



# T W I N S B U R G HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 7, Twinsburg, OH 44087-1720

Phone: 330-487-5565

## **Annual Meeting Well Attended!**

About 35 people came to the Annual Meeting/Potluck at the First Congregational Church on April 12. People socialized, enjoyed wonderful homemade food, and easily participated in the program offered via the Summit County Historical Society: "Happy Days Are Here Again - The Baby Boom Years". Presenter Janet McCaulley reminisced, with help from her audience, about toys, entertainment, and the life experienced between 1946 to 1964. Most agreed that the lives of our children and grandchildren are much different than those of our childhood years. The Annual Meeting followed the program. Activities of the past year were recounted and plans for the coming year announced. Election of officers was held, and congratulations are extended to the new officers: President: Gail Herrilko, Vice President: Charlotte Wike, Corresponding Secretary: Lea Bissell, Recording Secretary: Bonnie Williams, Treasurer: Dan Simecek. To end the meeting, the candy-jar table decorations, handcrafted by Giz Roddie, were raffled. There were 20 of them, so most people went home happy!

## **Looking for a Donation:**

It has been awhile since we have had a computer in the Museum. We have a computer that has been/will be donated. But we will need a monitor. If you have an old working monitor and would like to donate it to us we would love to have it. Please consider a donation to the Historical Society. Contact a Trustee or leave a message on our answering machine: 330-487-5565.

## **May Open House:**

You may have noticed that some of our open houses have a theme, or focus. May 25th, appropriately, is "A Tribute to Veterans". Come any time between 2:00 and 5:00 to see what we have to offer. Of special interest will be the notebook with issues of "Mail Call", a mimeographed newsletter sent by people in Twinsburg to Twinsburg servicemen during WWII. George Richner assembled the notebook several years ago and donated it to the Historical Society. The papers are protected by plastic covers so that anyone may read the news that was sent overseas during the 1940s. We also have an extensive collection of information on local men who fought in the Civil War, and the enlistment and discharge papers of Twinsburg men from WWI. A mystery item will be the uniform of a woman from Twinsburg who served in WWII. Can you guess who wore it?

## **May 2014**

### **Mark Your Calendars:**

**April 30th - 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM**

Bob Evans Fund Raiser

**May 1st - Thursday -**  
Scholarships awarded at  
Twinsburg High School,  
including \$500 from  
Twinsburg Historical Society

**May 10th - 9:00 AM**  
Garden Club Plant Sale  
Freeman Barn

**June 21st- 2:00 - 8:00**  
Historical Society Booth  
at "Taste of Twinsburg"

**Sept. 6th & 7th**  
Olde Thyme Fayre

**Sept 26th & 27th**  
Tales of Locust Grove

**Oct. 23rd**  
Halloween Story Telling  
at the Barn

**Bob Evans Fund Raiser  
Coupons included in this  
edition. You can also  
download more at:  
[www.twinsburghistoricalsociety.org](http://www.twinsburghistoricalsociety.org) !!!!!**

Check us out on the Web: [www.twinsburghistoricalsociety.org](http://www.twinsburghistoricalsociety.org)

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**Twinsburg, OH 44087**

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**The Historical Society joins the 21st Century!**

It has come to our attention that some of you would prefer to receive you Newsletter via email, and we would be happy to oblige. But we need to know if this is something you would like. If we have enough people that would like their newsletters delivered to them via email we will set it up. We know that not everyone will or desire to have is delivered that way. We just don't want to only have a very small group want it delivered by email. So, if you would like your newsletter delivered by email, you need to go to the web site, [www.twinsburghistoricalsociety.org](http://www.twinsburghistoricalsociety.org), and then go to the "Officers" page and click on the email link for the "Newsletter", (that's me). Send me an email with your name and email address in it and I will put you on the list for email delivery. This may not start until the June edition of the newsletter. Thanks, Bob

**Olde Thyme Fayre:**

Please note the Olde Thyme Fayre dates. Despite the weather, some of you are already planning your garden, so keep us in mind as your produce and flowers astound you over the Summer. And, it's not too soon to start a knitting, crocheting, weaving, painting, embroidery, cross stitch, quilting, sewing etc., etc. project for entry in the handcrafted display in the Museum.

**Exhibit of FASHIONS from 1900 to 1949 at the Summit County Library:**

On display from now through July of 2014, a collection of photographs and actual pieces of clothing and accessories will attest to the ever changing world of fashions. The first half of the 20th century was an especially interesting time as fashions reflected not only the culture but also the economic and political climate. The exhibit is free and open to the public and may be found in the Special Collections Division at the Akron-Summit County Library, 670 South High St. in Akron.

The Library opens at 10AM, closes at 8PM Monday-Thursday, 6PM on Friday, and 5PM Saturday, closed Sundays from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

**Pictures from the March presentation.**



**Monthly Meetings First Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM**  
**Open House the last Sunday of Every Month from 2-5PM**

Check us out on the Web: [www.twinsburghistoricalsociety.org](http://www.twinsburghistoricalsociety.org)

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**March Open House Wrap-up:**

The Museum was teeming with visitors at the March Open House. It was filled with old time toys that kids, big and little could experience hands on. There were Jax and Skittles but not the candy kind. Most of the toys had no “battery included” as none were needed. Of course the games and toys awoke a lot of memories of the days when we sprawled on the living room floor and played for hours. There were Tonka Toys and alphabet blocks and an erector set. The kinds of toys that you could play with while you were listening to the radio. Toys that kept your mind moving and your hands too. Toys for two or toys for four and toys that you could play all by yourself.

The centerpiece was a setup with two American Flyer trains owned and operated by Ray Diersing. Ray was the engineer and kids of all ages got to play. The lure of a miniature train chugging around a miniature track with all those tiny trees and buildings is magical. Ray was at the ready all day. His eyes twinkled as he explained the inner workings of his prize exhibit. His first train was a Christmas present in 1947. That model was only made for two years. The second train was from 1959. He built tables to set up in his basement so his grandchildren could experience the same joy. The whole arrangement looked good as new as the engines wound around the tracks and through the towns. Ray also takes his trains on the road to nursing homes. A lot of Ray’s family came to help with the set up and the take down.

Our guest speaker was Lee McCarty, President of the Cuyahoga Valley S-Gauge Club, and a retired economics teacher from Solon. He told all about the art of collecting toy trains and “the inspiring, nerdy toys of A. C. Gilbert”. “S” Gauge means that one model foot equals sixty-four real feet. He gave the history of trains and collecting. The Ives Corp. dates back to 1867 and then was bought out by Lionel, a familiar name to most. Lionel went on to become the biggest American toy train company and is still in operation. Lee talked about the links to history and the role of the American Flyer Company and its founder A.C. Gilbert. In 1918 Gilbert became the “man who saved Christmas” by convincing Congress not to ban toy production during the war. He financed his Yale medical degree by working as a magician. He is most famous for his toys from chemistry sets, to robot, to microscopes. He believed that playing was learning.

The theme of “Toys and Trains” worked very well and we will be looking forward to doing something like this again. If you have any ideas for future themes for the open houses please let us know. If you have some cool old stuff like trains hidden in your attic, basement or garage, let us know.





# Twinsburg Historical Society News Letter

## P.O. Box 7

### Twinsburg, OH 44087

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#### STAFF

**President:** Gail Herrilko

**Vice President:** Charlotte Wike

**Secretary:** Bonnie Williams

**Correspondence Secretary:** Lea Bissell

**Treasurer:** Dan Simecek

**News Letter:** Bob Davet

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