



# THE LANDMARK

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Newsletter of the Friends of Old Annville  
P.O. Box 99, Annville, PA 17003

## The Value of the Allen

President's Message by Owen Moe

Twenty years ago, on September 21 1995, Skip and Martha Hicks opened the newly renovated Allen Theatre, a historic theater that dates back to the early 1900s when it was known as the Hippodrome. Over these past two decades, the Allen has built a reputation and clientele extending well beyond Annville, even beyond Lebanon County, and is widely known as a charming, vintage theater with character, atmosphere, and a warm personal touch (see photo below from [www.cinematreasures.org](http://www.cinematreasures.org)).

The Allen has grown to become a true community venue: it shows first run movies, hosts vintage movie series like its Saturday morning cowboy series and its silent film classics series, donates the use of the theater for fund raisers by local non-profits and for local causes, and provides Annville with a vibrant coffee house that displays local art, hosts jazz musicians on Thursday evenings, sponsors open-mic nights on Mondays, invites LVC musicians to perform for an Independent Artists Series on selected Wednesday evenings, and provides a place for local chess club members to play on Thursdays. After 20 years of operation, the Allen Theatre has come to play an important cultural role in our Annville community.

Beyond its community role, the Allen is a key small business within the historic town center that successfully draws people into Annville. Often in his announcements before movies Skip Hicks asks people where they traveled from to see the movie - on any given movie night we are usually surprised by how many have come from all over central Pennsylvania. When we mention to people that we are from Annville, how many times do we hear "Oh yes, that's where the Allen Theatre is located!?" Many people that I have talked to feel that the Allen is an "anchor" business for the town center, a business that Annville can ill afford to lose.

But for several years the Allen has been facing a critical financial and technical challenge, a challenge that now threatens its continued existence. The immediate requirement is to upgrade the movie projection equipment to expensive digital technology. Increasingly, all movies are supplied only in digital format. Without a digital upgrade, the choice of available films will dry up very soon, putting the Allen out of business. Friends of Old



Annville is determined to do what we can to ensure that the Allen Theatre will remain a leading regional entertainment attraction and a draw to our town center.

FOOA has therefore initiated a fund raising campaign to acquire a \$70,000 digital projection system needed by the Allen to continue operating as a theater. The campaign got off to a strong start with an anonymous pledge of \$35,000 as well as FOOA's own commitment of \$5,000 from its treasury and \$6,200 from individual board members and project leaders. FOOA will purchase and own the projection system, but will lease it to the Allen for \$1 per year. With this backing, Skip Hicks has committed himself to stay on for at least two more years, working with FOOA to broaden theater programming and clientele, and giving our community the time needed to plan for a transition to the next phase of the Allen as a key Annville destination.

We hope that by the time you receive this Landmark issue in your mailbox we will have met the \$70,000 goal of our campaign. You can check the status of the fundraising goal, which will be updated periodically on our web site: [www.fooa.org](http://www.fooa.org). If the goal has not been met, we will most certainly need your help. The Allen Theatre has become an enriching and dynamic cultural center and one of the cornerstones of the Annville historic business district. Our goal with this campaign is to support the Allen Theatre and, by extension, Annville's historic town center, in this time of need.

## 27<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HISTORIC OLD ANNVILLE DAY BIGGER & BETTER THAN EVER

On Saturday, June 13, FOOA hosted its 27th Annual Historic Old Annville Day - and by all accounts, this year's HOAD was bigger, more festive, and more fun than ever. Cloudy skies in the early morning gave way to glorious sunshine and perfect temperatures, as several thousand visitors strolled past a record 127 vendors, representing 34 non-profit organizations and 93 for-profit businesses that filled all 150 spots along West Main Street. (Photo: Michael K. Dakota, ©Lebanon Daily News.)



The top raffle prize, a magnificent hand-made Tree of Life quilt stitched by Kathy Moe and Donna Salerno, went to the owners of the First Floor Attic at 149 W. Main St. "All the money raised today will go for Façade Restoration Grants in the Historic District," as FOOA Co-President Owen Moe explained to a reporter from the Lebanon Area Merchandiser (see the front-page story of 15 July).

Music coordinator Lee Smedley put together a terrific lineup of local musicians, including old favorites like the Washington Band and the Quittapahilla Highlanders, and new groups like the Celtic music & dance troupe The Celtic Martins. For the second year running, Pennsy Supply offered its very popular bus tours of its Millard Quarry just west of town.

In all it was a great day to celebrate historic downtown Annville and the people and businesses that make it such a special and attractive place. We look forward to seeing you at next year's Historic Old Annville Day!

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please remember that your MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DATE can be found on the mailing label of this issue of The Landmark. Please send your dues and address change to: Rachel Noll, 1673 Louser Road, Annville, PA, 17003-8856. Have questions? Call Rachel at: (717) 867-2137.

Individual & Student \$ 5.00    Family (2+ persons) \$ 10.00    Business \$ 25.00    Friend of FOOA \$ 50.00 ★  
Benefactor ..... \$100.00 §

### RENEWALS

Iris Berliner Alster  
Dr/M Ronald A. Bernhardt  
Frances S. Bova  
Mrs. Lillian Bowman  
Virginia T. Bowman  
Karl & Gloria Brown §  
M/M Dwayne Brown & Family  
Constance Bryant  
Atherton & Sarah Carty & Sons  
Barbara A.B. Carty, M.Ed.  
M/M William Christ §  
Robert & Thelma T. Clark  
Ms. Nicole A. Emrich  
M/M Michael Eschenfelder  
Betty Evans  
M/M Philip Feather ★  
Linda L. Felty  
Dr/M Dana Felty & Family  
Jay A. Felty, DDS  
Virginia L. Fernsler  
Gene & Janice Fortna  
Mr. Carl S. Fry  
Mrs. Linda Furmanak  
M/M George Gerber  
Ron Gerlach  
Tom & Vicki Gingrich  
Maryann Hanley  
M/M William Heeter

Dr/M David Heeter & Family  
M/M John A. Heisey ★  
Carole Kline  
M/M David H. Kling  
Susan Belmer Kollet-Harris  
Fred & Joanne Kreider  
Jeffrey Kreider  
Verna Ziegler Kwiatkowski  
Barbara J. (Light) Lacy  
Scott & Karen Mailen  
Mrs. Charles Mariani  
Bill & Doris Matz  
Carol Meininger  
Marie Meza  
Larry & Barbara Miller  
Mrs. Patricia A. Miller  
M/M Charles W. Miller II  
Owen & Kathy Moe §  
Louise Moyer Morrow  
Jim & Claire Moyer  
Mrs. Stephanie Rauch  
M/M Allen Rhine  
Bonnie Bernardo Rieker  
M/M James H. Schaeffer  
William & Holly Creamer Shirley  
M/M George Shuey  
Doris T. Shull  
Victoria Siegrist  
Leslie C. Smedley § - DBA Smedley  
Consulting

John A. Smith  
M/M Larry L. Smith  
Marilyn W. Smith §  
Ms. Carol Stewart  
M/M Thomas Svirsko ★  
M/M Robert M. Swope  
Jay & Kim Kreider Umble  
Patricia Van Kleunen  
Mrs. Patricia K. Van Winkle  
M/M William K. Watson  
John & Corinne Weaber  
M/M David Wentling  
Mrs. Gloria Wentling  
Bonnie West  
Mrs. Mary B. Willman  
M/M John Witmer  
Steve Yeakel ★  
Bob & Doris Yorty

### NEW MEMBERS

Fife & Drum on Main  
Patriot House B&B  
Larry Hess  
Jack McNamara  
Scott Thomas Mailen  
Jill Savini  
Ryan & Kendra Snuffer-Slayton  
Eugene Turasky

### Façade Grant Applications Due by September 30<sup>th</sup>

If you are a property owner (private home or business) within Annville's Historic District, you are eligible to reap the rewards of the successful Historic Old Annville Day described on page 2.

For calendar year 2015, Friends of Old Annville is making available up to \$4,000 for the Façade Grant Assistance Program. Applications will be due by September 30, 2015. The size of any single matching grant (up to 50% of the project cost) may range from \$500.00 to \$4,000.00. All the details and the very simple grant application may be downloaded at [www.fooa.org](http://www.fooa.org).



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## *Coming Soon: The Great Annville Tornado Walk*

Be sure to mark your calendar for 2 PM on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> - the date of the Great Annville Tornado Walk.

Marking 100 years since a tornado cut a devastating swathe across Annville's historic district in 1915, Friends of Old Annville will sponsor a guided walking tour of the tornado path, with illustrated guide books provided to all participants. We will view pictures of key Annville buildings as they looked immediately after the storm and those same buildings 100 years later in 2015. Refreshments will be available after the walk, and more details will follow.

