

The Mt. Gretna Newsletter

Mt. Gretna, PA

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

No. 168

March 2016



Appraising our treasures of the season

Before we say adieu to winter. . .

Mary Ellen McCarty, who will observe her 94th birthday in June, still keeps up a lively correspondence with her friends around the country. Last month, she sent off a big packet of Valentine's.

Jesse Donahoe (*inset*), a substitute from Mechanicsburg who's been helping Steve Strickler at the Mt. Gretna post office since October, noticed that because of their size and shape, the postage Mary Ellen had applied was insufficient. So Jesse, who has come to love Mt. Gretna, set the cards aside for a day or two, hoping to catch Mary Ellen on her next visit.



Only in Mt. Gretna

As Valentine's Day drew nearer, however, Jesse glanced wistfully at the stack of lonely cards, then took \$4.16 from her purse to buy the additional stamps. She simply left the receipt in Mary Ellen's post office box.

"Things like that happen only in Mt. Gretna," a grateful Mary Ellen said afterward.

Postmaster Steve regrets that regulations prevent Jesse's assignment here permanently. "She'd be perfect," he says. (He explains that because she started working for the post office only last April and employees with less than a year's service are ineligible for transfers, she'll have to return to Mechanicsburg.)

A few days later, as we circulated to a few friends a draft of the calendar for this month's newsletter to be sure we hadn't missed anything, one who lives in Lancaster observed, "It's a lot for being the off-season in Mt. Gretna."

That's a term rarely heard among Mt. Gretna's year-rounders, a reminder that Mt. Gretna's "off-season" is a world unknown to most. Yet for all who make their homes here, as the seasons slide seamlessly from one into another, each brings their unique treasures.

Snowbirds also have some advantage in assessing Mt. Gretna's essential values, especially as they reflect upon what's missing in the places they frantically escape to.

Friends they meet at the post office. People out walking their dogs but seldom too busy to stop and talk. Folks who can call you by your first name. Chats about shared experiences with those you have known for years. The buoyant bounce that comes from being among engaging, articulate and creative people, eager to join in the fun or lend a hand.

Distance, ambiance and time accentuate things that count most, particularly for those whose lives have been touched by the spirit of Mt. Gretna.

Artists, too, have an advantage. Special education teacher Elaine Hartman (*inset, left*) once set upon a



The pizza was a little late.

lake itself. "All that blue and white... Mother Nature had put me in my place," she thought as she lifted her camera to take the breathtaking photo above.

Patty Reichenbach (*inset, below*), born into the Mt. Gretna experience when her parents, Skip and Dottie, ran the Hideaway tavern, is now a mom, caretaker and globe-trotting painting instructor. She says her 20-year career as an artist likely would never have blossomed had she grown up anywhere else.

On her way out for a thrice-weekly run along the rail trail late last month, Patty was stunned by a sunset peeking just above the pergola outside the Mt. Gretna fire hall.

year-long experiment to capture a familiar Mt. Gretna scene each day in a new and different way. After completing that self-imposed assignment a few years ago, she emerged with a wholly different way of seeing through the lens of her camera.

Last month, on the way to her Mine Road home for a pizza dinner with husband Steve, she decided to "buzz by the lake, ready to start seeing some green." After getting out of her car, however, what captured her attention was the



Patty Reichenbach photo



Born to be in Mt. Gretna

"Wow. All those colors: Phthalo blue, mauve, silhouette," she said. "I need to paint that."

Like Elaine's experience at the lake, it was a sight Patty had seen many times before, but one that emerged in a wholly new perspective.

Especially for those who live year-round in Mt. Gretna, the passing of winter and the approach of spring give rise to deep appreciation for small things -- things greatly magnified by the good fortune of living in a small town.

So before we bid adieu to winter on March 20, a pause to appreciate our treasures: Sitting by the fireside, with coffee or tea and a genuinely satisfying good book. Conversations with friends, absent of any hint of urgency. Or maybe merely solitude. Or the joys of rewarding silence. Then, just before bedtime, a cup of hot chamomile tea.

Contemplative gifts of winter. Valuable in sorting out what's most meaningful. Harvests of another season in Mt. Gretna, with blessings to cherish the most.

-- Roger Groce

Sightings



Mt. Gretna's next generation takes the opening spotlight this month as young people making a name for themselves make the news.

At the Berklee School of Music in Boston, Nicole Roberts, a part of the Timbers dynasty founded by her grandfather, the late John Briody, made her February recital "The Simple Life" a classic as she headed toward the conclusion of her studies there. The nearly hour-long video of her performance, say long-time Nicole fans, includes musical notes they've never heard her hit before. Also is a brief accompaniment on piano by her dad, American Music Theatre music director Andy Roberts, performing "old chestnuts with a new

twist." [Click here:](#)

Among the eligible bachelors to show up in *Susquehanna Style's* Valentine's issue last month was Michael Spsychalski, whose parents John and Marianne have owned a cottage on Muhlenberg Avenue for the past 15 years.

As [head brewer](#) at Lancaster's Wacker Brewing Company, a maker of craft beers, Michael had some advice on romance, dining and gifts for men:

Make a Valentine's date an adventure, he says. Pick a new restaurant to make it special. Although he laments the commercialization of Valentine's Day, Michael



admits he's a romantic at heart: "Gifts chosen thoughtfully, something artisanal, not off the rack," he implores.

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We expect a challenge on this, but here's the first Mt. Gretna bluebird sighting of the new year, taken on Feb. 25.



It took place in the Valley Road backyard of, who else, Evelyn Koppel and Sid Hostetter, founders of the Mt. Gretna Blrd Club.

No, *they* don't claim it's the first bluebird in town, but it's the first that wound up on our desk.

Rather, they only say that it's as good a reason as any to offer their services-- without charge -- in helping Mt. Gretna homeowners determine if their property is suitable as a bluebird box habitat. They're also offering a fr/ee box. But you have to act quickly, before nesting season starts.

Evelyn probably wouldn't want us to go overboard on this, but she's an expert on ornithological topics second only to her husband Sid, who is equally modest.

She calls such boxes "a great opportunity to see nature at work." Other benefits include teaching children about the environment and, well, simply "enjoying these beautiful birds."

She and other Mt. Gretna Bird Club members will help owners assess such things as suitability for nesting (including a place with cover, food sources and open areas) and teaching how to monitor their bluebird box to protect against predators. She invites inquiries at [koppelonpencoyd@yahoo.com](mailto:koppelonpencoyd@yahoo.com).

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Of all the telephone numbers a scam artist could have picked, the one for Joe Shay's [Mt. Gretna Computer Consulting](#) ought to have been dead last. Instead, the caller attempted to persuade Joe that his computer had a problem that needed to be fixed.



The deceptive caller promised to make an online repair by remote access if Joe provided his password and credit card data.

When the savvy Mr. Shay (who also is Mt. Gretna's mayor and fire company president) disclosed that he was in the business of fixing computers -- and added that two computers now in his shop for repairs were victims of such scams -- the caller abruptly hung up.

Joe says several of his clients have been tricked by similar calls. One paid \$599 for several years' worth of fraudulent protection and is now trying to get American Express to cancel the credit card payment, he says.

"After they promise to fix the problems and gain access to your computer, they load programs that cause more issues," says Joe. "If the victim decides not to go ahead, they often lock up the computer and it usually can't be cleared."

Another scheme is to send a message on the victim's screen saying there is a problem, and the computer is locked. Owners need to call that number to get their computers fixed.

But in both schemes, the result is the same," he says. Older people appear to be the prime targets. Joe's advice: "Under no circumstances should you allow access to your computer or give credit

card information. If your computer has a screen you can't get past, call a local repair shop you know and trust for help. The repair will be much cheaper and not open a security risk," he says.

Guidelines

Of all the maxims worthy of those fortunate enough to live in Mt. Gretna, the one placed at the entrance to the Campmeeting nearly a decade ago seems especially apt this month as residents consider a request from the Cornwall Police Department for help on a special project they have undertaken.



Two teenage girls, one of whom works as a part-time custodian for the department, are in trouble. The older is pregnant, expecting twins with no father to support them. Her younger sister is struggling to finish studies at Cedar Crest High.

Both share a shattered upbringing -- and a tremulous future -- described in the [attached letter from Chief Bruce Harris \(click here\)](#).

Yes, the Department knows well all the familiar warnings: "Young girls who become pregnant without the father's support will likely become pregnant again." "The county has shelters for such circumstances." "Take on this case and open the floodgates to others." "The children will fare better if they are offered for adoption." An avalanche of past

experiences and searing disappointments seem to buttress such arguments.

The Cornwall Police Department, perhaps better than most, understands the odds against success. Yet their first impulse is to try, not to refuse to do the something that they can do.

Readers who wish to help may send their tax-deductible contributions to Cornwall Police Community Account with "Teenager Fund" on the memo line. Chief Harris invites questions at (717) 274-2017 or bharris@cornwallpd.org.

Obituary notices

Anna P. Miller (1920-2016)



Rare are funeral services conducted by relatives -- including grandchildren. Yet, at services held last month Mt. Gretna, where she had spent most of the past 65 years, that is the special privilege that fell to Anna Miller. The services were conducted by her grandson and his father, Anna Miller's son-in-law.

Among those in the congregation were close neighbors, one of whom said quietly, "She was admired, a woman who spoke her mind. You never doubted where you stood with her, and I always loved that."

Others in attendance commented that this service was "heartfelt and honest," honoring a woman whose husband was a pillar of the community -- devoting much of his life in service to the volunteer fire company, with his wife right alongside him.

Together, the Millers had five children and enjoyed the pleasures of a life filled with grandchildren, 10 of them along with 22 great-grandchildren at latest count. [Click here for her official obituary.](#)

Harold Blackburn (1924 - 2016)

From the moment they took off, Japanese Kamikaze pilots could know with absolute certainty they would never return. What they probably did not know was that their chances of hitting an American ship in the desperate, closing days of World War II was less than 20 percent.

Despite those odds, the Kamikaze plane honing in on a ship carrying young Harold Blackburn through the choppy seas of the South Pacific ultimately found its mark. Although he escaped, the attack probably left its lessons on the young electrician's mate who

would later devote his entire professional life to psychiatric counseling, helping heal scars of war for his fellow veterans.

Dr. Blackburn, who died in January at the age of 91, lived to be one of Mt. Gretna's longest-term residents. A native of Baltimore, where he met and married

Emilie, who had come there from Omaha, he followed up on his studies at the University of Iowa by taking a staff position with the VA Hospital in Lebanon.

There he served in a career that lasted a lifetime, underscored by happy hours with his family, friends and fellow volunteers at the Mt. Gretna Fire Company. At his home on Eighth Street, where the Blackburns lived

for over 60 years, he delighted in playing Scrabble -- "almost unbeatable" in the words of his son, Butch.

Although there are no memories to attest that the Kamikaze attack left a mark on his life, it is not hard to imagine the wartime lessons he mulled over on his ritual daily walks through the forests surrounding Mt. Gretna.

The picture above shows him holding up a Scrabble tally in his latest win. Maybe therein lies one legacy of his military experience, a lesson he likely passed on to others, including his patients: "Celebrate your victories, even the small ones."

His official obituary, written by his son, Harold "Butch" Blackburn, Jr., also a long-term resident of Mt. Gretna, appears online. [Click here.](#)



A psychiatrist and master of Scrabble with few peers and many triumphs.

R. Keith Whiting (1929 - 2016)

A physician and his wife who became Mt. Gretnans for over 30 years thanks to the inspiration of long-time summer residents Cheryl and Paul Enck, Dr. Keith and Marge Whiting bought a cottage within six months after Cheryl (who was his nurse in the early 1970s) offered to take them on a tour here.

"He had mentioned that they were investigating summer communities, and Mt. Gretna turned out to be a case of love at first sight," says Paul. They first bought a summer cottage on First Street in the Campmeeting. Then, a few years later, the Whitings purchased a year-round home in Mt. Gretna Heights, where they eventually retired.

"They loved Mt. Gretna and lived there until it was time for them to move to Maryland so they could be closer to their family," Paul says.

During his career, Dr. Whiting practiced medicine for 15 years in Harrisburg and later joined E.I. DuPont as manager of medical services. Here in Mt. Gretna, he became a consultant to psychiatrists in the field of Addiction Medicine at Philhaven Hospital. [Click here to read his official obituary.](#)

Fay J. Sides (1926 - 2016)



Perhaps few Mt. Gretnans can still remember the days when, years ago, Fay Sides and her husband Harry ran the Mt. Gretna newsstand alongside the building where the La Cigale Gallery now stands.

But it is likely that anyone who ever knew her will never forget her smile, and the ease with which she made and kept lifelong friends. Hers was a reputation for getting along with everyone she met, especially the late Alice McKeone, who became a special friend. Many will also recall with warmth Fay's

fondness for gatherings with her family, and the pleasure she derived from reading, solving jigsaw puzzles and following the Philadelphia Phillies.

In the 60 years she made her home in Mt. Gretna, Fay and Harry raised four children, two of whom still live close by. Among her uncommon strengths was her willingness to always help out... at the Winterites, at the fire company and at the Mt. Gretna United Methodist Church, where she was a regular attendee. Services in her memory were held at the Buch Funeral Home in Manheim following her death on Feb. 23.

Other details of her life are recounted in an official obituary ([click here](#)).

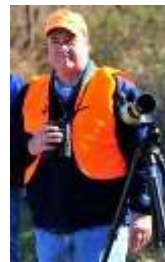
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Calendar Update

March 2016

Friday, March 4:

Bird walk. Ever encountered guides with a marvelous touch... who see more than you'd ever imagined? That's Sid Hostetter and Evelyn Koppel, who set off from the Chautauqua parking lot Fridays at 9 am. Afterwards, count on them to head to Le Sorelle for a late breakfast or brunch. Yum, yum and birds, too.



First Friday at the Timbers



brings the pottery of Lebanon redware artist Jeff White for a month-long display at the restaurant's lower level gallery. Visitors will also discover there the latest creations of Mt. Gretna jewelry artist Kate Dolan. Music for this occasion will be by four who rank among the favorites of Timbers' regulars: Scott Galbraith (guitar and vocals), Andy Roberts (keyboard), Bart Briody (vocals and harmonica) and Tom Volmer (pedal steel guitar). No cover charge. 6 to 9 pm.

Irishfest at the Firehall

What replaces the fire company fundraiser breakfast this month? The sound of Larry McKenna's Irish Band... rolling into the the Mt. Gretna Fire Hall March 4 for a St. Patrick's Day preview you won't soon forget.

Having purchased a Campmeeting cottage last September, Larry said in a Facebook posting last month that he and wife Kathy love being in Mt.



Gretna. "We've met so many incredible people. We have amazing neighbors. If you're at the firehouse on March 4, please say hello."

He's bringing his popular Irish Band in the run-up to St. Patrick's Day (when he's a regular performer at McGillicuddy's Tavern in Wayne -- one of the most popular Irish pubs west of Dublin). Here in Mt. Gretna, there'll be dancing, snacks, drinks and music with all proceeds of the \$15 admission fee going to the fire company. 8 to 11 pm.

Saturday, March 5:

Governor Dick Opens its 10th Year with a 10 Hike. "We'll identify 10 winter trees," says the center's spirited organizer, Audrey Wells. The hike starts at 1 pm.

Sunday, March 6:

Sunday Services at Mt. Gretna United Methodist Church (MGUMC), 8:30 and 10 am, Fourth and Boehm avenues, Campmeeting. Visitors welcome.

Note: Inclement weather delays or cancellations are posted at www.mtgretnachurch.org.

Fitness Hike at Governor Dick Park. Vigorous 4- to 6-mile hike. 9 am.

Music by the Fireside With PatZ Kline (*inset*), at the Governor Dick Nature Center, 1 to 4 pm.



Monday, March 7:

Zumba Gold "Great fun, close to home, good exercise," say folks who've tried it. At the fire company every Monday, 8:15 to 9 am. Drop-in, \$5. (See details below.)

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

Tuesday, March 8:

South Londonderry Township meeting at the Municipal Building, 20 W. Market St., Campbelltown, 7 pm. South Londonderry includes the Mt. Gretna neighborhoods of Timber Hills, Conewago Hill and Timber Bridge.

Tip: For the "pubic input" session shortly after the meeting begins, there is no need to submit anything in advance. Comments in this session are typically limited to three minutes.

For residents who will need more time on the schedule, Township manager Shawn Arbaugh suggests they contact him about two weeks in advance. That will allow him to provide additional information to the supervisors and include that topic on the official agenda.

Wednesday, March 9:

Chautauqua Board of Managers meeting. Open to all Chautauqua residents. Conference room (back of the post office). 7 pm. Monthly, on second Wednesdays, except national and religious holidays.

Thursday, March 10:

Lawn Fire Company's cavalcade of soups plus other savory treats that defy description, including baked oatmeal, homemade potato filling, spaghetti sauce and *hmmmm* good sausage gravy.

Why spend time in your kitchen when soups like these are just down the street? Chicken corn, vegetable beef and ham and bean soups... all in frozen containers you can pick up on the way home. Prepared by the culinary wizards of Lawn at the fire company, open for sales today from 5 to 7 pm.

Friday, March 11:

Bird walk, begins from the Chautauqua parking lot. Birds you never knew were there, right in your own backyard. 9 am.

Saturday, March 12:

Volunteer Work Day at Gov. Dick Park. Spring clean-up on the trails and around the Center, now celebrating its 10th year.

Dig In

Junior Naturalists (4 and older) learn at Gov. Dick Park about who lives in or under the soil during the winter. 1 pm; \$5.

Sunday, March 13:

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME STARTS

Sunday Services at MGUMC, 8:30 and 10 am. Fourth and Boehm avenues, Campmeeting. Visitors welcome.

Note: Inclement weather delays or cancellations are posted at www.mtgretnachurch.org .

The Year in Wildflowers A slide show to whet your appetite

for finding wildflowers. Governor Dick Nature Center, 2 pm.

New York Philharmonic principal trombonist Joseph Alessi in a program of virtuoso trombone showstoppers, plus guitarist and composer Allen Krantz's



Passacaglia, a work written for Mr. Alessi in memory of his teacher, trombone legend Glenn Dodson, with pianist Gilya Hodos in a Gretna Music concert at the Elizabethtown College Leffler Chapel and Performance Center, 7:30 pm.

Note: Reserve by Monday, March 7, Dinner at Leffler ([click here](#)), a buffet-style meal with choice of two entrees, sides, desserts and assorted non-alcoholic beverages served in a gallery adjoining the main auditorium. \$22.

Monday, March 14:

Zumba Gold, a different approach to Zumba. Anyone can do this class, says Janice Balmer. "Some call it 'gentler,' what I like to say is that it's adaptable.

Say we have a song that calls for a turn around. Some folks don't turn -- they get dizzy or may not have great balance. So they don't turn. I show them how to just keep going till the next move." Janice can even teach people in chairs. Mondays at 8:15 - 9 am at the fire hall. Drop-in. \$5. *See details in March 21 listing.*

Tuesday, March 15:

Campmeeting Board of Managers meeting (monthly, on third Tuesdays, except national and religious holidays) at Mt. Gretna United Methodist Church, 6:30 pm.

Wednesday, March 16:

Lenten services MGUMC, 7 pm, preceded by soup and sandwiches at 6 pm (part of a regional community service series).

Thursday, March 17:



Chautauqua cottage

St. Patrick's Day Dinner at the Timbers.

Dinner specials plus music by the famed Bogtotters of Mt. Gretna: Guitarist Scott Galbraith, Bart Briody (harmonica), pianist Andy Roberts, Dale Dourte (mandolin and vocals) with pedal steel guitar artist Tom Volmer. 6 to 9 pm.

Easter Egg Dye Night at MGUMC, 6:30 pm. All children welcome to dye and decorate eggs.

Friday, March 18:

Bird walk, begins from the Chautauqua parking lot. 9 am. Depend on Sid and Evelyn to spot birds you'd have missed without their expert guidance. Every Friday morning at 9, followed usually by a trip to Le Sorelle for late breakfast or lunch.

Spring Fling at the Timbers for Mt. Gretnans in Timber Hills, Conewago Hill, Timber Bridge and "anyone else who wants to join us," says co-organizer Evelyn Koppel



(inset).

Mainly, it's simply an excuse to kick off the spring season with drinks, dinner and friendly conversation.

To reserve space for your group, call the Timbers (964-3601) and tell them you'll be



part of the March 18 Spring Get Together.

Co-organizer Barbara Close (*inset below*, with husband Richard; email closeb@etown.edu) invites you



to contact her with questions. You're also welcome to serve as a volunteer, helping greet people as they arrive or introducing newcomers to others. Everyone is welcome, says Barbara, and you can make your reservations "right up to the last minute." At the *Timbers*, 5 to 8 pm, Friday, March 18.

Saturday, March 19 :

Annual Easter Egg Hunt, in and around the Chautauqua Playground and Jigger Shop, sponsored by MGUMC, 11 am sharp! (This event is usually over by 11:02 am.) All children welcome. (Rain date: Saturday, March 26.)

See What's *Green* Walk

Take a walk around Governor Dick Park to find greening evidence of the new season, just around the corner. 2 pm.

Sunday, March 20:

Palm Sunday Services at MGUMC, 8:30 and 10 am. Fourth and Boehm avenues, Campmeeting. Visitors welcome. Note: Inclement weather delays or cancellations are posted at

www.mtgretnachurch.org.

Orienteering Event at Governor Dick Park, sponsored by the Delaware Valley Orienteering Assn. 10 am. There'll be a Beginning Orienteering Class at 11 am in the Center; afterwards, you'll go outdoors to try your new knowledge.

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Mt. Gretna's Railroads: A Visual Retrospective sponsored by the Mt. Gretna Area Historical Society. Local historian Don Rhoads, Jr. surveys the activities of the Cornwall-Lebanon Railroad and the Mt. Gretna narrow-gauge railroad. At the Mt. Gretna Fire Hall, 2 pm. \$5 admission; no charge for Historical Society

members.

Monday, March 21:

Zumba Gold, an "adaptable" Zumba approach that's ideal for people of every age, says instructor Janice Balmer. "I show options for folks who want smaller or bigger moves. If turns cause them to get dizzy or if they don't have great balance, I show them how to just keep going until the next move. Zumba has grown tremendously because of that -- it appeals to many different folks. I have even taught it to people in chairs," she says. "If you're willing to move, you can Zumba. There's no right or wrong. If you move, you've got it," says Janice. Mondays 8:15 to 9 am at the fire company. \$5 drop-in.



Wednesday, March 23:

Women's Hall of Fame honors 11 area women including two from Mt. Gretna, Emi Snavely and Mary Burchik, at a luncheon today at Lebanon Country Club, 11:30 am. Details [click here](#).

Thursday, March 24:

Maundy Thursday Communion Service at MGUMC, 7 pm.

Friday, March 25:

Bird walk, begins from the Chautauqua parking lot. 9 am. Another adventure into seeing birds you never knew were there, followed by breakfast/brunch at LeSorelle Cafe

Good Friday Community Service, Cornwall Manor chapel 1 pm

Spring Amphibians Don your boots, hunt for salamanders and frogs. Dress warmly, bring a flashlight. Gov. Dick Park, 6:30 pm.

Saturday, March 26:

Whose Egg? Family program at Gov. Dick Nature Center starts with the book, *Whose Egg?* then ventures outdoors to learn about the many different creatures that lay eggs. \$5 per child. 1 pm.

Sunday, March 27:



Easter Sunrise Service

At the
Campmeeting
Tabernacle, 7 am.

Visitors welcome.

Easter Sunday Services at MGUMC, 8:30 and 10 am. Fourth and Boehm avenues, Campmeeting. Visitors welcome.

Note: Inclement weather delays or cancellations are posted at www.mtgretnachurch.org.

Easter Sunday Buffet at the Timbers, with seatings at 11:30 and 1:30: Hot roast beef, oven roasted turkey, baked ham, breaded veal, potato filling and sweet potatoes, gravy, three hot vegetables, tomato sauce and salad station. Garden vegetable soup, crudité



with cream dip, potato and pasta salads, marinated vegetables, fruits, condiments, rolls and butter, water and coffee. Plus music from noon to 3 pm by pianist [Andy Roberts](#). \$19.75.

Monday, March 28:

Zumba Gold, adaptable Zuma for everyone. "If you are willing to move, you can Zumba," says Janice Balmer, who conducts classes every Monday, 8:15 - 9 am. Details above in listing for March 21.

West Cornwall Township Supervisors

(held only as necessary on second Mondays and announced at the previous regular session and a notice posted outside the township office).

The supervisors normally meet on the on fourth Monday of each month at the township offices, 73 South Zinns Mill Rd., at 6:30 pm. Tel 272-9841 for schedule updates and meeting agendas. Click here for the township's 2016 calendar of supervisors' regular sessions (fourth Mondays) and "tentative" meetings

Looking ahead:

A recently announced expansion for the popular winter series at Elizabethtown College: **Trio Valtorna**, performing Brahms' Horn Trio and other works Saturday, April 2, and, just before the primary, The Capitol Steps, Tuesday, April 19.

[Click here for details.](#)

Mt Gretna School of Art annual art auction Sunday, April 10 at Lancaster Galleries. Growing each year, the auction has become not only an important fund-raiser but also a focal point that gives local supporters a chance to appraise the school's expanding national support. Hosted by Lancaster Galleries, 34 N. Water Street, Lancaster and John Hess Auction Service.

Gretna Theatre's "Gala Lite" spring fundraiser is coming up Sunday, April 17. As for time, price, venue and entertainers -- those details are coming next month, says Renee Krizan, the Theatre's always exuberant associate artistic director. For now, just block off a spot on your calendar.

Got the Nerve Triathlon, the fundraiser for victims of neurological disorders, holds its one-day event in Mt. Gretna -- which usually attracts 1,000 or more participants and spectators and this year takes place May 21. Plan on minor traffic disruptions that morning. Shortly thereafter, organizers of this well-managed event set about to assure that scarcely a trace they were here remains behind after they leave.

Film Premier: History of Mt. Gretna. This new 60-minute documentary by producer James Forney traces the

community's development from its founding to modern times, part of next year's Campmeeting and Chautauqua 125th anniversary celebrations. Friday, July 8. Sponsored by the Mt. Gretna Area Historical Society.

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