

November 2007

Dear friends,

We feel as if KURC's been flying under the radar this year, with no museum where we can welcome visitors. But eventually we'll have one!

We've been busy, though. In September Rusty Jones introduced the **Grey Sox movie** at the Historic East Linden Project (HELP) Gala in the Red Clay Room, and it was a great hit. Grey Sox veterans "Shortwave" Lee Wesley, Eddie Jackson, Charlie Lewis, Charlie Ferron, and Jack Hardy were there to enjoy the premiere with us—and bask in the limelight. Damon Sinclair kindly reproduced the DVDs for us, and Chris Jones designed a perfect cover. Copies are \$10; call 610-347-2237 to order one.

Now our big ongoing project is researching East Linden Street's history—and what a history it is! We're learning what a vital community unites those few blocks—half of the residents over the past 150 years seem to have been related. **Fugitive slave Joseph Carter, Pennock's foundry, Brosius's pottery, Bethel and New Garden churches, and a bunch of strong families**—Linden Street has it all. Ella Sestrich and Mary Dugan have been gathering material and will soon put together histories of each pre-1900 house for circulation plus an overall view of the rich history of this corner of Kennett.

One of the blessings of the past year has been **linking up with the East Linden Street people**, who are doing so much to revitalize their community and keep it a pleasant place to live and grow in. **Our joint KURC-HELP potluck supper at Bethel Church** in June was simply delightful, and organizers Mary Anderson, Linda and Rusty Jones and Esther Rochester are planning another before too long.

Chester County Visitors Center at Longwood has invited us to display some things there, for which we're grateful. We hope you'll drop in and see our newest "artifact," **a replica of the crate Henry "Box" Brown spent 26 hours in**, when he had himself shipped from Richmond to Philadelphia. Bob Greeley made it for us, and his wife Judy stitched a "bladder," like the one Brown used to carry water.

Our **Underground Railroad Heritage Tours** have introduced many to Kennett's history as a "hotbed of abolitionism." Our visitors find Marlborough Friends Meetinghouse a moving addition to the tours, and we appreciate the meeting's generosity in letting us visit. We schedule tours the last Sundays of the warm months and at the Mushroom Festival, plus many tours by appointment—West Chester University's Parents Weekend, several retirement home groups, students, and others. If you have a group—family reunion, scouts, students, whatever—contact us for a tour, 610-347-2237. **Our guides will be happy to climb aboard a bus and tell about the Underground Railroad** in our very historic area.

If you're into plants, here's something you might enjoy doing. **Botanist (and abolitionist) Vincent Barnard** lived on East Linden Street in the mid 1800s and had begun to create an arboretum on his five acres there

before his early death. We've heard that residents notice odd plants coming up—a bur or “mossy cup” oak, for instance—and we'd love to have some of you walk around and see what unusual plants you can find. Call us to arrange it. It would be nice to feel we're carrying on Vincent's legacy.

Your assistance has helped in the past to teach hundreds if not thousands of people, from school kids to retirees, locals to overseas tourists, about our rich local history. Thank you so much in advance for your generous gift.

Happy holidays and a fine 2008 to all our friends,

Mary Larkin Dugan, President

Board of Directors: Mary Anderson, Susan Darrel, Martin Greene, Darryl Hall, Linda and Earl Jones, Marjorie Kaskey, Louis Mandich, John O'Neal, Treasurer

Mark your calendars for Chris Densmore's Hadley Fund talk:

***The Underground Railroad in Chester County and Beyond:
Across Race, Across Region, and Across Religion.***

Friday, February 29, p .m., at Unionville High School