

The GRANGE NEWSLETTER



December 2010

Volume 35 Number 3

Grange Goes Green for the Holidays

We can't predict whether there will be a white Christmas, but we can guarantee that it will be green at the Grange for the holidays. This year's featured tree will be creatively adorned with all-natural ornaments. Among the many imaginative items reclaimed from the environment and charmingly repurposed by the volunteers of Friends of the Grange are orange slices, pine cones, pomegranates, critters, thistle, straw flowers and other natural items from our gardens.

Of course, each room of the Mansion will also have its own uniquely themed tree. Among this year's trees will be a children's tree, a brass horn tree, a granny square tree, and a Victorian heritage tree.

The holidays at the Grange Estate will commence with the Preview Party and Christmas Champagne Celebration on Saturday, December 4, from 4 pm to 6 pm. Attendees will be among the first to view the festive decorations while enjoying the music of the always entertaining *One2Many*. Admission for the Preview Party is \$15 if reservations are made no later than November 29. For all

others there will be an \$18 charge at the door.

Regular holiday Mansion tours begin on Sunday, December 5 and will take place on all Saturdays and Sundays except Christmas Day through January 2. The hours are 1 pm to 4 pm each day and admission is \$5 for adults and \$1 for students.

The annual holiday Model Train Display will once again be held in the Carriage House. Admission is free. The Grange Trainmaster, Bill Parkinson, has been hard at work creating a new layout this year with many interesting features.

Be sure to also visit our delightful Gift Shoppe stocked with many one of a kind handcrafted seasonal items. For those of you who have not visited recently, you'll also get to see the just completed new cedar roof on the Long Barn, a gift to the community from the Township and Friends of the Grange.

You won't leave the Grange Estate without feeling infused with the comfort of a traditional holiday and having your spirits lifted.

Save Your Copper for Our Copper Beech

Those pesky pennies a problem? You can eliminate two pests by giving your pennies to Friends of the Grange. Rid yourself of your pennies and put them to good use eliminating bark beetles that have infested our state champion European Copper Beech.

This magnificent tree on the Grange Estate dates back to circa 1850 and was recently diagnosed with bark beetles, a common problem which has been diminishing the beech tree population in the US. In 2008 the tree was named the state champion based on a combination of its dimensions, including over 116 feet in height and almost 19 feet in circumference.

We need at least 35,000 pennies every year to manage this destructive pest and maintain the good health of this grand tree. When you visit the Grange Estate, bring your pennies or other accumulated coins to help us reach this goal. In December we will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4 pm, except Christmas Day. And be sure to take in the majesty of the European Copper Beech.

A Message from the President

Bill Penn here.

We've had a busy and productive year at the Grange, with many of the significant happenings being reported in this newsletter. It takes many dedicated individuals to make it all happen.

As you may know, we have retained a new caretaker, Mae Noble, to assist us in maintaining the Mansion at its most presentable. Elizabeth Mellon, our office secretary, has been going beyond the call of duty over the past two years in organizing our events and coordinating the many details of the operations at the Grange Estate.

While these two individuals are important pieces in the support structure, volunteers are the key in our efforts to preserve and maintain this unique property. The volunteers supply the energy and inspiration—and we need to find more volunteers. We have many needs in developing programs, organizing events, providing hospitality, archiving, and giving tours. The time is flexible to fit your schedule and areas of interest. Perhaps you can contribute a new dimension to our organization. It only takes a couple of hours a month over the course of our eight-month season to make a big difference in spreading out the work load.

We are very fortunate that additional volunteers have proved to make a big difference in the gardens. What I see of the progress made this past year on improving the grounds and gardens shows what can be accomplished by the addition of a few more willing hands. Our beekeepers have developed into an effective team and their sweat equity transformed into some very sweet equity for FOG at the Honey Harvest this year. And as you are reading this, there are many volunteers, led by our craft group, having fun decorating the Mansion for the holiday tours. So you can see that there are numerous opportunities available to express your creativity and enthusiasm.

Come join in. There's always something to do and I know you'll find it a rewarding experience. Make it a point to come visit the Grange this holiday season to see the beautifully decorated Mansion and the fascinating train display in our Carriage House.

Happy holidays to all,

William P. Penn

William P. Penn
President

Meet the Caretaker

The Friends of the Grange has invited a new Caretaker to join us. As of September 1, Debbie Mae Noble, who likes to be called Mae, assumed the duties of helping to maintain the Mansion and facilitate the use of the property for events held on site. She will reside in the Caretaker's apartment to provide a presence in the Mansion.

Mae sees her new position as an opportunity to become involved with and contribute to the community. Besides being a bit of a history buff—she has traced her family back to the 1600s—she loves nature. With the trees and the peaceful, natural surroundings of the Grange Estate, Mae is excited about being chosen as the Grange Estate Caretaker.

Mae is a graduate of Temple University with a degree in education and a specialty degree in early education from Waldorf. She has taught kindergarten, and has worked as a nanny, on a farm, and now has a small house cleaning business in the area. Mae's hobbies include sewing, quilting, knitting, and reading. She also loves to garden and cook.

Raised in Moline, Illinois, Mae has lived in a number of states, including Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey. She has a 26-year-old daughter Emily, who lives in Massachusetts, and a 22-year-old son Sam, who lives locally. Mae home schooled her children. She is now raising her pet, Tiddle Lee Winks, a dwarf silver rabbit. We hope they both find the Grange to be a warm, welcoming home.

HTHS House Tour

The third annual Holiday House Tour, presented by the Haverford Township Historical Society, will take place on Sunday, December 12.

The self-guided tour will provide admission to eight private residences distinguished by their history, design, or setting. In addition, free access to Lawrence Cabin, the oldest home in Haverford Township, is included.

The House Tour hours are 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm.

Tickets are available in advance by calling Terri Dougherty at 610-449-1571 or on the day of the event at Lawrence Cabin on Karakung Drive starting at 1 pm. Tickets are \$20 for HTHS members and \$25 for non-members.

A brochure and map is presented with each ticket purchase.

Gather your friends and loved ones to share in this wonderful event. It's a perfect way to get in the holiday spirit!

Fall Open House at the Grange Estate

Our annual Fall Open House was held on Sunday, October 10, and a large, energetic crowd enjoyed the activities on a beautiful autumn day. Both old friends and newcomers came to see us.

We had many budding artists participate in the always popular pumpkin painting and the population in Havertown increased by 38 during our scarecrow-making workshop. More fun ensued in the late afternoon with a scavenger hunt. The children were able to find candy if they could follow the clues to sites around the property and its outbuildings. This was a pleasurable opportunity for the children to explore and learn about the estate while finding some special treats.

Continuing with the artistic theme, earlier in the week, Tyme Gallery of Havertown held a Plein Air Festival at the Grange Estate. *En plein air* is a

French expression which means "in the open air", and is particularly used to describe the act of painting that captures images in a natural outdoor setting.

The paintings of the top winners of the festival were displayed at the Open House. First place honors were accorded to Annette Alessi of Garnet Valley; second place, Deena Ball of Havertown; and third place, Jeanne Kirby-Bruneau of Media. Some very special donations by artists Jeff McCredie and Mary Shoaf were also exhibited and we would like to thank all of the artists who participated in the festival.

Tyme Gallery showcases unique oils, watercolors, pastels, Raku sculpture, ceramics, photography, stained glass, hand blown glass and custom jewelry among its artistic presentations. Friends of the Grange is pleased to have worked with Tyme Gallery on sharing more of the beauty of the Grange Estate.

Gifts to the Grange

Friends of the Grange is honored to have received bequests from two former Haverford Township residents in recent months. The bequests were received from the Michael C. Farley Charitable Trust and from the estate of Norma L. Bossler.

Friends of the Grange president William P. Penn acknowledged the thoughtfulness of these gifts and expressed appreciation for their generosity in support of FOG's mission to preserve the integrity of the Grange Estate.

We are grateful that Mr. Finley and Mrs. Bossler were mindful of contributing to the preservation of this property that is so meaningful to the founding of our Haverford Township community. Their gifts are a testament to the affection which many of our residents feel for their hometown, original or adopted.

If you would like to consider including Friends of the Grange in your estate plans, consult your legal counsel for the best way to accomplish your wishes given your circumstances. Friends of the Grange is incorporated and registered as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

A gift to the Grange is one way to leave a lasting legacy for the benefit of the public and our Haverford Township community.

From the Beekeeper

How Sweet It Was!

Honey Harvest Day was moved up to July 10 this year to allow more summer months after the removal of the honey to better prepare the hives and their inhabitants to survive the winter. By the beginning of July all of the spring and early summer flowers have been foraged, so it is a good time to gather the profits.

The Grange kitchen was transformed into an extraction room on Thursday. Grange beekeepers gathered six supers (boxes) from three of our five hives. The other two hives did not have enough surplus honey beyond what they would need to sustain themselves. We helped a fellow beekeeper, Judith Meckling from Merion, take off her seven supers and add them to the extraction day.

On Saturday morning the harvest began with help from all of our visitors. The children took part in each step of the process. The bees seal the frames of honey with a layer of wax known as caps. These must be removed to expose the honey. Children were guided through the process of capping with a hot knife. The frames were then placed, two at a time, in an extractor. Children lined up to take turns turning the handle which spun the mesh basket containing the frames inside this large metal can.

We all loved to watch as the shiny, golden honey flew out by centrifugal force onto the inside wall of the extractor.

At the bottom of the extractor another child sat as the "gate keeper" to open the gate and let the honey run down through the strainer into a large pan. The next step was to pour this honey through a cheese cloth and into a settling tank. Just before lunch we began the final step of bottling. By 5:00 all of the honey had been extracted and bottled—over 160 pounds. Parents and children enjoyed taking part in this unique learning opportunity. The honey was so popular that most of it was sold by the end of the day.

After the extraction, all of the equipment used was laid out on the lawn and the bees spent the rest of the day cleaning out the equipment and recycling any honey residue back to the hives. The wax from the caps was gathered and subsequently formed into two-pound cakes which were given to the Haverford Township Historical Society for candle making.

The beekeepers, Bev Rorer, Roz Benton, and Hazel Delikatny, wish to thank the Grange volunteers and the public who made the Honey Harvest Day a sweet success.

Grange Gold Gathered



The Mansion kitchen was transformed into a human hive of activity gathering honey from the frames of beehives on July 10. In the foreground, Judith Meckling assists with removing the wax caps while Roz Benton, standing behind the extractor, examines one of the frames being processed. Despite heavy rains during the day, the kitchen was buzzing with parents and children and other members of the public participating in the harvesting. The grounds of the Grange Estate were also being showcased as one of the stops in the first annual "Garden Tour of Haverford Township," conducted as a fundraiser by the Friends of the Haverford Township Free Library. Exhibits and refreshments for both events were available in the Barnett Environmental Center in the Carriage House.

Savor the Flavor - Our Most Successful Fundraiser to Date!

Another glorious evening took place at the Grange on Thursday, June 10 during our annual "Savor the Flavor of Haverford." Seven local restaurants and two catering services participated and we would like to offer our sincere appreciation for their generous donations of time and food.



Bob and Jane Smith of Mom's Bake at Home Pizza

Kaya's Fusion Cuisine, Peabody's Pub, Tip O'Leary's, and Oakmont National Pub repeated their best dishes and new owners Jackie and Tony DiCarlo of DiCarlo's Pig N Whistle Deli presented tasty sandwiches. Newcomers to the

event, Mom's Bake at Home Pizza and LaDolce Bakery, did a fine job to complement our event with appetizing pizza creations and delightful desserts. Marilyn Benedict Catering, originally from Havertown and currently located in Broomall, created a very nice selection of roasted pork and scalloped potatoes, and the Grange's exclusive caterer, Conner Catering, always offers a fabulous choice of yummy specialties.

Our musical entertainment included "Music Magic," who presented their soft, easy listening sound in the drawing room, and "The Royal Quintet," who made our guests in the Carriage House courtyard swing!

The Silent Auction items were equally impressive. Special thanks to Nick Santoleri for his donation of "Bartram Bridge." Many local food retailers such as the Head Nut and Gaetano's sent in donations for the auction.

A special thanks to our wine vendor, Hudson Austin of the Wine Merchant, for providing our wine selections. And, of course, we could not have done anything without the efforts and dedication of our many volunteers who assisted with the big night, especially chairperson Bob Sharrar.

Planning for the future "Savor the Flavor of Haverford" will begin soon, and we hope that all of our friends, family, and members can participate in this pleasurable event next spring.



The Royal Quintet entertains the crowd with jazz and musical favorites!

Please make check payable to the Friends of the Grange, Inc.
Mail to 143 Myrtle Avenue, Havertown, PA 19083
Memorials are available, please contact the office 610-446-4958

Contributor \$50 Supporter \$100 Friend \$500

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Friends of the Grange, Inc. Membership Form

Become a Member! We need YOU!

GRANGE

NEWSLETTER

143 Myrtle Avenue Havertown, PA 19083

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Holiday Happenings

**Preview Party &
Christmas Champagne Celebration**
Saturday, Dec. 4th - 4 to 6 pm

**Holiday Tours &
Model Train Display**
Saturdays & Sundays - 1 to 4 pm
December 5th thru January 2nd
(Except Christmas Day)

Historical Society House Tour
Sunday, Dec. 12th - 1 to 4:30 pm

The Grange Estate is owned by the Township of Haverford and managed by volunteers of The Friends of the Grange, Inc, since 1974.