

WHS OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

President, Charles Horan
Vice-President, Nora Taylor
Secretary, Jennie McQuaide
Treasurer, Scott Barnes
Trustee, Lou McCall
Trustee, Paul Lader



UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, 11/8/2021: Friendship Dinner by Woman's Club of Wenonah at Terra Nova, 6:00pm. Cost \$35. Contact Barbcapelli@gmail.com

Friday, 11/12/2021: November meeting at Jack C Shepard Community Center (Train Station), 7:30pm

Thursday, 12/2/2021: Christmas Dinner for Wenonah Historical Society and Friends. See attached flyer.

Message from WHS

We hope this fall edition newsletter finds you all on the road to recovery from the historic event of September 1, 2021...a Tornado in Wenonah!

While many of our beautiful homes were severely damaged, and so many of our historic old trees destroyed, we are so happy to hear that no one was physically injured.

We have always been, and will always be, a strong community. We will recover!

We thank everyone who helped in the aftermath to check on neighbors, clear debris, provide meals, and to be support for those in need.

As we look forward to the future and the rebuilding of our homes and our beautiful park, remember we started as a small plot of land with sweet potato farms and from those humble beginnings we formed this amazing place we call home. Like those before us we will continue the efforts and do whatever is necessary to keep this community true to its roots and to keep us WENONAH STRONG!



AROUND OUR TOWN

Many thanks to Nora and the team for a beautiful day "Dining with the Dearly Departed" at our renowned Wenonah Cemetery. We were given a glimpse into the past and met some history-making characters! A special thanks for the musical accompanists, Quattro Bassi Quartet. This is an annual event so we hope to see you next year!

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Wenonah Free Public Library by Ann Zuber

Reprinted from the February 2003 Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter



Much of what I have learned about our library has been passed on to me from those who have spent years in service to the library: Lucy Schulz, Dave and Meta O'Connor, and Carol Wiltsee. I also spent some time reviewing documents including the minutes of the organizing body of this library - the Wenonah Library Association. This organization was the brainchild of the Sorosis Club in Wenonah in the 1890s and was formally organized and chartered in 1900. The funding for the first collection of books came from the Sorosis Club, \$150.00 raised for this purpose, plus the initial investment of the "members" of the association. The members of the original board included familiar names such as Edward Farr, Thomas Synnott, H. Lake Gilmore, Mr. Stout, Mr. Gage, and Mr. Wilkins. Meetings were held at the homes of the committee members until a room was rented in the house of Mrs. Lashley (Wenonah's Quality Shop?) behind the post office in June of that year. The committee drew up a constitution which stated that members could have lifetime library privileges for \$50.00 or join annually or \$5.00. They hired Emma Lichty, our first librarian.

In 1902, the Association hired Miss Mortie Stokes, who saw the library through many changes. By 1905 more space was needed and the former Presbyterian Sunday School Annex was received as a donation and moved to its current location at 8 W. Mantua Ave. The original building was half the size of the building that we now know as September

Rose Studios. Between 1906 and 1908, the library was used for borough council meetings. In 1914, the Association became the Wenonah Free Public Library, a public entity to be supported in part by the Borough of Wenonah.

In a report submitted to borough council in 1921, the library claimed 600 card-holding members. The board of trustees of the library began negotiating the purchase of the property at Clinton and Mantua Aves. with the Bilderbach family. The land was purchased and the house razed to allow for the building of the current library building, which was donated by the Edward Farr family in 1927.

In 1988, an idea for an expansion to the building was discussed. The idea was investigated with estimates from builders and a public questionnaire and was ultimately decided against.

In 1998, in conjunction with the automation project at the Elementary School, the library set up Internet access for the public and planned to automate the collection.

One of the most interesting things I discovered while reviewing the library's history is the number of people that have been devoted to this library. The longevity is impressive. I didn't document dates for the Farr family's tenure, but there were at least two generations involved and their financial contribution cannot be equaled.

Mortie Stokes was our librarian for 42 years, from 1902-1944. Lucy Schulz has been on the library

board since April 13, 1961 - that's 41 years. Meta O'Connor and Carol Wiltsee have been the mainstays at this library since 1986, when Dorothy Nugent retired after eighteen years. Most of our librarians and board members have worked with the library for more than ten years.

The library has benefited from the attention of many groups and individuals over the years. Mrs. Edward Farr and the Women's Club hosted an English Country Fair in 1923 and raised \$600.00 for the library. A Paul Stankard paperweight and a trip to Mexico were raffled to benefit the library. The Women's Club has continued to support the library with monetary, furniture, and books. The Junior Women's Club has joined in this tradition. Many families from town have chosen to suggest a library donation in memory of their deceased loved ones.

The Hobson family donated the beautiful bookcases, which make up our children's section downstairs. The Hopkins/Bennett family donated the round table in the junior section downstairs. Another table in that section was donated in memory of Louise Wiler, our librarian from 1966-1978. Most recently the family of Dorothy Nugent, our librarian from 1978-1986, suggested donations be made in her name to the library. The David Ramsey family donated the audio and video display racks to the library in recent years. Mr. Ramsey has used his talents to help maintain the special atmosphere by crafting many of the improvements to match the original architecture of the building.

Often families that have participated in programs at the library, such as story time, choose to donate books as a remembrance. Daniel Navins, one of our young residents, chose to refurbish the grounds of the library last year as part of his Eagle Scout Project. The project included a bench for the back yard and an irrigation system and perennial flowers for the border gardens.

While the grounds were being improved, the library board moved forward with the installation of a technology based card catalog and circulation system by hiring Anne Zuber, part time Elementary School Librarian. The system chosen is the same one used in the Wenonah Elementary School and so would be familiar to those students. In July of 2000, the shelf list was reviewed and updated and sent to the Follett Software Co. for conversion.

In January 2001, volunteers helped apply the barcode labeling necessary to use the computerized system. We began to use the system in June 2001. Since that time we have recovered many books missing for up to two years, but the biggest benefit to having the computerized system is in its search capabilities. Not only will the computer search by keyword, but it will also show if the book is checked out.

Some of our expectations for the future of the library include making connections with more of the citizens of our town. One way might be to showcase some of the historical memorabilia of Wenonah. We have been in contact with members of the Historical Society and have discussed the showcase they have had installed at the Elementary School and the possibility of something in the library. We are shopping for appropriate cabinetry.

Having the library entered into the Historic Buildings Registry is being investigated.

The next step technologically would be to put our Card Catalog on the Internet. This would make it possible to search our collection from your home computer. At last spring's Ice Cream Social at the elementary school, an opportunity was given to see a demonstration of OPAC. OPAC is the Online Public Access Catalog system. Each book, audio book, or videotape that the library has available for circulation is recorded. The display provides the same information that a card catalog card would show but is located by the computer in a great variety of search methods. The card drawers provided cards for each book listed under Title, Author, and Subject, with the possibility of added subject entries and series. The computer can search by Call # and Keyword. Keyword is an invaluable search tool.

Some of the services this library can provide include: quick and easy search for materials, timely access to current adult fiction, interlibrary loan access to material not on our shelves, copier and internet access, expanded hours on Wednesday (9AM-9PM), and Story Time. Story Time is growing! We have offered both Wednesday and Thursday Story Time at 10AM for Fall, Winter, and Spring sessions.

We have great expectations for a really fun Summer program. Our theme is "Library Safari!" We are in the planning stages and hope to enlist the help of many local residents in whatever area they may choose to help.

Those of you with artistic ability are especially welcome! We are having a planning meeting this Wednesday 3/13/2002 at 12:00 at the library. This presentation was made before the Woman's Club of Wenonah on 3/9/2002 by Anne Zuber, director of Wenonah Free Public Library.

SHARE YOUR STORY!

If you have something to share or would like to see something in our newsletter, please reach out to Vicki McCall at vmccallpc@comcast.net.

(Continued from P. 1)

Thank you to all our volunteers who helped with an Historic Event...A tornado thanks to Hurricane Ida! The volunteers, coordinated by the Woman's Club of Wenonah with the American Legion and Lions Club, set up outside the Wenonah Library and offered a weeklong relief effort. Our churches helped provide meals and continue with those efforts. The Library continues to be a source for those who are seeking help and information.



Wenonah A Century Ago

Excerpts from the *Woodbury Constitution*, October 1921

- Mr. and Mrs. G.A. Shenkle are receiving congratulations on the birth of a son, who arrived Thursday of last week.
- At a meeting of the trustees of the Wenonah Free Library, the question of the establishment of a County Library for which election is to be held in November, was discussed. The trustees were of the unanimous opinion that the proposition to establish a County Library in Gloucester County would be of great advantage in the smaller communities throughout the County not having public libraries. The matter is to be voted on by all of the citizens of the County, but the tax of one-fifth of a mil will not be levied in municipalities already having a public library such as Wenonah, unless specifically authorized by them. The details of the proposition are being published in the papers by the campaign committee organized by the Y.W.C.A., Home and School Association and other public bodies.
- The Home and School Association held their regular monthly meeting in the firehouse last Wednesday afternoon. Mrs. Edw. Krause presided. It was simply a business meeting and plans were made for the reception to be given for the school teachers this Thursday evening at eight o'clock in the school house to which everyone interested in the children or school is invited and as Dr. Geo. C. Wheeler, associate superintendent of the Philadelphia public schools, will make an address on "Cooperation between Home and School." It is hoped a large number of parents and friends will be present to hear this fine speaker.
- Mr. Wm. Cattell enjoyed the Free builders' run in Atlantic City Saturday over the new White Horse Pike. Mrs. Cattell joined him in Atlantic City where they were entertained at dinner at the Chalfonte.
- The Wenonah Boy Scouts opened their 1921 football season Saturday with a hard-fought victory over Blackwood Association with the score of 6 to 0.
- There are one hundred and twenty students in the Military Academy this year, all in the upper grades, the lower grades having been eliminated from the Academy for want of room to accommodate the lads.

Wenonah Historical Society

Annual Holiday Dinner

Please join us at Telford Inn, Mantua.

Thursday, December 2, 2021



Social Hour: 6:00 PM

Dinner: 7:00 PM

Cash Bar

Choice of Turkey with Stuffing or Glazed Ham

Served with Mashed Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce and Salads

Sour Cream Apple Pie

\$30 per person

Make checks payable to Wenonah Historical Society and mail to

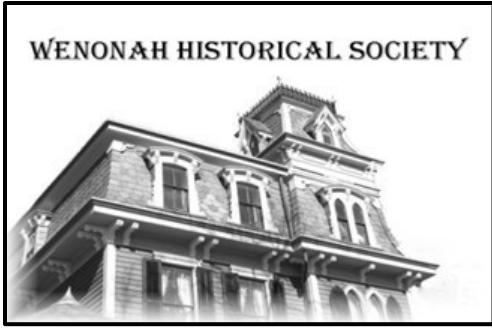
W.H.S, P.O. Box 32, Wenonah, NJ 08090.

Include your name, phone number, email address, and dinner choice for each person

Deadline for reservations: Monday, November 15, 2021

Make your reservation early. Seating is limited.

No refunds or changes after this date.



PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Benefits

- MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
- MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH INTERESTING PROGRAMS
- ACCESS TO HISTORICAL ARCHIVES AND MEMORABILIA
- INFORMATION BY KNOWLEDGEABLE WENONAHIANS

BRING FORM AND PAYMENT TO MEETING, OR MAIL.

WHS PO Box 32, WENONAH, NJ 08090

DUES: \$15.00 PER FAMILY HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

RECEIVE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL: YES OR NO

AMOUNT PAID \$ CHECK _____ CASH _____

Any information you would like to see presented in future programs or newsletters?

