

SEWICKLEY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SIGNALS

LII No. 5

Jan./Feb. 2025

Saturday, February 1, 2025 @ 3pm - 5pm @ ACC

SEWICKLEY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS A:

Winter Tea

Saturday, February 1, 2025
Allegheny Country Club



Thurs., February 27, 2025 @ 7pm @ The Lindsay Theater

“Lights, Camera, History!”

EXPLORING HISTORY THROUGH FILM WITH THE SEWICKLEY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THE LINDSAY THEATER

FEATURING: **SHENANDOAH** (1965)

DATE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025 @ 7:00 PM



160TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR (1861 - 1865)

NO. 1

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.

Winter Tea 2025

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 are 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 -- **this year we welcome Eliza Smith Brown, author of "She Devils at the Door."**

Saturday, February 1, 2025 | 3pm - 5pm



Tickets:
\$65.00



Copies of "She Devils at the Door" will be available for purchase at the tea.



Speaker Eliza Smith Brown will present:

New from Carnegie Mellon University Press: Sometimes troublemakers emerge from the most unlikely of places. "She Devils at the Door" tells the true story of two formidable sisters, Lucy and Eliza Kennedy, who came of age in Gilded Age Pittsburgh, graduated from Vassar College, and became leaders of the suffrage movement.

But they didn't stop after women won the vote in 1920. Instead, they spent 40 years fighting corruption in local government. Amidst our current climate of civic skulduggery, these two uncommon women bear the hallmarks of folk heroes, armed with sufficient moxie to battle the gritty, scandal-ridden political machine with tenacity and wit.

Join SVHS on Saturday, February 1, 2025, when we welcome Eliza Smith Brown to share the Kennedy sisters' incredible story.

Use the QR Code to the left to select your seat and purchase your ticket!

"Lights, Camera, History!"

EXPLORING HISTORY THROUGH FILM WITH THE SEWICKLEY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THE LINDSAY THEATER

Join SVHS at the Lindsay Theater for a new series of programming -- "Lights, Camera, History!" where we join the Lindsay Theater in exploring history as it is portrayed and preserved through film.

This winter/spring 2025 series will feature films centered on an American war commemorating a major anniversary year in 2025 and will serve as lead-up to our May 2025 exhibit exploring the history of the Sewickley Valley in times of war as preserved in the Collections at SVHS, "Valor in the Valley."

Each viewing will include a brief introduction by Executive Director, Amanda Schaffer and will be followed by a 20 - 30 minute presentation by an expert on the film's subject matter.

The series kicks off with *Shenandoah*, a film centered on the American Civil War -- commemorating the 160th Anniversary of its end this year. Released in 1965, *Shenandoah* stars Pennsylvania-native, and audience favorite, James Stewart as a Virginia farmer who has vowed to remain neutral during the Civil War, but is spurred into action when his youngest son is taken by Union soldiers.

After the film, stay for a presentation by Pittsburgh Civil War historian Rich Condon who will join us virtually from Gettysburg to share a bit of background about the film itself and discuss what was happening in western Pennsylvania as the events depicted in the film were unfolding.

This series will take place at the Lindsay Theater and will require tickets through the Lindsay box office or website. Tickets are priced using their regular ticketing -- \$11 general admission; \$8.75 for all discounted tickets including seniors 65 and over, children 10 and under, groups of 10 or more, and students and military with proper ID.

THE LAST THURSDAY IN FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL 2025 7:00 PM
📍 THE LINDSAY THEATER, 418 WALNUT ST, SEWICKLEY, PA 15143



Lead up to "Valor in the Valley" and our film series will start with another special community partnership. Visit the SVHS exhibit case display at the Sewickley Public Library during the month of February!

Notes from the Postmaster's Office



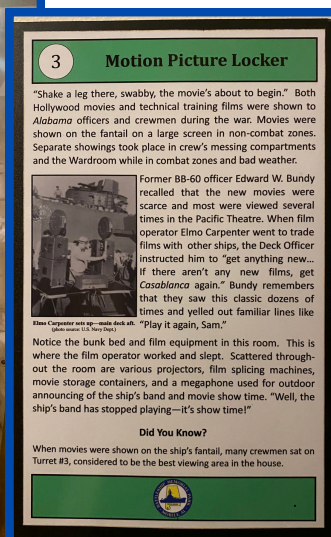
By: Amanda Schaffer, Executive Director, SVHS

In the 1982 film version of the musical *Annie*, it was the height of the Great Depression when Daddy Warbucks bought out the 8 o'clock show and treated Little Orphan Annie to a movie at Radio City. "Big Depression -- What do we care? Movies are there! Only happy endings That's our recipe!" sang the famous Radio City Rockettes as the opening act to the film *Camille* starring Greta Garbo.

Movies have been that great escape for generations, offering a world of fantasies, full of happy endings to counter the realities of the world outside the theater doors. The highs and the lows of the last century have been offset by the escape provided by the movies. For those like Annie living through the Great Depression, it was a cheap seat and a dancing Shirley Temple that provided a respite from the economic hardships of the time. During WWII it was a showing of *Casablanca* on the fantail of a battleship forging a connection to home for American soldiers and a distraction from the war they were fighting. After the 2020 pandemic, it was the reopening of theaters that marked a return to normalcy for many. Movies provide a cultural, timeless touchstone for those who sit and watch them, whether from a theater or home, a drive-in or a battleship.

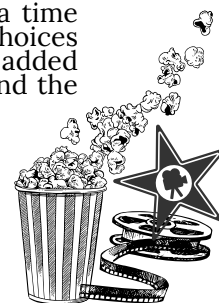
Movies also provide a fascinating study for history. Regardless of their subject matter, movies are a time capsule of the time in which they were created -- the political and social ideologies play out in the choices made in costuming, dialogue, casting, etc. If the movie is a historical or period piece, another layer is added to the study that could be made of the film as viewers consider the historical accuracy of the film and the choices made in the portrayals of historical figures.

Going to the movies has always been one of the most accessible mediums through which the public can study and experience history. That is why I am so thrilled to see this new partnership with The Lindsay Theater come to fruition. So to quote those Radio City Rockettes once more -- "Let's go to the movies! Let's go see the stars!" together this winter and spring on the last Thursday of each month, and share in the time-honored tradition of seeing the history play out in front of us on a large screen, in a darkened theater, with popcorn on our knees.



Above: The Motion Picture Locker aboard the USS Alabama.

As a part of my attendance at the 2024 American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) conference in September, on behalf of SVHS, I had the opportunity to tour the USS Alabama, docked in Mobile, AL. Learning about the screening of films on the WWII battleship was a highlight of the tour.



Patrons, Benefactors, Friends, Sponsors

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

Barbara Bonnett
Jacqueline Cavalier
James and Melanie Crockard
Art and Trudy Hetherington

Philip and Leslie Liebscher
Joseph Marrone
Ross and Dana Merenda
Natalie and Bill Mueller
Kevin and Marguerite Park

Jeff Smith and R. Virginia Fraser
J. Scott Wendt III
Malachy Whalen
Louise C. Yeiser

Welcome New Members!

- Ross and Dana Merenda
- Natalie and Bill Mueller
- Jeff Smith and R. Virginia Fraser
- Allison Tasso and family
- Jason Young and family

Members!

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



RENEW ONLINE!
USE THIS QR CODE
TO BE TAKEN DIRECTLY TO THE PAGE

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!

Special Contributions

Sewickley Valley Community Fund

SVHS is pleased to announce that it was recently awarded a \$5,000.00 grant from the Sewickley Valley Community Fund (SVCF) to upgrade our capacity to store and process collections offsite and in our reading room and archives at the Old Sewickley Post Office Building.

This grant will be matched by an anonymous donor.

We extend our sincere thanks to SVCF and our anonymous donor.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OPEN HOUSE

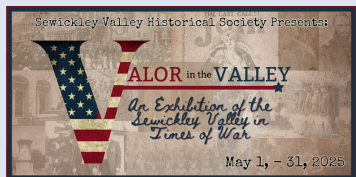
January 11 was surely a wintery day in the Sewickley Valley, but that did not keep away guests to the first SVHS Historical Society Open House! Our thanks to all who came out to learn more about SVHS and the history it preserves!



THE DAY BROUGHT:

- 4 New memberships!
- 30+ Pages in our Sewickley Valley 2025 Snapshot time capsule scrapbook
- 20+ House histories researched

In May 2025, SVHS will present the exhibit “Valor in the Valley: An Exhibition of the Sewickley Valley in Times of War.”



SVHS is asking the community to submit and/or donate to the Collections at SVHS material related to their or a loved one's service in times of war. If you are interested in donating, please visit or reach out to the SVHS office. Materials can be brought SVHS office during the week on an ongoing basis. We are also accepting digital donations of photographs and documents that you wish to keep for your own collection, but would be willing to share and have preserved with SVHS in digital format. For more information, please visit www.sewickleyhistory.org.

“Lights, Camera, History!”

EXPLORING HISTORY THROUGH FILM WITH THE SEWICKLEY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THE LINDSAY THEATER



\$1.00 off concessions

Only good at The Lindsay Theater
Thursday, February 27, 2025



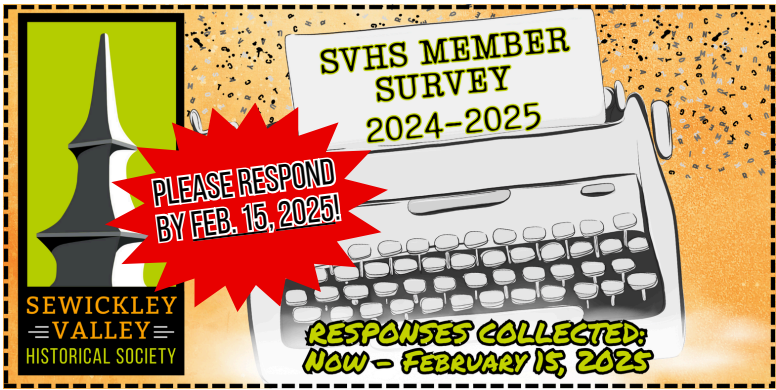
\$1.00 off concessions

Only good at The Lindsay Theater
Thursday, February 27, 2025



As an exclusive perk for SVHS members, SVHS is offering \$1 off concessions per member for those who attend the viewing of “Shenandoah” on Thursday, February 27. Please only one coupon per member -- two are offered here for each member included on a family membership.

Please cut out and present to cashier at time of payment.



An ad hoc communications committee of the 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, 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 9am – 11am	Afternoon 12pm – 4pm	Evening 5pm – 9pm
Tuesday:	Morning 9am – 11am	Afternoon 12pm – 4pm	Evening 5pm – 9pm
Wednesday:	Morning 9am – 11am	Afternoon 12pm – 4pm	Evening 5pm – 9pm
Thursday:	Morning 9am – 11am	Afternoon 12pm – 4pm	Evening 5pm – 9pm
Friday:	Morning 9am – 11am	Afternoon 12pm – 4pm	Evening 5pm – 9pm
Saturday:	Morning 9am – 11am	Afternoon 12pm – 4pm	Evening 5pm – 9pm
Sunday:	Morning 9am – 11am	Afternoon 12pm – 4pm	Evening 5pm – 9pm

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

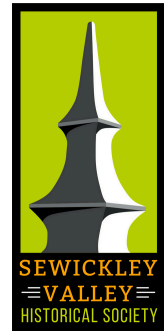
Q7. Please share any additional ideas, comments, feedback on an additional piece of paper and send with this survey.

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

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Sewickley on a National Stage...

Sewickley Valley Historical Society

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Executive Director
Amanda Schaffer

If your family Thanksgiving traditions include watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and then the National Dog Show on NBC while your turkey began its hours-long roast in the oven, perhaps you recognized a local face.

SVHS member Richard LeBeau was the judge for the Kennel Club of Philadelphia's 2024 National Dog Show Toy Group broadcasted nationally on Thanksgiving day.

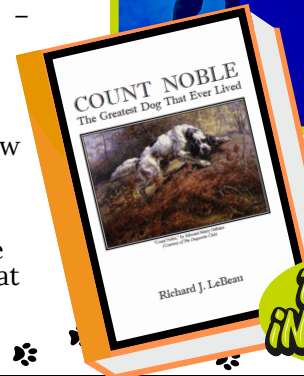
His selection for the Toy Group winner, Vito the pug, went on to win the whole thing and was crowned best in show – the first time a pug has won the title in at least two decades!

We extend our congratulations to Richard on being selected as a judge for the 92nd annual National Dog Show and for selecting the show's overall winner!

If you were looking for more to celebrate his book *Count Noble: The Greatest Dog That Ever Lived*, published by the Sewickley Valley Historical Society, is now back in stock at SVHS and in its sixth printing! Order your copy today!



LeBeau (left)
judging at the 2024
National Dog Show.
Photo courtesy
Richard LeBeau.



**BACK
IN STOCK**

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 | e-mail us at info@sewickleyhistory.org | or call us at 412-741-5315.
SVHS offices are open 10am - 2pm Monday - Friday.
Appointments are encouraged.