



Emmaus Historical Society

218 Main Street • Emmaus, PA 18049
610-966-6591 ~ emmaushist@ptd.net
www.emmaushistoricalsociety.org



May 2023
NEWSLETTER

President's Message

Dear Members,

Spring has finally arrived with the appearance of crocuses, daffodils, hyacinths, tulips and irises in the flower beds surrounding picturesque houses in Emmaus. We are looking forward to a beautiful season at the Emmaus Historical Society as well with new programs and special events coming up in the next few months. It has been a great start to the year in which we celebrated our 31st anniversary in February. We are sharing a few pictures in this issue of the programs and events we have had so far this year but we are looking forward to so many special events and programs we have coming up.

For the May 17th program, Alan Hawman will be taking us for a virtual walking tour of some of the historic houses of Main Street, Emmaus, including two houses that served as hospitals during the Revolutionary



War. He will share the history of Emmaus and the stories of some of its early residents. On May 17th, the Historical Society will also hold a vote to approve the nominations for the open positions on the Board of Directors. As a result, the annual elections will be moved to June 21st,

prior to the Annual Member Appreciation Picnic.

We will be starting the month of June off with one of the biggest fundraisers of the year on June 3rd. The Emmaus Historical Society participates in the spring Emmaus Community Yard Sale. This sale never disappoints the customers with the quality, quantity and variety of the offerings which have been donated to us for the sale. There are always great deals to be

had and fun times with so many people in the

community enjoying their shopping. The proceeds of this fundraiser benefit the general fund which supports programs and events for the community.

On June 17th, the Society is holding its second annual matching tips fundraiser at Yergey's in Emmaus. Woodside Avenue will be the featured band. A fun time was had by all last year. Come on out to enjoy some good music, food and drink while supporting the Emmaus Historical Society.



We are also looking forward to getting together with everyone on June 21st at 5:30 at Emmaus Community Park for the annual Emmaus Historical Society Member Appreciation Picnic. As always, the Society will provide the entrées and drinks while members will bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert for sharing with others. We've all enjoyed everyone's recipes at our past picnics, each year bringing something new and different to this annual potluck. Non-members are invited and asked to contribute the cost of a membership which would pay for member dues for the year.

In July, the Society will once again be participating in Passport to History month which celebrates local history, stories and the community that brings the Lehigh Valley history to life. Each weekend in July, participating historic and cultural sites, many of which are not open as regularly as we are (as usual we will be open every Saturday in July from 10 to 4), will be opening their doors to the public with tours, activities and programs for visitors of all ages. We are proud to be a part of this special celebration of history. Our museum will be open Friday, July 21 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Along with the other Emmaus Historic Sites, we will also be open Saturday, July 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, July 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Self-guided museum tours, light refreshments, children's crafts, walking tours and more are all being planned for the weekend.

As you can see, there are so many great programs, events and fundraisers planned for the next few months. We are hoping to see all of you out and about at some time, enjoying your time visiting the Society and attending our programs and events.

Always yours in history,

James ☞



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for Historical Tidbits.



Visit our website for updates and other information at:
www.emmaushistoricalsociety.org

Oh, the Fun We Had and the New Things We Learned!

We have certainly had a great start to the year with programs, special events and fundraisers. We would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped us with the programs and events to date which were so well attended. Enjoy a few of these memories we are sharing from February and March.

The Shelter House program presenter was Dean Bortz. He shared a lot of information that many of the attendees were not familiar with.

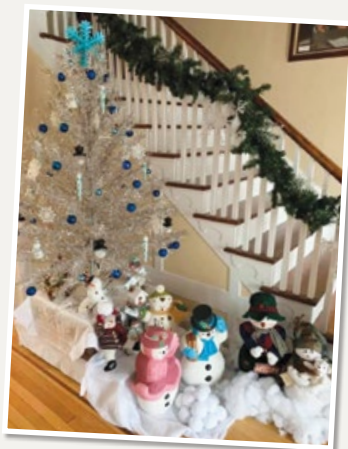


We had lucky bucks and lucky charms everywhere during our annual **Lucky Bucks Bingo** event at St. John's Lutheran Church! What a fantastic afternoon with the Emmaus Main Street Partners at the sold-out event! It was a very successful fundraiser along with everyone having a great time!

Thank you to everyone who joined us and to all our volunteers and generous sponsors who made this event possible – Patrick McNealis Insurance and Financial, Master Supply Line, Volpe's Sports Bar, East Penn Diner, Superior Restaurant, Yocco's Hot Dogs, McDonald's, Armetta's Pizzeria Restaurant and Pub, Bella's Pizza, Weis, Giant, Laura's Custom Framing and Fine Art, and David's Electric. We appreciate all of you!



Snow Blast, in conjunction with the Emmaus Arts Commission was postponed to March 4th due to weather. The museum was brightly decorated in blues and whites for the event.



The Emmaus Train Wreck of 1925 and the Plane Crash of 1935 program was presented by Past President Bill Barto and Barbara (Hieter) Edelman, past Free Press Reporter. The crowd attending the program was enthralled with the history of these two Emmaus events and learned about some eerie parallels of the young men involved in these accidents.



100 Years Ago

It's a Girl – Mr. and Mrs. Morris Hoffman, of Third and North streets, on Thursday became the parents of a baby girl. Morris must "go some" to beat the smile of its grandfather, John D. Laudenslager, who claims that the receipt of this distinction again makes him feel younger than that of a grandfather. The Morning Call, Monday, June 4, 1923

100 Years Ago

Installed New Fountain – Stortz and Eisenhard, proprietors of the Ala Mode restaurant, have installed a new and up-to-date soda fountain in the dining room. It was purchased from the Liquid Carbonic Co. of Chicago. It is adorned with a marble top, while the woodwork consists of birch with a mahogany finish. The other fountain proved inadequate for their ever-increasing business. The Morning Call, Monday, July 16, 1923

New Acquisitions

By Andrew Kerstetter

The Emmaus Historical Society was quite fortunate in recently receiving a collection of photos taken by John H. Mohr, known as J. H. Mohr, 1848-1929. He owned and operated a confectionary store and museum in the 500 Block of Broad Street between S. 5th and S. 6th Streets but was also a renowned local photographer who photographed many sites around Emaus and areas in between Emaus and his home in Minesite, from the mid-1890s to the mid-1920s. Many of these photographs were left in his store when it was sold to William Fenstermaker, who opened up a store in that same location. They were inherited by his granddaughter Patricia Bergey, who shared some with Edward Lehman of Emmaus. Mr. Lehman used them for many years, giving programs on the photographs to the community. We thank the Bergey and Lehman families for generously donating these images to the Emmaus Historical Society.



Photo shows Moravian Church and Chapel prior to the extensive renovations of 1926 when the Greek Revival portico was added and the chapel was united with the main church.

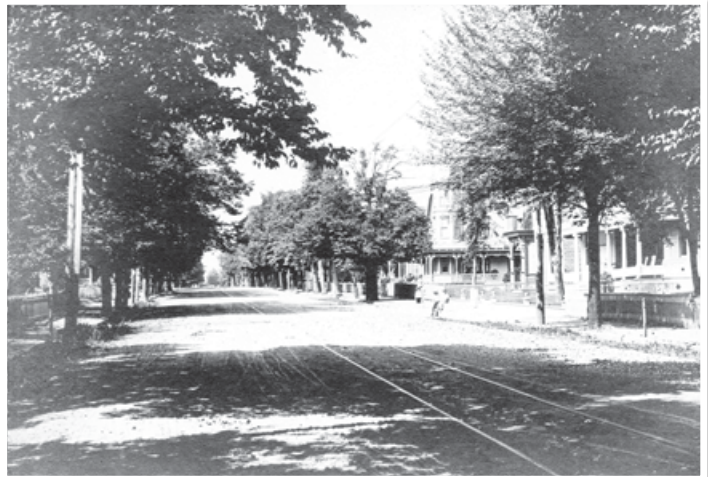


The Railroad House was located on Railroad Street where the parking lot is next to the Mercantile Club.

The Zimmerman Bakery was located on the northwest corner of Sixth and Walnut Streets. The bakery operated from the 1900s to the 1920s. The building was later converted into apartments and looks quite different today.



The Emaus Gas Works was located on Bank Street between Seventh and Eighth Streets. The tank was torn down. The site was later used by TexGas.



This is Main Street looking West from Keystone Avenue towards Second Street. If you look closely, you will see some familiar houses that remain today. ☺

100 Years Ago

Installed Shoe Shining Apparatus – John Romig has added a shoe shining apparatus to his barber shop, same having been installed Friday. It consists of a three-chair fixture and has been made to accommodate ladies and gentlemen. Martin Miller has been made the bootblack. The bootblack before accepting his position made it his business to take a two weeks' course in bootblacking in the Wetherhold and Metzger store in Allentown, and is therefore able to make old shoes look like new. Mr. Romig also placed two leather cushioned davenport to add comfort to his waiting customers. The Morning Call, Monday, July 16, 1923



The Exchange Hotel was located on the southwest corner of Second and Main Streets. It was torn down in the 1930s.

The Carl Iobst Plane Crash of 1935

By Bill Barto

On May 10th, 1935, Carl Iobst, age 26, was fatally injured when he crashed his airplane into the Emaus home of Paul Rinker at 41 South Second Street.

Here's a brief background on Carl and his family:

Carl's father, Richard Iobst, was educated in the Emaus Schools and the Perkiomen Academy. He started out as a railroad telegrapher for the Reading Company. When Emaus residents elected him to a term as Justice of the Peace, he studied law books and eventually quit the railroad. He became Lehigh County District Attorney in 1918 and was twice elected as Judge. He married Minnie Fuhr in 1907.

Carl Iobst was born on August 22, 1908. He would be Richard and Minnie's only child. In 1919, Richard and Minnie bought the Kline property at 218 Main Street which is now the Emaus Historical Society. After a major renovation, the Iobst family moved there from its former Emaus residence at 209 South Fourth Street between Minor and Furnace, right next to the railroad tracks. Carl was about 12 when they moved to Main Street. He attended Emaus High, Allentown Preparatory School, Lafayette College and Dickinson Law School, graduating with the class of 1931. In 1931, he married Marguerite Biehl, Emaus High School Class of 1927. The couple first lived at 218 Main Street with his parents and then moved to a house that stood at 235 Main Street. Yergey's Brewing Company is there now, where Merchants Bank and National Penn used to be. Their son Richard was born on May 8, 1934.

Carl received his flying instruction in Allentown and made his first flight in 1933. He secured a pilot's license in August of the same year. The plane was a bright orange Fairchild that he and Marguerite owned. It was housed at an airfield in Wescosville.

At about 5:30 in the afternoon on May 10th, 1935, two



Carl and Marguerite Iobst with their plane

days after his son's first birthday, Carl was flying alone over downtown Emaus. According to witnesses, he was "buzzing the houses and clipping the tree tops".

As he was flying low, east to west on the south side of the 200 block of Main Street, Henry Iobst, age 7, was in the yard behind 244 Main Street, next door to the funeral home at Third and Main, and from there witnessed the entire crash sequence. (Henry happened to be Carl's second cousin.) As eyewitness, Henry Iobst told people in 2010: "The plane hit the roof of 232 Main Street which started the sequence. The plane immediately banked sharply to the left (toward the railroad) and clipped the top of a small tree."

The plane hit the roof of 232 Main Street, just three doors west of his parents' house and right across the street from his own house. He immediately banked hard to the left (toward the railroad) and clipped the top of a small tree. Across the railroad, he made another sharp left turn and was then heading west to east. He flew over Knadler's corn field, but could not clear the power lines on South Second Street.



Plane crash in front yard of 41 South Second Street with a crowd

Two of the Rinkers' four children, George Rinker (then age 9) and Oletha Rinker (then age 7) were in the Rinker yard at the time of the crash. Mr. and Mrs. Rinker were in the kitchen with the other two children. Oletha said it looked like the plane was going to crash into the yard next door but some part of the plane seemed caught in the power line running from the pole on the street to the Rinker house. The plane, guided by the wire, crashed into the street front porch and burst into flames. Young George, whose hand was grazed by the wing of the plane, said a few seconds later there was an explosion, apparently of the gasoline tank. The contact with the wires had also caused

the plane to overturn. Fastened in the plane by his safety belt, the pilot was hanging almost vertically toward the ground. Frank Sulpizi, who lived next door and had also been watching the stunt flying, attempted to pull him from the cockpit but, unable to do so, got a garden hose and sprayed water around the "imprisoned" Iobst until he fell to the ground.

August "Gus" Hensinger, of 57 South Second Street, who had also been watching the plane and had rushed to the Rinker yard, pulled Iobst away from the burning plane to the rear of the home. "There, water was poured on his burning flying clothes. The heat was so intense that the coins in his pocket were red hot." Mr. Hensinger said Iobst was conscious and aided in working his way to the back porch.

He was taken to the car of Constable Charles Miller and driven to the office of Dr. Gerald Backenstoe, at Fifth and Chestnut, where Dr. M. J. Backenstoe, substituting for his son, gave him first aid. Carl's friend, Attorney Theodore Gardner, accompanied him to the doctor's office. He was then taken in the car, back to Second and Main, where he was transferred to the Allentown Hospital ambulance. He was taken by ambulance to the Sacred Heart Hospital.

Carl Iobst died at 11:55 p.m. at Sacred Heart Hospital. Cause of death - Fracture Base of Skull and Inhalation of Flames.

Contributory - Burns on Face, Hands, Arms, Legs - Plane Crash.

The funeral was held at the home of his parents at 218 Main Street the following Tuesday.

According to the newspaper:

Close to 250 relatives and close friends, including a delegation of seventy-five members of the Lehigh County Bar Association, crowded into the home at 218 Main Street and hundreds more lined the streets in the vicinity to pay their last respects.

The simple, impressive service of the Moravian Church was used at the Iobst home, 218 Main Street, by Rev. H. A. Kuehl, who gave an inspiring and comforting sermon on the text, "In my Father's House There are Many Mansions". He also spoke feelingly of his close association with Mr. Iobst, who was formerly superintendent of the Moravian Sunday School. Rev. J. D. Edwards, pastor of St. Mathew's E.C. Church, offered the prayer. There were selections by the Moravian trombone choir and by a mixed quartette of the Moravian Church choir composed of Mrs. Carlton Reinsmith, Catherine Kirschman, Roy Iobst and Arthur Iobst. Floral tributes included 19 baskets, 58 sprays and 7 wreaths from many well-known residents of Emaus and beyond.

On January 15, 1936, Marguerite gave birth to their second child, Carol. ☽



NEW MYSTERY PHOTOS

Can you help us with these photos?



100 Years Ago

Displaying Beautiful Flowers -

Charles George, the florist at 2nd and Ridge streets, is displaying a number of various kinds flowers on his beds, adjoining his hot house. These flowers are attracting much attention from those passing the place. He is at present preparing for his usual extensive Memorial Day trade.

The Morning Call, Friday, May 25, 1923

100 Years Ago

Albert Wieand is at present serving as substitute mail carrier for William Kline Jr., who has been enjoying two weeks' vacation. He also substituted for carrier

Howard Diehl a few weeks ago.

The Morning Call, Friday, July 20, 1923

Contributions to our Capital and General Funds

We acknowledge and offer our sincere thanks to everyone who has generously contributed to the *Emmaus Historical Society* during the period from January 1, 2023 through March 31, 2023. Capital Fund contributions fund those major projects that are necessary to maintain and preserve our beautiful building and property, as well as our mortgage. Capital projects completed for 2022 were the addition of a shed on the property for equipment and décor storage replacing the garage storage as well as additional building restoration and wiring updates. The interior garage renovations and the replacement of a deteriorated section of sidewalk and steps to rear of museum are still pending architectural and code determinations. Contributions to our General Fund provide for the expenses related to running the Museum as well as funding programs, activities and this newsletter.

Capital Fund

Moravians - \$500.00 - \$999.00

Yocco's Inc., Robert and Anne Teufel, Nancy Reimert, in loving memory my husband, Franklin, Jerry Mohr, in memory of Lisa Mohr, Fred and Elizabeth Masenheimer, in memory of Richard Gaal, East Penn Press Photographer

Founders - \$250.00 - \$499.00

James and Jan Capehart

Heritage - \$100.00 to \$249.00

Dr. Timothy Wright, DMD, Ina P. Goldstein, Bruce and Susan Lehman, Robin Parker, David and Elaine Wiley, Clifford and Sandra Geist, Stanley Degler, in memory of John and Mary Gable, Patricia Robertson, in memory of Ira Rapp Kline, Harry and Millidine Waterman, in memory of Martha Jane and Neil Kline,

Carol Rieder, in memory of Ronald Rieder, Elizabeth Adams, in memory of beloved husband Hank Adams

Historian - \$50.00 to \$99.00

Robert Davies, Daniel M. and Debra R. Hoffman

Friends - up to \$49.00

Peter Gasper, Alison Hudak, Glenn and Jan Deischer

General Fund

Triangle - \$1000.00 - \$2499.00

New Tripoli Bank, David Williams in honor of the Class of 1970

Heritage - \$100.00 to \$249.00

Michael Weber and AlvaAnn Stanley, Thomas and Jill Linette, Barbara Mueller, Carl and Nancy Wieder, Elanore Gilbert Decker in memory of Parents, William and Marian Gilbert, Marjorie E. Strouse and Marty and Kathy White, in memory of Rita Strouse

Historian - \$50.00 to \$99.00

Judith Reeder, Robert and Florence Reiss,

Martha Dech, Janet Latshaw, Roy Miller Family Trust, Elaine Ruch, Vivian Hardison, Curt and Joann Adams, Joan Matura, Barbara Dohner, Thomas and Michelle Capehart, Colleen Zartler, David and Barbara LaMotte in memory of Rita M. Strouse, Karen Collier in memory of Aunt, Rita Strouse, Joan Derr Connolly and family in memory of Aunt, Rita Pierog Strouse, Gloria Weida in memory of Lorraine Weida, Edna Schlott in memory of William Schlott

Friends - up to \$49.00

Nancy Reppert, Stephen and Rebecca Martin,

Kathie Saucier, Timothy and Robin Smith, Ann Bartholomew, Robin and Marlin Guigley, Richard Romanik, Suzanne Goehringer, Marilyn Harris, Jeffrey Snyder, David and Elaine Wiley, Elizabeth Adams, Pamela Luchsinger, Scott Stoneback, Anonymous, Gregory and Jacqueline Owens, Dean Romig, Nancy Miller, Eugene and Sharon Shankweiler, Andrew Kerstetter in memory of Rita Strouse, Joan Matura in memory of Rita Strouse, Donna Lash in memory of Col. and Mrs. Kermit Shelly, USMC, JoAnn Faust in honor of EHS Class of 1954

Membership

Our membership meetings and programs are open to the public and held the third Wednesday of the month (except January, Lenten Wednesdays, June, July and August) at 7 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church Parish Hall, 5th and Chestnut Streets in Emmaus. Our members include individuals (local and from afar), as well as Emmaus-area businesses and organizations. We encourage members to help us "get a member" by spreading the word to friends and family.

Annual Membership

Individual	\$15.00
Family	\$25.00
Junior (Under 18 - No vote)	\$ 3.00
Business	\$40.00
Charitable Civic Org.	\$25.00



Life Membership

Individual	\$200.00
Family	\$350.00
Business	\$300.00
Charitable Civic Org.	\$100.00

Welcome to our New Members - Thank you for Supporting Us!

Daniel and Rebecca Amidon	Doreen K. Lane	Sally Waterman Ruppel	Rose A. Stein
Charles Barnes	Donna Lash	Edna Schlott	Scott Stoneback
Darlene Krause-Clemence	Casey Maurer	Randolph and Barbara Schueck	Peggy Clymer Thomas
Laura Godshall	David and Kim Miller	Philip and Susan Siebert	Laura Trump
Janice Hoffman	Michael and Donna Nonnemacher	Ronald and Carol Smoll	Jeffrey Wenner
Jean Kashnicki	Douglas Reichley	Jeffrey L. Snyder	
Paul and Mary Ann Kincaid	Christopher and Barbara Romig	David B. and Claudia B. Steckel	

Deceased Members - We extend our condolences to the families of:

Stanley Holmes, Jr: May 21, 2022	Shirley Clauser: January 1, 2023	Colleen Krause Straw: February 5, 2023
Shirley Berger: June 8, 2022	Carlton Dreas: January 3, 2023	Marilyn Egner: February 12, 2023
Carl Uehlinger: July 4, 2022	Patricia Deitz: January 6, 2023	Dale Fenstermaker: February 9, 2023
Jeffrey Tapler: October 3, 2022	John Lojko: January 7, 2023	Donald Snyder: March 4, 2023
	Rita Strouse: February 5, 2023	

Please call the office at 610-966-6591 if you are aware of any member to whom we should send a Get Well, Sympathy or Thinking of You Card.

What's Happening?

Dan Schantz- Monthly Maddness Cards! \$75.00 Value For \$25.00

Purchase your card at any Historical Society event or by visiting/calling the Museum with your name, phone, email and number of cards ordering. Payment due upon receipt of your card(s). Each month visit Dan Schantz Greenhouse & Cut Flower Outlet at Lehigh St & 178 and receive your specified monthly gift. The Monthly Maddness Card has no expiration - if you miss a month, simply pick up your item within the designated month the following year!



May Program -- May 17, 2023-7:00PM

A Virtual Historic Walking Tour of Emmaus



Presented by Alan Hawman
Many of you have experienced a historic walking tour of Main Street with Alan Hawman over the years. This program will be a virtual walking tour of some of



the historic houses of Main Street, Emmaus, including two homes that served as hospitals during the Revolutionary War. Please join us to hear Alan Hawman share the history of Emmaus, and the stories of some of its early residents.

Program FREE to the public! Members and Non-members Welcome
St. John's Lutheran Church 501 Chestnut Street, Emmaus, PA

Yard Sale!



Join us for great deals! The Emmaus Historical Society is participating in the Borough's Community Yard Sale.

Furniture • Housewares • Glassware
Decorative and Seasonal Items

Any unsold items are donated to further benefit the Community!

All proceeds benefit the Emmaus Historical Society's general fund, which supports programs and events for the community.

Saturday, June 3, 2023 - 8am to 4pm
Rain Date Sunday, June 4



Join the Emmaus Historical Society for some fun at Yergey Brewing!



This is a MATCHING TIP EVENT!
All staff tips throughout the day on Beer and Spirits will be matched by Yergey Brewing!
PLUS!

• All Day Emmaus Trivia Game • Music! •
Evening Performance by Woodside Avenue

Special Historical Society Museum Hours On
Saturday, June 17th From 10am To 6pm



The Emmaus Historical Society Invites You to Our Annual Member Appreciation Picnic

PICNIC

5:30pm - Wednesday, June 21st
Emmaus Community Park - Moser Pavilion
Entrées and drinks supplied by the Society

Members are asked to bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert
Non-member guests welcome and asked to contribute \$15 for Individuals or \$25 for Family, which pays for 2023 membership dues. Please call the office at 610-966-6591 to RSVP with number attending and what type of appetizer, side dish or dessert you will be bringing.

JOIN US FOR



Passport to History Month is a celebration of local history, stories, and the community that bring Lehigh Valley history to life. Each weekend in July, participating historic and cultural sites will open their doors to the public with tours, activities and programs for visitors of all ages. We are proud to be part of this special celebration of history.

Featuring
Self-Guided Museum Tour • Children's Crafts
Light Refreshments • Walking Tours
Museum Displays and much more!

Friday, July 21 - 5Pm To 8Pm
Saturday, July 22 & Sunday, July 23 - 10Am To 4Pm
Emmaus Historical Society & Museum

100 Years Ago

Expect Uniforms – The Emaus Band which ordered new uniforms several weeks ago from Henderson and company, of Philadelphia, were notified that shipment would be made within a few days. The new uniforms will be jet black and will be neatly trimmed with gold banding and braids. The Band was promised at the time of the placement of the order that they would receive them in time for the Memorial Day parade, but in this, they were badly disappointed.
The Morning Call, Sunday, June 17, 1923

100 Years Ago

Get Your Garbage Ready – Today will be the first day of the season for garbage collection. Clinton Flexer, who has been the collector for the past years, will make the rounds today and all citizens are urged to have their garbage ready. After this week collections will be made every Tuesday and Friday.
The Morning Call, Friday, May 4, 1923

Executive Board

President	Jeanne Harakal
Vice President	Linda Boehmer
Recording Secretary	Linda Waddell
Corresponding Secretary	Teri Sorg-McManamon
Treasurer	Albert Wieand

Directors

Patricia Mabus	Michael Henry	
Mary Parsell	Debra Hoffman	Michael Flynn
Solicitor/Parliamentarian - John Zettlemoyer, Esq.		

Museum Hours

Open Saturdays from 10am to 4pm
 Check our website,
 Facebook & Instagram for updates

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Emmaus Historical Society is to collect, preserve and exhibit Emmaus artifacts, documents, histories, photographs and genealogy for displays and research and to offer educational programs and events throughout the year.



Mark Your Calendars!

May 17th – “A Virtual Historic Main Street Tour” - Presented by Emmaus Architect, Alan Hawman, St. John’s Lutheran Church, 7 p.m.

June 3rd – Community Yard Sale 8am to 4pm

June 14th, – Bus Trip - The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940

June 17th, – Yergey’s Matching Tips Event 12 noon to 10pm

June 21st – Annual Elections for the Board of Directors, 5:30 p.m., Emmaus Community Park, followed by the Annual Member Appreciation Picnic

July 21st – Passport to History Weekend – Museum Open 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

July 22nd & 23rd – Passport to History Weekend – Museum Open 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.



May 2023

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Emmaus Historical Society
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