The Sewickley Heights Historian

From the Sewickley Heights History Center 1901 Glen Mitchell Road Sewickley, PA 15143 sewickleyheightshistory.org

Winter 2015 - 2016

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About the Center

- Open: Tue-Wed and Thurs 11:30-2:30 pm, Fri-Sat. 12-4pm, or by appointment
- Photos of Estates
- Authentic Memorabilia
- Historic Films
- Antique Vehicles
- Picnic Area
- Next to the Fern Hollow Nature Center
- Free Admission

Thank you to our passionate 2015 Board of Directors:

Kathy Brandt
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John Edson
Dana Greenblatt-Director
Phil Hundley
Bob Ruzanic
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Mary Fran Sponseller
Heather Unruh Steggles
Belinda Thompson
Carole Semple Thompson
Cherry Semple White

What's New in 2016?!

The Sewickley Heights History Center is proud to host a wide variety of events and lectures. Some of the exciting things to look forward to in 2016:

Two new antique Brass Vehicles on the museum floor this winter on loan from Al Zamba and Bob Yates. Come see the these magnificent vehicles while they are on display.

The Annual Princess Garden Party Saturday May 21st 2016. Carriage rides, food, games, Princesses, and more. Popular event with even more surprises this year!

New June Exhibit in cooperation with Sewickley Valley Historical Society. Reception and month long exhibit including fashion from the early 1900's.

The return of the Great Gatsby Fundraiser Saturday September 10th. Back by popular demand an evening celebrating the grand history of Sewickley Heights!

Did you know?

Everybody at one time or another, has had and old car. You know that old beat up piece of junk that you only take out for an hour or so on a Sunday afternoon! Well, G. Whitney Snyder's love of these vehicles began at age 14 and lasted for more than 60 years. here are just a few examples of his extended trips. In the spirit of 1976 Transcontinental Tour from Seattle to Philly, he drove a Pierce Arrow 4,200 miles. Just a few years earlier in a 1972 event known as the Trans-International Reliability tour Montreal, Canada to Tijuana, Mexico, he drove a 1909 Mercedes 4,000 miles!

We hope that you sometime in the near future will visit the updated Frick Car and Carriage Museum, where you will find many from Mr. Snyder's Collection. He often said "The Frick has the best used car lot anywhere in Pittsburgh!" If you can't make it to the Frick, don't worry, will continue to rotate cars from the Frick onto the SHHC floor throughout the years for everyone in Sewickley to enjoy!

Celebrate The Holiday Season with Donations and Membership Opportunities

The non-endowed Sewickley Heights History Center depends completely on the support of our patrons. As a non-profit all donations are completely tax deductable. Please forward all donations/memberships to the Sewickley Heights History Center at 1901 Glen Mitchell Road, Sewickley, PA 15143.

Membership Year Runs January 1st 2016 to February 1st 2017

Membership supports the mission of the SHHC, which is to promote, educate, and preserve the history and natural beauty of Sewickley Heights for future generations.

This year we are seeking funding to produce more videos about the History of the Heights and continue building our in house education program that we hope to launch in the Autumn!

Benefits of membership include: Advance invitations to upcoming lectures and events. Free admission to lectures. Facility rental opportunities for small gatherings and use of museum grounds.

Basic Membership Dues: Name & Address

Individual: \$20 Donation/Membership Amount:

Friend: \$50 Email Address:

Sponsor: \$100 Patron: \$200 Benefactor: \$250+

Please Return above contact information with your check to:

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A Special Thanks to all of our Membership in 2015 who supported us through membership dues and additional donations. Your support enables our museum to continue to educate the area about the History of **Sewickley Heights**

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Original Robinson Riding and Driving Party guests and transportation

Sewickley Heights History Center

-The Beginning

Many people have often wondered how our SHHC got started. It was a dream of former Sewickley Heights Borough Council President, G. Whitney Snyder to have a park, a nature center and a history center available to the public in Sewickley Heights. The park had been around for a long time, but the other two didn't come to fruition until much later. The Nature Center was to have been called the Sewickley Heights Nature Center, but eventually opened as the Fern Hollow Nature Center in the late 1990's. After Mr. Snyder's death in January, 1999, a major "Scavenger Hunt" and fundraising campaign began. There was NO ENDOWMENT and there was no laundry list of display items, just a beautiful piece of property that sat right next to the FHNC. So, the homework assignment began. How do you raise a lot of money and collect a lot of stuff to display from scratch? Anyone who loves this community knows that pride, hard work and a passions for your hometown can go a long way!

Opening night came around quickly, Saturday January 20, 2001. This just happened to be the two year anniversary of Mr. Snyder's funeral. There was a major snowstorm that evening, but 50 history enthusiasts braced their way out to celebrate. There were plenty of emotions on hand as we gathered in the Nature Center - Exhaustions from a lot of hard work, smiles shared for progress, laughter at the stories and tears of joy for having kept our word to accomplish Mr. Snyder's dream. If any of you had anything to do with this journey, thank you for believing in our special little History Center!



Original Fairacres built in 1899 by Mr. & Mrs. B.F. Jones. Razed in 1915 and replaced with Fairacres II. See these photos and more at the SHHC