



## Spring: A Season of New Events

By Brian Clark



### A Night at the Theater

During a season of new buds on trees and flowers shoots, the Lackawanna Historical Society is proud to debut two new signature events.

In the first event, members relived the days of Scranton's theater district with a night of cocktails, dinner, and a performance while celebrating *A Night at The Theater* in the Hotel Jermy on March 27.

Members enjoyed a performance of Nancy Hasty's *Lawnchairs*, a Dark Comedy World Premiere and winner of the Jerry Kaufman Award for Best Play of 2009. The performance was given by the Electric Theater Company.

The night's setting was the Hotel Jermy, a beautiful building

See Theater page 4

### YOU LIVE HERE, YOU SHOULD KNOW THIS!

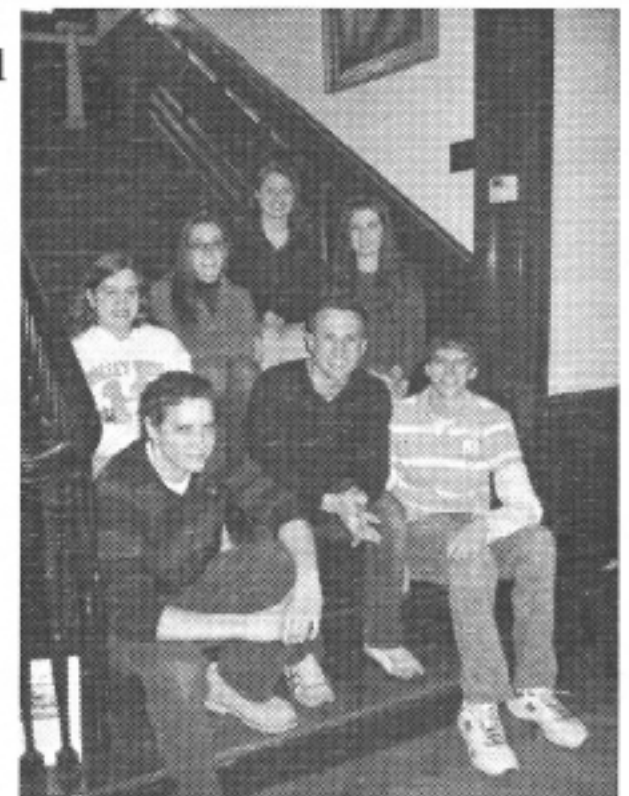
Ever taunt a friend or acquaintance about forgetting a piece of local lore? Ever walk down the street and find yourself arguing over a piece of trivia? We've got the perfect quiz game for you.

The Lackawanna Historical Society is proud to present the inaugural match-ups of its trivia show "You Live Here, You Should Know

This!" on April 30 and May 1. Competing teams of well-known figures from Northeastern Pennsylvania square off to test their knowledge of our amazing local history in Shopland Hall of the Scranton Cultural Center.

Each night is co-hosted by one of two local celebrities—John

See page 5 to learn how you can sit in on a team!



Top left to right: Angela Parry (Valley View), Sarah Hosie (Valley View), Morgann Hoduck (Riverside), and Taryn Lucas (Riverside). Bottom left to right: Chris Ossont (Valley View), Ryan Leckey (co-host from WNEP), and Jamie Nicolosi (Valley View)

See Quiz Game page 5

*The Lackawanna  
Historical Society 2010-11*

# A Word from the President...

*Hello everyone,*

*At this encouraging time of year when our thoughts turn toward a new season, we can look forward to the many programs and activities offered by the Lackawanna Historical Society presented in this newsletter. As president of the Society, I am grateful to the members and volunteers, as well as the staff and trustees, involved in making all this happen. Equally as important, I am grateful to the members and organizations who contribute so generously to support our offerings.*

*So that we might continue to work to collect, preserve and present the history of our community effectively, we want to communicate with you easily and quickly. Go to [www.lackawannahistory.org](http://www.lackawannahistory.org) to check out the Lackawanna Historical Society website. You can e-mail us at [maryann@lackawannahistory.org](mailto:maryann@lackawannahistory.org) if you have a suggestion, comment or question. Be assured we will keep in touch with you also. Enjoy the days ahead, and again thank you very much for your continued and enthusiastic support.*

*Sincerely,  
Michael Gilmartin*

**About Membership...** *Membership privileges include unlimited access to the Society library, 10% discount in our bookstore, advance notice and invitations to all Society activities, special members-only programs and the quarterly newsletter. Attached is a membership form you can use to renew your membership or give to a friend or neighbor who is interested in joining. Please return it to: The Lackawanna Historical Society at 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, PA 18510*

**LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM**

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$10	NAME _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$35	ADDRESS _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$75	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$150	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Corporate	\$250	TELEPHONE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Corporate	\$500	EMAIL _____

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The Lackawanna Historical Society is a 501(C) (3) non-profit organization which is dedicated to keeping vital the history of Lackawanna County. It is supported in part by the Catlin Memorial Trust, Lackawanna County, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and membership dues.

*The Lackawanna Historical Society Journal* is published by the Lackawanna Historical Society, 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, PA 18510 Tel. (570) 344-3841. Address questions to Mary Ann Moran-Savakinus at [maryann@lackawannahistory.org](mailto:maryann@lackawannahistory.org).

Members of the Society receive this publication. Membership contributions are \$25 and up for Individuals, \$35 for Families, and \$125 for Organizations. Special Silver and Gold Corporate memberships are available.

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# In the Catlin House...

## THE 6TH ANNUAL CIVIL WAR BALL

Saturday April 10  
The Scranton Cultural Center at the  
Masonic Temple  
420 North Washington Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18503

Period dress and dress blues greatly  
admired by not required.

Evening begins at 7 p.m.  
Dance music by Spare Parts.  
Prompting by Martha Griffin.  
Cash bar and light refreshments  
available.

Dancing tickets:  
\$35 per person or \$60 per couple  
Spectator-only tickets: \$7  
LHS member spectator tickets: \$5

This project is funded in part by the Lackawanna  
Heritage Valley Authority. This project is also sup-  
ported through the Pennsylvania Partners in the  
Arts (PPA), with funding from an annual state ap-  
propriation from the Commonwealth of Pennsyl-  
vania to the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. PPA  
is administered in Lackawanna County by the  
Scranton Area Foundation to bring significant value  
to the arts of Pennsylvania. Sponsored by the De-  
laney Delacy Guard, Sons of Veterans Reserve, and  
the Lackawanna Historical Society.

### NEW MEMBERS

#### Contributing

Dr. and Mrs. John R. Carlucci, Moosic

#### Family

Richard and Kathleen Chorba, Dalton  
Terrence M. Rink, Scranton

#### Individual

Anthony A. Centrella, Old Forge  
Paul Henry Sr., Dunmore  
Donna Hodgkins, Scranton  
Mary M. Ocwieja, Dunmore  
Alex Wiercinski, Bronx, N.Y.



### FUND FOR THE FUTURE

#### IRON PUDDLERS

P&W/ Washo Inc., Olyphant

#### SILK THROWER

Philip Friedman, Dunmore  
Mary Jane Memolo, Scranton

#### BREAKER BOYS

Robert Booth, Scranton  
Dawn Brennan, Scranton

It's not too late to make a  
donation to Fund for the Future.  
Contact the Catlin House at  
344-3841 to learn more.

### MEMORIALS

In Memory of Joe Mahoney  
Ella Rayburn, Scranton

The Lackawanna Historical Society is proud to welcome and work with  
The University of Scranton's Royal Historical Society.

*Theater from page 1*

designed by John A. Duckworth. Previously, the property was home to the Forest House, which was razed late in 1894 or early 1895 to make way for The Jermyn.

Mr. John Jermyn had difficulty with the city while obtaining a permit for his new building. The design meant the building would encroach on the reservation on Spruce Street. Jermyn and the city fought the dispute in court before the ruling came down in Jermyn's favor.

Jermyn encountered another challenge to his plans for a large hotel. He was unable to come to terms with the owner of the adjoining property on Wyoming Avenue. Plans were drawn up for the building to be limited only to the Forest House site. Shortly before the building began, however, Jermyn and the adjoining property owner came to terms, and the plans were revised. The Hotel Jermyn would be the enlarged structure that we know today.

One of Scranton's first all-steel structures, the Hotel Jermyn opened under the

management of Fred S. Godfrey—a day John Jermyn dreamt of but was unable to see. He died in 1902. The property and the building went through several changes of ownership in its initial decades.

Jermyn's estate was managed by Joseph and George B. Jermyn. In 1923 George B. Jermyn sold the hotel to George Maxey and Frank P. Benjamin. From 1926 to 1937 the hotel was sold to several different individuals. This became known as the Jermyn Hotel Corp.

Ownership continued to change after the property was seized by Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in 1937.

Time and changing lifestyles took away the Jermyn's business model, and today the Jermyn Hotel is no longer a hotel. The building provides permanent housing for the elderly and disabled individuals. The Electric Theater Company—the site of our first spring event—finds its home in the second floor Spruce Street side of the historic Hotel Jermyn.

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## **ENOUGH ABOUT TAXES... LET'S TALK ABOUT DEATH!**

The Times-Tribune archivist Brian Fulton will discuss the history of obituaries and also read some examples.

*Come by to hear about the OTHER unavoidable part of life.*



This event will last about 1 hour (including questions)—giving you plenty of time to fill out your request for an extension and get it to the post office by midnight.

April 15 at 7 p.m.

Catlin House, 232 Monroe Ave., Scranton, PA 18510

Quiz Game from page 1

Webster of Rock 107's Daniels and Webster" and WNEP's Ryan Leckey. Questions cover categories such as people, places, entertainment/ sports, industry, and miscellaneous.

Created by students from Valley View High School and Riverside High School, the Society sees the program as a way to increase interest in our local history—especially among our young people.

Tickets are \$10 general admission and \$5 student admission. Contact the Lackawanna Historical Society at 344-3841 or by mail to 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, PA 18510 to purchase tickets.

## Details:

Matches start at 7 p.m.  
 April 30 and May 1  
 Shopland Hall, the Scranton Cultural Center

## Contestants

who have agreed to participate in our Quiz Game include:

- Laurie Cadden
- Steve Corbett
- John Cosgrove
- Catherine Cullen
- Chris Doherty
- Matt Flynn
- Erika Funke
- Joe Garvey
- Katie Gilmartin
- Nada Gilmartin
- Dominic Keating
- Chris Kelly
- Jack McGuigan
- Maureen McGuigan
- Bernie McGurl
- Evie McNulty
- Paul Nardone
- Chris Norton
- Dan Perry
- Mike Stevens
- Andrea Talarico
- Justin Taylor
- David Wenzel

*You can participate in our quiz game! The Society will sell raffle tickets at both nights of our tournament. Raffle winners will have the opportunity to join a team for a match that night. Show off your knowledge of local history by entering the raffle to join the a team. Call 344-3841 to learn how you can join the tournament.*

### LACKAWANNA HISTORIC SOCIETY IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE A PROJECT CALLED



### FRAMING FAITH AN ARTS ENGAGE! PROGRAM

With additional support from the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority



➤ Looking for individuals in grades 10 through 12 to join us in this exciting experience.

- Individuals will get the opportunity to work with local photographer Ivana Pavelka; she will teach participants the photographic process using other traditional film as well as the newer technology of digital cameras. Richard Leonori, AIA, Lackawanna Historical Society Director Mary Ann Moran-Savakinus will also be available to assist with church selections and provide historical background.
- If you're an individual who loves to take pictures or wants to be a photographer here is your opportunity to get hands on training.
- Individuals will meet two days per week some Wednesdays after school and some Saturdays starting on April 17th

If you are interested in the program, please provide the following:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Return by April 10 to:  
 Lackawanna Historical Society, 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, PA 18510



# Community Calendar

Third Annual Forest Hill Cemetery  
Historical Tour  
An Azzarelli Family Historical Production  
Presented by the  
"Taylorville Historical Troupe"  
Sunday, June 6, 2010, 2 p.m.  
Rain date June 13  
Admission: Free  
For more information:  
570-346-6179 or 1877@comcast.net

## Mark Twain's Wake

*Celebrate the 100th anniversary of Mark Twain's passing with a wake Sunday, April 18 at 2:30 p.m. in the Periodicals Room of the Albright Memorial Library in Scranton. Part of National Library Week*

*This autumn the Everhart Museum will open a folk art exhibit. Please help the Everhart Museum by lending objects that illustrate important rights of passage, holidays, and celebrations in the diverse ethnic traditions found in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Contact the museum at 346-7186 or [curator@everhart-museum.org](mailto:curator@everhart-museum.org) for more information.*

## Arts on Fire

Will feature local artisans and crafters promoting industrial arts, providing demonstrations, and exhibiting their products.

Admission to the festival and to an iron pour demonstration is free. Enjoy other music and entertainment outdoors at the historic Scranton Iron Furnaces, 159 Cedar Avenue

Ethnic food vendors will be on site 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

The day will conclude with a special cocktail reception at the site to benefit the Anthracite Heritage Museum and Iron Furnace Associates. \$20 admission to the cocktail reception. (\$15 in advance.) More details coming soon.



## Call to Artists

### "Arts on Fire"

*Iron Pour to be held at the historic Scranton Iron Furnaces*

A chance for artists to exhibit, demonstrate and sell products at Scranton's first Industrial Arts Festival!

**June 19, 2010**

**10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

The Iron Pour sponsored by Keystone College will begin at 1 p.m. and is open to the public. For more information or to become an exhibitor, contact Chester Kulesa, Site Administrator, Anthracite Heritage Museum, at 570-963-4804

Sponsored by: The Arts ENGAGE! Keystone Iron Works Grant, and Keystone College

# VICTORIAN LADY UNDRRESSED

VICTORIAN FASHION SHOW & TEA. APRIL 11 1 P.M.-3 P.M.

THE ALBRIGHT MEMORIAL LIBRARY, 2ND FLOOR

\$30 PER PERSON. REGISTRATION REQUIRED. CALL 344-3841.

**SOLD OUT**

# MEDAL of HONOR

The Medal of Honor is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States. Gary Roche, licensed battle-field guide for Gettysburg National Military Park, will discuss the history of the Medal of Honor as part of Scranton Civil War Days.

*April 11 at 1 p.m. at the GAR Museum in the basement of Scranton's City Hall, 340 N. Washington Avenue.*



## 2010

### Places of Worship Tour

Join the Lackawanna Historical Society on May 15 2010 from

9am to 3pm for the 16<sup>th</sup>

Annual Places of Worship Tour.

This year, we will conduct a bus tour focusing on Scranton Places of Worship with the theme, "Architect's Choice." Society Trustee Richard Leonori, AIA, has chosen his favorite churches that he believes demonstrate Scranton's amazing architecture.

*The Tour will depart from The Catlin House at 9 a.m.*

Members \$15 - Non-Members \$18  
(Included boxed lunch from Aroma Café)  
Space is Limited So reserve early.



### Places of Worship Tour

*Please Detach and Return with your payment to ...*

**Lackawanna Historical Society**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING:**

\_\_\_ Members \$15

\_\_\_ Non-Members \$18

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

## **UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**

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- SAT. APR. 10**      **CIVIL WAR BALL**  
7 P.M., SCRANTON CULTURAL CENTER. SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS.
- SUN. APR. 11**      **VICTORIAN LADY UNDRESSED—SOLD OUT**  
1 P.M., ALBRIGHT MEMORIAL LIBRARY. SEE PAGE 7 FOR DETAILS.
- SUN. APR. 11**      **MEDAL OF HONOR**  
1 P.M., GAR MUSEUM. SEE PAGE 7 FOR DETAILS.
- THUR. APR. 15**     **ENOUGH ABOUT TAXES, LET'S TALK ABOUT DEATH!**  
7 P.M., CATLIN HOUSE. SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS.
- SAT. APR. 24**      **CLEAN UP DAY AT THE CATLIN HOUSE**  
10 A.M., CATLIN HOUSE
- FRI./SAT.**          **LOCAL HISTORY QUIZ GAME**  
**APR. 30/MAY 1**    7 P.M. SCRANTON CULTURAL CENTER. SEE PAGES 1 AND 5 FOR DETAILS.
- SAT. MAY 15**      **PLACES OF WORSHIP TOUR**  
9 A.M., CATLIN HOUSE. SEE PAGE 7 FOR DETAILS.
- MON. MAY 17**     **CELEBRITY BARTENDING BENEFIT FOR THE LHS**  
**IN MEMORY OF ALAN SWEENEY**  
5 P.M., ANGELO BISTOCCHI'S RESTAURANT  
1120 WHEELER AVE., DUNMORE  
DETAILS TBA
- SAT. JUNE 19**     **ARTS ON FIRE**  
10 A.M., SCRANTON IRON FURNACES. SEE PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS.

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
232 MONROE AVENUE  
SCRANTON, PA 18510

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