

# The Mt. Gretna Newsletter

No. 165

Mt. Gretna, PA "Not a place, but a spirit." Marlin Seiders (1927-2008)

December 2015

A note to online readers: Our December issue was emailed early on Thanksgiving Day to give our staff volunteers a chance to enjoy the holiday with their families and our readers a chance to consider Mt. Gretna as a source for their Christmas gifts.

## ***In Mt. Gretna this year, gifts for everyone on your Christmas list***



Katie Carpenter photos

It might be a stretch to suggest that shoppers can find as many Christmas gifts in Mt. Gretna as in, say, Manhattan. But it is not beyond the bounds of an active imagination to suggest that it is possible to discover in this town of roughly 1,500 residents *all* the interesting, practical and distinctive presents needed to complete even the most daunting of shopping lists.

Nancy and John Mitchell's *La Cigale*, pictured above, is one example -- a veritable department store of specialty French fabrics, with its adjacent gallery displaying the works of some of Mt. Gretna's top artists. (See editorial note\* below.)

Dozens of intriguing possibilities pop up across town -- from the corners of restaurants and offices to exhibitions in private homes and galleries. Mainly that's because those who choose to live here are not only a creative bunch. In true birds-of-a-feather fashion, they attract others like themselves, giving rise to scores of inspired and innovative entrepreneurs. On a per-capita basis, Mt. Gretna probably boasts as many artists, designers, writers, musicians, architects, jewelry makers and other talented types who have earned their living through sheer inventive, problem-solving brainpower as any other community in America. That spirited combination promises for local shoppers this year a plethora of choices without even leaving home.



French linens, right across the street

Thus begins our survey of gifts you can find right outside your front door. Herewith, the *Mt. Gretna Newsletter's* 2015 Christmas gift parade:

### Kate's Jewelry



Katie Carpenter photos

Most know her as the genial Timbers bartender. But Mt. Gretna's cognoscenti know her as the-top notch jewelry designer who lives in Mt. Gretna and has something to accessorize everything in their closets. From her Campmeeting cottage, Kate Dolan turns out colorful, tasteful designs in distinctive varieties. And you may be sure: whatever you choose from Kate's Collection you won't see duplicated anywhere else. Her one-of-a-kind creations are on display this month at the Timbers. Leave a message at 717-304-0053 or email [katyd34@hotmail.com](mailto:katyd34@hotmail.com). Inquiries may also be addressed to her at PO Box 434, Mt. Gretna, PA 17064.

**In-home cooking**, classes, baking or entertaining. Now available as gifts in Mt. Gretna.

Kathy Snavely says her champagne breakfast for six (\$125) is a popular choice. For more information, call 717-507-2667, click on [www.kathyscuisine.com](http://www.kathyscuisine.com) or email [kathyscuisine@gmail.com](mailto:kathyscuisine@gmail.com).



**Tennis, anyone?** Sandy Moritz, the first woman president in the Mt. Gretna Tennis Club's nearly 80-year history, invites you to serve up your Mt. Gretna pride on the courts wherever you go -- the club is selling t-shirts and towels to put under the tree this year. The shirts are screen-printed cotton in sizes S, M, L, and X-L ("sizes run large," says Sandy). Towels and a large hand towel are heavy terry, both embroidered with the 2015 Tennis Club logo. Shirts and towels, each \$10. Call Sandy at 717-269-3989 or email: [batdorf7@comcast.net](mailto:batdorf7@comcast.net).

**Mt. Gretna Calendar** When Mt. Gretna snowbirds close up their cottages every fall and head south, a top priority is to take along a calendar created by one of Mt. Gretna's most popular artists.

Carol Snyder's 2016 edition, just out, will reward those who have waited. Interspersed among 12 fresh renditions of the Playhouse, Jigger Shop and canoes along the lake are unexpected vistas of unfamiliar settings that caught the eye of this artist who for the past 30 years has focused on Mt. Gretna's unique perspectives, creating over 100 watercolor scenes.



Her latest creations reflect diverse inspirations, ranging from the rooster house built for Doodle's successor at the pizzeria to stones around a century-old fountain which today intrigues rail-trail hikers. There's also the almost-forgotten footbridge over Conewago Creek and a welcome sign at the entrance to the Campmeeting flower garden.

It would be difficult to say whether her popular calendar appears in more kitchens outside Mt. Gretna than in the homes of year-rounders, but one factor is certain: On snowy days in mid-winter or sunny days in Florida, nothing is more likely to add greater warmth to the place that true Mt. Gretnans, wherever they are, call home. Her newest calendar paintings will be on display at a First Friday exhibit and throughout the month at The Timbers restaurant. \$15 each; email [Caroldavidsnyder@gmail.com](mailto:Caroldavidsnyder@gmail.com) to order directly from the artist.

**Books by Mt. Gretnans** Bill Gifford's "Spring Chicken," a reliable compendium of the latest scientifically documented ways to stay healthy and live longer, hit the best-seller charts this year, sending its Mt. Gretna-based author on a hectic nationwide schedule of speaking engagements and media interviews. "Gifford tackles... not only the health industry's advancements -- e.g., controversial hormone therapies-to prolong life expectancy and reduce the effects of aging, but also the cultural perspectives that underscore the evolutionary drive to live as long and comfortably as



possible," says one reviewer. "While life expectancy has climbed significantly, the overall health of the population is getting worse. This conundrum cannot easily be answered, but the ethical quandaries related to these medical advances lead to an alternative argument that there is simply no limit to human life," noted Kirkus Review. On sale at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and local booksellers.



Elizabeth Wein, the best-selling author who grew up spending summers on Pine Avenue in Mt. Gretna Heights under the guidance of her beloved grandmother, the late [Betty Flocken](#) just published her eighth book.



Ms. Wein, who now lives in Scotland with her husband and two children, specializes in books for young adults. Her latest, [Black Dove, White Raven](#), recounts the experiences of two youngsters who grew up as the children of stunt pilots in the 1920s. A pilot herself, Ms. Wein has appeared as a speaker at the Chautauqua Writers Series lectures and often spends several weeks here during the summer. Her grandmother, a guiding light in Mt. Gretna for Elizabeth and her sister following the death of their mother, passed away in February at age 98.



Wendy Ulmer, who grew up in Mt. Gretna, has just written another new book (her fifth) for children. Published in September, this is a counting and color board book that is currently available in stores only in new Hampshire and Maine, where she lives. "One Green Tree, Ten Chickadees" (\$7.95) may also be purchased at [woollymoon@gmail.com](mailto:woollymoon@gmail.com) [directly from the author](#), who also grew up in the Heights on



Birch Avenue, just around the corner from Betty Flocken.

**The gift of music** Reward your recipients with their first gift of the season. Gretna Music's winter season opener at Elizabethtown College gets into the spirit of the Christmas holidays, Thursday, Dec. 10 at 7:30 pm at Leffler Chapel. Tickets range from \$20 to \$40 with youth pricing available. Depending on availability, a limited number of pay-what-you-will tickets may be offered at the door. Visit [www.gretnamusic.org](http://www.gretnamusic.org) or call 717-361-1508.



**Note cards from the Historical Society** Four winter scenes that snowbirds never see -- appearing on the Society's note cards this year in exquisite photographic detail that makes a striking impression for personal, handwritten correspondence.

Taken by Mt. Gretna photographer Earl Lennington, who started out in life training to be a minister and later switched to business. He wound up as an executive for the Applebee's restaurant chain where he recently retired and took on the task of securing the Chautauqua's entry into the National Register of Historic Places. Somewhere along the way, he also mastered the art of photography.

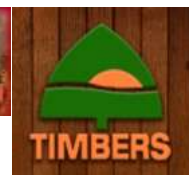


This new collection includes two cards of each design in an 8-card packet, \$14.

The cards are available with an [order form](#) (with special pricing for MGAHS members) you can obtain [online](#). The form lists other items on the Society's lineup of gifts for all who know and love Mt. Gretna.



**Dine**



**Out**

**Mt. Gretna** gift certificates. Their appeal throughout the year, whenever to Mt. Gretna. Gift certificates perennially rank appreciated of presents, principally because they stir memories of good friends.



resonates the recipient comes among the most

Affordable, convenient and practical as gifts that everyone can use, these certificates -- in the right color and size and that never wear out -- make an ideal choice for Christmas gift shoppers, even if their list includes recipients that rank among the hardest to please.

Works by local artists are on permanent display and are offered for sale at Le Sorelle Porch and Pantry. Special exhibits are part of The Timbers' dining experience, with new artists featured each month. Paintings and jewelry by local artists may be purchased there throughout the year.

**Gretna Theatre** gift certificates extend the benefits of entertainment throughout the year. Shows being planned for the 2016 season include *A Tribute to Bruce Springsteen*, the new Broadway musical comedy *It Should Have Been You*, Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* and *Breaking Legs* ("madness, mobsters and comedy mahem," say the theatre's directors); all subject to change. Season tickets may be purchased online ([www.gretnatheatre.com](http://www.gretnatheatre.com)) or by phone.



Other gifts can take the form of individual or family sponsorships that offer the chance to see a theater production from the inside out, or opportunities to sometimes experience the thrill of an audience standing ovation for the show you sponsored.

Click [here](#) for more information or call 717-964-3322.



**Cookbook** Put the culinary skills of Mt. Gretna homemakers and chefs to work for you with recipes collected over the years and now published in "Vittles, Virtues and Vultures." It is the latest community cookbook, published last year and now available from anyone in the Mt. Gretna Fire Company. The cost is \$10, but copies are scarce. This may be your last opportunity to find one before they disappear altogether.

**Coffee Mugs** Each year there's a different design and the value of a complete 15-mug set (since 2001) is escalating. Featuring the pen and ink sketches of classic Mt. Gretna scenes by artist Eleanor Sarabia, they are becoming true collectors items. Proceeds benefit the fire company. Ask any firefighter or stop in at Gretna Computers (next to the pizzeria). Collector's tip: supplies of the popular 2015 version are dwindling rapidly.



**Coffee and Tea** If you're a resident of Mt. Gretna, you have two of the world's premier experts on the subject of coffee and tea in your midst.

Mim Enck and Walter Prognor live in Mt. Gretna Heights and operate a stunning emporium inside their nearby processing facility.

East Indies Coffee and Tea Company has distinctive blends of coffees and teas as well as gifts for discerning shoppers. And a brief conversation with Mim, when she is not off on global searches for new varieties to add to her product assortment, is more than worth the 10-minute drive to their showroom, located just east of Mt. Gretna at 7 Keystone Dr, Lebanon. Click [here](#) for more information.

Also available for gifting are copies of Jack Bitner's classic "Mt. Gretna: A Coleman Legacy, 4th edition" \$30 (or \$29 for Society members).

Other items available through the Historical Society include a DVD, "Pennsylvania National Guard The Mt. Gretna Years, 1885-1935," \$10. "Listed! How the Campmeeting Qualified for the National Register of Historic Places," \$20, as well as pamphlets on various historical subjects.

In addition to [orders](#), the Society's gifts are also available at the Museum and Library/Research Center, open by appointment October to May, 206 Pennsylvania Avenue, Mt. Gretna. Tel. 717-964-1105. Inquire by email at: [info@mtgretnahistory.org](mailto:info@mtgretnahistory.org). (Website: [http://www.mtgretnahistory.org/gift\\_shop.php](http://www.mtgretnahistory.org/gift_shop.php)).

Those wishing to provide additional support for the Historical Society may purchase one-year MGAHS memberships for friends and family (\$20 individuals, \$30 families).



Mr. Bitner's best



### **Mt. Gretna School of Art Campaign**

The Mt. Gretna School of Art offers a residential intensive program for talented and motivated students in harmony with the community. It seeks to become the pre-eminent school in the Mid-Atlantic offering a summer immersion in painting with the focus on working outside -- in the natural setting of Mt. Gretna's neighborhoods and streets, forests and parks, lakes and streams.

The School is currently conducting a fundraising campaign to establish a permanent location in the community. Details of that initiative are provided [online](#).

Memorial gifts to the organization may also be used to honor friends and relatives; details are available by contacting the school's executive director, Jay Noble, at 717-823-8367.

\*Editor's note: La Cigale and the Gallery at La Cigale will donate to the Friends of Stacey Fund 10 percent of all purchases (including artwork) made by personal check during December.

*In honor of Stacey Pennington, the Pennsylvania Chautauqua Foundation intends to use the Fund to promote children's activities and education as well as in the dedication of its summer playground as Stacey's Place, where children and their families may experience happy memories.*

## ***How many chefs are needed to prepare 12 competition-worthy soups?***



Fifteen eager volunteers showed up last month, crockpots and ladles in hand, to compete in the 10th Annual Mt. Gretna Soup Cook-off. Never mind that it has been the "tenth annual" for at least the last four years. Organizer Thatcher Bornman, who leaves the judging to others, may not be able to keep up with how many years the contest has been running, but he knows how to spot a good soup.

This year's winner was Altoona native Steven Vandevander (*inset*, right), who specializes in nurse anesthesiology at Heart of Lancaster Hospital and three years ago moved to the Campmeeting. Making good soup, he says, requires "putting a lot of love in it." His ingredients for the prophetically-named

"Steven's Award-Winning Crab Bisque" came straight from the grocery store. No special touches required, he says, "except you've got to love cooking."

Additional medalists included best-presentation champion Jeanie Bachand with a Dutch recipe (*Groninger Mosterdsoep*) and a fetching outfit to match; "most unique" winners Steve and Annie Roach (Korean-inspired *Bulgogi Steak Taco*); and medals for second and third places going to Reaghan and Mary Harvey (*Mushroom Brie*) and LaBreeska Paris (*Italian Wedding*).

Mr. Bornman regrets not having a "most engaging" award this year. That, he says, would have gone to the personable Dan Vandevander, creator of *Dan's Homemade Baked Lasagna*, who served it with a bubbling personality that charmed voters into making him a close second for "best presentation."

Also enjoying the soup-fest to raise funds for firefighters and have fun themselves were seven-time medalist\* Bob Hertzler (*Hot and Sour Crab*), Jim Badger and Jared Horst (*Caliente Kale*), Jackie and Ralph Zimmerman (*Cream of the Crop*), Bobby and Lily Bernieri



Love is the key

(*Lily's Yummy Shrimp Bisque*), Kelsey and Tom Blackburn (*Apple Rutabaga*), and Brianna Blackburn (*Harvest Bisque*).

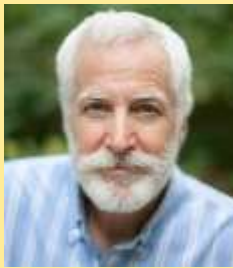
All in the group offered tales of devotion and loving care in the kitchen. "The variety of flavors this year was incredible," said a jovial Mr. Bornman. He is anxious to do it all again -- at next year's 10th annual cook-off.

\* One previous first- and three third-place awards as well as three "most unique" medals since 2009.

## ***Sightings***

**Out on a limb** It was pure coincidence. The only albino squirrel to be seen here this year just happened to choose his favorite perch -- looking straight into the second-floor window of the only work-from-home guy in Mt. Gretna with white hair to match.

That -- er, in a nutshell -- explains how Bill Leonard, a telcom engineer who spends most



Telecommuter Leonard

days working from his Village Lane homestead for Alcatel-Lucent, captured this rare squirrel sighting.

Their Timber Hills setting overlooking the former race track used by Army officers in the 1920s is perfect for the Leonards, who met in Athens, Greece in the mid-70s, married, had two daughters, and nine years ago moved to Mt.

Gretna. Beth Leonard's sister, Joan Royer, lives just around the corner. Two of their three grandchildren live nearby in Hershey.

That makes it ideal for Mr. Leonard, a native New Englander, who rarely has to leave home. Except for occasional business trips, most of the time he can serve his Northeast customers by phone and computer.

The albino next door, which has been hanging outside his window for weeks now, is merely another bonus.



Through the window, a kindred spirit.

**Trimming Time** Officially, the calendar said it was already the middle of November,



but the thermometer climbed steadily toward the 60-degree mark. That combination was simply too much for the Mayor of Mt. Gretna to resist. With a brief lapse in the frequency of calls he must also handle at the fire department, Mayor Joe Shay took advantage of a quiet Sunday afternoon to string Christmas lights outside his Chautauqua cottage on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Sadie, the 11-year-old collie that accompanies him to work at his Gretna Computers office along Rte. 117 every day, thought that a good idea, too. Global warming aside, in Mt. Gretna in November, the first snowflakes could fall any day

now.

Elaine Hartman photo



On a warm November day, the Mayor's good idea

**CaringBridge** Those who subscribe to the buoyant theory that things usually happen for the best may now want to cite Ellen Nicholas, a passenger with her husband Nick when their pickup truck crashed into a tree last July.

Fire department volunteers worked more than an hour to extract her from the accident near their Mt. Gretna Heights home and get both to the hospital.

Then began the long period of recovery. When the former elementary school art teacher finally returned to a home that had been vacant for three months during her convalescence, she began using [CaringBridge](#), an online organization suggested by neighbor Susan Wood.

CaringBridge



Accidental bonus

became the conduit through which volunteers signed up to help deliver meals, do household chores, run errands and restore a sense of normalcy to the Nicholas household.

Advancing from wheelchair to walker and then to a cane as the months passed, she found comfort in her neighbors' daily visits through the CaringBridge connection. "My community was watching over me," she says. That allowed her to concentrate of getting well. Now scheduling her own

transport to doctors' appointments, she and Ms. Wood plan a luncheon this month to thank some 40 CaringBridge volunteers who have made the ordeal easier. They include Mt. Gretnans Beth Leonard, Pam Bishop, Joan Sherman, Vicki Kensinger, Joan Royer and Jackie Zimmerman, Sally Marisic, Vickie Kracke, Susan Hostetter, Trish and Joe Lamont, Sandy Moritz, Diane and Bob Horlacher, Carolyn and Dave Hartman, Joan Zercher, Kathy Snavely, Jean Healy, Rosemary Milgate, Emi Snavely, Barbara Close, Mary Etta Hershey, Rachel Briody and Tina Shenk.

The act of neighbors helping neighbors is the "heartwarming reward," says Ms. Nicholas. Not only did she gain a steady stream



Rohrbach

of eager helpers, but also a coveted list of friends, including some she had never met before.

**Part-time jobs** may be hard to come by in Mt. Gretna, but Gary Rohrbach was out last month seeking someone to help at the Mt. Gretna Tennis Club. He needs a court maintenance director to open, close and maintain the courts and its equipment. Click [here](#) for full job description; contact him at 717-273-5101 or Sandy Moritz, 717-269-3989.

**Lining up to help** The population of Mt. Gretna may be aging, but it is rapidly taking on the characteristics of a bustling storehouse filled with talented volunteers looking to take challenges that may have scared their parents.

For many, ages in the 70s and 80s have become the new 50s and 60s. That suggests if the search is for people eager to work at tasks that need doing, Mt. Gretna is a good place to find them. In truth, it may not be so much a case of wanting but needing to take on rigorous tasks -- and for reasons that may have more to do with satisfying a sense of caring and purpose than anything else.

What matters are needs suited to their tastes and talents, such as those crying out for attention in the lower grades of public schools.

"Recently the Lebanon City Schools did poorly on their state assessments, and a call for help went out through the Lebanon Area Ministerium," says Bonnie Anderson (*inset*, right) who was among those to answer that appeal.

She and her husband John have been coming to Mt. Gretna from their home in suburban Washington, DC, for nearly 30 years. They had wanted to give their daughters a change of pace from life in the capital suburbs.

"We sought to expose them to more caring, others-centered values," says Ms. Anderson. She recently concluded that aim had been a success. "Mt. Gretna summers did that for them," she says. Now topping their list of favorite memories are afternoons spent at the lake and summer playground.

After both daughters were grown and married, the Andersons moved here permanently three years ago. She quickly found herself immersed in the problems of Lebanon's city schools, where "the need is great and the rewards unmatched." The schools are now failing because of staff losses from budget cuts and a struggling constituency: 85 percent are economically disadvantaged, the majority are not native English speakers, and 20 percent have special needs. The children want to learn, she says, "but they need a helping hand and the teachers need to feel appreciated and assisted before they burn out."

Ms. Anderson is eager to guide newcomers through the steps necessary to solve those problems. She invites queries at [gtfalls@aol.com](mailto:gtfalls@aol.com), her personal email address.

Another who has shifted her focus to elementary school children is Timber Hills resident Kathy Yohn (*inset*, left), who recently



Sensing and filling needs



Kathy and her coach retired from a 27-year career in business. After giving up her daily commute to a Lancaster manufacturing firm where she was a mechanical engineer, she now heads into Lebanon several days a week to teach reading to third-graders. It was a move encouraged by Bernie, who is not only her husband but also coach and cheerleader.

"Their faces light up when I walk into the room," says Ms. Yohn, emphasizing her latest discovery. She says the difference one feels after several hours with youngsters in the classroom is "better than any medicine" and invites others with questions to contact her.

As a story elsewhere in this issue relates, Heights resident Susan Wood (*inset*, right), has also discovered a formula to focus on others-directed needs. CaringBridge, a national online organization, has extensive local ties and is well-suited to the problems of neighbors crippled by illness or accidents, she says. As an outlet for older residents who want to help but may not always be available on fixed schedules, it is almost perfect. Volunteers choose days and times they can visit someone at home, cook or deliver a meal, or drive to a doctor's appointment. Ms. Wood (610-745- 3975, email Susanowood1@me.com) offers to help put them in touch with the right sources.

Those who have taken their first steps into volunteering seem convinced the path is wide open. So, too, apparently, are the rewards.



Bridging the gap

### ***\$200,000 down, only \$100,000 to go in the Historical Society's sweepstakes***

Having come through an era that ranked as the most challenging period for fundraisers since the Great Depression, leaders at the Mt. Gretna Historical Society have every right to stick a feather in their caps.

The Society opened



In a difficult climate, a dramatic reach for the impossible

its Pennsylvania Avenue headquarters in the worst of times, just as the economy started its downward spiral in 2008.

Now, seven years later, they can point to a \$200,000 reduction of their original \$300,000 mortgage -- from contributions by former and current residents, sharing their effort with others who are beneficiaries of the reassuring aura Mt. Gretna radiates in calamitous times -- namely the 160,000 or so visitors who come here to relax for a day, a week or longer every year.

Last month, Society officials launched a final push to retire the balance, a \$100,000 hurdle that, against the backdrop of their prior achievements, seems reachable.

The aim is to retire the Society's debt and allow those responsible for steering its future to concentrate on building up funds in reserve. That should support ongoing maintenance of the headquarters -- equipped with a climate controlled vault to preserve its most vulnerable documents and artifacts.

Chautauqua resident Susan Hostetter, who heads the Historical Society board, says a successful campaign will allow planners to focus on their primary goal -- collecting, preserving and promoting Mt. Gretna's unique history.

In addition to direct contributions, another opportunity includes naming rights in various sectors of the museum. Such gifts carry tax-deductible provisions, bringing an added benefit for those wishing to honor the memories of friends and family members.

A form designed for capital campaign contributions is available online at [mtgretnahistory.org](http://mtgretnahistory.org). Additional information packets will be forwarded in response to queries sent by email ([info@mtgretnahistory.org](mailto:info@mtgretnahistory.org)), or call (717) 964-1105.

## Calendar Updates

### **Wednesday, December 2:**

**The Gathering Place** combines its November-December meetings today in Fellowship Hall, Mt. Gretna United Methodist Church. Freewill offering. Noon. *Tip: Meet new people and build new friendships. These gatherings are popular among Cornwall Manor residents, many of whom are erstwhile Mt. Gretnans.*



### **Friday, December 4:**

**Morning Bird Walk** every Friday with Sid Hostetter. Meet at Chautauqua parking lot, 9 to 11 am (followed by lunch, usually at Le Sorelle café). Newcomers welcome.

**First Fridays** continue at the Timbers all winter long. Music tonight by pianist Kirk Reese with Dave Sheaffer, bass, and Dave Santana, drums. This month, Mt. Gretna artist Carol Snyder will have her works on display, including her newest impressionistic watercolors



featured in her 2016 calendar (see article, this issue). Joining her will be Gerry Boltz, a carver of miniature wooden birds, who, now living at Cornwall Manor, continues his craftsmanship.

*Tip: Regulars ask occasionally about items that are sometimes available but not on the regular menu. They include lima beans, ham and cheese wraps, roast duck or bacon cheeseburgers. "If we have it in the fridge, we'll make it," says chef Rachel, a key ingredient in the success of this family-owned business. That and a cozy fireplace, downstairs and the sometimes spur-of-the-moment keyboard inspirations of another family member, Andy Roberts.*

**Saturday, December 5:**

**Annual House Tour** to benefit Cornwall Iron Furnace, 10 am to 4. Tickets \$15 in advance, \$20 day of tour. 717-272-9711.

**Community Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Singing** An open house at the Princeton Avenue residence of Peter Hewitt and Walter McAnney (opposite the post office). Mr. McAnney, organist, will be joined by pianist Thelma Strauss. All are invited to attend and bring food to share, 5:30 - 7:30 pm. E-mail [Rhoda Long](mailto:Rhoda.Long) for "what to bring" suggestions.



*Note: The 12-ft. tree at the intersection of Pinch Road, Princeton Avenue and Rte. 117 is the generous and timely gift this year to the Mt. Gretna community by the Cicada Music Festival, with decorations provided by a group of volunteers led by Chuck and Rhoda Long, Stacey Margut and Cliff Batz (who transported the tree to its site).*

**Sunday, December 6:**

**Christmas Music by the Fire.** Bluegrass, country-style music features songs of the Christmas season with hot chocolate and cookies. Gov. Dick Park, 1-4 pm.

**Tuesday, December 8:**

**Supervisors meeting**

South Londonderry Township, 20 W. Market St., Campbelltown. 7 pm



**Thursday, December 10:**

**Frozen food sale**

Ladies Auxiliary at Lawn Fire Co. (serving Mt. Gretna areas including Timber Hills, Timber Bridge and Conewago Hill): A 24-carat array of soups - chicken corn, vegetable beef and ham and bean. Also available: sausage gravy, spaghetti sauce, baked oatmeal and potato filling. From the ladies auxiliary, culinary wizards with a knack for down-home cooking; 5 to 7 pm, monthly on second Thursdays.

**Christmas with the Canadian Brass**

Gretna Music holiday concert (see "The Gift of Music," above).

**Friday, December 11:**

**Morning Bird Walk.** The group leaves from the Chautauqua parking lot at 9 am.

**Saturday, December 12:**

**Breakfast with Santa** .Le Sorelle Porch and Pantry Café. Pictures (5 x 7) taken with Santa Claus included with the special children's menu featuring holiday-shaped breakfast items: \$5.50 from 9 to 11 am.



**Lunch with Santa** at the Mt. Gretna Fire Company. Santa arrives at 11:45 am with gifts for the kids. Santa's Shop will be open so they can buy small gifts (most are 50 cents each) for their family. 11:30 to 1 pm.

**Christmas Scavenger Hike** in the woods. Find hidden Christmas items, win a prize. Proper footwear advised. Gov. Dick Park, 1:30 pm.

**Monday, December 14:**

**Mt. Gretna Borough Council**.regular monthly session, meeting room behind the post office in the Chautauqua, 7 pm.

**West Cornwall Twp. Supervisors** meeting (sometimes held as "special meetings" in addition to regular sessions normally held on the fourth Monday of each month).

See also entry for Monday, Dec. 28. Usually held at the township offices on South Zinns Mill Rd, Lebanon, at 6:30 pm. Call the township office for updates, 272-9841.

**Brush collections**

which began in the Chautauqua Nov. 30, will resume today. Campmeeting residents may set their leaves out at any time. Leaf collections elsewhere have now ended.

**Thursday, December 17:**

**Winter Stoltzfus**

A seasonal rite based on Chet Williamson's "Pennsylvania Dutch Night Before Christmas" narrated by Tom (Levi) Baum, "the Belsnickel of Mt. Gretna," with his elfin sidekick (and noted local drama director) Max Hunsicker, surrounded by their fans, friends and family.

Early reservations recommended. *Tip: This usually sold-out event includes prime rib and trimmings, plus standard menu choices. Complete with exuberant cheerleaders (Join the cheer: "Robisonia, Robisonia, Robisonia High!*

*Baum's Bologna, Baum's Bologna, Aye, Yigh, Yigh!") and more to give the season a cheery lift. At the Timbers Restaurant. Dinner begins around 6:30 pm. Reservations: 964-3601.*



**Friday, December 18:**

**Morning Bird Walk** 9 am

**Sunday December 20:**

**Children's Christmas Pageant** presented at the 10 am service of Mt. Gretna United Methodist Church. All are invited to join with them in the spirit of the season.

**Thursday, December 24:**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services** at Mt. Gretna United Methodist Church, open to the entire community. A Family Worship Service at 7 pm is a favorite of parents with small children. The 11 pm service is also well-attended. Tip: Arrive early to assure a good parking space.

**Friday, December 25:**

Morning Bird Walk will not be held today.



272-9841.)

**Monday, December 28:**

**Regular monthly session of the West Cornwall Township supervisors**

normally held at the township offices on South Zinns Mill Rd., Lebanon, 6:30 pm. (Note: for special topics, meeting times are also reserved for second Mondays of each month. Call the township office for updates,

**Thursday, December 31:**

**New Year's Eve at the Timbers.** Starting upstairs at 6 pm, a holiday buffet and music party featuring the Roberts Group during dinner with "Galbraith, Briody and Friends" entertaining afterwards until 12:30 am. \$23.75 per person. Separate from the music, a limited menu service will be available on the lower level from 5 to 8 pm.

**Friday, Jan. 1:**

**New Year's Day Hike 'n' Kraut.** A hike in the woods followed by pork and sauerkraut. \$5 per person. Gov. Dick Nature Center, 11 am.

***Looking ahead:***

**Special reminder for Mt. Gretnans in Florida**

Photographer Madelaine Gray hosts a "Mt. Gretnans in Sarasota" party at

her home in Sarasota, Fla., Saturday, Jan. 23, 2015. Drop

her a note [madelainegrays@earthlink.net](mailto:madelainegrays@earthlink.net) if you expect to be in the area.



**Gretna Music's** presentation of New York Philharmonic principal trombonist Joseph Alessi and Friends, with Allen Krantz guitar and Gilya Hodos piano, originally scheduled for November 1, has been rescheduled for Sunday, March 13 at 7:30 pm at Elizabethtown College's Leffler Chapel.

For additional information, see the Mt. Gretna Arts Council's calendars in both print (summer) and online (year-round) versions. Also available by email during the summer is *This Week in Mt. Gretna*.