



The Hetfield House

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From the CHAIRMAN'S INKWELL



Following are some of the many activities and announcements from the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee during the past year. You are encouraged to take advantage of any of these programs and support Historic Preservation in Mountainside.

GINGERBREAD OPEN HOUSE - DECEMBER 16, 2007: All are invited to the Hetfield House's first annual Gingerbread Open House. The Hetfield House will be all decked out in holiday finest with lots of activities. Please mark your calendars to attend on Sunday, December 16th from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Activities planned include: Mr. and Mrs. Claus with storytelling by Mrs. Claus, kids' craft making, gingerbread sampling, community display of gingerbread creations, string quartet, holiday caroling by Deerfield

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“ MISSION STATEMENT

The Mountainside Restoration Committee and the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee were established to preserve the Borough's links to the past. The premier venue is the Deacon Andrew Hetfield House, our circa 1760 building, preserved by these two committees whose volunteers share membership. We strive to focus attention on our heritage through tours, newsletters, videos and many events during the year. Our mission includes maintaining the Hetfield House property in perpetuity.

MEMORIES of a DENTIST CHAIR

Sitting amidst the dusty basement of the Deacon Andrew Hetfield House is a curious sight. It's a shabby, gracefully worn, and very old dentist's chair! Upon questioning its origin, one learns that it is actually the dentist chair that was left in the old Echo Brook School. The Echo Brook School is now the site of Mountainside Borough Hall. When the building was being renovated, the chair was found in the old school's dust covered basement and given to the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee. It was saved from the dumpster.

The Committee is holding on to the chair because it is a piece of Mountainside history. One day, it will receive a place more worthy than a dusty basement. For now, it is the subject of curiosity and the fond (or not-so-fond) memory of the many students who attended Echo Brook School. For it was in this very chair that the students in the Mountainside school system got their school dental exams! Yes, at one time, our students got dental exams in school. This practice actually lasted for some years continuing at Deerfield school into the 1960s.

Current residents of Mountainside, who attended Echo Brook School in the early-mid 1900s, vividly remember the dental chair and the exam - although none of those questioned seemed to remember the dentist's name! Personal accounts recall that the dentist would come to the school and each class would be called for exams. The chair faced a window overlooking Route 22 and the "patient" could watch the traffic on the highway. Some remember that the dentist would actually fill cavities in that chair. According to one long-time resident's

account, "the dentist wasn't so bad, he was very nice and I wasn't afraid of the chair."

Today, the chair reminds us of a time when dental exams were free and no one thought about insurance liability. If anyone has an idea on how the town should showcase this dentist's chair, please let one of the Committee members know by calling (908) 789-9420.



The old Echo Brook School dental chair as it sits in the Hetfield House basement.

DONOR KINDNESS helps spruce up Hetfield House

Recently, the Deacon Andrew Hetfield House has been the fortunate recipient of several very generous donations from individuals and organizations. In 2006, the Watts Foundation granted the Hetfield House \$6000 which was used to repair the kitchen fireplace and bring it back to working order. During the recent "Four Centuries in a Weekend" Open House, held on October 20-21st, the kitchen fireplace displayed a beautiful wood fire. This was the first time the fireplace was used since the borough took possession of the house 1985! Thank you to the Watts Foundation for seeing to it that this fireplace is once again put to use.

Also, the Questers Old One Horn Cannon Chapter of Westfield presented a check in the amount of \$1250 to the Mountainside Historic Restoration Committee. Cynthia West and Carol Goggi accepted the check on behalf of the Committee during the Questers luncheon on June 15th. The Committee is very grateful to the Questers for their continued interest and support of the Hetfield House. These monies will be used toward fireplace restoration in the house.

The estate of the late Daniel Bliwise has entrusted the Committee with a donation of \$2000 to use toward renovation and upkeep of the Hetfield House. The Committee certainly appreciates this donation and it will be put to good use toward some much-needed renovations to the Hetfield House.



Authors Meurice Jeffers Lake (center) and Dina Taylor West (right) stand with Committee member, Diane Ruggiero (left) during their Hetfield House book signing event

BOOK SIGNING held at Hetfield House

On Sunday, May 20th, the Hetfield House was the site of a dual authors' book signing. Mountainside author, Dina Taylor West, was on hand to sign copies of her books: *Bloom and Grow with your Learning Disability*, and *Study Abroad Survival Guide*. Ms. West, who grew up in Mountainside is a graduate of The College of Saint Elizabeth and has spent three years studying abroad in Italy, Greece and Argentina. She plans on continuing her master's degree at Tulane University in New Orleans.

Also, signing books on this day was author, Meurice Jeffers Lake, a Mountainside resident as well. She is the author of *The Lighthouse Secret* and *The Mysterious Love Letter* which is geared for children. A former elementary school teacher, Ms. Lake spent her summers as a child in Cape May, New Jersey. *The Lighthouse Secret* is set in Cape May.

The two authors spent a pleasant afternoon at the Hetfield House selling and signing books and chatting with guests about their stories.

Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee

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Glenn Mortimer, Borough Council Liaison

The members and officers of this committee are also the members of the Mountainside Restoration Committee, Inc. which was formed to acquire and expend funds for the preservation of the Hetfield House and other historical purposes.

Friends of the Hetfield House MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Annual Membership:

Individual Friend - \$5.00

Very Special Friend - \$10.00 or more

I would like to volunteer my time.

Call me at this number: _____

Make Checks Payable to:

Mountainside Restoration Committee, Inc.

And, mail along with this form to:

Carol Clark, Treasurer

308 Summit Road, Mountainside, NJ 07092



Historic Preservation Committee Chairman, Scott Daniels, presents the 2007 Arthur J. Brahm Historic Preservation Scholarship Award to Samantha Schranck

The ARTHUR J. BRAHM Historic Preservation Scholarship Award

At the 8th grade Graduation Ceremony for Deerfield School, held on Friday, June 22nd, Scott Daniels, Chairman of the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee presented the Annual Arthur J. Brahm Historic Preservation Scholarship Award. This award is presented to the graduating eighth grader who demonstrated excellence in a written essay depicting some aspect of Mountainside's history. The 2007 award was presented to Samantha Schranck for her essay on Mountainside's 1995 Centennial Parade. Congratulations, Samantha! Samantha's and other entries will be on display at the Hetfield House for all to read.

DRAWING WINNERS announced

Each year, the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee holds a Spring fundraising drive for the upkeep of the Hetfield House. This year, the funds were used towards renovation of the fireplace. Thank you to all who participated in this fundraiser - the Hetfield House really does need your support! A drawing was held on May 20th from names submitted during this fundraiser. Following are the winners:

\$500 Gift Certificate: Art Sauerborn
 \$300 Gift Certificate: Paul Zavodny
 \$100 Gift Certificate: Elizabeth Hahn
 \$100 Gift Certificate: Ruth Tate

Congratulations winners and thank you all for your support!

Show off your GINGERBREAD CREATIONS

The Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee is holding the First Annual Gingerbread Open House on Sunday, December 16th from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Held at the Historic Deacon Andrew Hetfield House, the Open House will feature lots of holiday activities. During this Open House, we would like to feature the Gingerbread talents of our friends and neighbors. If you have a Gingerbread Creation that you would like to share during our Gingerbread Open House, please bring it to the Hetfield House (located on Constitution Plaza



near the Mountainside Library) on Saturday, December 15th from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Your creation will be displayed for all to see and admire. (Creations can be picked up

between 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 16th). For further information or to make alternate arrangements for drop-off or pick-up, please call 789-9420.

UPDATE on Mountainside's WRITTEN HISTORY

Connie McNamara, the author of Mountainside's updated history, has submitted a rough draft of the history to the Committee for review. Connie's months of research have yielded a wealth of wonderful information that she has compiled into the future publication tentatively entitled, *It Was Only Yesterday: History of Mountainside (1945-2007)*. We look forward to the publication of this history. Details will be made available on how to purchase this book when it is published in 2008.

CHAIRMAN'S INKWELL

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School students, woodwinds music by Deerfield School students, plus lots of holiday charm. Don't forget your cameras for photos with Mr. or Mrs. Claus!

BRICK FUNDRAISER: A fifth set of bricks will be dedicated and placed in the walkway in the Fall of 2008. To purchase bricks for the next dedication, please pick up a flyer at the Mountainside Library, Borough Hall or call 789-9420. Through the sale of these bricks which make up the path leading to the front door of the Hetfield House, the MHPC is raising funds to write and publish an updated history book of our Borough's history from 1945 to present. The original *History of Mountainside* by Jean Hesketh-Hershey covers the history until 1945 (copies are available for \$5 each, call 789-9420).

HETFIELD HOUSE NOTECARDS FOR SALE: Classic ivory colored, folded note cards are available for sale in sets of twelve with envelopes. They feature the Harry Devlin sketch of the Hetfield House on the front with a brief history on the back. The inside is blank. Anyone interested in purchasing these cards can do so at Borough Hall or stop by the Hetfield House during any open house or event. They are being

sold for \$7.00 per set of 12 and make a great gift or stocking stuffer!

THANK YOU RAKE & HOE GARDEN CLUB: During this Fall, members of the Rake & Hoe Garden Club planted 200 daffodils and other perennial plants at the entrance to the Hetfield House. We look forward to the Spring when these bulbs show a blaze of sunshine color in front of our house.

SCHEDULED OPEN HOUSES: Generally, the Hetfield House is open to the public during most months from September through June on the third Sunday from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. The public is invited during these times to tour the house and gain insight into Mountainside's historic past.

HETFIELD HOUSE IS AVAILABLE FOR USE: The Deacon Andrew Hetfield House is available for use by community groups for meetings or tours. It is also available for rent to individuals or organizations for other events. For information on availability, please contact Lenore Toner at 233-7260.

For further information on the activities of the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee and updates on the Hetfield House happenings, please call 789-9420 or visit www.mountainsidehistory.org.

Scott Daniels - Chairman, Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee

**Gingerbread
Open House**
 The Hetfield House
 Constitution Plaza,
 Mountainside
Sunday, Dec. 16, 2007
1:00 - 5:00 pm

Join us for Kids' Crafts, Refreshments,
 Live Music, Mr. & Mrs. Claus, Community
 Gingerbread House display and more!
 Admission is Free

Enrich the Holiday Season with a visit to
 an authentically-decorated,
 centuries-old home. Stop by for a visit
 and feel the warmth of the holidays as
 they once were.

Bring your cameras for photos
 with Mr. & Mrs. Claus!

Sponsored by the Mountainside Historic Preservation
 Committee - For Information, Contact: (908)789-9420.

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