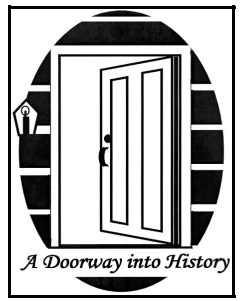




Winters Heritage House Museum Newsletter



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Remembering Alethia White and Jean Leicht...

Alethia White and Jean Leicht co-founded *Heritage House* at 47 East High Street in downtown Elizabethtown. Sadly, both women passed away in the second half of 2009: Jean on July 7 and Alethia on December 9. Both estates kindly identified Winters Heritage House Museum as one of a few local organizations to which memorial contributions could be made.

Of course, their many contributions since 1988 helped to establish and to sustain a “doorway into history” for the community of Elizabethtown. Alethia and Jean and other founding members conducted research, tirelessly raised funds and awareness for building preservation, formed a non-profit membership association, organized interpretive committees, and partnered with downtown businesses to “turn a dream into a reality.”

Other founding members and fundraisers included Susan Bowser, Barry Leader, Paula Leicht, and John Martin, Merle Black, Henry F. Gingrich, David G. Heisey, Roger Hipple, Bruce Limpert, Esther Miller, Paul Miller, Ralph L. Musser, Jane Newcomer, Vincent O’Connor, Robert Odean, Phares S. Risser, Gerhard Spiegler, and Franklin Zink.



After negotiating a purchase price with the owner of a soon-to-be-demolished property at 47 East High Street, Alethia and Jean and the corps of community volunteers were determined to raise funds. The goal was to restore the early log house that had been discovered beneath a sheath of deterioration and then to open it for the community. The restoration project would celebrate an example of early Elizabethtown architecture.

When Alethia formed Elizabethtown Preservation Associates, Inc. in 1988, she became its first president; Jean served as the first treasurer. A dinner held at Elizabethtown College on November 15, 1988, launched the Heritage House project and identified the objectives of Elizabethtown Preservation Associates, Inc:

Winters Heritage House Museum Board of Directors and Staff

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- Keep Elizabethtown vital by preserving its past
- Celebrate that which makes Elizabethtown unique
- Recognize, encourage, and continue the community’s accomplishments in energizing Elizabethtown
- Explore the daily lives of our early citizens
- Serve as a resource of architectural preservation
- Purchase, restore, and maintain historic buildings, and encourage others to do so

The Board of the newly formed membership association expressed a clear sense of purpose because each member was so dedicated to its mission. The spirit of this group of involved community leaders definitely influenced future benefactors of the museum.

Local pharmacist and business owner, Esther Winters purchased an adjacent log house at 41 East High Street in 1995 and funded its restoration in memory of her husband, William K. Winters. She remained an involved supporter until her passing, even purchasing and turning over the neighboring Victorian property at 33 East High Street to the museum in 2001.

In 1998, the Seibert family benefactors relocated and expanded the museum’s genealogy library resource in memory of their parents. With this gift, a larger, climate-controlled library space was filled with furnishings, two computers, and other valuable collection items. Ruth Seibert became an active library volunteer for several years, and she remains a supporter today.

The common thread found among the founders and sustainers of Heritage House, and many more go unnamed in this piece—is attachment to the past—be it Elizabethtown’s past or a personal past—the legacy remains the same. The museum belongs to the community and to every person who has ever walked through the front door for a day or for a decade. What happened in 1988 or 1995 or 1998 will always connect us to each other.

Think about how your participation in the future could positively impact the history of our town’s museum.



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Winters Heritage House Museum
P.O. Box 14
Elizabethtown, PA 17022



Museum Wish List

If you are able, please consider donating supplies or contributing financially to any of these museum needs and expenses;

General Supplies:

- Office paper
- Coffee carafes
- Serving utensils
- Large area rug (11X24)
- Compost bin
- Library-suitable shelving

Labor Needs:

- Window replacement
- Furnace replacement
- Roof repairs
- Snow removal costs
- Lawn maintenance costs

We also collect used computer printer cartridges for recycling/coupons.



Best wishes to Pete Whipple upon his retirement as Elizabethtown Borough Manager. In November, Pete allowed himself to be *roasted* and suggested the event's proceeds benefit the Winters Heritage House. The Pete Whipple Roast generated over \$3500 for museum programs. Thank you, Pete!

Thank you to the following individuals who supported our Fall 2009 Appeal:

- Barbara Andrews
- Lisa Aurand
- Frank Carotto Family
- Eugene and Vada Clemens
- William Davis
- Lori Donofrio-Galley and Richard Galley
- Barbara Eberly
- Dr. Clare Dale and Jean Treese
- Werner and Anna Fetter
- Robert and Ann Kratz
- Patricia A. Mackey
- Wanda Hipple
- Bernard Thome
- Margaret Garber
- Richard and Mary Ann Keesey
- Jean Beard
- Martha E. Stauffer
- Elizabeth Pfautz

And the Survey says...

In 2010, we are planning new activities, programs, and trips for the public. We invite your feedback and suggestions.

Group Bus Tours

We are organizing group bus tours for the next two years. Which of these destinations would most interest you?

- Baltimore Inner Harbor/Ft. McHenry
- Mercer Museum/Fonthill/Tile and Pottery Works, Doylestown, PA
- Philadelphia Flower Show
- A Mystery Tour
- Lancaster County Historic Sites
- Other _____

Benefit Concerts

For years, the museum hosted a biennial *Messiah* benefit concert. The *Messiah* was last performed in December 2004 at Elizabethtown College. Would you attend the *Messiah* in 2011 or 2012? (circle one)

Yes Definitely Maybe No

Community Festival

Beginning in the late 1990's, the museum organized an annual Scots-Irish Festival Weekend in early May. The last one was held in 2002. Would attend this Festival if one were scheduled within the next two years? (circle one)

Yes Definitely Maybe No

Would you prefer the festival site to be the Elizabethtown Fairgrounds, the grounds of Winters Heritage House Museum, or another venue?

Please clip and return this portion to: Winters Heritage House Museum, P.O. Box 14, Elizabethtown, PA 17022