

# SEWICKLEY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## SIGNALS

LII No. 4

December 2024

**Saturday, January 11, 2025 @ 9 am - 2 pm OSPOB**

SEWICKLEY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS:

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY OPEN HOUSE

FREE AND  
OPEN TO THE  
PUBLIC!

Explore the Collections and Archives • Research Your House • Activities for the Whole Family  
Learn More About SVHS • Cake to Celebrate the Old Sewickley Post Office's Birthday! • AND MORE!

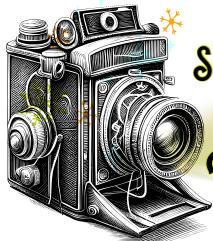
**SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2025** OLD SEWICKLEY POST OFFICE BUILDING | 200 BROAD STREET  
SEWICKLEY, PA 15143

**Bring your grandchildren, friends, and neighbors to SVHS' Historical Society Open House!**

The Sewickley Valley Historical Society is throwing open its doors to share its collections, archives, and so much more, in this new program to kick off a new year with the community whose history it shares and preserves!

Join SVHS on Saturday, January 11, 2025, from 9 am - 2 pm to:

- Explore the Collections and Archives
- Research Your House
- Activities for the Whole Family
- Learn More About SVHS
- Cake to Celebrate the Old Sewickley Post Office's Birthday!
- AND MORE, including:



SEWICKLEY VALLEY  
SNAPSHOT 2025  
PHOTOBOOTH:

All guests will be invited to enjoy a special photobooth. Each photo strip will come with at least 2 copies -- one for the guest and one for inclusion in a Sewickley Valley Snapshot time-capsule scrapbook. Guests will be able to customize their scrapbook page with their pictures, and become a part of historical record preserved in the Collections At SVHS.

RSVP for the SVHS Open House to let SVHS know you'll stop by!

- 1.) Scan the QR code below to be taken directly to the event's page on our website to sign up for the program.
- 2.) Visit [sewickleyhistory.org](http://sewickleyhistory.org) and find the event listing the on the homepage. Click thru to learn more and to sign up to attend.
- 3.) Call the SVHS Office at 412-741-5315 or email us at [info@sewickleyhistory.org](mailto:info@sewickleyhistory.org).



WE HOPE THAT YOU  
WILL JOIN US!

**HELP BUILD  
AN EXHIBIT:**

In May, SVHS will present the exhibit "Valor in the Valley: An Exhibition of the Sewickley Valley in Times of War." SVHS is asking community members to submit and/or donate to the Collections at SVHS material related to their or a loved one's service at times of war -- particularly during WWII and the wars that followed. Materials can be brought to the Open House, or to the SVHS office during the week on an ongoing basis. Additional info on how to contribute can be found on the SVHS website. ★

**The mission** of the Sewickley Valley Historical Society is to promote interest in and to record, collect, preserve, and document the history of the Sewickley Valley.

## Tickets on sale **NOW**

Use this QR Code to Purchase



*Sold-out last year! Buy now and don't miss out!*

*\*There will be no separate invite sent out for this event, only notice in this and the next edition of Signals.*



**Sponsored by Mark Rengers Gallery, SVHS is happy to announce the return of its popular Winter Tea -- a SOLD-OUT event in 2024!**

### New this year:

- Select your seat at the time of purchase. Purchase early and enjoy the day close to your friends and loved ones.
- A special pop-up exhibit of historic hats from the Collections at SVHS.
  - **Guests strongly encouraged to wear their own best tea party millinery -- hats, fascinators, headpieces, chapeau, etc!**
  - **Prize to be awarded to the best-decorated noggin!**

### Returning this year:

- Winter Tea Basket Raffle
- Special Guest Speaker -- Announcement Coming Soon!
- Allegheny Country Club High Tea Menu
- Mug and drink voucher combo -- this year available to reserve at the time of ticket purchase!

**Additional details and schedule coming soon. Purchase your ticket today before they sell out!**

## **Patrons, Benefactors, Friends, Sponsors**

**Many Thanks to the following who since our last newsletter have supported SVHS with gifts in addition to dues.**

Araminta Roberts Brown  
Robert and Gretchen Burnham  
William and Barbara W. Burrows  
David G. Caughey  
Elisa Cavalier  
Laura and Michael Cherock

Bill and Melissa Cook  
Verna Corey  
Christopher and Kathy Driscoll  
Eric and Patricia Fulmer  
Thomas and Nell Hartley  
Helen Hipsley  
Elizabeth (Betty) Ann Miller

Dave and Ginny Monroe  
Wayne Murphy  
Frederic Smith and Brenda Keirn  
Rob and Tina Thomas  
Carol Semple Thompson  
William and Roberta Walker

### **Special Contributions**

- Milana (Mim) Bizic in memory of Lawrence Hitchens
- Ann & Frank Cahouet Foundation

### **Welcome New Members!**

- Laura and Michael Cherock



- The Rust Foundation

### **REMEMBER to SHARE YOUR EMAIL with SVHS!**

Having an active email address on file at SVHS is important -- it is how we share news and information in-between meetings and newsletters. If you are not currently receiving emails from SVHS please reach out to make sure we have your correct address in our database!



**RENEW ONLINE!**  
USE THIS QR CODE

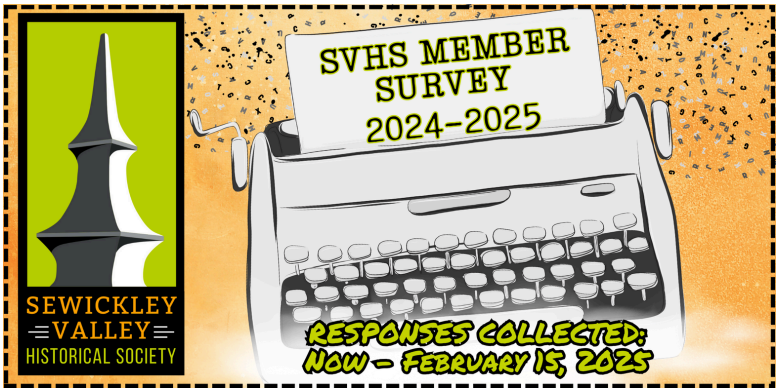
TO BE TAKEN DIRECTLY TO THE PAGE



**Members!**  
**Don't Forget to Renew Your 2024 - 2025 SVHS Membership if you have not done so already!**

Your Annual Membership Renewal and Appeal Packet should have reached you by the end of August in an envelope with a design like above. If you have not received it, please reach out to the SVHS office to arrange a new one to be sent.





An ad hoc communications committee of SVHS is exploring communications with membership, starting with our 2025-2026 program year and moving forward – including the distribution of *Signals* and other print collateral. This survey was formed to allow members to share their preferences and feedback on *Signals*, communications, and programming. Your feedback is critical to our shaping of the communications systems and SVHS offerings. **This survey is available online, where the committee hopes you will take it, accessible through the SVHS website or by scanning the QR below.** If you are not able to take the survey online, please fill out this paper form and return it to the SVHS office by 2-15-2025. Thank You!



Take the Survey Online

**Q1. *Signals* is currently published in correlation with each event held by SVHS, which is approximately 7-8 times a year. The Committee is exploring reducing the number of print publications and aligning it to a scheduled format, independent of the event schedule, to help standardize the timing of distribution and lower costs. How often would receiving *Signals* be acceptable to you?**

- ☐ **Quarterly** – One edition every three months, covers the events in that time
- ☐ **Bimonthly** – One edition every other month, covers the events in that time
- ☐ **No Change** – *Signals* is received sporadically in alignment with events
- ☐ **Other** (please specify)\_\_\_\_\_

**Q2. Would you be willing to pay more for your membership to receive mailed printed materials (i.e. *Signals*), with the option to pay a lower membership level to receive everything digitally?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Other (please specify)\_\_\_\_\_

**Q3. Content of *Signals* – What type of content are you most interested in seeing in *Signals* – please rate current and possible future on a scale of 1 not interested at all 5 being very interested.**

- Front Page Event Information 1 2 3 4 5
- Main article content connecting the Collections at SVHS with upcoming lecture/event 1 2 3 4 5
- Main article content unrelated to the upcoming event 1 2 3 4 5
- Notes from the Post Master's Office 1 2 3 4 5
- Membership Notes 1 2 3 4 5
- SVHS Member Submitted Content 1 2 3 4 5
- Full excerpts from books or newspapers in the Collections at SVHS 1 2 3 4 5
- News and Events of other historical societies 1 2 3 4 5

**Q4. *Signals* ultimately serves as the vehicle for the promotion of upcoming SVHS events. What type of events are you most interested in seeing from SVHS – please rate current and possible future on a scale of 1 not interested at all 5 being very interested.**

- Lectures 1 2 3 4 5
- Special Event – Teas 1 2 3 4 5
- Special Event – A Bite of History 1 2 3 4 5

**Q4 Continued:**

- Film Series 1 2 3 4 5
- History based tours of sites in the Sewickley Valley 1 2 3 4 5
- Antique Appraisal and Donation Days 1 2 3 4 5
- Open House – A weekend day to explore the Collections at SVHS 1 2 3 4 5
- Bus trips to historic sites and organizations outside of the Sewickley Valley (Bus transportation arranged for by SVHS, included in pricing of trip for members) 1 2 3 4 5
- Meet-ups at historic sites and organizations outside of the Sewickley Valley (Members meet as a group at the site or organization, transportation not included in pricing of trip for members) 1 2 3 4 5
- Genealogy Workshops 1 2 3 4 5
- House Research Workshops 1 2 3 4 5
- Preservation of personal collections Workshops 1 2 3 4 5
- Scrapbooking Days 1 2 3 4 5

**Q5. What days/times work for you to attend SVHS programs?**

|            |                       |                         |                      |
|------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Monday:    | Morning<br>9am – 11am | Afternoon<br>12pm – 4pm | Evening<br>5pm – 9pm |
| Tuesday:   | Morning<br>9am – 11am | Afternoon<br>12pm – 4pm | Evening<br>5pm – 9pm |
| Wednesday: | Morning<br>9am – 11am | Afternoon<br>12pm – 4pm | Evening<br>5pm – 9pm |
| Thursday:  | Morning<br>9am – 11am | Afternoon<br>12pm – 4pm | Evening<br>5pm – 9pm |
| Friday:    | Morning<br>9am – 11am | Afternoon<br>12pm – 4pm | Evening<br>5pm – 9pm |
| Saturday:  | Morning<br>9am – 11am | Afternoon<br>12pm – 4pm | Evening<br>5pm – 9pm |
| Sunday:    | Morning<br>9am – 11am | Afternoon<br>12pm – 4pm | Evening<br>5pm – 9pm |

**Q6. How long have you been a member of SVHS? (#of years)**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Q7. Please share any additional ideas, comments, feedback on an additional piece of paper and send with this survey.**

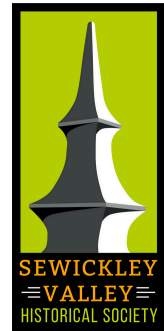
**Q8. Please provide your name or email so that we can tally the total number of member respondents:**

\_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU!

SEWICKLEY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
200 BROAD STREET  
SEWICKLEY, PA 15143

Non-Profit Org  
U. S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit 70  
Sewickley, PA



## Notes from the Postmaster's Office

By: Amanda Schaffer, Executive Director, SVHS

It is so incredibly hard to believe that we are already at the end of 2024. SVHS has so many wonderful things in store for 2025 and I cannot wait to share them with our members and community. Thank you for your continued and generous support. Happy Holidays to you and yours -- see you in the New Year!

### Sewickley Valley Historical Society

**President**  
Marty O'Brien

**Vice-President**  
George Berry, III

**Secretary**  
Janet Oellig

**Treasurer**  
Ivan Hofmann

**Directors**  
Heather Blaine  
Robin Bolea  
Michael Cevarr  
Teresa Duff  
Will Long  
James Mohn  
Shelley Murray  
Robert Patterson, Jr.  
Sean Rollman  
Shelley Wygant

**Executive Director**  
Amanda Schaffer



### SEWICKLEY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

#### Winter Holiday Closure Schedule

Monday, December 23, 2024-  
Wednesday, January 1, 2025

#### SVHS Committee Chairs

**Archives:** John Kroeck

**Architecture:** Teresa Duff

**Development:** Robin Bolea

**Finance:** Ivan Hofmann

**Membership:** Shelley Murray

**Program:** Verna Corey

All committees are looking for active and engaged members.  
If you are interested in joining an SVHS committee, please reach out to the SVHS office.

Signals is written, designed, and edited by SVHS Executive Director, Amanda Schaffer.  
Visit our website, [www.sewickleyhistory.org](http://www.sewickleyhistory.org) | e-mail us at [info@sewickleyhistory.org](mailto:info@sewickleyhistory.org) | or call us at 412-741-5315.  
SVHS offices are open 10am - 2pm Monday - Friday.  
Appointments are encouraged.