Manor, Chester; England. Randall, with his wife Alice and children, landed in America in 1672 and made their way overland to Bucks County, where Randall was the purchaser of large tracts of land. The area was first surveyed in 1702. New families arrived on horseback and in horse drawn wagons. Roads were developed by 1730 so that wool and produce could be sent out of the village and lumber that was rafted down the Delaware River could be brought in.

During the 18th and 19th centuries, Carversville saw the industrial development of Stover's Mill, Carver's Mill, The Suggin Bag factory, the famous Roram Hat factory and the cultural foundings of the Hunsicker Academy and the Excelsior Normal School. Carversville enjoyed two general stores, an ice cream parlor, a hotel, and even a dance hall, as well as the services of blacksmiths, barbers, saddlers, carriage shops and woodworkers. Along with all this, the community was shepherded by two churches and was a popular resort. No wonder we were all drawn here!!!



Visit Carversville.com

Remember to visit our website for updates on community activities as we move through the year. Our To Do List includes adding the House Histories currently archived in storage to a new section of the website which is under development. This is an ongoing project will roll out in 2015.

Feel free to email us at events@carversville.com with your comments or ideas.

Calendar of 2014 Events

October 16, 2 - 4 p.m.

Pumpkin Carving

Meadow by the Creek beyond the Inn

November 17 General Membership Meeting

The Carversville Inn

6:30 p.m. Social Hour

7:30 p.m. General Meeting

December 21, 6:00 p.m.

Caroling in the Square

Max's Carversville Grocery

Carversville Day 2014



The Carversvillian

The Historic Carversville Society

P. O. Box 41

Carversville, PA 18913

Membership Form

Now accepting membership dues for 2015

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please make check payable to
HCS and mail to:
Historic Carversville Society
P. O. Box 41
Carversville, PA 18913

Annual Membership fee: \$25.00
(per household)

Plus tax deductible contribution: _____

Total enclosed: _____