

# Help us save our 305-year-old headquarters



## Downingtown Area Historical Society **Hist-O-Gram**

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

[www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org)

*The past is never done. It is not even past-William Faulkner*

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## Where and What Is This?



The first person to correctly identify the site, shown above, will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your responses to: [Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org).

## Downingtown area news published 36 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the early part of November 1978.

**DHS athletes** named to an all-Ches-Mont League team included: Larry Williams, cross-country; Scott Dailey, Mark Mathis, Leigh Hannum and John McClung, soccer; and Greg Peters, Eric Meyers and Brad Weiss, golf.

Officers of the **Whitford branch of the Needlework Guild** were: Eva Wilson, incoming president; Jeanne Greene, outgoing president; Edith Thompson, vice president; and Myrtle Butterman, secretary-treasurer.

Lois Brown Walters was the **DHS marching band's** drum major in 1930. In fact, she was the first female drum major of a high school band in Chester County. Formed in 1928, the 27-piece band was directed by Amos Miley.

Winners of the Halloween costume competition at **St. Joseph's School** in Downingtown included: April Bossert, first grade, prettiest; Michelle Kelly, second grade, most original; Patricia McBride, third grade, most original; and Billy Steinmetz, fourth grade, most original. Rita McCreesh, Doris Fiore and Gail McCahon were the judges.

**Nancy Williamson**, a home economics major from Uwchlan, was chosen to be the homecoming queen at Albright College.

**Steve Wisdom**, a DHS senior, won a writing award from the National Council of Teachers of English

For the second time that season, a Kurt Thompson field goal enabled the **Whippets** to win a football game, beating O. J. Roberts 17-14. DHS touchdowns were scored by Gregg Jackson and Ricky Stonewall. Junior linebacker Todd McNeill led the Downingtown defense with 10 tackles.

**Billy Null** was named the Outstanding Wrestler after he won the 65-pound, elementary-level competition by pinning two opponents at the Spartan Wrestling Tournament, at North Schuylkill (PA) High School.

Recent **property transfers** included: Upper Uwchlan, 12 Carriage Drive, \$71,000; Uwchlan, 582 Westwood Drive, \$80,000; Downingtown, 227 Highland Avenue, \$42,500; West Pikeland, 9 Skyline Drive, \$119,000; Caln, 5 Marshall Drive, \$51,650; East Brandywine, 80 Hilltop Drive, \$68,500; West Bradford, 1323 Walnut Ridge Drive, \$60,850; East Caln, 102 Woodmont Drive, \$112,500.

Officers of the resurrected retail division of the **Greater Downingtown Chamber of Commerce** were John Riccardo, president; Al Samero, vice president; Linda Brown, secretary; and Bob Shoffner, treasurer.

**Wallace Township** received \$10,000 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Development to make improvements at Wagenseller Park. The money was to be used to resurface the tennis and basketball courts, and install fencing and lights.

Members of **Girl Scout Troop 461** who visited the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia were: Karen and Michele Lewis, Christine and Jennifer Kerrick, Mindy McWilliams, Kim Fichter, Carrie Dell, Michelle Hartzell, Kathy Rissell, Elaine Craig, Jackie Petko, Karen Klunk and Jennifer Newman.

Members of the committee responsible for the Downingtown United Methodist's bazaar included Traudi Stevens, Mabel Davis, Lee Bradley, Fran McAllister, Louise Bruton, Gladys Brookover, Betty Brookover, Marilyn Walter, Dorothy Pollock, Emily Lewis, Florence McGuckin and Ruth Brookover

# Chic Chiccino honored by DHS Alumni Assn.

Charles “Chic” Chiccino, former DHS coach and teacher, was honored by the DHS Alumni Association at halftime of the recent West vs. East football game.

Chiccino graduated from Berwyn High School where he was an all-round athlete--earning nine varsity letters. (The T.E. Conestoga Football Association will have its annual banquet and Hall of Fame induction Friday, Nov. 21 at the Knights of Columbus Building on Route 252 below Paoli. See [www.teconestogafootball.yolasite.com](http://www.teconestogafootball.yolasite.com) for details.)

He played fullback and linebacker for the legendary football great W. Glenn Killinger at West Chester University, and he was a member of the 1957 WCU undefeated team. He served in the U.S. Army in Gallenhausen, Germany from 1959 to 1961.

Chiccino taught Health and Physical Education at Downingtown High School, from 1963 to 1997. He was department chair for 25 of those years. He coached many sports and was advisor to several faculty and student organizations including the Lettermen’s Club, the School Spirit and Involvement Committee, the Middle States Evaluation Committee, and the National Honor Society.

He was assistant football coach to Ed Campbell from 1966 to 1970. He became head football coach in 1971. In his first year as head coach, after a successful 7-4 season which included many upset victories and a five-game winning streak at the end of the season, Chiccino was named the Ches-Mont League’s Coach of the Year. He also was chosen Coach of the Year in 1976, after leading his team to a Ches-Mont League co-championship. And his 1979 team came close to winning the league championship on Thanksgiving, but a 0-0 tie left the team one point short in the final standings.

After that game, Chiccino said, “Although not a league champion when the Thanksgiving mud had dried, there remained respect for an outstanding group of young men, a feeling of success and many fond memories for them to recall throughout their adult lives.”

Mark Kenworthy, president of the Downingtown High School Alumni Association, presented a certificate to Chiccino, in appreciation for all he has done for the students of Downingtown.

## Alumni Association seeks candidates for 2015 Hall of Fame

The DHS Alumni Association’s Hall of Fame Committee is looking for candidates to consider for the 2015 induction class. The 2015 nomination period is open, through January 1. Selections will be made by end of January, and the finalists will be inducted at the alumni banquet in April.

DHS grads who were inducted in the inaugural class of the Hall of Fame last year were: Dr. Todd Stong, 1958, Humanitarian and Military Service; Dr. Richard Whittaker, 1958, Medicine, Humanitarian Service; James (Hank) Hamilton, 1968 - Business, Community Service; Bonnie MacDougal Kistler, 1971 - Law, Literature; and Curt Schroder, 1979 - Politics, Government.

For more details and access to the updated Hall of Fame nomination form, check out: [www.downingtowndalumni.org/halloffame.html](http://www.downingtowndalumni.org/halloffame.html).

Also, regarding the Alumni Association, Donna Kneisley, secretary, tells us that several people have asked about the lyrics to the “Blue and Gold” song, which the DHS West and DHS East marching bands have played for many years. In fact, Donna remembers “singing something” to that pep music decades years ago, but she can’t remember what they were. And

both of the high school band directors claim they don't know the lyrics either. So, if you can recall the lyrics, please send them to us via [Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org) and we'll pass them on to Donna.

## **Gen. Warren Inne is helping to save Ashbridge House**

The Historic General Warren Inne offers the perfect blend of old world charm, excellence in American cuisine, and fine wines. The facility also includes the Warren Tavern, a spacious bar for dining and spirits, and where guests can enjoy live music on several nights each week.

The inne also provides its Spring House Terrace, a year-round heated, secluded space, which is a wonderful spot for a cocktail party, reception area prior to a dinner or wedding rehearsal dinner or reception, a casual lunch or dinner "al fresco", or just to relax with your favorite beverage.

And the facility has a bed and breakfast operation, with eight guest suites that have been authentically restored to provide 18th century charm.

Executive Chef Jonathan Fahey has been creating fine dining experiences at the inne since 2010. Trained at Le Cordon Bleu, Jonathan has been a fixture on the local culinary scene since his return to Chester County following several years as a chef in Florida. Popular classics on the menu include: Beef Wellington, Snapper Soup, Crab Cakes, Wiener Schnitzel and Bananas Foster, made at tableside.

The inne is located at 9 Old Malvern Road. Lunch is served from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM, Monday through Friday. And dinner is served from 5 PM to 10 PM, Monday through Saturday. For more information about the General Warren Inne check out: [www.generalwarren.com](http://www.generalwarren.com) or call 610-296-3637.

Other restaurants participating in the raffle are: **Thorndale Inn, Amani's BYOB, St. Anthony's Restaurant, Kimberton Inn, and The Orangery.**

Raffle tickets are \$50 each. They can be purchased by:

- Sending a check, made out to DAHS and mailed to: DAHS, P.O. Box 9, Downingtown, PA 19335;
- Buying them at Ashbridge House, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant on Route 30, on Sundays from 1-4 PM;
- Buying them at one of the participating restaurants.

You also can order them by calling 610-269-1709 or sending an email to:

[Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org).

The winning ticket will be drawn at 3 PM on Sunday, November 16. You don't have to be at the drawing to win. For more info on the raffle, go to: [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org). Please help us preserve Ashbridge House, a local historic treasure.

## **Your friends and family can be Hist-O-Gram subscribers**

Tired of forwarding copies of each week's Hist-O-Gram to friends and family? If you want any of them to become a subscriber to our FREE Hist-O-Grams, tell them to go to our website:

[www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org), and type their email address into the sign-up box on the home page. We won't share or sell any email addresses. And you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html).

## Regarding the Oct. 30 Hist-O-Gram

- Last week's Hist-O-Gram should have noted that Rev. Alfred Vail, pastor of St. James Episcopal Church and his family moved from the old parish rectory—once a Masonic Lodge and briefly owned by the Catholic Church—to a “new” rectory at 351 E. Lancaster Ave. in Downingtown.
- Frank Landrum, who had lived in the Milford Mills (now underneath the lake at Marsh Creek State Park) as a kid and now lives in Eugene, OR, has informed us that these members of the Downingtown Little League all-star team in 1950, noted in last week's Hist-O-Gram, went on to play for the DHS baseball squad, which won the Ches-Mont League title in 1956: John Chilla, Mickey Sciaretta, Francis Valentino, Lloyd Price, Don Mull, Nip Westmoreland and Eddie Aumiller.

## It was Kochel's Garage in Lionville



Allen Puy is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify last week's Where & What photo of Elmer Kochel's garage, when it was still located at the five-point intersection in Lionville. The photo was taken many years before the garage was moved from Lionville's five point intersection, as part of the state's plan to straighten out Route 113, down to where Village Avenue ultimately met the new Route 100, which opened in 1962. The building was razed later.

*Officers of the Downingtown Area Historical Society are: Parry Desmond, president; Ernie Jameson, vice president; Carol Grigson, treasurer and archivist; Marion Piccolomini, recording secretary. The board of directors includes: Harry Helms, Mike Dunn, Francine Dague and Phil Dague.*

## **Paid ads for businesses**

### ***Vance Usher, registered representative***

Providing a courtesy financial advisory service whose objective is to create a portfolio of:

- 1) Investment Grade Bonds - To achieve preservation of principal, and a stream of monthly income, to meet your budgeted living expenses.
- 2) Equities - To achieve market growth, and increase financial wealth, by exceeding the rate of inflation.

Contact: [vance\\_usher@netzero.net](mailto:vance_usher@netzero.net), 610-329-1056, 320 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335.

## **Free ads for Non-Profits**

### ***Harvest Hop***

The Downingtown Area Senior Center's annual Harvest Hop at the Ludwigs Corner Fire Hall from 7-11 PM Saturday, Nov. 8 will feature an Italian dinner, including wine (must be 21 to attend), from 7:30-9 PM. The event will include music, an auction and raffles. Tickets, \$40 each, can be bought by sending a check to: DASC, 983 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335. Reservations also can be made by calling Sue at 610-269-3939 or via [www.downingtowntareaseniorcenter.org](http://www.downingtowntareaseniorcenter.org).

### ***Barry Rabin to speak***

Attorney Barry Rabin will talk about current events when the West Caln Historical Society meets at 7 PM Tuesday, November 18. The meeting will be held at the West Caln Municipal Building, 721 W. Kings Highway, Wagontown. The meeting will be free and open to the public.

### ***Downingtown Library Programs & Activities***

The Film Forum is held at the library at 6:30 PM every second Tuesday of the month. Anyone who enjoys watching and discussing films is welcome to join. Incentives include occasional free movie passes and/or credit for movie rentals. The discussion on November 11 is "Cleopatra" (Liz Taylor version).

A Writer's Group meets at 6:30 PM on the third Thursday of every month. The open forum for adults who are willing to share their writing and participate in critiques.

A Book Club meets at 6:30 PM on every fourth Tuesday. The discussion at the Nov. 25 session will be on Wilkey Collins' *The Moonstone*.

Call the library at 610-269-2741 for more info on any of these programs.

### ***Farmers Market***

The Downingtown Farmers Market is now held in Kerr Park, by the gazebo area of Kerr Park on Pennsylvania Avenue in the borough, on Saturdays, from 9 AM to 1 PM.

### ***Brochure on DARC Classes & Activities***

You can gain access to the latest DARC brochure, listing all classes and activities, at: [www.darcinfo.com](http://www.darcinfo.com). For more info, call 610-269-9260, or stop by the DARC office (8:30 AM-4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday), 114 Bell Tavern Road, Downingtown.

### ***Banquet Room for Rent***

The Downingtown (Williamson) Masonic Lodge, a non-profit organization located at 210 Manor Ave. has a Banquet Room for rent. The area is perfect for parties of up to 80 people and has a full kitchen. Rental fees are very reasonable. Call 610-269-3555 for more information.

### ***Joseph's People, Downingtown Chapter***

An ecumenical support mission to help un/underemployed people; run entirely by volunteers. We have been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets at 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month. All are

welcome. Visit web page, [www.josephspeople.org](http://www.josephspeople.org) or just come to a meeting at St. Joseph's Parish Meeting Room behind the school, 460 Manor Ave., Downingtown. Call 610-873-7117. Leave Message. Leader: Cheryl Spaulding, Email: [JPCheryl@verizon.net](mailto:JPCheryl@verizon.net).