



PO Box 564
Flourtown, PA 19031
215-233-4600

www.springfieldhistory.org

MARCH 2008

IN THIS ISSUE:

- President's Corner
- STHS Welcomes New Board Member
- 2nd Annual Marie Kitto Award
- Archives Update

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The Challenge

PRESERVATION • RESEARCH • EDUCATION

The Good Wife – Mrs. Benjamin Franklin

On September 1, 1730, Benjamin and Deborah Franklin began a forty-four year marriage, partnership, and an exciting journey towards American ingenuity and independence. Side by side, this couple created a printing and publishing empire which would ensure their financial future and a place in history. After amassing a small fortune via the proceeds from the sale of Poor Richard's Almanac, Deborah would witness the creativity and innovation of her husband's mind as applied to science, public service, and political ideology. Some of the inspiration for Franklin's revolutionary household inventions would come directly from observing the women in his life. The Pennsylvania Fireplace, the Long Arm, and the Boston rocker may have been answers to problems faced daily by Colonial Women. Together, Ben and Debby raised their children, built a business, supported relations in Philadelphia and Boston, and provided an exciting account of early American Founding Families.

Please join us for a fun filled night as historian Jo Ann Tufo performs as "The Good Wife, Mrs. Benjamin Franklin," re-creating the fascinating relationship between Ben Franklin of Boston and his beloved wife of 44 years, Debby Read of Philadelphia. Debby will answer all those "burning" questions about the REAL Ben Franklin, painting a colorful picture of everyday life with the great publisher, inven-

tor, statesman, and diplomat. Mrs. Franklin will delight the audience with accounts of her experiences observing Ben as a husband, friend, and father and will bridge the gap between this amazing 18th century couple and 21st century Americans. This program will inspire the audience to discover their own potentials for creativity and inventiveness, regardless of age or gender.

Jo Ann Tufo has worked as a professional tour guide in Historic Philadelphia and surrounding historic areas since 1986. The wealth of information that she has been exposed to through Independence National Historic

Park inspired her to explore the life of Benjamin Franklin. For the past ten years, she has been creating a character who interprets Franklin's accomplishments through the eyes of his wife & partner. She has appeared as "The Good Wife, Deborah Read Franklin" on the television show "Travelers," The Discovery Channel and The Travel Channel as well as CN8 News.

This promises to be an exciting and educational program that focuses on a historic and interesting Philadelphia citizen. The program is open to the public. Donations are kindly accepted from non-STHS members to support ongoing funding of these programs. Reservations are not required. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information call 215-233-4600



*Painting by
Benjamin Wilson, 1759,
from the Collection of the
American Philosophical
Society, Philadelphia.*

A PRESENTATION BY

Ms. JoAnn Tufo, appearing in the character of Deborah Franklin

Thursday, March 27th, 2008 — 7:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church, Bethlehem Pike and East Mill Road in Flourtown, PA

President's Corner

The Black Horse Inn restoration efforts are really progressing nicely!

If you haven't been past the old inn recently, take a drive, bike ride, or walk past it to see how all of the hard work and contributions of so many people are coming to fruition. What this also means is that the Historical Society is getting closer to being in its new home! The establishment of a permanent home is the next major step in our Society's twenty-three year evolution, and will allow us to provide additional and enhanced services to our members and township residents, right in the heart of the township's historic district.



BLACK HORSE INN

Entering into a home will require significant funds to cover initial fit-out costs, as well as on-going operating expenses. Fit-out items include display cases, frames for pictures, shelves and boxes for housing artifacts, pictures, and documents, and office furniture. In preparation for this move, the Board of Directors has developed and approved a 2008 operating budget and activity plan that will focus the Society's time, talent, and money appropriately. We will of course continue to provide our high quality offerings in terms of speaker programs, *The Challenge* newsletter, our web site (www.springfieldhistory.org), public relations in local newspapers, and through accessibility to our continually expanding archives/collection. But three new, key programs will highlight 2008 as well.

The **FIRST PROGRAM** will focus on increasing our membership value and enrollment. This will include a series of proactive initiatives to deliver tangible value for members, as well as reach out to the community to sign on new

members. Our **SECOND PROGRAM** will establish and kick-off an on-going fundraising campaign. This will provide a continual source of revenue to fund our program activities, fit-out our home in the Black Horse Inn, and cover on-going operating expenses. The **THIRD PROGRAM** will create and execute on a business plan for both our initial and on-going occupancy needs in the Black Horse Inn. Each of these three programs will require a dedicated and energetic team of volunteers and a skilled leader to ensure their success. We have been actively recruiting for these leadership positions, and are very close to fulfilling each of them. The next newsletter will highlight these volunteers and their program strategies.

It's not necessary to be a Board member to lead a program or committee, or to participate in one. Many of our general members serve in committee capacities for the Archives/Collection, Bus Trips, Speaker Programs, and Nominating Committee to name a few. General members will likely lead the three new programs discussed above as well. Whatever your level of interest is when it comes to volunteering, your contributions will be most welcomed. Preparing to move into a new, permanent home is going to take a lot of time, talent, and money this year, and involvement from our general members to assist the Board will be essential.

Help your Society make the long-time, exciting dream of a permanent home become a reality! Contact us at **215-233-4600** today to be a part of it.

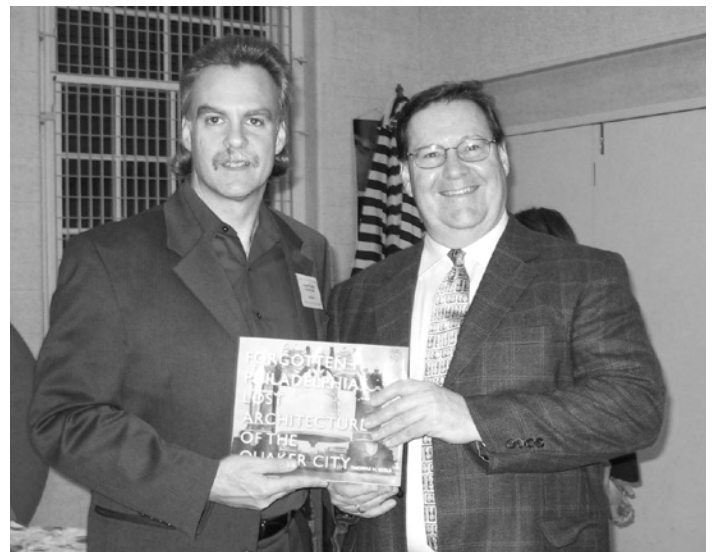
Keeping the past in the present,

Ed Zwicker

STHS Welcomes New Board Member

The historical society's board of directors recently welcomed **Frank Griffin**, a 47-year resident of Erdenheim, to its ranks. Griffin views serving on the board as an opportunity to learn about the history of the township and to be active in the community. He is interested in being involved in membership because, he said, everyone should be aware of the history of where they live.

A native of Germantown, he taught U.S. history at Plymouth Whitmarsh High School for 29 years and English at La Salle University's night school for 10 years before serving as the township's district justice from 1989 to 1999. A graduate of La Salle College High School and La Salle University, he earned a master's degree in history from Temple University. A Navy veteran, he served in the Navy Reserves for 34 years.



NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Ed Zwicker, president of the Springfield Township Historical Society, welcomed speaker **Thomas H. Keels**, author of *Forgotten Philadelphia: Lost Architecture of the Quaker City*, to a meeting recently. Keels, a member of the Historical Society, spoke about why certain buildings in Philadelphia were torn down. Keels signed copies of his book, published by Temple University Press, which were available for sale.

Archives Update

The archives continue to grow and we want to thank our volunteers, **Dulie Grey, John Frantz and Leslie Smith**, for working hard to get the collection onto the computer and organized for researchers. Anyone who would like to spend a few hours a week in the archives is encouraged to contact **Susan Anthony** at SAthony_sths@comcast.net or 215 247-0417.

We received some fascinating items recently. **Richard Meyer** donated five bottles and a man's shoe, estimated to be from the late 19th or early 20th century, that were found during the renovation of the Black Horse Inn basement. In December, we received, from **Montgomery Newspapers**, back issues of the *Springfield Sun* dating from 1995-2000. **Andy Logan** donated a 1928 photo of the Springfield High School faculty and **Robert Harper** donated two photos of Whitemarsh Hall and sales brochures for Wingwood, the Stotesbury mansion in Bar Harbor, Maine. Many thanks to all who contribute to the archives!

*Anyone interested in volunteering at the archives
is encouraged to call STHS at
215-233-4600*



*1928 photo of
Springfield High
School faculty
recently donated
by Andy Logan.*

2nd Annual Marie Kitto Award

The STHS is requesting nominations for its second annual Marie Kitto Award that will be given to a person who has made significant contributions to Springfield Township that exemplify the historical society's tenets of research, preservation, and education.

Last year, the award was presented to **Richard J. Meyer, Sr.**, an Oreland general contractor who has specialized in historic restoration during his career and in retirement. His projects have included several in Springfield Township such as 1510 Bethlehem Pike in Flourtown and the restoration of Black Horse Inn, the mid-18th century building at 1432 Bethlehem Pike.

The award honors the memory of **Marie Kitto**, who was one of the founding members of STHS in 1985, and who was our first executive director. She compiled the majority of the research, pictures, and other artifacts that make up the core of the STHS collection.

The winner will receive a commemorative award from STHS at the May program and have his or her name engraved on a permanent plaque to be held in the STHS archives until it can be hung in the historical society's future home.

Nominations for award should be submitted by March 27. Nomination should include the person's name, address and phone number and a description of his or her contributions to the township's rich heritage. Nominations may be sent to STHS Awards Committee, c/o **Phoebe Rosenberry**, 105 E. Mill Road, Flourtown, PA 19031.



**Join the
STHS**

Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

I would like to become a member in the following category:

☐ Individual/Couple _____ \$20 ☐ Student _____ \$5 ☐ Contributing* _____ \$40 ☐ Organization* _____ \$65

*These membership levels receive a 6" square commemorative trivet with a drawing of Springfield Mill (at the Morris Arboretum) by local artist Sally Yates.

Please make your check payable to **STHS** and mail this form with check to **STHS, PO Box 564, Flourtown, PA 19031**

Water Works Tour

Last fall, STHS members and guests took a private tour of the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center. Designed in 1812 as the first municipal waterworks in the United States, the complex became a popular tourist attraction drawing notable visitors from across the United States and Europe.

The complex currently operates as an interpretive center to aid in the understanding of the purpose and history of municipal waterworks.



Homeowners – *Mark Your Calendars!*

Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia Old House Fair 2008

Saturday, March 22, 9am-5pm, at Germantown Friends School
31 West Coulter Street, Philadelphia

\$10 General Admission / \$8 Preservation Alliance Members

Old House Fair attendees will have the opportunity to visit 75 booths representing vendors, products, services and information pertaining to the restoration of old buildings. The Old House Fair will include a variety of lectures and presentations by both the participating vendors and other historic preservation specialists concerning preservation practices, products and services. The Fair will also feature hands-on workshops by specialty craftspeople, presented in a central demonstration area.

The 2008 Old House Fair will provide homeowners the opportunity to meet with exhibitors, attend the demonstrations and presentations, take advantage of the "Ask the Experts" consultations, and gather useful information at the Preservation Resource Center. Attendees also receive a copy of the Old House Fair Program Book, featuring useful information and a listing of detailed information about each of the vendors.

For more information, call the Alliance at 215-546-1146 or visit them at www.preservationalliance.com.



The Challenge

PRESERVATION • RESEARCH • EDUCATION

Springfield Township Historical Society
PO Box 564 • Flourtown, PA 19031

*Reserve
the Date:*



Thursday
MARCH 27, 2008
7:30 p.m.

STHS is proud to present

***THE GOOD WIFE –
Mrs. Benjamin Franklin***