

Milestones

THE HARRISON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JAZZ TRIO KICKS OFF 2021

RICHWOOD ACADEMY CULTURAL CENTER PROGRAM SERIES



Reilly established Lateral Jawn or "Parallel to Philly" in 2017. From then on, the Lateral Jawn trio became the premiere ensemble for organizations such as the Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine, *Rising: The Campaign for Rowan University*, and has performed for events hosted by companies such as Marlin Capital Solutions, and the non-profit Student Working Professionals. Lateral Jawn has performed at numerous venues in Pennsylvania and New Jersey such as The Four Seasons Hotel at Comcast Center, The Union League of Philadelphia, Lucien's Manor, and The Nassau Inn . From its founding members, Lateral Jawn has expanded its group to accomplish various projects and has most recently hosted their "Lateral Jawn Live" series. Featuring originals as well as standard jazz repertoire, the series has been presented through live-streamed concerts on YouTube.

We are planning to offer a full season of performances and lectures this Fall and hope to be able to begin broadcasting live from the Academy with an audience in attendance, if possible. Be sure to check our Facebook page for updates.

James Turk

Richwood Academy Cultural Center is excited to present "Lateral Jawn," the first program of the 2021 season, live-streaming on Sunday, June 13, at 3 pm at the Society's Facebook page and will remain on-line following the live performance. This exciting trio of 2021 graduates of Rowan University will present a program of jazz standards as well as original compositions.

United by their enrollment at Rowan, Matthew Kaefer, Luis Ozoria, and Thomas



COMING SOON!

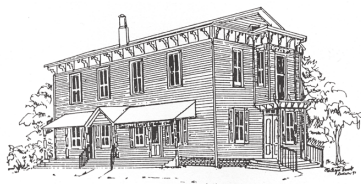
Our New Exhibition

Signs of Our Time: 50 Years of Telling Our Stories

October 9–December 5, 2021

HARRISON TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 4 Mullica Hill, NJ 08062

Phone: 856-478-4949
www.harrisonhistorical.com
Email: hthsmhnj@gmail.com
Follow us on Facebook



Old Town Hall
Museum (1871)
62-64 South Main
Street, Mullica Hill



Richwood Academy
Cultural Center (1870)
836 Lambs Road, Richwood

Hours

Please refer to the Society's Facebook page
for current hours

Exhibits

Special exhibits highlight the region's history and change periodically. Permanent exhibits are: *Living off the Land: Food, Farms and Family*; *The Stone Age in Harrison Township: Native American Artifacts from Harrison Township*; *The Raccoon Valley General Store*; and *Harrison Academy*, a re-created schoolroom. Due to Covid restrictions the second floor exhibits will remain closed this summer.

Programs

Concerts and programs are presented in partnership with Rowan University at Richwood Academy Cultural Center.

HTHS Executive Board:

President: Robert Schumann
Vice President: Dave Tinney
Recording Secretary: Paul Davis
Corresponding Secretary: Claire Bartholomew
Treasurer: Barbara Ridgway

Board Members: Leona Ballinger, Paul Davis, Donna Grasso, Suzanne Grasso, Robert Greene, Karen Heritage, Maier Hitchner, Chris Knisely, Cindy Madara, Maxine Mino, Alice Montagnoli, Richard Ridgway, Mary Snively, Judy Suplee, James Turk, Michele Vallone, Marion White, John Williams

Executive Board meetings are the second Wednesday of each month, except July and December. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Milestones Editor—Suzanne Grasso

HTHS ANNUAL FUND CONTRIBUTORS

Thank you for your financial support
and making our projects possible!
Total to date -\$5471.29

June and George Armstrong
Betty & Wayne Bailey
Leona Ballinger
Claire Bartholomew
Sharon & Brian Bartholomew
JoAnn & Scott Bergman
Joan Boarts
Laura Boyd
Brida Stone Inc.
Judith Coles
Dolores Daniels
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Grasso Girls Farm Market
Suzanne and John Grasso
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Daryl Mecklem & Kathy Howard
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Liz Stevenson
Judy Suplee
Louise Taggart
Lydia & David Taylor
Hank Teti
The Candy Box
James F. Turk
Peggy Warner
Marion White



New Acquisition The Norman Schleicher Collection

Norman Schleicher was a lifelong resident of Richwood and a longstanding life member of the Harrison Township Historical Society. A son of John A. and Doris Heritage Schleicher, and a grandson of John M. and Frederica Reuter Schleicher, he was a member of three Richwood families who made farming their way of life. He followed in their footsteps and worked on the Schleicher family farm with his father, participating in 4-H and International Farm Youth Exchange activities.



Norman was an enthusiastic collector of all kinds of things, and he possessed an extensive collection of photographs, objects and archival materials that related to his family and to the close-knit farming community he grew up in. When he passed away in January of this year, the Society was fortunate enough to be afforded the opportunity to choose pertinent items to become part of our collection. These objects include a milk bottle from the Norman J. Kirkbride Dairy in Mullica Hill, an unusual album containing Reuter family photos, and the sled pictured above, which had been purchased at the Richwood general store. The collection is currently being organized and cataloged.

Special thanks are extended to Norman's sister, Claire, and her husband Bud Thalman, and to Norman's caretakers, Penni and Bill Heritage, for allowing the Society to acquire these new items for our collection.

Karen Heritage

GIFT HONORS LINDLEY, MAY, MARY, AND BABS HURFF

Lindley and May Hurff and their daughters Mary and Babs lived in Mullica Hill in the 1920s and 30s, brought here by Lindley Hurff's position as a teller in Farmers' National Bank. They loved the time that they lived in Mullica Hill and the town remained a special place for them even after they moved away.

Ginny Moffat, Mary Hurff's daughter, returned to Mullica Hill with her mother about 25 years ago and remembers the multitude of stories her mother shared during that trip.

Mary spoke of attending Harmony School, a one-room schoolhouse that stood on Swedesboro Road opposite Mullica Hill Plaza, where she skipped second grade because she had already heard all the second grade lessons by the end of the first grade. She was a long-time member of the Harrison Township Historical Society.

"She LOVED Mullica Hill," Ginny recalled. "I am positive she showed us every blade of grass."

As a long-time member of the Society, Mary Hurff enjoyed maintaining contact with her childhood hometown. After she died at the age of 93, Ginny decided to present the Society with an unrestricted gift of \$1,000 in memory of her mother, aunt and grandparents.

We are grateful for her generosity and are privileged to honor the Hurff family.

James Turk



Mary Hurff and Lindley Hurff

BRING BACK THE BELFRY

Charity Auction Raises Funds for Repairs and Restoration

As any owner of an historic building will tell you, something always needs attention. The discovery of water incursion in the stair hall at Richwood Academy, while not welcomed, was also not entirely surprising in a 150 year-old building. Given the location of the leak, the belfry was immediately suspected as the source, a fact that was confirmed upon closer inspection. Although there was no evidence of major structural damage, it was clear that the original drainage design had failed and was causing deterioration of the belfry that eventually could be catastrophic. With that information in hand, the Board unanimously determined to undertake the necessary repairs without delay,



understanding that this action would incur a \$6,000 unbudgeted expense.

Recouping this expenditure called for a new source of funding. Sometime back, Brooks Auction, a long-time Groundhog Day Dinner Sponsor, offered to manage a fundraising auction for the Society. The belfry restoration provided the impetus to take them up on their offer. Since the pandemic, Brooks has been conducting sales on-line, which has substantially increased their market reach, and they were pleased to partner with the Society on this new undertaking. In order to maximize net profit, the Society agreed to organize and catalog all the donations into lots; Brooks would take care of transporting the donations to their facility, photograph and post all the lots on-line and manage the sales and shipping as requested, all for a reduced commission rate. The Board appreciated this generous offer and as all our members and friends know, we sent out a request for donations. As it turned out, several donors were in the process of cleaning and downsizing, resulting in a total of 537 lots. In addition to auction items, we also received several unexpected but very much appreciated cash donations.

The auction went on-line May 26 with bidding closing on June 2. We are very pleased to report that proceeds from the sale have exceeded expectations! More details will be reported in the next edition of *Milestones*.

James Turk

Auction donations were organized and cataloged into lots by HTHS volunteers at Old Town Hall



Thanks to those who contributed to the Belfry Restoration Project!

Kay Aliberti

Claire Bartholomew

Mariann Blackburn

Joan Boarts

James Bond

Harold Brown

Brian J. Duffield

Roy and Marlyne Duffield

Dolores Ewan

Nolah Fulk

Donna B. Grasso in memory of Herb Bertonazzi

Robert and Marilyn Greene

Griffin and Sons, LLC

George Groppenbacher

Continued on page 5

Thank you continued

Philip Correll and Ronald Magill
John and Suzanne Grasso
Dr. William G. and Lynda Harris
Karen Heritage
George Hess
Teresa Holtzhauser
Diane Jensen
Krista Kendall
Mary Kirby
Christopher Knisely
J. C. Magee Security Solutions
Susan Massiglia
Elizabeth McCutcheon
Phil and Maxine Mino
Alice Montagnoli
Susan Morgan
Barbara Nathan
Charlotte Preston
Richard and Barbara Ridgway
Michael and Sandra Ridgway
Norman Schleicher Estate (Claire and Bud Thalman and William and Penni Heritage)
Richwood Academy Association in memory of William Madara, Sr.
Robert and Ann Schumann
Kyle Sheppard
John and Mary Snively
Judy Suplee
Claire and Bud Thalman
James Turk
Gordan and Carla Vandegrift
Peggy Warner, in memory of Doris & Norman Schleicher
Marion White
Kathleen Wisniewski
William and Valerie Wynne

THE BELFRY AND THE ACADEMY BELL

The examination of the belfry revealed that it was constructed on a metal pan with a lead pipe to drain the collected water onto the main roof. Sometime ago the original wooden louvers had been replaced by a standard plastic inserts that allowed more rainwater inside the belfry, which compromised the original drainage system. Over time the metal pan had rusted out, resulting in the leak which damaged the wooden exterior and the interior stair hall ceiling.

Remedying the situation required removal of the failed drainage system and replacement of the roof

with new shingles and proper drip edge. Rotted components and exterior trim were replaced to match the originals. Rotten wood around the bottom of the belfry was also replaced. Proper louvered vents were made on site and installed with flashing to prevent further water intrusion. The louvered vents were also screened on the interior side. Extra exterior three quarter plywood bracing was placed on the inside corners of the belfry to make it more stable in high wind conditions. These repairs and improvements will assure many more years of service.



The project also allowed revealed information about the Academy's bell. Markings indicated that the bell was manufactured in 1872 by the Troy Bell Foundry, Troy, NY. Apparently the bell was installed two years after the Academy was built.

The Foundry (and its successor companies) was a prominent American manufacturer of high-quality bells. The company manufactured over 100,000 bells and had the distinction of making the replacement of the cracked independence bell in Philadelphia that to this day hangs in Independence Hall's tower. As they advertised:



The Bells of this well-known establishment (1854-1876) are of pure metal, and excel in depth and richness of tone, prolongation of sound and durability. They are hung with "Patent Rotary-Yokes" and other mountings, the best and most complete in use, and are warranted one year against breaking, and, in all respects, to give full satisfaction to the purchasers. At the State Fair held at Albany, in October, 1859, we received premiums as follows, viz : First Premium on Church Bells, First Premium on Academy Bells, First Premium on Locomotive Bells, First Premium on Chime of Bells and First Premium on Patent Rotary Yoke. Besides a Special award of the Large Silver Medal to the Chime. These were the only First Premiums awarded on either of the above classes of Bells. (Source: Internet Archive of the Troy Bell Foundry).

We have rung the Academy's bell and it is of excellent tone – a “ringing endorsement” for its preservation.

Richard C. Ridgway



Richwood Academy Cultural Center Gets a New Sign!

The Richwood Academy Cultural Center has a new addition! The sign, designed in the shape of a schoolhouse, was the last design Dick Salmon did before he passed away last year. This installation is significant not only to HTHS but to the Salmon business members and his family as well. There is an event program board that will hang underneath to announce upcoming programs. Lighting will be added soon. The sign was dedicated on May 19th with Mayor Louis Manzo, Committeemen John Williams and Adam Wingate as well as several HTHS Executive Board Members in attendance. Mayor Manzo gave an excellent talk in the schoolroom after the dedication. He and the Township Committee appreciate our efforts to save and restore the Richwood Academy and the repurpose as a community cultural center. Check it out next time you visit or drive by!



L-R Committeeman Adam Wingate, Robert Schumann, Committeeman John Williams, Robert Greene, James Turk, Donna Grasso, Judy Suplee, Alice Montagnoli, Cindy Madara, Mary Snively, Chris Knisely, Richard and Barbara Ridgway, Mayor Louis Manzo

MEET THE SOCIETY'S NEW BOARD MEMBERS

At the Society's Annual Meeting on May 12th, the Board gratefully acknowledged the service of retiring members Marge Scerbo and Scott Rowe and welcomed three new members of the Class of 2024.

Maier Hitchner is a lifetime resident of Richwood. His family owned and operated Hitchner's Self-Service Market (where Needles and Pins is now located) from 1939 to 1966. Maier worked for the US Postal Service in Richwood and Glassboro, retiring in 1996. A graduate of Glassboro High School, he also has the distinction of being a graduate of Richwood Academy's last class and holds a special interest in the school's history and preservation. Maier served on the Board a few years ago, when he spearheaded two years of research that resulted in 2016's feature exhibition, *Game On! A Century of Sports and Recreation*. He also played a key role in the Society's acquisition of Richwood Academy and is looking forward to supporting the work and programming taking place there and at Old Town Hall Museum.

John Williams grew up in Cherry Hill and is a graduate of Drexel University with a degree in Accounting. He and his family moved to Harrison Township in 2006. Drawn to community service, John joined the Township Zoning Board in 2008 and two years later was selected to fill an unexpired term on the Harrison Township Board of Education and was reelected for two terms. He was elected to Township Committee in 2015. Last year he and Adam Wingate were appointed as Committee liaisons to the Historical Society and this sparked his interest in joining the Society's Board. He is passionate in his commitment to balance economic development with preservation of the community's heritage and historic identity.

Donna Grasso brings to the Board a wealth of experience as an educator and artist. Her introduction to Harrison Township and local history is best described in her own words:

Up, up, and away! My first encounter with Harrison Twp. was a hot air balloon ride that departed from the grounds of Clearview High School on a sunny day in the mid-1980's. We experienced an amazing aerial tour of Gloucester and Salem county as our basket horizontally scraped over each community's tree tops until eventually the winds' movement directed us and pressured us down to a random landing in a cow pasture outside historic Woodstown. Little did I know back then, that I was observing quick glances of my future world.

I failed to mention that as that day

commenced, we had first driven up the road and entered the historic district of Mullica Hill near the Old Mill. At the dead end, as I observed the vintage version of the Harmony Fire Company, I instinctively knew this pleasant, well-preserved village would hold a special place in my life. So special, that this is where I have lived and raised my family and intend to never leave.

As a child, I enjoyed listening to my elders tell antiquated stories of their professions, education, homes, and celebrations and that of their families and friends. Therefore, found objects from yesteryears always had an air of romance and mystic that would sentimentally always stay with me, giving me a great appreciation for the preservation of all aspects of our societies.

In the late 80's, due to the initiating of state-wide academic testing, my students scheduled Spring trip to the Philadelphia Museum of Art was suddenly cancelled. With my interests in the past lives of people, their arts, their architecture, and their cultures, it just seemed natural for me to attempt to reschedule their trip to Main Street, Mullica Hill. The HTHS, like so many of the other artists and vendors of the town, eagerly shared their knowledge, talents and skills with my students.

After a 45 minute scenic ride to the historic district, they disembarked for their informative guided tour inside the Old Town Hall. Afterwards, they had their lunch sitting on blankets near an orchard at a local farm. Then, back to town for a friendly walk through the quaint shoppes that provided them with skilled lessons on watercolor painting techniques, a demonstration on flower arranging, moments for crafts and antique window shopping, and a visit to a toy museum ended their day with a most enjoyable stroll down the town's child famous "Yellow Brick Road".

My Art Club students absolutely loved it!! Although new to the town, I jumped on the opportunity to become part of such an exciting and giving town by becoming a volunteer at the Harrison Township Historical Society. Many decades later, retired from my profession and the several clubs that I advised in two counties, I welcome the opportunity to be an active member of the HTHS Executive Board.

We are very pleased to welcome Donna, John and Maier to the Board!

James Turk

DAVID W. TAYLOR...a newcomer to Mullica Hill in 1989...is remembered for the many ways he contributed to the Harrison Township Historical Society, but especially for the enthusiasm he exhibited in becoming involved initially with the Society: For being a first responder to an appeal for weekend housing for antique dealers participating in our Antiques Show and for arriving with gusto to offer his pick-up truck for help with setting up the HTHS areas for selling general store stock and produce. Dave was easy to get to know because he made himself available for all sorts of HTHS needs.



In 1992 we made our Raccoon Valley General Store “portable” for taking it to the Hagley Museum’s “Festival of Museum Shopping” in Wilmington, Delaware. Setting up the HTHS museum shop in our allotted space was a huge undertaking and we were grateful to Dave Taylor and the many volunteer members who hauled in their vans and vehicles the backdrop, counter, shelves, barrel, crates, boxes and our store merchandise as well as home-baked goods. At festival’s end came the dismantling, packing, loading and hauling anything unsold, as well as all the props, back to the Taylor’s basement where it was being stored during the 5 years of Old Town Hall’s Restoration. This we did as an HTHS fund-raiser for ten November weekends. The Taylors also opened their home for HTHS Board Meetings during the years Old Town Hall was closed to the public during restoration (1991-1996).

According to past issues of the HTHS newsletter *Milestones*, David Taylor was a member of the HTHS Executive Board and twice served terms as Editor. He also pitched in to help with other endeavors: A guide for the Annual Mullica Hill Ghost Walk; MC at the 1st Annual Groundhog Day Dinner at the Grange Hall in 2004 which was reported as “Dave Taylor won rave reviews as the Master of Ceremonies, replete in top hat and cutaway coat.” At the 2004 Christmas Tree Lighting at Old Town Hall “David Taylor once again excelled as Santa.” The March 2005 *Milestones* said the 2nd Annual Groundhog Day Dinner and Silent Auction

held at Ewan Fire House, was again a huge success, and “the night would not have been complete without David Taylor’s masterful performance as MC...”

With smiles we remember these and further ways Dave was a great contributor to HTHS. We miss his ability to play many roles in our programs and active outreach to the community. His skills as a retired Valley Forge Military Academy and College instructor led to his passion to teach our elementary school students about the history of agriculture in Harrison Township. Thus he became one of our student program staff. He was also a reliable host for weekend visitors to our museum. When he first became *Milestones* Editor he wrote: “I came to this area on orders to the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard and liked the region so much that I decided to retire here. I joined the society because so much of what I liked about South Jersey was embodied in the charter and intent of the group.” During his 2nd time as Editor, Dave wrote an Editorial Comment: “I have been on the board of the Society for almost 10 years and editor of *Milestones*, off and on, for 8. Time and circumstances dictate that I must leave Mullica Hill, my home for 11 years (longer than I have ever lived anywhere) and active participation in the Society. I wish to take advantage of my position as *Milestones* editor to leave you with a few parting thoughts. I have never been associated with a better group of people in my entire life. The officers, board and active members of this Society are the most dedicated, hardest working people I have ever met. And the group with the smallest egos. Things are accomplished in a spirit of true collegiality – if an idea is accepted and put into action it is because it is a good idea – not because of the idea’s authorship. In a time of journalistic superlatives, where everything is a tragedy, or the biggest or the greatest – I hope you will forgive the modest adjective I use when I think of you all as a *nice* group of people.”



With sadness we regret that recent years of illness prevented Dave’s continued active participation in the busy life of our historical society. He enriched it and his passing on March 4 is a great loss. We are grateful for all he was and all he did for HTHS and Harrison Township. Judy Suplee & Barbara Ridgway

Radio Took Second Fiddle in 1948

When the Duffys Got TV

In 1948 a RCA Victor tabletop television with a 10-inch screen was purchased by Frank and Nettie Duffy at 82 North Main Street, Mullica Hill. According to their son Fran, this was the first television in town. When word got out the first viewings had crowds of up to 20 friends and neighbors, most shows were in the evenings. Fran said if you did not arrive early, you did not get a seat. Only 3 stations to view in 1948.



The Duffy family was joined by Dorothy (Aunt Dot) Hutton and son Vern, Ella Harris with her son Bill (later to be young Doctor Harris joining his father's practice on South Main Street) neighbors Dr. Hugh and Alice Dillon, across the street the Craigs with 2 boys and 2 girls, Aunt Winnie Jones, Pat and Regina Simon, and Sara Kincaid to mention a few. What did they watch? Milton Berle's NBC's Texaco Star Theater and the most favorite of all was watching Westerns. January of 1949 featured Arthur Godfrey & Friends on CBS.

Seventy-three years ago, viewing this new television for the first time was the talk of the town. Fran has graciously decided to donate his vintage TV to the Historical Society. Robert Schumann

A Virtual Visit

The students at Harrison Elementary, for many years, have been able to take a class trip and visit Old Town Hall. But due to the Covid 19 pandemic, their visit last year as well as this year has been cancelled.

The second grade students have missed out on the many sites, sounds and volunteer's stories about Old Town Hall's Old Fashioned Classroom, Raccoon Valley General Store and used farm equipment.

Our member Cindy Madara has graciously helped us move forward this year. Her daughter Melina is a professional videographer and has volunteered her time and skill to bring our classroom to the students.

She set up her equipment with the help from her mom Cindy and filmed the many items in the school room. She also introduced me to how they record and voice over in the filming process. It was truly a learning experience for me.

Melina is presently editing her work and will present this to the students.

Technology and talent has made this possible and we are so excited to see the end result.

Mary Snively

New Members

Kay Aliberti
Donna Bobrove
Gregory Cooke
Jeff Field & Family
Harold Hubschmitt
Bill Madara
Eleanor Madara
Jack Magee
Steve Morgan
Catherine Toomey
John Williams

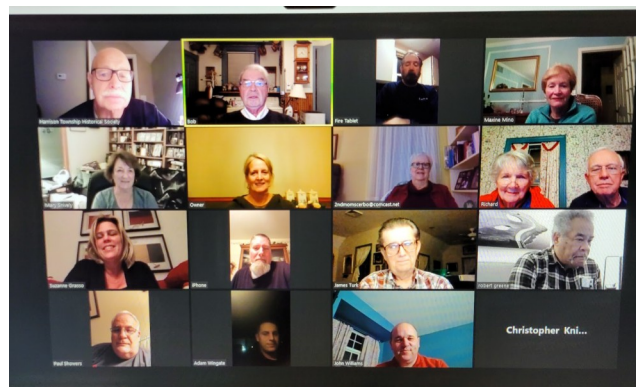
In Memoriam

Mary Hurff Aladj 10/2019
Charles Tisa 12/4/2019
Olin Shelmire 11/14/2020
Ed Gentile 1/6/2021
Norman Schleicher 1/13/2021
Harry Knorr 2/24/2021
David Taylor 3/4/2021

Zoom!

The HTHS Executive Board keeps things moving while staying safe!

We have moved our monthly board meetings from in-person to virtual meetings via Zoom. We are still very busy and getting things done despite the Covid 19 pandemic! We will be back together very soon with the added zoom option for those who are unable to attend in-person! A shout out to our Recording Secretary, Paul Davis, for setting up and managing our virtual meetings!





Mark Your Calendar

- June 12 June Festival of Antiques, 4H Fairgrounds
Street Fair, Main St., Mullica Hill
- June 13 Richwood Academy Cultural Center
“Lateral Jawn,” live-streaming 3 pm
- September 18 Car Show 11-4
- October 9 Exhibit Opens 1-4pm
- October 9-10 Fall Festival and Civil War Weekend
- December 5 Exhibit Closes 1-4pm

For more information on Harrison Township Historical Society please visit our website:
www.harrisonhistorical.com

Old Town Hall
PO Box 4
Mullica Hill, NJ 08062

HARRISON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

