

Sewickley Valley Historical Society

Signals

XLVI, Number 7

May 2019

Wednesday, May 15, 2019
at the Old Sewickley Post Office

6:00 p.m.

Dedication of the B. G. Shields Memorial Garden

with light refreshments, followed at 7:00 p.m. by the

Annual Meeting

7:30 p.m.

Journey from the Attic: Unlocking Your Family's History

A PowerPoint Presentation by
Pamela Israel, assisted by Stefan Israel

Surrounded by genealogy from an early age, Pamela Israel has long appreciated the richness that can come from learning about one's heritage. Using her own family stories, she approached her brother Stefan, who holds a Ph.D. in Germanic linguistics, to be her first translator and launched Unlock Your History to help people translate their heirloom family documents from German and other Germanic languages. Pamela is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society and the North Hills Genealogical Society.

This presentation will tap into today's fascination with learning about one's family's past. Pamela and Stefan will dig into how to make sense of heirloom documents, frequently in another language, which are passed down across generations and are often stashed in the attic. They'll show how one can decipher some clues hidden within the documents and recommend when to get more help. They'll also go a little deeper into the number one-claimed heritage in the United States, German, with some extra background that can assist anyone to become a little bit more of an expert.

If you have documents written in a Germanic or Scandinavian language that you can't decipher, bring them in. Stefan will look at them and help you identify the language, if necessary, and translate them, giving you at least a general idea of their content.

2019 Architectural Preservation Award

As part of its mission, Sewickley Valley Historical Society encourages preservation of the architectural heritage of the community, and since 1987 the Society has presented Architectural Preservation Awards to worthy projects. Although the honor is not bestowed every year and often multiple awards are made, 2019 marks the 26th such award. This year the award is being given to a commercial building, as was the very first one, presented to Ettore Miceli for the Victorian store front at 412 Beaver Street, Sewickley, the longtime location of Miceli's Tailor Shop.

The 2019 Architectural Preservation Award recipient is Mediterra Café, 430 Beaver Street, Sewickley. The recent renovation and restoration of the building has been a collaborative effort of Nick Ambeliotis, founder



Mediterra Café

of Pittsburgh-based Mediterra Bakehouse; Tom McCargo, building owner and president of Urban Villages, Inc., which focuses on long-term value generation through place-oriented design; and Heather Wildman of Wildman Chalmers Design, which earned a Certificate of Merit for Mediterra Café in the Small Projects category of AIA Pittsburgh's 2018 Design Pittsburgh competition.

Mediterra's block in the Village has a long history of food service. The building was originally home to the E. W. Becker butcher shop, followed by Carroll's Cash Market, then Brand's Meat Market, and was adjacent to the Continental Grocery Store and Gray's Meat Market.

The award will be presented at the Annual Meeting, May 15.

Election of Officers & Directors

The Sewickley Valley Historical Society Nominating Committee (George Berry III, Sally Dunbar, Sasha Koledin, Kathy Lang, Joseph Marrone) proposes the following as officers and directors, to be elected at the Annual Meeting, Wednesday, May 15, 2019. At that time, nominations may be made from the floor, provided the person nominated has agreed to serve if elected.

- Directors for a first two-year term: Verna Corey
Marty O'Brien
Janet Oellig
- Officers for a second two-year term: Harton Semple, President
Joe Zemba, Vice-President
Mary Beth Pastorius, Secretary
Connor Cogswell, Treasurer
- Directors for a second two-year term: Gloria Berry
Brewster Cockrell
Edward Harrell
Ivan Hoffman
Lori Kastan

Proposed Dues Increase

In conjunction with the Finance Committee, the Board of Directors recommends that SVHS dues be increased from \$20 to \$25 for individuals and from \$30 to \$35 for families. Out-of-State dues will remain at \$10. In accordance with the Bylaws, the membership will be asked to vote to approve these increases at the Annual Meeting.

Donors to the B. G. Shields Memorial Garden

Sewickley Valley Historical Society gratefully acknowledges Margaret P. Joyner, whose leadership gift made this project possible, as well as the generous donors who have joined her to honor the memory of B. G. Shields.

Anonymous

Barbara L. Barry

Gloria Berry

Milana Bizic

Araminta Roberts Brown

Michael & Kathryn Bryson

Ron & Bonnie Casper

Mr. & Mrs. James E. Cavalier

Susan Cockrell

Connor Cogswell

Crystal Copella

Mr. & Mrs. George S. Gaadt

Margie Shields Gilfillan

William & Ann Gray

William D. Hawes

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Hoepf

John & Susan Holton

Patricia Kepler

John & Sadie Kroeck

John Linko

Bill & Carroll Logsdon

Martin & Joanne McDaniel

Betty Ann Miller

Marian Miller

Wayne & Mary Murphy

David Nimick

Mary Beth Pastorius

Harton & Judy Semple

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Sherry

Margaret Sickeler

Peggy Standish

William & Roberta Walker

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Wasco, Jr.

Rita Wasson

Malachy & Patty Whalen

Duncan P. Whittaker, Jr.

Mary Jane Williams

R. Bruce Williamson

Kathleen Wolverton

Joe Zemba

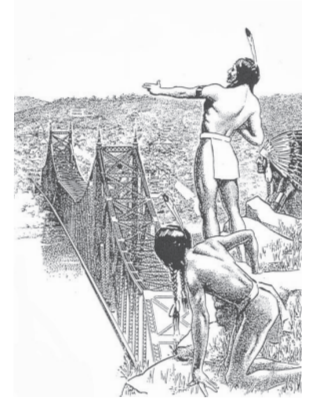


Betty G. Y. Shields was editor of the *Sewickley Herald* from 1972 to 1987. In 1973, she called the first meeting of what became the Sewickley Valley Historical Society and is listed as a founding member. After retiring from the *Herald*, she served as the Historical Society's Executive Director until 2005. During the nation's bicentennial in 1976, she was one of the three chairs of the Sewickley Valley Bicentennial Committee. She was also a founding member of the Little Sewickley Creek Watershed Association. B. G., as she was known to her friends and family, was born February 26, 1925, in Coffeyville, Kansas, and died July 12, 2017, in Lemont, Pennsylvania.

Sewickley Valley Historical Society
200 Broad Street
Sewickley, PA 15143

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May 2019



**SEWICKLEY VALLEY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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Harton S. Semple, Jr.

Vice-President

Joe Zemba

Secretary

Mary Beth Pastorius

Treasurer

Connor Cogswell

Directors

Gloria Berry
Brewster Cockrell
Verna Corey
Edward Harrell
Ivan Hofmann
Lori Kastan
Marty McDaniel
Marian Miller
Simon Noel
Ian Semple

Acting Executive Director

Susan C. Holton

Associate Director

Blythe Burgan Davis

Sewickley Valley Hospital School of Nursing Exhibit

An exhibit of memorabilia from the Sewickley Valley Hospital School of Nursing will be on display at the Old Sewickley Post Office, beginning on Nurses Day, May 6, 2019, at noon, and ending Wednesday, May 15. On opening day, a short program will be presented at both 12:15 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., followed by light refreshments. The school opened in 1916 with one candidate and closed its doors in 2013, having graduated over 1800 students.

Longfellow, Alden & Harlow Bus Tour

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation and Sewickley Valley Historical Society are co-sponsoring a mini-bus tour of local Longfellow, Alden & Harlow houses on Saturday, September 14, from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m., led by Mary Beth Pastorius, Joe Zemba, Tim Merrill and Louise Sturgess. For reservations, please contact Mary Lu Denny, marylu@phlf.org or 412-471-5808, ext. 527.

New Members

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Cummins, Sewickley
Blythe Burgan Davis, Pittsburgh
Dan & Jenny Elliott, Sewickley (after August)
Duncan & Stacey Neilson, Sewickley
Christine Porter, Carnegie, PA
Gary L. Walker, Bloomfield Hills, MI