

# The Chronicle

A Publication of The Historical Society  
of Trappe, Collegetown, Perkiomen Valley, Inc.

June 2005

Volume XXXIV No. 2

## *Annual Flag Day Dinner Presents Charlie Zahm*

Please mark your calendars for June 14, 2005, when The Historical Society of Trappe, Collegetown, Perkiomen Valley will host the Annual Flag Day Dinner at the Collegetown Inn with a very special program. The Society will present Charlie Zahm, an exciting performer not only well-known locally, but a popular soloist who has performed on the East Coast and across America. A robust baritone, mastery of guitar (and other instruments), and a seasoned approach to the art of "entertaining," he offers a program that will be enjoyed by all.

Charlie Zahm's strength in the study and interpretation of history has led him through a life-long disciplined research of the period. His music focuses on the founding of our nation and the struggle of men and women who sacrificed all—their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor (as Jefferson wrote) to create a sovereign new land based upon principles of law, governance, and freedom that had long been denied them.



Charlie Zahm

This unique presentation will be fun, interactive, and powerful, providing a window to the past through time-honored oral traditions of recitation and song, bringing the spirit and drama of the American Revolution to this event (visit his website at [charliezahm.com](http://charliezahm.com)).

The dinner will be held at 7:00 P.M. on June 14th at the Collegetown Inn, 3978 Ridge Pike in Collegetown. The cost is \$30.00 per person for members and \$35.00 per person for non-members. Please make your reservation by June 8th and select your entrée in the enclosed registration form. ❖

## *Sunday Openings Begin June 5th*

Each year we look forward to the season when both the Henry Muhlenberg House at 201 W. Main Street and the Dewees Museum at 301 W. Main Street are prepared to welcome visitors and offer guided tours to those seeking information about the history of our area. Members who frequently visit may want to take the opportunity to view new acquisitions or to visit new exhibits. Whatever your

## *From the President . . .*

*Please note with our abbreviated version of this newsletter the enclosed flyers announcing three events. Our efforts are focused on instilling interest in a variety of areas, and we hope that each of our members will select at least one event in which they will want to participate.*

*Our bus trip to Washington, DC, on April 1st received rave reviews. It was a wonderful opportunity to visit our capital on a beautiful sunny day, and a pleasure to spend the day with a most amiable and enthusiastic group, many of whom plan to be on our Philadelphia trip in October as well.*

*Our air conditioning project at the Dewees Museum is almost complete, and we sincerely thank those who have contributed to this effort. We continue to strive to reach the financial goal of this project and our fundraising is ongoing (see page 2).*

*On May 22nd we held a very informative and meaningful training session for our volunteer docents, led by Dr. John Shetler and Dona McDermott (see the Administrative Advisor's message on page 2). We are grateful for their efforts, and for the docents who attended. We appreciate the time they spend each Sunday greeting visitors and sharing their knowledge of the history of our two sites. Members are encouraged to join this effort, or to consider helping with one of our several committees, such as programs, finance, buildings and grounds, hospitality, or our museum committee. Give us a call if you would like to learn more.*

*We hope you will join us at the Collegetown Inn on June 14th at our Annual Flag Day Dinner. This year our program will be a departure from the usual format, so it should prove to be a memorable affair.*

*As always, I invite your thoughts and ideas and look forward to hearing from you . . . .*

*Myrna Knaide  
610-489-9211 THS708@aol.com*

reason, you will be most welcome. Group tours (minimum of four persons) may also be arranged.

This year on June 5th, at 2:30pm, we will also be dedicating our latest acquisition which has been placed at the Dewees Museum, a 1761 Tall Case Clock donated by Eleanor M. Clark of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. Historian Dr. John C. Shetler, will tell us about the interesting history of this clock.

Dr. Shetler will also at this time acknowledge restoration of the tavern room door and recognize Lloyd Ziegler for his dedicated effort in providing this service to The Society.

Both sites will be open from 1:30 to 4:00pm. Refreshments will be offered on June 5th at the Dewees Museum, where the dedication ceremonies will take place at 2:30pm.

Books and mementos of your visit are offered for sale at the Visitor's Center as well as at the Dewees Museum. Your donation at the time of your visit will be appreciated to help maintain these sites. ❖

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**The Historical Society**  
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U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
COLLEGETOWN PA  
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**JUNE 2005 NEWSLETTER**  
*Please, Do Not Delay!*

**Message from the Administrative Advisor . . .**

**Docent Training 2005** — Before books there was the storyteller, the shaman, the family elder who would relate stories of a culture's past. As a docent you have taken on that special role in helping each new generation understand their heritage. By interpreting the past you forge emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the visitor and the meanings inherent in the historic site or in the museum. The best way to begin is to establish a storyline from which each docent can build a story that flows along as they share the things that make their site special.

In preparation for this year's Docent Training, I asked each member of the Board to finish this sentence: "The Muhlenberg House tells the story of . . ." After a few minutes each shared their thoughts. The result was the following storyline around which each docent can build their story:

*The Muhlenberg House tells the story of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg who settled in Trappe, Pennsylvania in 1742 to preach to and support the German community and to communicate to the Lutheran elders in Germany the development and growth of the Lutheran Church in America. Here at the site of his retire-ment, Muhlenberg would hold his community together during the American Revolution and see his sons help build a new nation.*

This year's training session will not only help each docent craft the story they wish to share with our visitors, but will provide me with an opportunity to meet more of the people that give their time and knowledge in order that others may better understand our past.

Dona M. McDermott

**Website Under Construction**

Thanks to the work of new member Dick McDowell, the Society will soon have a website up and running and accessible to those seeking information about our organization, our historic sites, and our growing list of events. We are grateful to Dick for all his efforts in creating this website and look forward to the announcement of its completion. ❖

**Deweese Air Conditioning Installation Proceeds**

The air conditioning project at the Deweese Museum nears completion, but we are still short of our goal of \$4,800—a balance of \$2,800 remains.

Your help is still needed. Please return the form below with whatever amount you can—it will be very much appreciated.

**CERTIFICATE OF GIFT**  
*for* AIR CONDITIONING the DEWEESE MUSEUM

Enclosed is a check made payable to The Historical Society.

In the Name of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

\$25     \$50     \$100     \$500     \$1,000     Other

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