



THE LANDMARK

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

Spring Program at the Train Station Sun. May 2 • 32nd Annual Historic Old Annville Day Sat. Aug. 14 • Annville Free Library Expansion Update

President's Message, by Michael Schroeder

Spring is always a special time of year, but this spring feels extra special – with Covid-19 vaccines on the cusp of becoming universally available, and with the light at the end of the pandemic-tunnel growing ever brighter after a full year of lockdowns & face masks & social distancing & myriad other restrictions.

As you know, last year the global pandemic compelled us to cancel Historic Old Annville Day (HOAD), traditionally held on the second Saturday in June. This year, again under the able leadership of FOOA Vice President Doug Nyce, and in consultation with Annville Township, we decided to push back the date two months, to Saturday, August 14. We're hoping that the extra two months will allow plenty of time for everyone who wants to be vaccinated to get vaccinated, and for that elusive state of "herd immunity" to finally set in. See the story on HOAD 2021 on page 5 of this issue of *The Landmark*.

In another exciting development, the Board of Directors of the Annville Free Library is thrilled to offer an update on its expansion project that had to be delayed for more than a year, another casualty of the Covid-19 pandemic. Aptly titled "Writing the Next Chapter," the Free Library's expansion project promises to inject new life and vitality into one of Annville's most vital and cherished public institutions. See the story on page 2.

And, after last year's cancellation, we're poised to once again offer our seasonal Spring Program, in a very special event that will also mark an extraordinary coincidence. Here's the short version. In August last year, FOOA received an email from James Schaeffer, the son of FOOA founding member Blanche Schaeffer, asking if the FOOA Board would consider dedicating the Annville Train Station to his mother.

"My mother was born in 1921 in Woodland, CA," he wrote. "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 1940s she, along with the rest of Annville saw their husbands, sons, fathers, and 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.' Needless to say, in addition to her pride in Annville, the train station was of immense sentimental value.

"The importance of the train station to my mother was the reason she and Kathy Moe led the project, starting in 1998, 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."

And now, exactly 10 years after that surprise 90th birthday party – from **2-4 p.m. on Sunday, May 2**, Blanche Schaeffer's 100th birthday – FOOA will hold its Spring Program, which we're calling the **Annville Train Station Dedication** – when we'll ceremonially affix to the Train Station's exterior a handsome bronze plaque dedicating the building to Blanche Schaeffer and Kathy Moe. We hope to see you there!



The Annville Train Station

Annville Free Library: Writing the Next Chapter

by Marty Brandt, President, Annville Free Library Board of Directors

As many of you may know, the Annville Free Library, for several years, has been planning for an expansion to meet the changing and growing needs of our community. We introduced the design at the FOOA Annual dinner in October 2020, and now we have some updates to share with you.

We recognize that libraries are expanding from the traditional services of circulating books, audiobooks, DVDs and magazines to also include more community spaces dedicated to children, youth, and adults for educational programs, activities, clubs, summer reading programs, and special events. Libraries are also important and sought out places for accessing technology. Our original 1950 building, generously donated by Gideon and Alice Kreider with its 1990 addition can no longer so effectively meet these growing needs.

With professional assistance from Hickey Architecture, Inc., and Arthur Funk & Sons, Inc., we have a creative plan for adaptive reuse of the duplex at 226/228 E Main St plus construction of an addition that will join the duplex and the current building, also to be renovated. The expanded library will provide the space to meet these needs and give greater access to all in our community.

Imagine an ADA compliant entrance with automatic opening doors, an entrance from Main St, ADA compliant family bathrooms, a new wide stairway to the basement, an enlarged youth area upstairs, new large community meeting rooms, a patio and sun shade next to a rain garden (for storm water management), small study/meeting rooms, an area recognizing Lillie Struble's contribution to our community library called "Lillie's Place" and keeping the same comfortable feel in the fireplace rooms of the original building.

While the challenges of 2020 have affected all of us and have delayed this project, everyone we talk to supports this exciting improvement for the community. Join us in building something to meet the future needs, that fits in the Historic District of Annville, that is consistent with the downtown streetscape and keeps the library where it is. Come for the programs, stay for the socializing, and leave with a book!

For more information contact AFL Treasurer Frank Yeager (ffyeager@gmail.com), Library Director Dee Neff (dln@lclibs.org), or Board President Marty Brandt (martybrandt@comcast.net).



Architect's rendering of the expanded Annville Free Library at 216 East Main Street, incorporating through adaptive reuse the structure at 226-228 East Main St.

“Annville . . . my ur-landscape of limestone and grass”

by Monica Byrne

Editor's note: In August 2020, FOOA received an email from Monica Byrne, the daughter of local activist Mary Anne Byrne and Donald E. Byrne Jr., professor of religion at LVC, whose family lived for 30 years at the A. S. Kreider Home at 515 East Main St. in Annville (1976-2006). We learned that Monica is now a novelist, playwright, and screenwriter currently based in Durham, NC. Her debut novel, *The Girl in the Road*, published by Random House in 2014, won the 2015 James Tiptree, Jr. Award. Her second novel, *The Actual Star*, is forthcoming from HarperVoyager in September 2021. In kind response to our solicitation, she submitted a brief essay for possible inclusion in *The Landmark*. We are delighted to publish it here, along with a couple of her family photos. Monica can be reached by email at monica@monicabyrne.org.

One night I was on a class trip, abroad in Morocco, deep in the Sahara. We were sitting by the fire and watching the stars come out.

“Where are you from?” one of the guides asked me.

“Annville,” I said, then stopped, because I didn’t know how to explain everything the word meant to me, especially with a language barrier.

“What is it like?” he prompted.

I looked out over the desert. The dunes were big enough to be hills.

“Like this,” I said, “but all in green.”

* * *

In 1976, my family—a pair of theologians and their four children, with one more to come (me)—moved into the Victorian estate at 515 East Main. The previous owners, the Darkeses, had sold it to my parents for far below its market value, just because they liked my mother Mary Anne.

We moved out in 2006, thirty years later. Mom had died, Dad had retired, and we children had made our lives elsewhere. But to this day, it makes no difference to my subconscious whether we moved out or not. I dream about Annville at least once a week. Sometimes I’m at the A-C pool playground. Sometimes the mill foundation at Quittie Park. Sometimes the cemetery under two feet of snow. Once I get started remembering, I can’t stop. Viozzi’s Grocery, where I’d spend my allowance on a Caramello and Minute Maid. The sculpture garden, just under my Dad’s office on campus. American Home Video, where I’d rent one of the same five movies every Friday. The stretch of Maple Street with the best candy on Halloween. Sand bottles and funnel cakes at the Spring Arts Festival. The softball field behind the high school. The alley by the corn field. The old Handi-Market. The train tracks at sunset. I visit them all in my dreams, over and over, and they’re both as strange and familiar as my own hands.

Most especially, I dream of my parents. They chose a life in Annville so that they could raise the five of us in peace. In my dreams, they wax and wane like moons—sometimes they’re sick, sometimes they’re buried, sometimes they’re very old, and sometimes they’re young again.

In December 2018, I was visiting my brother in Costa Rica. Our father Don had just died, and it had been a very hard year for us all. I was babysitting my niece and nephew. They were still asleep, so I sat at a desk overlooking the Valle Central and started drafting a new story, rooted in the dream-reality of Annville.

This is the first thing I wrote:

“In this town, at any given moment, there is some iteration of two moons in the sky: one or none or both, full or half or crescent, waxing or waning or steady as the sun. I visit here often on my travels—for the moons, yes, but also its charm and ambiance and gentle geography. The hills are low and rounded, very old. The parking lots all sprout weeds at their seams. The inhabitants are all friends of mine—known for many lifetimes—though the details of our engagements escape us now, and don’t seem to matter.”

I soon realized that my idea was much bigger than a story. It had to be its own book, a surrealist novel. The seed grew in my head: a cosmic tourist comes to a town like Annville. He stays at a bed-and-breakfast on Main Street, where seasons change from day to day. Meanwhile, a woman and a man appear at different places around the town, also out of sync with time, sometimes married, sometimes sick, sometimes old, sometimes young. The tourists try to piece their lives together as if assembling a giant puzzle. The nonlinearity of time is due to a nuclear plant at the edge of town—very much like Three Mile Island.

Which of us hasn’t wondered what that meltdown really did, to all of us, that we suspect but can never prove?

Novelists often write because they want to make sense of their lives. That is certainly the case for this new book, tentatively titled *Ordinary Time*. I’m planning to come back to Annville at different parts of the year. I hope to stay at Patriot House, which would become the model for the bed-and-breakfast in my novel. I’ll take long walks and lots of notes. I’ll outline on the porch at dusk. No matter how far I’ve traveled in the world, I keep coming back to Annville—my holy ground, my ur-landscape of limestone and grass.

I hope I’ll see you there.



Left: Monica Byrne as a toddler with her mother. Right: As a young woman with her father. Both photos taken at the family home at 515 E. Main St. in Annville



32nd Annual Historic Old Annville Day slated for Sat. August 14

By Doug Nyce, FOOA Vice President

After being compelled to cancel the 2020 event, the Friends of Old Annville is delighted to announce that it will host the 32nd Historic Old Annville Day (HOAD) on Saturday, August 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. As in previous years, West Main Street will be closed for eight blocks to create the massive street fair of up to 150 vendors, a dazzling variety of delicious food, and three stages of music performances. The event is being postponed from its usual June date until August to allow as many people as possible to be vaccinated against Covid-19 prior to the day.

The history of this event goes back nearly a century to Annville Days at Hershey Park when members of the community would travel by train and trolley to the Park for a day of picnicking, rides, swimming and other sports. These days, HOAD retains the focus on community in Annville with the celebration occurring right in the middle of town.

Local residents enjoy visiting with their neighbors, previous residents who come back for the event and visitors from nearby communities. Vendors, including local retailers and restaurants will display a variety of products, food and drink for sale. Many local non-profits also have booths to share information about their work and to fundraise through selling food and drink.

There will be a historic walking tours of Main Street, stopping by the many limestone and log structures constructed in Annville in the 1700s and early 1800's. On Main street there will also be reenactors showing some of the processes involved in home construction in the 1700s, including an iron smith.

Guided and self-guided tour booklets of the National Historic District will be available at the Friends of Old Annville Information Booth.



This year's free musical offerings will include eleven different acts representing a variety of musical styles at three different locations. Tapping Annville and Lebanon County talent, the program includes performances by the Washington Band, the Quittapahilla Highlanders, Mockingbird, Life After Work and Nearly York (a featured group from the Annville Battle of the Bands) at the Main Stage. Matt Miskie, Jim Rule, Carl Bright-Walck & Friends, and The Neighborly will perform at the Batdorf Stage. Interested persons are welcome to participate in the Bluegrass and Acoustic Blues jams in front of the Fulton Bank. Check the Friend of Old Annville website for specific times of each performance.

Vendor forms are available on the FOOA website. From the homepage (www.fooa.org/), click "Events" and then "2021 Historic Old Annville Day," or go directly here: www.fooa.org/?post_type=event&p=1796. Vendor spaces (approximately 15 ft. wide by 10 ft. deep) are \$40 for for-profit enterprises and \$10 for non-profits. Questions? Email Doug Nyce at douglasnyce@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, August 14!

SAVE THE DATE!
SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2-4 PM

FOOA Spring Program
Annville Train Station Dedication
155 N. Moyer St., Annville





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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 ★
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