

# Sharon Hill Historical Society

## Newsletter

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Kathleen Clarke**

While we are awaiting new information regarding our train station, we thought you might like to know what is happening with other historic stations, trains, and train lines in our area.

The nearby Folcroft Station is being refurbished and restored.

The 1880 historic Victorian Morton Station is being refurbished and restored. The Morton Station is along the Media/Elwyn line.

The Clifton/Aldan station along the same line is scheduled for improvements. The funding for the three stations is part of the federal stimulus money received by Septa. All three of these stations represent different architectural styles and like ours are significant not only for their design but also for their influence on the development of communities around transportation.

The Newtown Square PA Railroad Museum Association has completed restorations on its 1875 Freight Station, the 1920 steam engine, a 1907 all-wood boxcar and a 1950 PRR Caboose. Installed in the museum are 140 feet of railroad track at the freight station. Currently a 1902 PRR passenger car is being restored. The museum is

located at Drexel Lodge on West Chester Pike, Newtown Square.

The Chadds Ford Historical Society has an exhibit on the Octoraro branch of the PRR, the Wilmington and Northern Railroad and the West Chester Street Railway. The No. 4662 gas-electric powered "doodlebug" which ran on the Octoraro line may be available for excursions. For thirty years, this train provided commuter service to local residents.

For most of you who are nearby, try to visit these sites. For those of you afar, we wanted to let you know how much work is being done to protect our local historic resources.

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### MEMBERSHIP MONTH

November has traditionally been our membership month.

We have enclosed a membership form for your donation. Please note any changes that might be necessary. Thanks to all of you for your continued support of our effort to maintain the history of Sharon Hill.

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### CHRISTMAS TEA

Before we get in the full swing of the Christmas season we would like to help you get into the spirit of things!

Members and their

friends are invited to join us on December 9<sup>th</sup> at Borough Hall - 12:30 PM for our 8<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Tea. Our refreshments include tea sandwiches, beverages of tea and coffee, side dishes and dessert.

Call Jean - 610-583-9246 or Kathy - 610-459-8944 to let the Board know if we can expect you.

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### IMAGES OF AMERICA

Once again we would like to remind you that our pictorial history book, *Images of America* is for sale and would make a great Christmas gift.

Moms and Dads or old school friends, sisters and brothers, etc. might enjoy seeing the places where they worked, attended church or school, or just "hung out". Also they can marvel at the old mansions that lined Chester Pike and realize the historic significance of the streets, homes and transportation that influenced our development as a community.

There is an order blank on our website at:

[www.sharonhillhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.sharonhillhistoricalsociety.org) or you can mail your order to our P.O. Box #1191 in Sharon Hill. Cost is \$21.99 to pick up or \$25.00 to have the book mailed to the recipient.

We would like to thank super salesperson Barbara Middleton who is our greatest

booster. Barbara is responsible for at least 30 book sales including thirteen books which she recently sold at the Reunion of Sharon Hill High School Classes of 1960-61.

Thanks, Barbara for promoting the book so successfully and please keep passing the word along!

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### WWI MEMORIAL

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Sharon Hill Fire Company made a lasting contribution to the Borough when the WWI Memorial was unveiled on Memorial Day, 1936.

On that day a bronze plaque which originally had hung on the front wall of our Municipal Hall was moved to its present resting place on a stone shaft in front of the building.

Following are some excerpts concerning the ceremony from *The Progress* newspaper which was distributed locally in the 1930's. (Note the descriptive and sometimes beautiful language of the era.)

*Preceding the ceremonies was a parade which formed at the public school grounds.....led by a motorcycle patrol of Glenolden policemen with Patrolman William Malloy of the Sharon Hill Police Department marching on foot.....on Sharon Avenue the parade was joined by the color guard and firing squad of Murray Stuart Post-American Legion of Glenolden, followed by members of the Post, and its auxiliary.*

*The Folcroft Drum & Bugle Corps and the Sharon*

*Hill High School Band plus the Girl Scouts were also in the line of march.*

*Herbert L. Hutchinson, Borough Solicitor, acted as Master of Ceremonies. An invocation was given by Rev. C. F. Salkeld, Pastor of Sharon Hill Methodist Church.*

*Mrs. Leona Cowan of High Street whose son Dewitt Cowan paid the supreme sacrifice, was given the honor of unveiling the monument.*

*'Old Glory' slowly rippling in the breezes, at half-staff, its graceful folds overhanging the monument with a background of nature's fairest offerings in newly planted shrubbery and choice flowers, made a picture that will not be soon forgotten by the assemblage.*

*At the moment of unveiling a firing squad of the Glenolden Post gave a salute of three volleys of musketry and a bugle corps from Folcroft sounded "Taps", with Harry Pressell, Jr. stationed at a distance from the scene, providing the echo.*

*Mrs. Robert Jack, President of the Ladies Auxiliary was accorded the honor of making the speech of presentation and William H. Milliken, Burgess accepted for the Borough....the speaker of the day was Judge Albert Dutton MacDade.*

The Judge gave a glowing and lengthy tribute to the Ladies Auxiliary of the Fire Company;

..... this event has been made possible by the untiring, energetic and patriotic efforts of a company of women who have banded together for the civic

betterment of this beautiful and thriving community. No one could gainsay but that such loyal and patriotic women are now making a wonderful contribution to our betterment and rightly deserve our sincere thanks for such demonstration of true devotion to God, Country and Home.....



WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL

For questions or suggestions regarding the Newsletter, please contact Jean Shiber @610-583-9246 or on the internet: Jshib@aol.com

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