



MHS ✨

MORAVIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2023-2024 | **ANNUAL REPORT**

The Moravian Historical Society



Founded in 1857, the Moravian Historical Society (MHS) shares the fascinating story of the Moravians through public programs, guided tours, publications, and engaging museum exhibits. More than 20,000 objects illustrate the Moravians' contributions to religion, industry,



education, music, and art. Highlights of the collection include paintings by John Valentine Haidt (1700-1780), whose biblical scenes are among the earliest known to be painted in colonial America. MHS has a significant collection of early musical instruments, many of which represent the first of their kind made in America, including the 1759 Antes violin, the c. 1745-1765 upright piano, and the 1761 Tannenberg clavichord. These treasures demonstrate the inception and development of musical instrument making in America. Our historic site includes two eighteenth century structures: the 1740-1743 Whitefield House and the 1740 Gray Cottage, the oldest surviving Moravian structure in North America.



Our Mission

The Moravian Historical Society museum and historic site preserves, interprets, and celebrates the rich culture of the Moravians.

Our Vision

The Moravian Historical Society is recognized broadly for its significant collection and historically important eighteenth century site. Intellectually vibrant, we commit to sharing the stories of the Moravians and their remarkable contributions to history that continue to shape our culture.

The Museum welcomes visitors seven days a week, year-round. MHS maintains an ambitious schedule of educational programs, including concerts, lectures, tours, and a summer camp.

MHS is committed to supporting the principles of diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion throughout the Museum as an institution where people work, volunteer, and gather. We are dedicated to expanding access and creating a welcoming environment for everyone.

Land Acknowledgement

We recognize and acknowledge that the Moravian Historical Society stands on Lenapehoking, the traditional homelands of the Lenape, also called the Delaware Nation. The Lenape are the Indigenous people of the lands we now call eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and parts of New York, Maryland, and Connecticut since time immemorial. The Lenape were historically removed from their homelands because of centuries of settler colonialism, so their tribal governments and a majority of Lenape citizens are now located outside of their ancestral homelands. But they have maintained their tribal sovereignty and ongoing cultural relationships to their homelands. Today's federally recognized Lenape tribal nations are Delaware Nation (Anadarko, Oklahoma); Delaware Tribe of Indians (Bartlesville, Oklahoma); the Stockbridge Munsee Community (Bowler, Wisconsin); and the Munsee Delaware Nation and the Eelūnaapëwii Lahkëewiit (Delaware Nation at Moraviantown), both in Ontario, Canada.

Cover Image: *View of Bethlehem*, circa 1850, Gustavus Grunewald, oil on tulip board.

Top Right Image: *Peter Boehler's Spectacles*, Peter Boehler led the Moravians from Georgia to Nazareth in 1740.

Top Left Image: *Moravian Lovefeast Mug*, used at the first lovefeast at Schoeneck Moravian Church.

A Message from the President



What a joy it is to be part of this Board of Directors and to have stepped into the leadership role for an interim time. During the past year, we've had new exhibits, new concerts, new lectures, and successful annual events, including our history camp, craft show, holiday tours, and Share the Heritage gala.

During the last fiscal year (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024), income slightly outpaced the budget, and expenses were a little under. Fundraising and membership both exceeded budget estimates. Thanks to all of you for your continued support.

My predecessor, Dave Roth, had the foresight to form a Strategic Planning Committee which has become a major focus of the entire Board. We have been defining specific needs to preserve our valued collection, including our historic buildings and site. The challenges are daunting, but the extraordinary value of all we oversee drives us to seek new heights. Now that the transnational World Heritage inscription is a reality, we know that our museum will see increased visitation, both in person and online. After all, the work we do to preserve, interpret, and celebrate the culture of the Moravians surely plays a significant role in bringing life to this new designation. Stay tuned as we finalize needs and plans.

As we prepare for a year of anticipated growth, we encourage you to reach out to others who, though they may live in the area, are unaware of our museum and its significance. I smile each time I come to an event and hear, "I've lived in this area all my life and I never knew we had such a treasure here." Indeed, the historical value we embody is something that should be celebrated and nurtured as the story of the Moravians, historically and present day, becomes more recognized in this area and beyond.

On behalf of the entire board, I thank you for your continued support. We could not exist without your engagement. Please remain supportive as we face new challenges.

With gratitude,
Lyn Trodahl Chynoweth
President



A Year to Celebrate



It's inspiring to reflect on all that the staff and volunteers accomplished this year. The words, pictures and numbers in this report tell stories of a lively, productive year. This annual report to you, our members, donors, and supporters, shares the impact of the vital work that you helped make possible. With your support, the Moravian Historical Society brought to life three special exhibitions, produced nine music and lecture events, delivered two weeks of Hands-On History Camp, and hosted the community during two large outdoor festivals. All these activities brought new visitors to our historic site to learn about the rich heritage of the Moravians.

There is also much work that goes on behind the scenes. This past year, we have been devoted to making our collections more accessible. Building on a recent effort to digitize archival documents, we are now creating finding aids to help researchers better understand our archival holdings and connect our collection to other organizations.

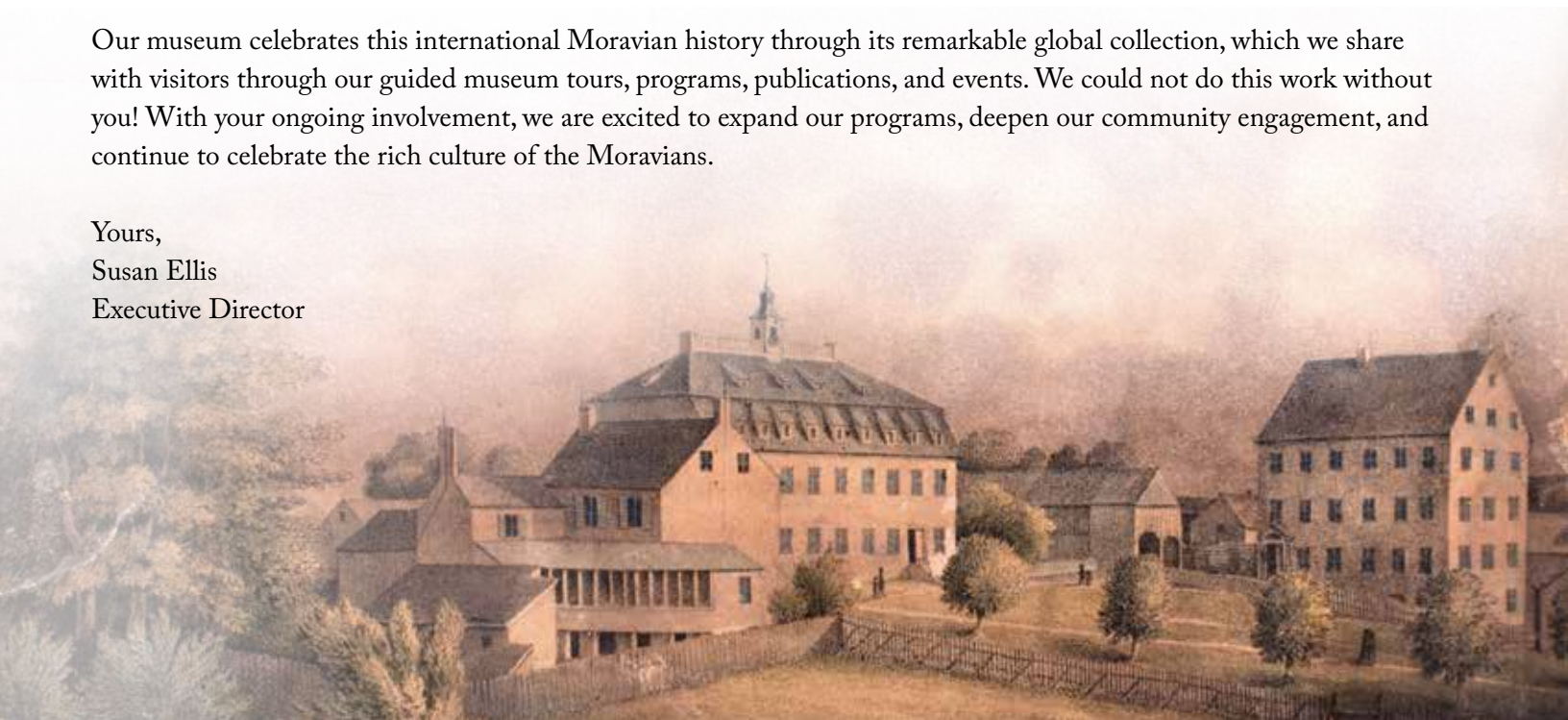
We are also devoted to preserving our collection, including our historic structures. Approaching their 300th year, these historic buildings have remarkable significance. Our museum is home to some of America's rarest treasures, illustrating the Moravians' contributions to industry, education, music, and art. I am proud that our current Strategic Planning Committee has placed the preservation of our buildings and collections as its primary focus.

Critical initiatives behind the scenes also included collaborations with Tribal partners to care for our Native American collection with a deeper understanding, sensitivity, and respect. We are working with the Delaware Nation to comply with the Federal law known as the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). This process has been immensely rewarding and has resulted in new partnerships with members of the federally recognized Lenape people, including the Delaware Nation, the Delaware Tribe of Indians, and the Stockbridge Munsee Community.

The Moravian community is celebrating the recent inscription of four eighteenth century Moravian Church settlements to World Heritage status by UNESCO. Herrnhut (Germany), Bethlehem (USA), Gracehill (N. Ireland), and Christiansfeld (Denmark; inscribed in 2015) were deemed to be of outstanding value for humanity. This designation is the first transnational World Heritage listing in the United States, highlighting the international scope of the Moravian Church and its missions.

Our museum celebrates this international Moravian history through its remarkable global collection, which we share with visitors through our guided museum tours, programs, publications, and events. We could not do this work without you! With your ongoing involvement, we are excited to expand our programs, deepen our community engagement, and continue to celebrate the rich culture of the Moravians.

Yours,
Susan Ellis
Executive Director



Collections



Acquisition Highlights

The Moravian Historical Society received 60 donations this year from nine donors that enrich and expand our collections, including objects related to Nazareth Hall, 18 objects related to the history of Moravians in Ohio, and objects related to early life and trades in Nazareth.

This year, the installation of new lighting for the permanent exhibition space and the third-floor storage areas improved the safety of collection areas. All the storage areas and the attic have new LED light fixtures, and the four tall cases and the wall case in the second-floor galleries have new interior lighting with dimmer switches. The new lighting will help preserve the collection by bringing lumens into the correct range. This was funded, in part, by the Northampton County GrowNORCO grant. We have also installed three listening stations in the galleries which invite visitors to hear recordings of the Tannenberg organ, the upright piano, and the serpent.



Top: Polly Heckewelder Doll donated by Karen Bunning. Polly was a gift to Karen's mother, Margaretta Simmers, on her seventh birthday. Simmers was born in 1923, so Polly was at least 93 years old in 2024.

Left: 1787 painted chest donated by Barbara Shook.

Bottom: Saxon spinning wheel belonging to the Bardill family, donated by Michael Shone.

Opposite page: View of Nazareth Hall, lithograph



Museum and Site

A 2023 Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP) report identified the critical need for a dehumidification system in the basement of the Whitefield House. The support beams in the basement of the historic structure are showing signs of deterioration due to high humidity levels. High humidity also provides the ideal environment for pests such as powder-post beetles to thrive. Thank you to the Nazareth Rotary Club for a grant to install dehumidifiers. The system is mitigating prior damage and will help preserve one of the region's most significant historic structures for years to come.



60

Objects and documents
accessioned

17,931

Images and documents
digitized

3,700

Visitors to the Digital
Collections Website

Exhibitions



In March, we opened the special exhibition, *Grounds for Meditation: Moravian Pleasure Gardens*, curated by Farrar Lannon. The exhibit explores the international influences which the Moravians brought together to create their own distinct landscapes and pleasure gardens in Europe and Pennsylvania. Through collected reminiscences and first-hand observations made by visitors to these early parks, the exhibit describes varied historic landscapes that are no longer possible to see and experience.

This year's putz display, *A Folk Art Masterpiece: The Jennie Trein Putz*, featured a collection of Jenny Trein's (1879-1977) pieces in the 1740 Gray Cottage. Trein, a folk artist from Nazareth, Pennsylvania, made her very first putz in 1908, and continued every year for six decades. Nearly 500 pieces, mostly handmade, were part of the holiday season for generations of Nazareth residents.

The Moravian Historical Society hosted the Lehigh Valley Embroiderers' Guild of America (LVEGA) exhibition, *Stitch by Stitch: Celebrating 45 years of the Lehigh Valley Embroiderers' Guild*.



Education

History comes to life here

The Moravian Historical Society hosted its popular Hands-On History camp on our historic site. Students eight to twelve years old began their summer vacation immersed in history. The objects in our museum inspired this year's theme, "Camp Colonial." Camp activities explored colonial life, music, crafts, architecture, and games. Campers learned from scholars and professionals while learning about colonial crafts, trades, and daily life.



172

People took a Walking Tour

520

Guided Museum Tours

1,779

Student and Youth Visitors



Events



The 2023-2024 music and lecture series featured nine programs, including a concert by renowned guitarist Laurence Juber, a concert on the 1776 Tannenberg Organ with Thomas Dressler, and a talk by Sara Cedar Miller, Central Park Conservancy Historian. The 46th annual Arts & Crafts Festival was held on the first Saturday of June on the lawn of the historic Whitefield House. The free community festival featured more than 100 local artists, live music, a great variety of food and drinks, and kids' activities sponsored by East Lawn Supply.



Concert in the museum by Laurence Juber

17th Annual Share the Heritage Gala

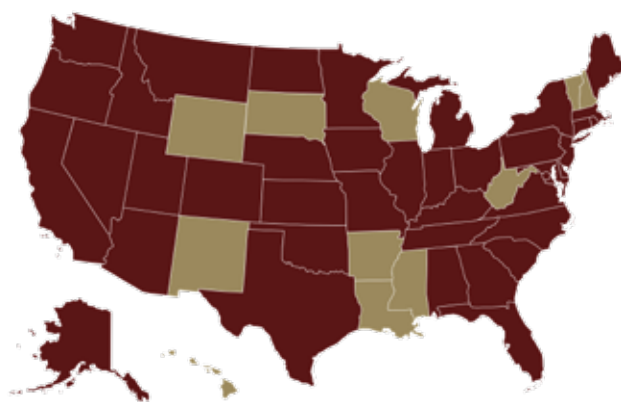
The annual Gala, held in April at the Northampton Country Club, raised vital funds for operations, including exhibitions, programs for children and adults, and the preservation of the historic site. This year, the Moravian Historical Society was pleased to honor Christian Frederick Martin IV with the annual Heritage Award. Chris is the executive chair of the world-renowned C. F. Martin & Co. and the sixth generation of Martin family members to run the business. In 1996, Chris along with his wife Diane, started the Martin Guitar Charitable Foundation.



Mario Andretti (left) with honoree C.F. Martin IV (right)



166th annual lecturer, Rev. Dr. Winelle Kirton-Roberts



9,167 Museum visitors from **15** Countries and **39** States



Board of Directors, Volunteers, and Staff



Board of Directors

Lyn Trodahl Chynoweth, President
Christopher Crook, Vice-President
Anne Reid, Treasurer
Linda Wickmann, Secretary
Craig Atwood
Stephen Bajan II
Dave Bennett
Frank Johnson, Interim
Steve Krawiec, Emeritus
John Stocker
Riddick Weber
Noah Woodruff

Staff

Susan Ellis, Executive Director
Ethan Bachstein, Docent
Max Edwards, Docent
Sarah Hriniak, Docent
Gerald Kroboth, Docent
Abigail Hrichak, Docent
Daniel Stocker, Operations Assistant
Lanie Yaswinski, Archivist



Volunteer of the Year

Michiko Okaya (right) shares her vast experience in the care and preservation of collections. We thank her for her guidance, support, and recommendations, which have been extremely valuable to us this year.

Committees

Executive

Lyn Trodahl Chynoweth,
President
Christopher Crook, Vice-
President
Anne Reid, Treasurer
Linda Wickmann, Secretary

Buildings and Grounds

- Monitor buildings and site and recommend repairs and restoration

Lyn Trodahl Chynoweth,
President
Susan Ellis, Executive Director
John Egerton
John Stocker
Noah Woodruff, Chair

Curatorial

- Open new exhibitions
- Accession and deaccession collection items

Lyn Trodahl Chynoweth,
President
Barbara Dietterich
Susan Ellis, Executive Director
Traci Stocker, Chair
Jack Hommer
Michiko Okaya
Linda Wickmann, Board Liaison

Development

- Plan events, programs, and fundraisers

Lyn Trodahl Chynoweth,
President
Steven Bajan II, Chair
Dave Bennett
Chris Crook, Board Liaison
Susan Ellis, Executive Director
Kaitlin O'Connor
Linda Zimmerman

Governance

- Provide guidance on organizational governing documents
- Identify and invite individuals to serve on the board or its committees

Lyn Trodahl Chynoweth,
President
Craig Atwood
David Bennett, Chair
Susan Ellis, Executive Director

Finance

- Monitor endowment performance
- Support the work of the treasurer and the finance manager

Lyn Trodahl Chynoweth,
President
Anne Reid, Chair, Treasurer,
Board Liaison
Stephen Bajan, II
Linda Crook
Susan Ellis, Executive Director
John Stocker

Publications

- Produce the Society's newsletter, *Abundant Heritage*
- Select and invite the speaker for the annual lecture

Lyn Trodahl Chynoweth,
President
Craig Atwood
Barbara Dietterich
Susan Ellis, Executive Director
Scott Paul Gordon, Chair
Traci Stocker
Riddick Weber, Board Liaison

Financials



The Society ended the fiscal year with a modest budget surplus. Total income for the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2024 was approximately 102% of what was budgeted.

The Balance Sheet remains strong with \$3.5 million in assets, of which 87% is cash and investments.

Assets

Cash, Investments, & Trusts	\$3,036,139
Other Current Assets	\$25,075
Fixed Assets	\$445,879
Total Assets	\$3,507,093

Liabilities

\$6,670

Net Assets

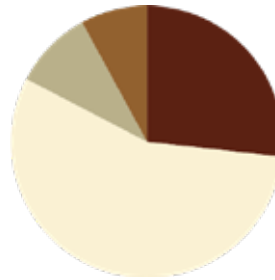
Without Donor Restrictions	\$1,983,703
With Donor Restrictions	\$1,506,720
Total Net Assets	\$3,500,423

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$3,507,093



PRELIMINARY RESULTS OPERATING INCOME 2023-24

Museum & Program	\$29,201
Grants	\$36,837
Fundraising	\$120,081
Investment Income	\$78,486
TOTAL	\$264,605



PRELIMINARY RESULTS OPERATING EXPENSES 2023-24

Museum & Program	\$68,724
General & Administrative	\$143,657
Fundraising	\$24,262
Property	\$20,387
TOTAL	\$257,030



Thank you!



Individual

Barry Anderson
Mario Andretti
Craig Atwood
Stephen & Janis Bajan
Stephen Bajan II
Diane Batemarco
John Beitel
Alex Bell
Richard Boak & Susan Ellis
Eileen Bocich
Ed Boscolla
Marc & Jennifer Brinker
Jen & Robert Brooks
Thomas & Debbie Bross
Donald & Mary Brown
Rebecca Butz
Lyn Trodahl & Richard Chynoweth
Blair Couch & Warren Gericke
Amy Creyer
Christopher & Rebecca Crook
Linda & Darrell Crook
Barbara Dietterich
Brian R. Dishong
Otto & Susan Dreydoppel
Nathan Eckhart
John & Barbara Egerton
Kathy & Randall Emmons
John Fritts
Kirk Fuller
Linda Shay & Neville Gardner
Mike Garganta
Brian Gilbert
Scott Gordon
Marvin Granda
Sharon Heidecker
Jack Hommer
Elizabeth Howlett
Barry Jarvis
Thomas Keller
Mary Knecht
Nancy Kostas & Renee Roberts
Margaret & Steven Krawiec
Beatrice Leh
Bob Lienemann
Keith McKeon
Rita Miller
Joe Mixon
Craig & Alice Mosebach
Hank & Karen Naisby, Jr.
Rose Nehring
Kaitlin O'Connor
Michiko Okaya
Peg Parham
Charles & Gwen Peischl
Barry Pell
Edward & Lucy Perusse
Anne & James Reid
Thomas Ripsam
Mike Robinson
David Roth
John & Lisa Ruth
Rick & Mollie Santee
Thomas Scalici
Doris Schattschneider
Rafe Scheinblum
Roy Schreffler
Gabe & Carley Schuler
Michelle Shafer
Michael Shone
Gordon & Susan Sommers
Debbie Spinney
Frank Starner
Tom & Jocelyn Starner
Charles P Stewart III
John & Traci Stocker
David Swartley
Mary Catherine Tachovsky
Roberta Targonski
Brenda Tomlinson
Jim Trach
Carol Traupman-Carr
C. Riddick & Jane Weber
Linda & David Wickmann
Kenneth & Lois Wildrick
Judith Williams
Kay & J. Marshall Wolff
Alice Yeakel
Stephen Yorks
Andria Zaia & Joseph Wagner
Linda & Tom Zimmerman

Corporate

A.A. Lapp & Associates, Inc.
AACA Museum, Inc
Aardvark Sports Shop
Allentown Art Museum
AM Luxe
ArtsQuest
Azar Supermarket
Banko Beverage
Bar-Don Lanes
Bear Creek Mountain Resort
Broken Willow Winery
Byer's Choice Ltd.
C. F. Martin & Co., Inc.
Cactus Blue
Camelback Resort
Campbell Rappold & Yurasits
Carnegie Science Center
Casa Toro Mexican Grill
Center for Moravian Studies
Chocodiem
Christmas City Spirits
Cornerstone Advisors Asset Management, LLC
Crayola Experience
Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom
Dotta Auction Co.
Edward Jones
ESSA Bank
Fidelity Bank
Five Iron Golf
Fox & Hound Bed and Breakfast
Freefall Trampoline Park
Geaker's Tacos
George Washington's Mount Vernon
Green Pond Country Club
Grim's Orchard and Farms
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary
Heidelberg Materials
Helium Comedy Club
Jim Thorpe River Adventures
Joseph F. Reichel Funeral Home, Inc.
Just Born
Keystone Farms Cheese
Lehigh Valley IronPigs
Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays
Longwood Gardens
McCooles at the Historic Red Lion Inn
Michener Art Museum
Mike Robinson Productions
Miller Symphony Hall
Moravian Development Corporation
Moravian University
President's Office
Morningstar Living
Museum of the American Revolution
Mycalyn Florals
National Canal Museum
Nazareth Moravian Church
Northampton Community College
Northampton Country Club
P.J. Whelihan's
Penn's Peak
Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival
Philadelphia Orchestra
Philadelphia's Magic Gardens
Philly Crawling
Pittsburgh Steelers
PPL Foundation
Putt U Miniature Golf
Reading Rocks Indoor Rock Climbing
Skeggy's Axe House
Stirling Painting
The Healing & Wellness Corner
The Sayre Mansion
Warner Art Glass
Washington House and Sellersville Theater
Wawa
Winterthur
Working Dog Press
Yergey Brewing

Grants

- The Martin Guitar Charitable Foundation
- Heidelberg Materials
- Nazareth Rotary Club
- Northampton County Hotel Tax Grant
- Northampton County Grow NORCO
- Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission (PHMC)
- PHMC Historical Archival Records Care

Membership



INDIVIDUAL

Nancy Bergere
Eileen Bocich
David Boyer
Ronny Burley
Sue Christensen
Cypre Delgad
Barbara Dietterich
Angela Dincher
Ronald W. Doyle
Dale Eck
James Ettwein
Michael Farmer
Lou Carol Fix
John Gallagher
Sandra Gaspar
Scott Gordon
Martha Hartley
Harold Hudson
Terry Hunt
Loretta Hurd
Nola Knouse
Joseph Kunsman
Stephen Link
Carl Luckert
Carol Messina
Betsy Miller
Rory Morgan
H. Lester Morris
Richard Musselman
William Ramsden

Jay Reinfeld
George Rupp
Howard Sathre
Gayle Searock
Richard Spittel
Katie Trach
Mary Alice Vanhoy
Frances Vogler Groves
Monica Werkheiser

FAMILY

Bartholomew-Schisler Funeral Home
Bob and Jaqueline Adams
Craig and Julie Atwood
Thomas and Caroyln Boak
Donald and Mary Brown
Shelia Clennon
Robert Clewell
Tom and Laraine Demshock
Walter Eachus
John and Barbara Egerton
Margarette Erdman
Tony Ettwein
John Fisher
Marsha Fritz
Jeffrey and Sherry Gehris
Linda Heindel
B.R. Hoch
Claire B. Kleppinger
Farrar and Thomas Lannon

Beatrice Leh
Katrina Lehman & Derek French
Heikki Lempa
Rosi McIlwain
Craig and Alice Mosebach
Peter Murray
Hank and Karen Naisby Jr.
Paul Peucker and Jeffrey Long
Bill and Gail Remo
Lorraine and Conrad Rice
Karen Samuels
Mollie and Rick Santee
Arthur Schleinkofer
Frederick and Marcia Squire
Mary Catherine Tachovsky
Roberta Targonski
Jennifer Ward
C. Riddick and Jane Weber
James and MaryBeth West
Linda and David Wickmann
Kenneth and Lois Wildrick

1740 CLUB

Stephen and Janis Bajan
David and Connie Bennett
Christopher & Rebecca Crook
Ellen Dorsey
Jack Hommer
Stephanie McCormick-Goodhart
Charles and Gwen Peischl

Edward and Lucy Perusse
Anne and James Reid
Julia Simmons
Gordon and Susan Sommers
John and Traci Stocker
Jim Trach
Barry Trumbauer

WHITEFIELD CLUB

Linda and Darrell Crook
Susan Ellis and Richard Boak
Ronald and Cathy Mordosky
Evelyn Trodahl and Richard Chynoweth
Linda and Tom Zimmerman

SPANGENBERG CLUB

Margaret and Steven Krawiec

LIFE

Karin Albert
John Beitel
Glenn and Virginia Boerstler
Otto and Susan Dreydoppel
Darryl Jeffries
Rose Nehring
Doris Schattschneider
Linda Shay Gardner
George Weisel VI
Helen Woodbridge

Annual Appeal

Bartholomew-Schisler Funeral Home
John Beitel
Susan Ellis & Richard Boak
Thomas & Caroyln Boak
Glenn & Virginia Boerstler
Timothy & Karen Brady
Thomas & Debbie Bross
Donald & Mary Brown
Jill Bruckart
Michelle & Matthew Burnard
Christiansbrunn Hermitage
Blair Couch & Warren Gericke
Barbara Dietterich
Otto & Susan Dreydoppel

Tony Ettwein
Lou Carol Fix
Grace Folger
Kirk Fuller
Sandra Garr
Scott Gordon
Graceham Moravian Church
Bruce Haines
Jack Hommer
Roger Huth
Ken Kirst
Michael Koenig
Nancy Kostas & Renee Roberts
Ella Jane Kunkle
Joseph & Janet Kunsman

Beatrice Leh
Bob Lienemann
David Lobach
Peter Murray
Hank & Karen Naisby Jr.
Eleanor Nemeth
Charles & Gwen Peischl
Barry Pell
Edward Perusse
Anne Reid
Lorraine & Conrad Rice
Doris Schattschneider
Gayle Searock
Gordon & Susan Sommers
Mary Catherine Tachovsky

Anthony Thompson & Vickie Ziegler Thompson
Jim Trach
Evelyn Trodahl & Richard Chynoweth
Frances Vogler Groves
Wachovia Historical Society
C. Riddick & Jane Weber
Linda & David Wickmann
Helen Woodbridge
Barbara Wright
Linda & Tom Zimmerman





MORAVIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Moravian Historical Society

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