



THE LANDMARK

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

Welcome to Annville, Salamander Books & Music! • Remembering Blanche Schaeffer & Mike Bowman • Sinkhole Closes the Greystone

President's Message, by Michael Schroeder

"I'm a huge fan of the Golden Age of Magic," explained Michael Cantor, owner of Salamander Books & Music on the ground floor of the massive historic limestone building at 1244 E. Main St. in Annville, as he showed me around his freshly refurbished store on a warm afternoon in early September.

A lithe, animated man in his late 50s, Cantor is originally from the Washington D.C. area. For nearly three decades he lived in greater Baltimore, where he owned several other independent bookstores, one also called the Salamander in Baltimore's Mt. Vernon neighborhood, before dwindling sales compelled him to close up shop in 2012. A civil and environmental engineer, professional photographer, skilled magician, published author, and aficionado of all things artistic and musical, Cantor moved to Annville this past year with his wife Cynthia Vejar and their three children after Vejar took a job as Associate Professor of Psychology and Director of the newly-created program in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Lebanon Valley College.

"I'm hoping that book sales can pay the rent and that the music makes the money," Cantor explained when asked about his vision for Salamander Books & Music in the months and years ahead. "We're very excited to move to Annville because college towns like this tend to generate a lot of creative energy. For the bookstore, I'm envisioning not only a collection of modern classics and books of general interest — books for thinking people — but also a community space where local writers and artists can come together to share their work and ideas, host poetry readings and writers' workshops, musical performances, photographic exhibitions, and more."

A.k.a. "The Amazing Cantori" (check out his website at <https://www.cantorimagic.com/>), Cantor also looks forward to tapping into the City of Lebanon's vibrant



Magician and artistic entrepreneur Michael Cantor inside the freshly refurbished Salamander Books & Music at 1244 E. Main St. in Annville.

artistic scene and getting to know local artists and musicians throughout the Lebanon Valley.

Right now, Salamander Books & Music is open for limited hours and for a limited number of customers in consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic, but Cantor is optimistic about realizing his vision for the space once the pandemic passes. After spending some time with him, I have every reason to expect he'll succeed, and in style. On behalf of the Friends of Old Annville, a warm welcome to Annville to Michael Cantor and Cynthia Vejar and family, and to Salamander Books & Music!

Remembering Mike Bowman & Blanche Schaeffer

We mourn the passing and celebrate the life of Mike Bowman, longtime Annville resident and active member of the Friends of Old Annville, who on August 27 died at age 75 at his home in Lebanon. Mike joined the FOOA Board of Directors in 2006, and for five years (2009-2013) served



Mike Bowman, 2013

as the chief organizer of Historic Old Annville Day, helping to make this annual celebration of our town's past one of the Lebanon Valley's most fun, memorable, and well-attended events.

As described in his online obituary, "Mike was a US Army veteran of Vietnam, a 1963 graduate of Lebanon High School, received his degree in chemistry from Millersville University, and attended The United States Military Academy at West Point. He was an active member of the Friends of Old Annville, an avid golfer and Penn State football fan, loved animals, and enjoyed antiques, playing poker, dancing, and traveling."

Mike's dedication to the Annville community was well known by all who knew him. He will be sorely missed.

In this same vein of solemn and grateful remembrance of those who devoted substantial chunks of their lives to making Annville a better place to live, work, play, and visit, we report that in August we received an email from James H. Schaeffer, the son of longtime FOOA president Blanche Schaeffer. James wrote:

"I am writing [about] the possibility of dedicating the Annville Train Station to the memory of my

mother, Blanche M. Schaeffer. My mother was born in 1921 in Woodland, California to Thomas Hughes and Minnie Hughes (née: Bolz, formerly of Annville). In 1937, her mother brought her to Annville, to the family home at 50 N. King Street.

"Her first glimpse and memory of Annville was arriving at the train station. In the 1940's she, along with the rest of Annville saw their husbands, sons, fathers, brothers ("their men" as she often said) off to war. For those who didn't return, that train station farewell was the last time they saw 'their men.'

"The importance of the train station to my mother was the reason, in 1998, she and Kathy Moe led the project to purchase the station, return it to Annville and reconstruct it at its current location. She was incredibly proud of this accomplishment and would take family, friends and acquaintances to see it time after time. In 2011, the family held a large, surprise 90th birthday party for her at the station. My mother was a great supporter of Old Annville Day and in 1989, was instrumental in establishing Historic Old Annville Day."

In response to James Schaeffer's request, the FOOA Board was pleased to pass the following motion:

"That the Annville Train Station be dedicated to Blanche Schaeffer and Kathy Moe in grateful thanks for their leadership in its return to Annville and restoration as the headquarters of the Friends of Old Annville, and that a plaque to that effect be created and affixed upon the station."

Still deciding on the exact language of the plaque to be affixed to the exterior of the Old Train Station, we are delighted to have this opportunity to honor the memory and legacy of one of Annville's most devoted citizens.



Blanche M. Schaeffer

Sad News: “A Settlement Underneath” Closes the Greystone

As we go to press, we haven't yet had a chance to review the engineer's report that prompted Annville-Cleona School District Superintendent Krista Antonis to announce the very sad news that Annville Elementary School, a.k.a. the Greystone, will be closed until further notice because of “a settlement underneath the school building” (*Lebanon Daily News*, 7 Sept. 2020).

But we're not completely in the dark. Longtime FOOA Board Member and 1958 Greystone graduate Rachel Noll attended the Sept. 14 A-C School Board meeting, where the Building & Grounds supervisor and an engineer reported that the exact cause of the problem had yet to be determined; that the problem area is in the kitchen, located not in the Greystone itself but in the addition built in 1987; and there is no structural damage to the Greystone proper. A section of the kitchen floor reportedly buckled upward. An initial test bore hit soil, and additional test borings are planned. Given the unstable karst (swiss cheese-like) limestone geology of this region – the same karst geology that has caused the sudden appearance of sinkholes across the Lebanon Valley, most notably next to the Sinkhole Saloon in Palmyra – none of this should come as a big surprise.

According to handwritten notes by Doris Flory housed in FOOA's Digital Archives, in the year 1920 – exactly one century ago – the citizens of Annville voted in favor of a proposal to erect a new school in the large vacant lot designated 205 South White Oak Street. Construction began in 1926, at a total cost of \$3 million, with the limestone supplied by Millard's Quarry just west of town. Until the late 1950s, the building served as the Annville High School, and became Annville Elementary School in 1959 after a new high school was built at the site of today's Annville-Cleona Secondary School in South Annville Township.

Over the past century, thousands upon thousands of schoolchildren have been educated within this iconic building's handsome limestone walls, played on its ballfields and playgrounds, and created indelible memories of playing, learning, and growing up in its shadow. We would appreciate hearing about any special memories you or people you know might have of this gem of a historic building.



Photo of Annville High School soon after its construction in the late 1920s, from the Dick & Betty Streicher Collection, FOOA Digital Archives.



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Please note that your MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DATE can be found in the line above your name and address on this issue of *The Landmark*. Please send your dues and address change to Rachel Noll, 1673 Louser Road, Annville, PA, 17003-8856. 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 § Founder \$ 250 ❖

RENEWALS

Paul & Tracy Allgier-Baker ★
Beazley Family, The §
Bernard & Mary Bell
M/M LeRoy Brandt
Linda R. Brandt
Timothy & Audrey Brandt
M/M Dwayne Brown
Pauline Charles ★
M/M Delmar Cook
Nancy Darkes
M/M Michael Eschenfelder
Dr/M Dana Felty

Helen Ferguson
Dr/M Arthur Ford
Bonnie Funck Forry
Gene & Janice Fortna
James & Mary Gardner ★
Sally Gentile
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NEW MEMBERS

Elliott & Eileen Garney
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