

Mt. Gretna Campmeeting News

*Green Was The Silence, Wet Was The Light,
The Month Of June Trembled Like A Butterfly.*

– Pablo Neruda



Property Ownership Committee Update

Submitted by Committee Chair, Kevin Burd

Please join me in welcoming new Members to the Campmeeting.

- Kristine Warner & Frank Tomecek, the new owners of 206 Otterbein Avenue
- Brad Reifler & Diane Neff, the new owners of 305 First Street

Please introduce yourselves and share what you love about our community.

Regarding short-term rental permits, of the 72 short-term rental permits available, as outlined in Rule 20 and the associated policy, 46 permits are currently granted in the community. Short-term rental permit holders are reminded that West Cornwall Township (WCT) has created zoning ordinances regarding short term rental units. It is your responsibility to comply with WCT permit requirements.

As Members of the community—new and old—please contact us at homerentals@mtgretnacampmeeting.org if you have any questions. Help us, help YOU.

Calling All Candidates

Submitted by Esther Mefferd, Chair of the MGCA Nominating Committee

Please consider serving on the MGCA Board of Managers. Three Managers will be chosen for a three-year term, ***starting in January 2024***. To apply, kindly provide your name, address, photo, and a brief biography of 75 words or less to the MGCA office ***by Tuesday, June 27, 2023***.

Water Tower Progress

We are pleased to provide an update on the ongoing progress of the historic Campmeeting Water Tower Replacement Project. We invite you to review the three videos submitted by Ben Slotznick, which offer a visual glimpse into the recent developments.

The first video, a 20-minute version, provides a comprehensive overview of the crane set-up and post-lifting crane "take-down" processes. To condense the footage, these sections have been sped up and muted. However, the ten minutes of actual lifting have been presented in mostly real-time, allowing us to witness this crucial phase of the construction. The video showcases the meticulous planning and execution involved in safely lifting the heavy components of the new water tower.

The second video, a 10-minute version, focuses solely on the ten minutes of actual lifting mentioned above. This footage allows you to observe the precision and coordination required as the crane operators delicately maneuver the sections into place. It provides a close-up view of the construction crew's expertise and highlights the progress made in erecting the new water tower.

For a quick overview, the third video is a one-minute version that condenses the ten minutes of actual lifting into a high-speed sequence. This video, sped up ten times faster than real time, provides a dynamic visual representation of the lifting process. While it does not offer the same level of detail as the previous two videos, it conveys the magnitude and complexity of the operation in a concise format.

Throughout these videos, it is evident that the project is advancing steadily. The construction team's proficiency and attention to detail are apparent, ensuring the safe and efficient replacement of the water tower.

We extend our gratitude to Ben for capturing and sharing these videos, which provide valuable insights into the construction process. The videos are available for viewing, and we encourage everyone to take a moment to witness the ongoing transformation of the historic Campmeeting water tower.

Video #1

1 minute version: <https://youtu.be/ULmus9sdBpo>

Video #2

10 minute version: <https://youtu.be/YjHIA1G2wPM>

Video #3

20 minute version: <https://youtu.be/FhCgE82GAyw>



Submitted by Ben Slotznick

Time is Ticking: Don't Miss the Deadline for MGCA 2023 General Assessment Payment



We kindly remind you that invoices for the MGCA 2023 General Assessment were sent to all Members in November 2022. As the payment deadline approaches, we would like to highlight some essential information regarding the payment process.

The full amount of the assessment is due by June 30, 2023. We kindly request that you submit your payment on or before this date to ensure timely processing. Please be aware that any outstanding balances after June 30, 2023, will be subject to interest charges.

We understand that unforeseen circumstances can arise, leading to delays in payment. However, we must emphasize that overdue accounts will be subject to a 15% penalty. To avoid any unnecessary fees, we kindly urge you to settle your outstanding balance promptly.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding your invoice or payment options, please do not hesitate to reach out to the MGCA Office. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Your cooperation and timely payment are greatly appreciated, as they enable us to continue sustaining our vibrant community.




Submitted by Joyce Ruhl

Community Activities Committee Update

Submitted by Kevin C. Wells & Marcie Lloyd, Committee Chairs


Join Us for the 20th Annual Heritage Music Festival!


Get ready to immerse yourself in a harmonious celebration of our rich heritage at the 20th Annual Heritage Music Festival. The Community Activities Committee proudly presents this beloved family-friendly event, held at the enchanting Campmeeting Tabernacle. Mark your calendars because these sensational performances will leave you humming with joy.

 Location: Campmeeting Tabernacle

 Dates:

- June 10 – Olivia Perrin
- June 17 – Hammer Creek Bluegrass Band
- July 1 – Colebrook Road
- August 12 – Wolfepack
- August 19 – Angry Young Band: The Billy Joel Tribute Band
- September 10 (Sunday evening) – The Perseverance Band

 Time: 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (rain or shine)

 Admission: Performances are funded by your generous donations – a \$10 per person contribution is greatly appreciated.

Remember, your generous support funds these sensational performances and makes future years of the Heritage Festival possible. By supporting local musicians, you nurture the vibrant tapestry of our community's talent. Prepare to be transported to a world of captivating melodies as local musicians take center stage, showcasing their extraordinary talents. From toe-tapping tunes to soulful ballads, we've curated an unforgettable lineup that will make your heart sing.

Rain or Shine, We've Got You Covered!

Don't let a little rain dampen your spirits! Our magnificent Tabernacle boasts a protective roof that ensures the show goes on, no matter the weather.

⊙ Smoke-Free & Alcohol-Free Zone ⊙

We value the comfort and well-being of all attendees, which is why the Tabernacle is a smoke-free environment. In addition, please kindly note that alcohol is strictly prohibited.

Come one, come all, as we celebrate the rhythm and spirit of our community together. See you at the Tabernacle, where melodies meet memories and music brings us closer!

Please visit our website to learn more about this year's performers – <https://www.mtgretnacampmeeting.com/heritagefestival.shtml>.

Seeking Time-Traveling Scribes: Uncover the Secrets of Our Handwritten Archives



Calling all generous souls with a passion for preserving history! Our scans of the earliest handwritten Campmeeting minutes are “unsearchable”, presenting an opportunity for an extraordinary individual (or individuals) to step forward and lend their skills.

Don Miller, Chair of the Archives Committee, would benefit from the assistance of a willing volunteer who could read these handwritten minutes and transcribe them into easily “searchable” text, aka “Word” documents. The only requirement is the ability to access and read PDF files online and type (or dictate) them into “Word” files. We will provide you with access to a shared drive within our Google account for use during the project.

So, if you possess a love for history and a willingness to help MGCA, contact the office (office@mtgretnacampmeeting.org) to volunteer. Who knows what you might discover happened in Campmeeting 100 years ago...



Submitted by Kevin C. Wells



Unconditional Love Personified: A Letter of Gratitude to Our Beloved Dads

Dear Dads,

On this Father's Day, we are filled with gratitude and admiration for the immense love and dedication you bring to your children and families. You are the heroes of our homes, tirelessly carving a path of love, strength, and compassion. Your tender guidance and unwavering support offer solace and inspiration, guiding us through life's twists and turns.

Your love knows no bounds. It is a shelter from life's storms, a safe harbor where we find reassurance in your presence. Through your eyes, we see endless possibilities, as you believe in us when we doubt ourselves. Your unwavering cheer and encouragement fuel our courage to chase our dreams.

Your love extends beyond bloodlines, embracing those you welcome into your hearts. Stepfathers, grandfathers, and father figures of every kind fill our lives with love and support. Today, we honor the memories of fathers who have passed, celebrating the legacies they left behind.

To first-time fathers, embrace the transformative journey that shapes your identity. Cherish the sleepless nights and tender moments, for they forge an unbreakable bond with your child. To seasoned fathers, your wisdom and experience guide us. Your steady hands and gentle words carry the weight of a lifetime of love.

You are the pillars of our families, the glue that binds us, and silent warriors who champion our dreams. May your Father's Day be filled with joy and the warmth of your children's love. From the depths of our souls, we say, "Thank you." Thank you for your unwavering love, tireless efforts, and countless sacrifices. You are our guiding stars, our superheroes, and the epitome of strength.

Summer Book Reviews

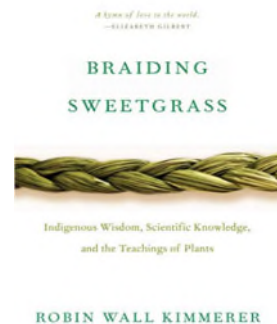
In the sun-kissed embrace of summer, where time becomes a gentle breeze and imaginations take flight, a literary haven emerges at the heart of Mt. Gretna Community Library. Amidst the rustling leaves and the whispered secrets of ancient tomes, a symphony of literary voices beckons, weaving tales of wonder and inspiration. As the sun paints golden hues upon the pages, a wondrous tradition unfolds - Summer Book Reviews.

Like fireflies illuminating the night, avid readers and passionate wordsmiths gather in this sanctuary, ready to immerse themselves in a kaleidoscope of literary journeys. Here, the realms of imagination collide, as the written words transform into living worlds, awakening dormant dreams and sparking vibrant conversations.

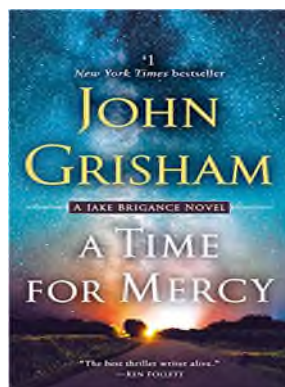
From the whispers of classic literature to the bold melodies of contemporary masterpieces, these reviews ignite the literary passions within, guiding us to uncharted literary treasures. So, let us embrace the magic of words and embark on this enchanting odyssey of Summer Book Reviews, where the pages come alive and the stories echo through our souls, forever shaping the tapestry of our literary destinies.

June 5 - 7 P.M. to 8 P.M.

Braiding Sweetgrass,
by Robin Wall Kimmerer



In this awe-inspiring masterpiece, Kimmerer, a renowned botanist and indigenous scientist, intertwines indigenous teachings, scientific insights, and personal anecdotes to unveil a tapestry of knowledge that celebrates the reciprocal relationship between humans and the natural world. With every turn of the page, readers are transported to enchanting landscapes where plants and animals become cherished kin, and where the sacred wisdom of indigenous cultures intertwines with modern scientific understanding. "Braiding Sweetgrass" is a luminous ode to the earth, guiding us to rediscover our inherent connection to nature and inspiring us to become devoted caretakers of the natural world. Join us this summer for a transformative journey as we delve into the depths of this extraordinary book and uncover the rich tapestry of knowledge it holds.



June 19 - 7 P.M. to 8 P.M.

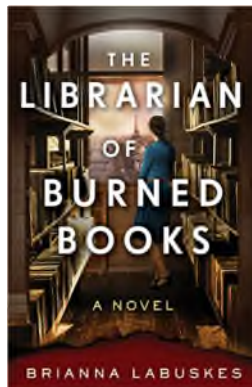
A Time for Mercy,
by John Grisham

Step into a world where justice hangs in the balance, where a young boy's fate rests on the shoulders of one courageous attorney. In John Grisham's gripping bestseller, "A Time for Mercy," the line between right and wrong blurs as the complexities of the human condition unravel. With his signature skill for crafting compelling legal thrillers, Grisham takes readers on a heart-pounding journey through the halls of justice, exploring themes of morality, redemption, and the lengths we go to protect those we love. Prepare to be captivated by this riveting tale that challenges our notions of justice and tests the limits of compassion.

Be sure to join us for the remaining Summer Book Reviews, all starting at 7 p.m., at the library:

July 3

The Librarian of Burned Books: A Novel,
by Brianna Labuskes



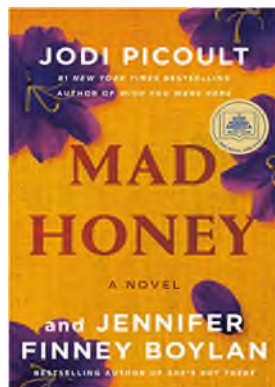
July 17

Running Out: In Search of Water on the High Plains, by
Lucas Bessire



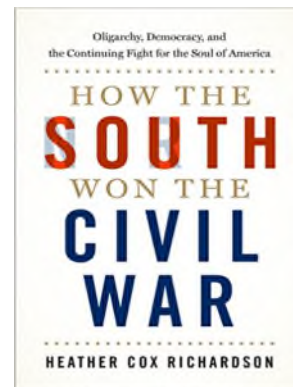
July 31

Mad Honey: A Novel, by Jodi Picoult



August 7

How the South Won the Civil War: Oligarchy, Democracy, and the Continuing Fight for the Soul of America, by
Heather Cox Richardson



Tabernacle Update

Submitted by Ted Martin, President of the Mount Gretna Tabernacle Association

Over the course of the past nearly year and a half, an intensive effort has been underway to raise funds for the renovation, upkeep, and maintenance of the Tabernacle. The remarkable generosity of the Campmeeting community, donations from Bible Festival attendees and others, along with the work of the Tabernacle Association and the Advancement Committee of the MGCA Board of Managers has truly made the difference in successfully finishing a number of important projects.

To date, the Violette Cassel Room has been completely renovated thanks to the Engle Family, the bell tower has been repaired thanks to Joy and Bill Linton, the stage has been painted and its foundation strengthened, improved storage made available underneath the building, and the bathrooms have been given a much-needed face-lift thanks to generous donations from the Bible Festival and the Building Fund of the Tabernacle Association. Maintaining this sacred and historic space is demanding and expensive, but one thing everyone agrees must be ongoing.

Throughout the spring, many people may have noticed the scaffolding in the interior of the Tabernacle. Workmen strengthened and upgraded the “tension ring” which keeps the roof together and gives the structure the ability “to breathe” and expand and contract with the changes in weather and humidity. For a building open to the weather year-round, used heavily in the summer, and long past its centennial birthday, this work was vital. Happily, the work is being covered by a \$10,000 grant from the Lebanon County Hotel Tax, a very generous \$10,000 grant from the Mt. Gretna United Methodist Church William Drendell Endowment Fund, as well as financial support from the Building Fund of the Tabernacle Association.

The “legwork” to complete and submit grant applications for the “tension ring” project was provided by Advancement Committee members like Pat Brosious and Andrea George. Ongoing awareness of necessary building projects comes from Buildings and Grounds Committee chair, Miles Bojanic, and Bible Festival chair, Bob Kettering. This collaborative effort makes sure uses and needs are combined and heard together, and thus requests are made that address real problems and challenges. All of this together with the financial support from the community, is helping to keep the Tabernacle healthy and alive for decades to come.

Finally, your generosity always matters. When you donate during a service or a show, please make sure you designate the “Building Fund” of the Tabernacle Association if you are so inclined. Your money will be turned right back around to support the building, and there’s few finer things you can do for Campmeeting. If you or anyone you know is interested in being generous or making a contribution to the Tabernacle Association, please email: office@MtGretnaTabernacle.org or call 717-964-3040.

From the Members of the MGCA Tree Committee

We all seem to remember the ruffed grouse and mountain laurel as symbols of Pennsylvania, but did you know we have a state insect? As of 1974, the Pennsylvania firefly, or as entomologists like to call it, *Photuris pensylvanica*, has been the official insect representative of our state. So commonplace that it is easily dismissed, this beetle has got it all. A life cycle of amazing metamorphosis, beautiful bioluminescence ...and even a bit of murder. The females mimic the flashing of the males of other species in order to bait them in and eat them! In addition to all the drama, their larvae eat slugs, snails and also invasive species, and keep these populations in check.

They are a gem of a neighbor, cause no disease transfer or harm to humans, and are a vital part of our local food web. Take an evening stroll through our community gardens to enjoy their annual display, and remember to let some of your fall leaves lay for the benefit of their larvae.



SAVE THE DATE – Mount Gretna Outdoor Art Show 50th Anniversary in 2024

From the Pennsylvania Chautauqua:

Join us on a journey of artistic celebration as our community reaches an exciting milestone in 2024 – the momentous 50th Art Show! Mark your calendars for the kick-off Art Show Gala and Auction on Saturday, January 20, 2024, from 5-9 p.m. at the Timbers. The Art Show Gala and Auction represent a unique opportunity to raise funds and honor the profound influence of cultural events on our beloved town throughout the year. Be sure to keep an eye out for more information as it unfolds!

With immense joy, we share the news that the Mount Gretna Borough Council has granted our request to declare 2024 as "The Year of the Arts" in Mount Gretna. The Art Show stands as a pillar of the Mount Gretna Summer, culminating in a grand display of all the cultural, artistic, musical, educational, and performance marvels that grace our season. Our community thrives on the dedication and passion of the diverse arts organizations that align with our mission. We extend a warm invitation to our neighboring communities, urging them to embrace and partake in the extraordinary gem that our town has become.

Throughout the year, let us unite and revel in the shared celebration of this theme, fostering an atmosphere of cooperation and collaboration. This well-deserved designation will elevate the prominence of the arts and underscore its pivotal role in shaping our distinctive sense of place.

Exciting times lie ahead, and we encourage you to spread the word among fellow community members who hold a passion for all things magnificent. Thank you for the unwavering support you have shown for our beloved show. Together, we shall embark on a truly unforgettable artistic journey.

Earn-A-Bike Program

Attention, Campmeeting community! We have an exciting opportunity to support a wonderful initiative that promotes transportation and empowerment. The Earn-a-Bike program, run by Campmeeting's own Scott Shreve of 2nd Street, is based in downtown Lebanon. It operates out of donated warehouse space and works in collaboration with organizations like the Rescue Mission, Jubilee, and VA Therapeutic Recovery programs. This program allows individuals to "earn" a bike by refurbishing it alongside their dedicated volunteers. Once the bikes are ready, participants can ride them to and from work, providing them with vital transportation. While the program primarily serves men, there are also opportunities for women to participate.

If you have any used bikes to donate or would like to volunteer your time, they would be incredibly grateful. Your contribution can make a significant impact on the lives of those in need. The program is overseen by the Lebanon Valley Bicycle Coalition, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting safe and enjoyable bicycling in the area.

Let's come together as a community to support our neighbor in this meaningful cause and help provide transportation and empowerment to individuals in need.

Thank you for your consideration and support!

Need Transportation? Want help fixing up your bike?



LEBANON VALLEY BICYCLE is a 501(c)(3) organization
Founded in 2008 to make the Lebanon Valley region of
Pennsylvania a better, safer place to bicycle.



**Volunteers help you "earn a bike" or fix-up your bike,
that you take home that day.**

***\$5 lock purchase required for bikes provided.**

**2nd Thursday 6-8pm and 4th Saturday 9:30-noon of each
month (Mar- Nov), Lebanon City area.**

**By appointment only, call Scott at 717-273-1571.
Have a bike to donate or want to volunteer, call Scott.**

On the Horizon – Happening In Our Community – Mark Your Calendars

Due to space limitations, event listings for June, July and August will be limited to those occurring in Campmeeting. For a complete listing of events in the Mt. Gretna community, see the calendar on the Home/Events tab of <https://mtgretna.com/>

June 2 – Bible Festival Ecumenical Service, Bishop Charles Brown Jr.

- 7:00 p.m. at the Tabernacle

June 4 – Bible Festival Summer Program, Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster

- 7:00 p.m. at the Tabernacle

June 5 – Book Review, *Braiding Sweetgrass*, at the Mt. Gretna Community Library

- 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

June 9 – Bible Festival Ecumenical Service, Reverend John Frye

- 7:00 p.m. at the Tabernacle

June 10 – Heritage Festival, Olivia Perrin, jazz singer

- 7:30 p.m. at the Tabernacle

June 11 – Bingo at the MTG Fire Hall

- 11:00 a.m. – Doors open; 1:00 p.m. – Games start

June 11 – Bible Festival Summer Program, Jazz Ministers Big Band

- 7:00 p.m. at the Tabernacle

June 14 – Organ Recital, Emily Amos

- 7:00 p.m. at the Mt. Gretna United Methodist Church

June 16 – Bible Festival Ecumenical Service, Reverend Dr. Nathan Minnich

- 7:00 p.m. at the Tabernacle

June 17 – Heritage Festival, Hammer Creek Bluegrass Band, 5-piece bluegrass band

- Traditional bluegrass and other musical genres string-band style
- 7:30 p.m. at the Tabernacle

June 18 – Bible Festival Summer Program, Andy Roberts Jazz Quartet

- 7:00 p.m. at the Tabernacle

June 19 – Juneteenth

June 19 – Book Review, *A Time for Mercy*, at the Mt. Gretna Community Library

- 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

June 20 – MGCA Board Meeting

- 6:30 p.m., Virtual/In-Person at the Mt. Gretna United Methodist Church

June 21 – Organ Recital, Aaron Patterson

- 7:00 p.m. at the Mt. Gretna United Methodist Church

June 23 – Bible Festival Ecumenical Service, Reverend Carrie Call, PhD

- 7:00 p.m. at the Tabernacle

June 24 – Mt. Gretna Summer Concerts, The Maxwell Project, Music of Earth Wind & Fire

- 7:30 p.m. at the Tabernacle

June 25 – Bible Festival Summer Program, New Holland Band

- 7:00 p.m. at the Tabernacle

June 28 – Organ Recital, Daniel Ficarri

- 7:00 p.m. at the Mt. Gretna United Methodist Church

June 30 – Bible Festival Ecumenical Service, “SEVEN”, Messiah University musicians

- 7:00 p.m. at the Tabernacle

July 1 – Heritage Festival, Colebrook Road

- Award winning blue-grass, acoustic country and Americana music
- 7:30 p.m. at the Tabernacle

July 2 – Bible Festival Summer Program, Silver, Wood and Ivory

- 7:00 p.m. at the Tabernacle

July 3 – Book Review, *The Librarian of Burned Books*, at the Mt. Gretna Community Library

- 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

July 4 – Independence Day

July 7 – “Heritage, Tool?": A Postcard History of Mount Gretna, Presented by Sue Hostetter of MGAHS

- Donation requested – Proceeds benefit MGAHS and MGUMC
- 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Mt. Gretna United Methodist Church

July 8 – Mt. Gretna Fire Company Community Picnic

- 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Fire Hall

July 8 – Mt. Gretna Summer Concerts, The Music of ABBA

- 7:30 p.m. at the Tabernacle

July 9 – Bible Festival Summer Program, National Christian Choir

- 7:00 p.m. at the Tabernacle

July 15 – Mt. Gretna Summer Concerts, 60's Party Anthems & Make-Out Songs

- 7:30 p.m. at the Tabernacle

July 16 – Bible Festival Summer Program, Rizzetta's Tones

- 7:00 p.m. at the Tabernacle

July 17 – Book Review, *Running Out: In Search of Water on the High Plains*

- Mt. Gretna Community Library
- 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

July 18 – MGCA Board Meeting

- 6:30 p.m., Virtual/In-Person at the Mt. Gretna United Methodist Church

July 22 – Mt. Gretna Summer Concerts, Greatest Movie Songs of All Time

- 7:30 p.m. at the Tabernacle

July 23 – Bible Festival Summer Program, Reverend Alan Robinson

- 7:00 p.m. at the Tabernacle

July 29 – MGCA Annual Meeting & Community Picnic

- 12:00 p.m. Annual Meeting followed by a pot-luck style luncheon
- At the Mt. Gretna Fire Hall

July 29 – Mt. Gretna Summer Concerts, The Sassy Lassies, Top 20 Female Singers of All Time

- 7:30 p.m. at the Tabernacle

July 30 – Bible Festival Summer Program, Choir Festival

- 7:00 p.m. at the Tabernacle

July 31 – Book Review, *Mad Honey: A Novel*, at the Mt. Gretna Community Library

- 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



Spring leaf collection is now over. Leaf collection will begin again in the fall. Fall collection information will be provided in a Camp Connect & Newsletter

And the last two photographs for our June photo album...



Submitted by Joyce Ruhl

Submitted by Kevin C. Wells



Are You Connected to News & Info in Campmeeting?



MT. GRETTA
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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Send your email address updates to:
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