

The Carversvillian

FALL 2018



HISTORIC CARVERSVILLE SOCIETY

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From the President

Okay, so I am still here writing as the president of HCS so this will be brief! Last year I wrote that I was stepping down, but I have not. Anyone interested?

The year did bring some wonderful new volunteers into the mix and the Board cannot be more thrilled.

Carversville Day was run by Laura Viehweger, Sarah Steel, Marnie Newman and Michele Stulpin. It was a great success and the fact that they have agreed to oversee it again next year is a big relief to the Board.

Marc Stiefel took over Films in the Field from the long time volunteers, Jack, Scott and Noel and the Heffern family. We lucked out with the weather but all movies were enjoyed and with help setting up from Ryan and Laura Viehweger, it is another event in good hands.

So that just leaves us with the Board We are losing another board member, and the treasurer and president would like to step down. The secretary is pulled in all different directions and we worry about who can step in.

Come to our annual meeting this year on November 12th at the Inn and get involved.

- Susan Hollander Whitman, President HCS, Fall 2018



IT'S TIME FOR THE ANNUAL PUMPKIN CARVING IN CARVERSVILLE!

**OCTOBER 28TH, 2-4 PM
IN THE MEADOW BEYOND THE INN**

The beautiful fall weather is upon us. With that, there are many fun family activities throughout Bucks County. Our annual Pumpkin Carving has been a very popular activity and is growing each year. This is a great community event for Carversville and is fun for all ages We provide the pumpkins, carving tools, markers, paints, tea-light candles, fresh cider and donuts. Make sure that you wear clothing that can get messy! We hope to see you there!





Brenda Meredith moved to Carversville five days before Christmas 1966, with her daughter Diana, 12 years, and sons Rowan, in college, and Martin, graduated from college. Brenda remembers that it snowed and there was a full moon. To the whole family's delight, the donkey that lived up the hill at Ned Harrington's farm brayed that evening. They had not heard a donkey bray since leaving Ireland ? years earlier.

The family made its way to Carversville accidentally. They owned a Grumman canoe that they would bring up to the Delaware River at Lambertville, or to the canal, from their home in Willow Grove. Brenda imagines that they found Carversville one day as they wandered the back roads of Solebury on their way home from a day on the river. She explains that the village was on no maps at the time, nor were there any road signs directing anyone to Carversville at that time. There were no cars driving through the village as there today. Residents would leave to go to work and return at night, or drive to shop in New Hope or Doylestown, but otherwise there was no one on the roads.

Also by accident, Brenda's cousin who lived in New York City, introduced her to Bill Callanan who lived in one of the apartments next to the mill (later owned and expanded by Joe Santoro and now owned by Dan Stern). Mr Callanan was on the faculty at Solebury School and Brenda decided to send Diana there and began a search for a house within five miles of the school. She found her house in the little village she had discovered by accident, and has been here ever since.

Diana attended Solebury School for three years before leaving for a school near Toronto. After Diana left, Brenda started working at Solebury as the head of the girls' dormitory for three years. After a break, she returned to the school and worked in the library and taught English literature. She made many lifelong friends there and enjoyed the school "more than Diana did".

When Brenda started living in the village, the post office was in the building on the bridge. Mail was delivered twice daily, with the foreign mail coming in the afternoon. As Brenda's family was still in Europe, this was the mail she sought. The youngest of four children, Brenda had a sister in London, a sister in Ireland and a brother in Switzerland. The General Store at that time was an auto body shop, the Millers had a shop in the building next to the Inn which now is the office and residence of Dr. Howard Barsky. There was an antique store in the basement of the Isaac Stover house, now owned by Rhonda and Bill Heffern. The Bargers owned the mill and organized 'musicales'.

Brenda was concerned about what to do with her active sons in the summer. They began camping soon after coming to this country, starting by visiting parks in Pennsylvania and New York as Brenda was the only driver at first. Brenda checked the local paper for used camping equipment and found a large canvas tent. Gradually she added to their inventory enough that they required a luggage trailer that they towed behind the car. She claims they packed up and left for the summer the day school let out, returning by Labor Day. At first they travelled in the east – Pennsylvania, the Adirondacks, Catskills and Finger Lake regions of New York, then south, and Brenda and Diana one summer made it all the way to the tip of Florida. The children would sometimes bring a friend along for part of the trip, as long as they were allowed to be dropped off and return home on a bus.

They didn't start to go to the far west until Martin, who had settled in Washington State, became a father. They drove west to meet his daughter Karin. Brenda remembers picking up safety tips all along the way on their travels. Once while travelling west there was a tornado watch announced on the radio and all were to observe "the usual precautions". Of course they didn't know what to do, but learned to lay in a ditch or depression and "by no means take shelter under a bridge". Sandstorms were another danger they encountered. What is best to do? Keep moving or pull over? Brenda continued to travel extensively every summer even after her children were grown and gone from Carversville. Name a national park or forest, and she has been there.

When asked about the secret to her longevity, Brenda claims that no one ever told her the secret. Her physician claims that her lifelong habit of walking is probably the reason. Many of us first know her from spotting her along Fleecydale, or Old Carversville Road, Stover's Mill Road, the Canal, with her distinctive white hair, walking stick in hand and her steady gait. As a child she wandered everywhere near her home outside Dublin. As a teenager in Devonshire, she attended the Dartington School on an 8000 acre estate. She claims that she knew every inch of the place and doubted anyone else did.

Brenda has lived on three continents and has travelled to more. Born outside Dublin, she lived in England and Australia as a child. She lived through WWII in Dublin where she studied social work at the National University. She recalls abject poverty in the slums of Dublin, where she had to check milk coupons for families on assistance. She met and married Charles Osborne during the war in Dublin, where her sons were born. They moved to Achill Island off the western coast of Ireland where her husband fished basking sharks for their liver oil. He died tragically at sea. Brenda and the boys remained on Achill Island until Brenda eventually remarried, Diana was born, and the family emigrated to Willow Grove.

We asked Brenda about changes she has experienced in her lifetime that have had a huge impact and she thinks that travel by air has been a major development. There are lots more tourists everywhere now. She regrets that we have become tourists and not travellers. She always considered herself a

traveller – exploring the world and learning from it. She has been to Canada, Mexico, Italy, Switzerland, France, Russia (before the war and by boat), Ceylan, Java, Sumatra, to name a few.

Brenda is a serious reader with a keen interest in anthropology. She mostly enjoys non-fiction now but will read a foreign novel if it would be an experience of something totally new to her. She also enjoyed listening to music for much of her life, but finds it difficult now as her hearing has diminished and her hearing aids distort the music. She does not own a television. She has recently learned to use a tablet, thanks to son Martin and neighbor Doug. She likes to google topics of interest and is trying to learn how to listen to Podcasts. She is on Facebook. Brenda has an intense curiosity and intelligence which have kept her mentally sharp, insightful and engaged. She meets the challenges of her advancing years head on. For example, you can see her on her porch doing exercises many mornings. She felt her balance was off and fears falling, so started seeing a physical therapist and scrupulously follows her exercise regiment. She continues to weave, dye wool, garden.

Brenda is a treasure.



BRENDA ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY, JULY 8, 2018



CAROLING IN THE SQUARESUNDAY DECSIXTEENTH

One of the longstanding Carversville traditions will be rekindled on Sunday, December 16th in front of Dr. Howard Barsky's office in the Square. We'll gather at 6:00 pm, warmed by a crackling bonfire, apple cider, and the company of our friends and neighbors, to give new life to all of the old holiday favorites, from Rudolph to Silent Night, to the Twelve Days of Christmas. Cindy Baum-Baicker will again lead us in song. Santa is again expected with his full array of candy canes, though how he'll make his appearance is always a mystery. We look forward to seeing you then.

HISTORIC CARVERSVILLE SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP

- Susan Hollander Whitman

Each year, the Historic Society presents at least one scholarship to a graduating senior from the New Hope-Solebury High School. Last spring we were happy to award the scholarship to Emily Madara. 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.

Emily is attending Temple University's Honors College and Fox School of Business. She wants to major in Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management with an Environmental Sustainability certificate. She impressed us all with her ability to overcome learning disabilities along with a sports related concussion that set her back, causing her to have to fight back to move forward. In spite of all this she volunteered at the Michener Art Museum as a CIT 3 summers in a row and was on the Task force and heavily involved with "The Ride for Kids", an event that raises money for children with brain tumors. She played tennis, was on officer in the Key Club and Future Business Leaders of America at school. She also managed to work part time.

In her letter of thanks for the scholarship she wrote: "To a kid with learning disabilities, receiving this scholarship validates all of the hard work and hours I have put into overcoming my differences. When I received the scholarship on the stage at New Hope-Solebury High School I felt like I was on top of the world."

It is for that reason that we are proud to be able to provide this scholarship to HS Seniors each year. You can directly support this at any time by giving a donation to be used specifically for this scholarship.

FILMS IN THE FIELD 2018

2018 proved to be a very successful transition year for the Films in the Field event. Longtime event organizers Noel Barrett, Jack McMillin, and Scott Petersen, along with HCS Board Member Rhonda Heffern, stepped down from their roles and the Historic Carversville Society Board took over responsibility for the movies. With some technology training from Jack and Scott, as well as an assist from Mother Nature, the show did go on!

Though impeding storms nearly cancelled the July film, all three evenings turned out to be dry and comfortable. In June, friends and neighbors came out to thank Noel for all his years of service to Films in the Field by watching one of his favorite films, Citizen Kane. Carversville celebrated the 40th anniversary of the musical Grease with a showing in July. The 4th annual Family Film Night continued this year in August with The Goonies. The evening was even made a bit sweeter by a visit from Sloby, the local Jack and Jill ice cream man prior to the movies.

The HCS Grill unfortunately did not run this year. We encourage everyone to come down and picnic in the Secret Garden before the films. Meet new friends and mingle with old ones as the sun sets on our beautiful Village! We hope to have some food in the future and are looking for ideas. If you have an idea or could be of assistance with food for Films, please contact Marc Stiefel.

Once again the HCS Board would like to extend our gratitude to Noel Barrett, Jack McMillin, and Scott Petersen for all their years of service to make Films in the Field a success and helping to transition to the new team. Jack personally donated a lot of the equipment needed for the film projection to the Historic Carversville Society and secured the donation of the film projector from the County Theater. Without his generosity the continuation of this program may not have been possible. One last thank you goes out to Ryan and Laura Viehweger, who helped with the equipment and sold Carversville swag before the movies.

SEE YOU IN THE FIELD NEXT SUMMER!!!



HCS is pleased to announce that we've completed an oral history interview with potter, artist, and life-long Carversville resident, Nan Kirstein.

You can see it on our website, Carversville.org.

The interview was conducted by Sally Getchell and produced by Phyllis Haldeman & Howard Barsky.

We welcome help with future projects! Contact HCS if you're interested.



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PO BOX 41, CARVERSVILLE, PA 18913



CARVERSVILLE ROAD

PENNDOT APPROVES SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION ON CARVERSVILLE ROAD

We are all well aware that the speed limits on Carversville and Aquetong Roads are often significantly exceeded by vehicular traffic. Solebury Township recently asked PENNDOT to extend the 25 MPH speed limit further up Carversville Road in both directions. Since it is a state road, the decision was PENNDOT's. The Township was recently advised that PENNDOT has approved the request.

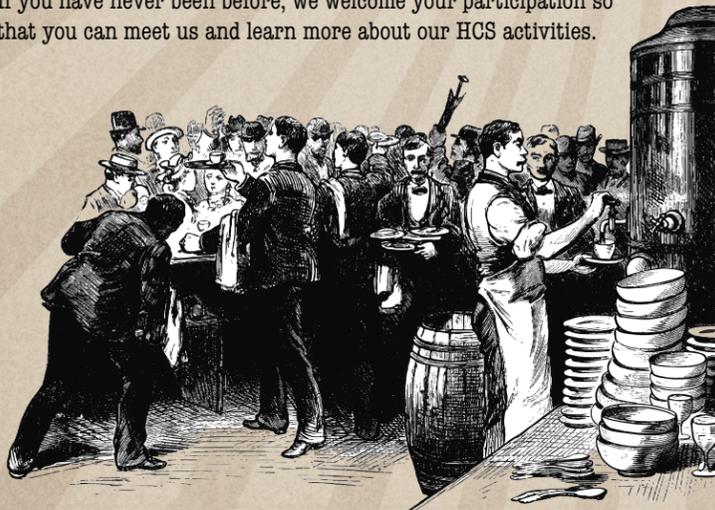
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JOIN US FOR THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON NOVEMBER 12TH

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Historic Carversville Society is Monday, November 12th at the Carversville Inn. Once again, Will and Deni Mathias will be our gracious hosts. The doors open at 6:30 pm for social hour with the meeting starting at 7:30pm. Enjoy 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 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.

If you have never been before, we welcome your participation so that you can meet us and learn more about our HCS activities.



Membership FORM

NOW ACCEPTING MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2019

Name	
Address	
Email	
Phone	
Annual Membership	\$30.00
Plus tax deductible contribution	
Total enclosed	

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