



Chagrin Falls Exponent

Chagrin Falls Historical Society 21 Walnut St. Shute Memorial Building
Web Site: www.chagrinhistorical.org

Scrap Zalba, Editor

February, 2011

Ron Humphrey, Graphics Editor

FOR MEMBERS ONLY!

ANNUAL POT LUCK DINNER

Thursday, February 17, 2011, 6:00 p.m.

at

Fellowship Hall, Valley Lutheran Church

87 E. Orange Street

Reservations Required

Call Diana Gardner 440/289-1681

Auction of some Antiques and Collectibles

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WINTER MUSIC AT THE LIBRARY

Co-Sponsored with The Friends of the Library

Sunday, February 13, 2011, 2:00 p.m.

PEGGY COYLE & BRAD BOLTON

Refreshments by The Friends of the Library

POT LUCK DINNER FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Welcome to New Members

Karen Hunter

Jim, Jennifer, Jake, Eva and Sarah Levine

Cynthia Reece

Make sure you've paid your dues for 2010-2011 (unless you're a Life Member!) so that you can attend our Annual Pot Luck Dinner for Members Only. We will meet at the Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall on Thursday, February 17th. Bring an entree, salad, side dish or dessert, with a serving spoon or fork. We will have a baked ham as a back-up to make sure you can fill your plate! Also bring your own plate, cup and table setting. Coffee and tea will be provided.

In addition to seeing old friends, catching up on the happenings around town, and partaking of our always delicious offerings, we're going to have a mini-auction of the left over objects and collectibles from our fund-raiser sale at Township Hall last year. So bring your checkbook or some cash in case you see something you just must have! Bob Matson will act as our auctioneer. We'll have a display of the objects to be auctioned off in front of our serving table to alert you of things you might want.

MUSIC AT THE LIBRARY MAKES A SWITCH

The January concert at the Library was supposed to feature Peggy Coyle and Brad Bolton, but the night before we got a phone call from Brad and learned to our distress that both of them were sick, most particularly Peggy was in bed trying to ward off a bad case of the flu. Was I feeling panicky? Yes! I started to think of who I might get to substitute at such a late time! Then my wife came through! She calmly asked, "could your band, (which was scheduled to play in February) switch dates with Peggy and Brad, and have them perform in February." Aha! A great solution! So I called Tom Poultney, Okay. I called Carl Fogel, Okay. I called Buzz Cronquist in Ashtabula, he had an appointment and couldn't make it. Shucks! Well, we could play as a trio. As Tommy and

I arrived at the Library on Sunday, there was Buzz with his electric piano for Tommy to use, and his loudspeaker system. I was saved by the bell! After the concert was over a number of people congratulated us on having played one of the best concerts they had heard in the 17 years we'd played at the Library. Hoorah! Thanks for the suggestion, Pat!

Scrap Zalba

ANOTHER WONDERFUL SOUPS AND BREADS LUNCHEON!

We gathered at the Atrium at Hamlet Village for our annual Soups and Breads Luncheon Thursday, January 20th. Thank you to Jean Hood and her staff for making this one of the most enjoyable and comfortable luncheons we've ever had. We had 10 member-created soups and three from Hamlet's kitchen. Sixteen people brought breads, rolls and brownies. And one member brought a delicious smoked salmon dip from salmon that he caught in Alaska last year and smoked himself! Guess who? We also had generous donations of canned and dry foods for the "Pantry Shelf" at the Chagrin Falls Park Community Center.

And a special applause for our own Gini Fast, and Eileen Green of Intensive Care Doll Hospital for a wonderful program on dolls. Gini talked about her own dolls and recollections. Eileen gave an informative critique and estimated market prices on each doll that had been brought in by members of the audience so that we could all see them and learn. We were also introduced to the new Executive Director of Hamlet Village - Elizabeth Wheatley, who welcomed us.

Ann Goss

HISTORICAL HOME PLAQUES

For many years the administration of the Century Home Plaque program has been an important activity of the Historical Society. With guidelines developed by Bobbie Wheeler, Annie Gumprecht and Dorothy Pauly, the program gave homeowners the opportunity to

Condolences

to the families of

Bebe Ober

Joan Brandon

and to Don Barriball

upon the passing of his aunt Marian Barriball Hamilton

apply for a handsome bronze plaque to place on their qualifying residence. The criteria for earning a plaque included: (1) the home must be within the present limits of Chagrin Falls Village or Chagrin Falls Township; (2) at least half of the exterior structure of the home must be proven to be at least 100 years old; (3) the original lines of the exterior of the home must still be evident; (4) the structure now, or in the past, had been used in total as a residence; and (5) the home must not be sided with aluminum or vinyl. A local company, no longer in existence, forged the 100 plaques initially commissioned by the Society. All of the initial plaques have been distributed. Last year, since no more plaques existed, and some felt that few, if any homes in the community could meet the criteria listed above, it was decided to suspend the program. Since that time the Society has received new requests for plaques.

At the last board meeting a committee was formed to review the guidelines from the suspended program to determine how, or if, we should continue with a house plaque program. *John Bourisseau*

HELEN STRANZ

Our old friend and long time Historical Society member Helen Stranz will reach her magic 100th birthday on February 22nd. Carolyn Sihler visited her last year in Massachusetts and reported that she's doing okay, but misses her Chagrin friends. It's hard to believe that we no longer have a Village Exchange with Helen holding forth. I can look at my living room wall and see a print of Bob Takatch's painting of the view east from the apartment upstairs from the old Village Exchange. We have a copy of the print in the Society's collection donated by Helen.

Being a member of the Society seems to lead to longevity. Davis Caldwell just passed his 99th birthday in January, and it is rumored that Barbara Taggart, Ruth Greely, Betty Stitt and Eva Jean Trace are in their nineties, too. I hope that it's catching!

If you want to send a card to Helen, her address is: Helen S. Stranz 402 Brooksby Village Dr. Unit 2124 Peabody, MA 01960 *Scrap Zalba*

AFAMILY TREASURE BOXES

I have become the family historian (a.k.a. dumping site) perhaps because I am a bit of a packrat and folks hand things down to me knowing that I will not throw them

out. Over the past month I have unearthed three little boxes filled with small treasures belonging to three different branches of the family. What a story each little box tells! The first box belonged to my Polish paternal grandfather. I understand that of the two beautiful golden pins from The Polish Alliance in that box one even has his name, Boleslaw Filipiak, on the top of the pin. With help of the Google Translator I was able to determine that a ribbon named my grandfather as a committee member for the celebration of the construction of the monument in honor of Tadeusza Kosciuszko in Cleveland on May 7th, 1905. So far so good. But wait! In the box is a Mason's ring - a Scottish Rite ring and a Rainbow Girls' ring. I didn't know Catholics could be Masons. My grandfather on my mother's side was born in Scotland and was a Presbyterian minister, and he was a Mason. But this box came to me from my cousin's wife and he was on my dad's side. Hmmmm. All I can figure out is that my cousin Eric placed memorabilia from both of his grandfathers in the same box. His dad was a Jones and Welsh, and not Catholic.

I did know my Polish grandfather. He lived until I was 22 years old. I also knew my maternal grandmother, who lived until I was 10 years old. I never knew my Scottish grandfather. My husband Keith's grandmother died before I knew Keith, but I did know his grandfather. I enjoy looking at these items and imagining the lifestyles of their owners, and the breadth of their experiences. But will the next generation, who never knew of these folks, want to give them space in their lives? Will they stroke the gold bracelet and picture a great grandmother as a young woman, or will they sell the bracelet because no one can remember to whom it belonged, and gold is worth a pretty penny? I hope there will be a family historian in the next generation.

Zo Sykora



HELEN STRANZ photo by Gretchen Rickards

research the history of their homes and to

CURATOR'S CORNER

Calendar Overview

February



8 Historical Society Board Meeting, Shute Bldg., 10:00 a.m.

Girl Scout "Local Lore" badge work with Pat Zalba
Shute Bldg., 3:30-5:00 p.m.

13 Music At The Library: Peggy Coyle & Brad Bolton 2:00-
4:00 p.m.

17 Arts Round Table, 7:30 a.m.

Evening Program: Pot Luck Dinner for Members Only. At
the Lutheran Church, 6:00 p.m.

21 "History of Chagrin Falls" program for the Woman's Club,
by the Zalbas.

22 Happy 100th Birthday for Helen Stranz.

Valentines and Simple Pleasures

The Historical Society Valentine Collection will be on display in the main room of the Museum throughout the month of February. The collection runs the gamut from sweet and gentle to witty and sarcastic. The oldest are from the 1880s. They are made of velvet, ribbons and lace.

Writing about the Society's collection brought memories from my childhood to mind. As a child of the 1930s, living out in the country, Valentine's Day was a BIG event in the long school year. The week or so before, we worked hard in class to decorate a big box with tissue and crepe paper, and construction paper hearts. Day by day we would deposit our Valentines for each other in the box. I can't remember how the person was chosen to pass them out on Valentine's Day, but the day finally arrived. Getting a card from a boy you liked was really exciting! And your day was made if you received a cardboard heart with a lollipop attached. Oh to be once again contented with such simple pleasures.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

Pat E. Zalba, Volunteer Curator