



# NEWSLETTER

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## Family Treasures

By Darryl Speicher and Claudia Shoesmith-Fox



When one actively belongs to an organization like the Barrett Township Historical Society, discussions before or after Executive Committee Meetings or the monthly programs often include the family treasures we find when looking through old boxes, stored away in the attic or the top shelf of a closet. Most of us have found things that tie us to an older generation and a different time in our history. For many of us they are mementos—objects made or collected by a loved one now gone as a means to keep them close. So it was one afternoon at the Library and Research Center when Society Treasurer, Claudia Shoesmith-

Fox, mentioned that she had a fabulous family treasure, a trove of correspondence between her Grandfather, Leon “Lee” Weinstock, and his bride Evelyn Finkel Weinstock. What makes the letters and cards interesting in a historical context is that they spanned the period of time that Lee spent serving the U.S. in WWII.

Lee and Evie, or “Dubby,” as Evelyn Finkel was known in her neighborhood, were the children of Jewish immigrants from Europe who grew up in the Bronx, NY. Claudia shared the following about how they met and became a couple:

My grandfather was buddies with my grandmother's older brother Danny in high school. Danny

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Visit our website at [www.barretthistorical.org](http://www.barretthistorical.org)

**2025 Board of Directors**

Jayne Blair    Mary Price    Patti O'Keefe    Dotty Telesky    Laurie Dunlap

**2025 Executive Officers**

President	Walter Lewis
Vice President	Darryl Speicher
Recording Secretary	Ellen Davis
Corresponding Secretary	Patti O'Keefe
Treasurer	Claudia Shoesmith-Fox

**2025 Executive Committee**

Acting Curator for LRC	Jayne Blair
Archivist for LRC	Laurie Dunlap, Patti O'Keefe, Mary Price and Susan
Cresco Station Museum	Mickey Miller
Co-Curator of CSM	Marge Babaz and Patti O'Keefe
Digital for CSM and LRC	Dottie Telesky
Docents fir Cresco Station Museum	Marge Babaz and Patti O'Keefe
Finance	Claudia Shoesmith-Fox
Grants	Cherylyn Rushton
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Hospitality	OPEN
Information Systems	Jim Bibber
Library Research Center	Jacqueline Magann and Committee of Seven
Membership	Cathy Stout
Newsletter	Alesia Gallo, Editor & Darryl Speicher, Co-Editor
Oral Tradition	OPEN
Programs	Mary Price & Malinda Bender, Co-Chairs
Publicity	Alesia Gallo
Research	OPEN
Ways & Means Committee	Walter Lewis

**Exec Committee Meeting Dates**

Executive Committee meetings are held on the 2nd  
Monday at 3 pm monthly at LRC  
April 14 (Dutch Hill Preserves)  
May 12  
June 9  
July 14

**General Membership Meeting Dates**

Barrett Paradise Friendly Library  
Weiler Community Room  
April 4 @ 2pm (rescheduled)  
May 16 @ 7:00pm  
June 20 @ 7:00pm  
July 18 @ 2:00pm

## Committee Reports

### Station Museum Mickey Miller

The Cresco Station Museum will be open the second Sunday in April from 1 to 4 pm. Starting in May we will be open every Sunday from 1 to 4 pm until fall. Spring cleaning will be done professionally in April by S.P.W. Cleaners. This is done annually. Currently, we are in the process of conducting a complete inventory of the artifacts in the Museum. Docents for the Museum are Marge Babaz and Patti O'Keefe. All are welcome to come and spend some time enjoying the many items on display.

### Library Research Center Jacqueline Magann

Our Tuesday work days at the center are busy, fun and fulfilling! Our steadfast volunteers come from 10 am to 2 pm ready to take on whatever is needed to be done. Jane Blair has agreed to be our acting curator. She already has the inventory underway. She works hand-in-glove with Dottie Telesky who is so efficient digitizing the inventory. Pattie O'Keefe is continuing to put collected obituaries on the computer. She is always willing to do a search when other computer related material is needed. Mary Price is busy making labels as we move on with the inventory. She is also working at the bulging resort file for Barrett and surrounding areas. The Society Post Card Collection has been set up in the new bookcase built by Denny Bender. A&E Glass has completed the case with sliding glass doors. Our sincere thanks goes to both for their time and labor gratis to the Society. Susan Seese is a new volunteer and pops in to help when she can. We appreciate that. The early Monroe County Barrett Township Tax Assessment Ledgers have been reorganized for easier access. Laurie Dunlap is our go to person who knows the archives well and can locate items for all of us. Her daughter Jessica has completed a list of World War II veterans for the archives which we plan to use in a future display. Many thanks for that. Spring cleaning will be done professionally in April by S.P.W. Cleaners. This is done annually.

The L.R.C. will be open to the public on Sundays from 1 pm to 4 pm beginning May 25th through Fall. We need help to welcome visitors on these days. Please call Jackie Magann at 570-595-9233 if you have time available. In the Spring the Embroiderers Guild of America, East Stroudsburg Chapter, will be showcasing embroidered items in our display cases. Please plan on stopping by!

### Membership 2025 Malinda Bender

Our membership currently totals 101 members. Memberships for the year 2025 are still available. If you know someone who would like to become a member, a membership form can be obtained by contacting the Library Research Center at 570-481-4622 or e-mailing at [www.barretthistorical@gmail.com](mailto:www.barretthistorical@gmail.com). Membership dues help fund the many programs and research projects that our historical society is able to do. We welcome everyone to join and participate.



### Coming in June to the Library and Research Center

Pocono Mountain Embroiderer's Guild of America will have a display of antique sewing tools and fabrics for the month of June in the Barrett Township Historical Society Library and Research Center. Children's toy sewing machines, needles, irons, threads and scissors will be among many types of sewing objects used in the early 1900's that will be displayed. Examples of lace, stitches and fabric will complete the exhibit. Please plan to stop by to see this unusual collection!



Visit our website at [www.barretthistorical.org](http://www.barretthistorical.org)

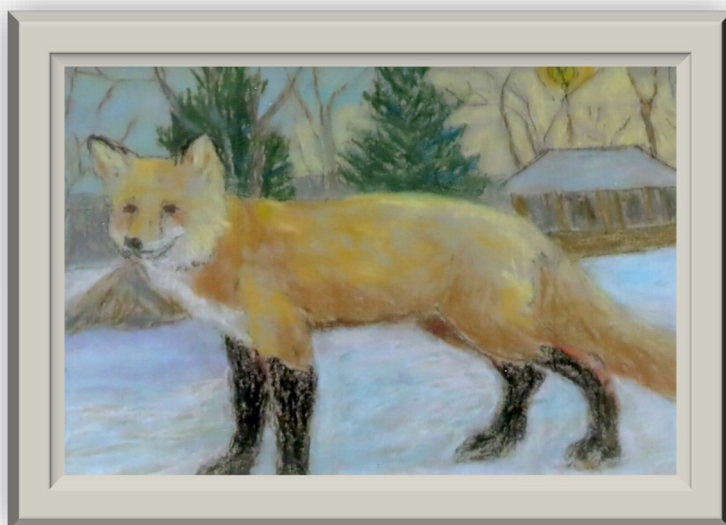
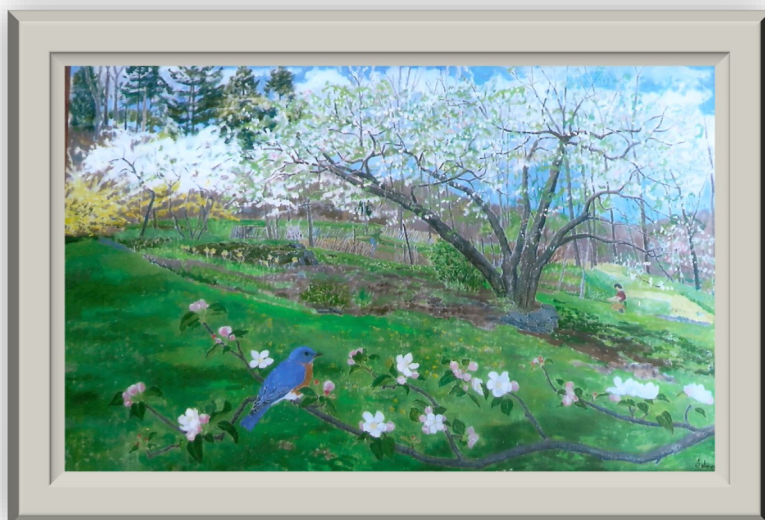
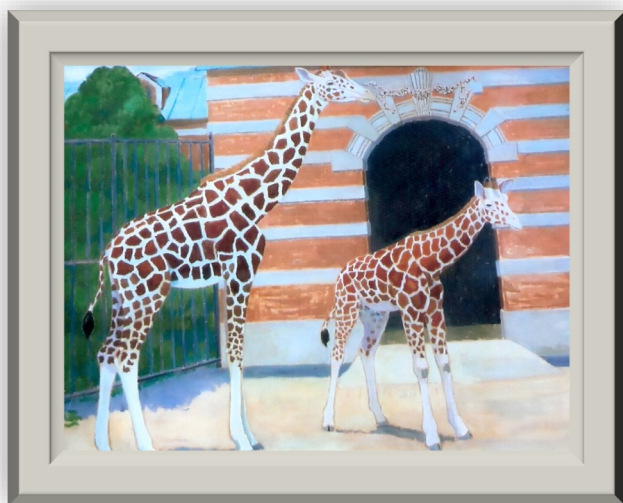




## The Artwork of Peter Salmon

*\*Artwork will be on display in the Weiler Room  
at the BPFL until the end of May*

*Photos by Malinda Bender and Walter Lewis*







*Peter Salmon speaking for March's program.*



## 60 Years in the Poconos: Peter and Linda Salmon

Peter Kinterly Salmon gave this talk at the invitation of Barrett Township Historical Society at Barrett-Paradise Friendly Library on March 21. See his Art Show & Sale of paintings in the Library's Conference Room through June 2025.

Peter was born in Vermont and grew up there and in Yonkers, NY. He and his wife Linda moved to the Poconos 60 years ago: "It is HOME", he states emphatically. His family moved to Yonkers in the middle of his Kindergarten year.

Young Peter's artistic bent was nurtured by his new teacher, who set up an easel and paints for him. Later, his parents discouraged thoughts of an art career. Meanwhile, through his school years, sketching while his teachers spoke sharpened his skills and won the interest and admiration of his classmates.

The first time Peter saw someone painting a picture was in Dorset, Vermont, where his family lived for a time. The artist was Felicia Marsh; their families knew each other.

Peter went on to major "in history and education, graduating from Harvard after studying at Middlebury College, where he met his wife Linda."\* He recalls meeting a bright young woman and asking if she had girlfriends who wanted to attend a dance that night. "This girl would like to go to the dance with you," Linda replied.

"[He] also studied his first love, painting the world around him, along the way at the Brooklyn Museum and at Boston University."\* In addition, Peter served two years in the Army.

Peter sees humanity's goal this way: "One thing we want to find is a job we want and which we do well that also helps humankind." His wife Linda suggested a plan for their lives: she would teach half-day kindergarten while he pursued painting. Their worlds merged when he was granted permission to sketch and paint classroom scenes at Barrett Elementary School in Mountainhome. Linda and her first grade class appear in some of these paintings.

Over time, Peter reached a point at which he knew, "Yes, I am an artist, and I am doing something good for the world." Stylistically, he always knew he didn't like photorealism, because, he says, "It's not the way we see the world. Every artist has his or her idea of what's important in a scene."

Peter sketched scenes at Lake Swiftwater in Paradise Township, and served for many years as president and general manager there.

His first exhibit here in PA was in 1963. LaBar Village in Stroudsburg agreed that he would provide paintings for their hallways. He won a prize at the annual Wyckoff's Art Show at the former Stroudsburg Department Store. Then in 2014, he won the Pocono Arts lifetime Achievement Award. Show venues included the Pocono Arts Cultural Center in Stroudsburg and the Antoine Dutot School and Museum in Delaware Water Gap.

"The best compositions," the artist feels, "are not vertical or horizontal," but employ free-flowing multidirectional lines. This is especially evident in his painting *Ladies in the Lake*, now on display in his current show at Barrett-Paradise Friendly Library.

To his question to himself, "Will I give up painting?" (Because Linda and Peter devote much time to caring for a daughter), I would suggest that the joy and beauty your art gave to our world can never be lost.

Peter enjoyed drawing and painting in many locations: their back yard and all around the Poconos, on subways, on trips, and at the zoo. Once, as Peter sketched animals and people at the Philadelphia Zoo, a young girl turned to him and asked him to draw her, and he did. Pleased with her portrait, she exclaimed, "The old guy's got talent!"

Please come and be inspired by this Show that appealingly holds a mirror up to nature. Peter's children's book *A Bug Collection, an alphabet of bugs* is available for purchase at \$12.00. Half the proceeds benefit the Library. An interesting note is that Library Director Mary Ann Lewis's first grade teacher was Linda Salmon.

\* Citations marked with an asterisk appeared in the *Pocono Business Journal*, July 9, 2014.

*(Continued from Cover—Family Treasures)*

had a crush on my grandfather's girlfriend at the time, a girl named Jean. He fixed up my grandfather with his younger sister just so he could have a shot with Jean! It worked out for everybody, as Danny ended up marrying Jean. The four of them would go on double dates as teenagers. My grandparents were high school sweethearts and married in 1943 at ages 20 and 21.

Lee was drafted into the army and was shipped overseas in the fall of 1943. As was the case with many veterans of WWII, Lee did not share much about his wartime service. One thing that the family knows is that he participated in D-Day and was there on the beaches of Normandy, France, on the day that changed the tide of the war in Europe. Little else was known about how he and Evie, as Lee called her, got through such a harrowing time until Claudia's father was going through Lee's possessions upon his passing. Carefully preserved in the garage was a box full of cards and letters Lee and Evie had sent each other throughout the war. Most of them were cards that marked the passage of time from their anniversaries to birthdays and holidays.

For her part Evelyn sent lovely greeting cards with upbeat playful messages. She would add to the preprinted cards her own messages. In one celebrating their anniversary the inside panel has a couple sitting together in a large arm chair with the wife in her husband's lap and big smiles on their faces and beaming rays of joy all around them. The card ends with, "The man who ties my heart-strings in a lover's knot divine and the man I'm mighty happy keeps his slippers next to mine." Then in her own hand Evie added next to the couple embracing each other in the chair, "Yum Yum, something to look forward to. Love Evie." The cards themselves are of historical value. The style and artwork is unlike anything you might find on the shelves at Hallmark today. And the handwritten notes make them all the more interesting.

Lee did not have the luxury of popping by the drugstore to browse through the greeting cards. Fortunately for Evie, he was a talented artist. All of the cards are true works of art but the Valentine's Day cards are spectacular. One of them has a rose surrounded by a large heart. In it Lee wrote, "A Valentine for my Wife. You are as Sweet as a Rose. Love and Kisses Always." In another he is lying on a cot above him a giant heart surrounding an image of Evie on which he wrote, "Thinking of you Always, to my Sweetheart and Wife, Love Always, Lee." All of them are hand-drawn and lettered.

The letters Lee wrote were done on a small sheet of 5x6 inch paper and sent in an envelope stamped, WAR & NAVY Departments V-Mail Service. This was all the US Postal Service cancellation date said in 1944. In the upper right-hand corner where the stamp would normally be attached it says, "Penalty for private use to avoid payment of postage, \$300." The cost of a stamp in 1944 was three cents. Inside one of the cards Evie had sent Lee was an illustration depicting a man and woman cuddling on an arm chair, torn out of a publication titled Mrs. Yank, dated March 1945. The caption reads, "My dreams are getting better all the time". In the margin Evie wrote, "Darling your first piece of published art – keep it up."

One of the dearest of cards that Evie sent was one that said "Happy Easter Hubby" on the front. The family finds it interesting given that they were both raised in the Jewish faith; but, upon close inspection, I think it's easy to see why Evie chose it. The front of the card has a basket full of colorful eggs, the prominent one on top is an oval window to the inside, which is the face of a smiling child. When you open the card the child's face turns out to be that of a balding man embracing his gray-haired wife. In the margin Evie wrote, "When we are old and gray like this we will still be lovers."

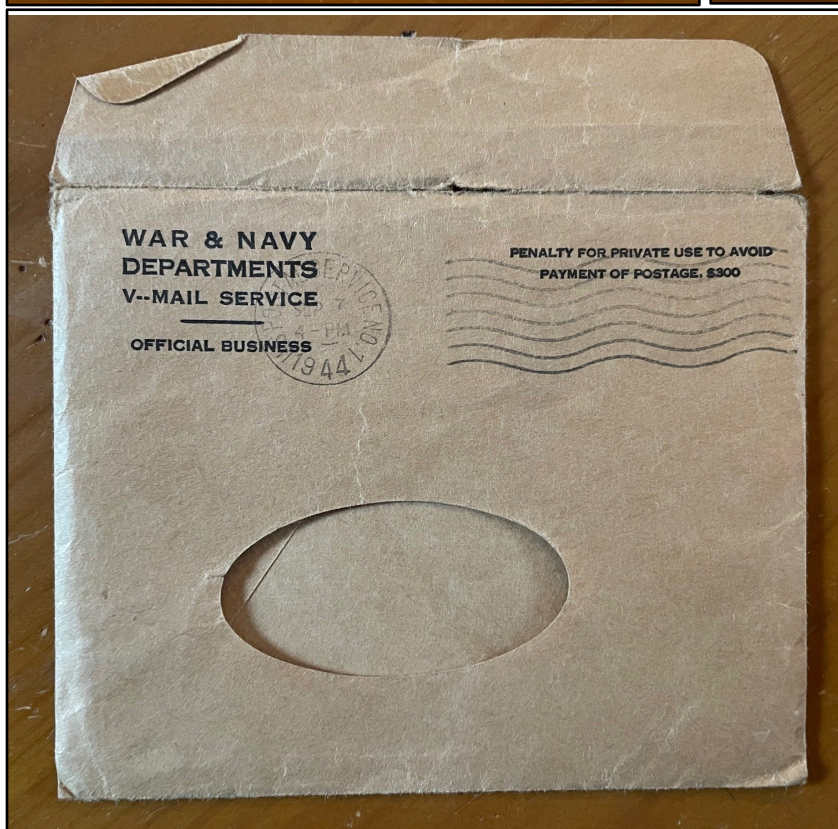
Claudia says that Evie and Lee were just that, completely devoted to each other. They raised a family, moved several times, and after Evie's passing Lee retired to Florida. It was there that he followed Evie into the everlasting light. It was there going through his final possessions that the family found the letters. Even after Evie's passing, Lee could not let them go. They now stand as a testament to the enduring power of love. It has the strength to uphold us even in the darkest times.

*\*\*See pages 10-11 for Photos of Referenced Correspondence*



## Family Treasures—Photos of Referenced Correspondence

### Lee's Cards



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## Family Treasures—Photos of Referenced Correspondence

### Evie's Cards





## Barrett Paradise Friendly Library Display

A herd of elephants has arrived! Check the society's cabinets at the Barrett Paradise Friendly Library for this collection that Betty Speicher had acquired through her years of travel. The collection will be displayed until May when it will be changed to Skip Davis's collection of old mechanic's and carpenter's tools.





## About Betty's Elephants

Elizabeth J. "Betty" Speicher grew up in the suburbs of Philadelphia. In elementary school she took a field trip to the Philadelphia Zoo where she saw her first live elephant. She was smitten with their intimidating size and calm demeanor. It was on this trip she purchased her first elephant figurine.

It was never Betty's intention to gather such a vast collection of elephants; it just happened. As is the case with many people, once it is known that you have a small collection of something your friends and family are glad to help make the collection grow. She would get elephants for her birthday and elephants for Christmas, elephant print shirts and elephant jewelry and of course many more figurines, until one day she had enough.

After a lifetime of receiving elephants for every occasion she made it known that there was no more room for elephants. The elephants still adorn the shelves, mantel pieces and desks of her children and grandchildren so they were easy to bring back together for this exhibit. The family thinks that it's fun to see them all together in one place again.



## What's new with COVID-19? By Mary Kate Reeves-Hoché

What's new with COVID-19? The main thing is that it's still here and will be, probably, for the rest of our lives. Similar to influenza, COVID has established itself as a year-round virus with the ability to mutate and spread. It's ability to mutate is what allows it to continue to live and infect hosts (humans). Let's look at another virus currently in the news.



### MEASLES

As of March 27, 2025, a total of 483 confirmed\* measles cases were reported by 20 jurisdictions: Alaska, California, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York City, New York State, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, and Washington. 97% of the cases were not vaccinated. There are 2 deaths reported, but only one is confirmed, the second death which occurred in March is still under investigation.

Measles is an airborne, extremely infectious, and potentially severe rash illness caused by a virus. It is not a seasonal virus. However, measles is often spread over times of high travel (like spring break) or in situations where unvaccinated persons are in close quarters (like summer camp, or in dorm rooms).

Measles is one of the most contagious of all infectious diseases. With the virus being transmitted by:

- Direct contact with infectious droplets from a measles patient,
- Airborne spread when an infected person breathes, coughs, or sneezes, or
- Touching a surface where the infectious droplets have landed.

Measles virus can remain infectious in the air for up to 2 hours after an infected person leaves an area.

Measles in its least form is a high fever, cough, red runny eyes, and a whole-body rash. In its worst form it causes brain encephalitis, seizures, mental retardation. In women who are pregnant it can cause stillbirth, spontaneous miscarriages, or retardation of the fetus. In males it can cause azoospermia (sterility). It can also cause death.

The best protection against measles is the MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rebella) or MMRV (Measles, Mumps, Rebella, Varicella) vaccine. The vaccine was first licensed in 1963. Generally, those born before 1957 are thought to have had measles and may not need a vaccine, everyone else should have received one or two doses. Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you should be vaccinated.

#### Sources:

CDC Measles \* More cases have been reported, they are not yet confirmed, thus not yet counted as an official case. <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/data-research/index.html> accessed Mar 27, 2025

Mayo Clinic: [https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/measles/symptoms-causes/syc-20374857?](https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/measles/symptoms-causes/syc-20374857?utm_source=Google&utm_medium=abstract&utm_content=Measles&utm_campaign=Knowledge-panel)

[utm\\_source=Google&utm\\_medium=abstract&utm\\_content=Measles&utm\\_campaign=Knowledge-panel](https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/measles/symptoms-causes/syc-20374857?utm_source=Google&utm_medium=abstract&utm_content=Measles&utm_campaign=Knowledge-panel) accessed Mar 26, 2025

Johns Hopkins: <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/measles-what-you-should-know> accessed Mar 26, 2025



## Historical Recipe Side by Side: Sweet Pickles by Mary Kate Reeves-Hoché

Where I live, California, the nurseries are all stocked with veggie baby seedlings in cell trays, and small plants all ready for planting. It's spring and gardening time. You may remember that I share a community garden plot here with a neighbor. Well, every 5 years those community plots rotate to someone else on the wait list (1,200 people on the wait list). So, this year, I will be gardening on my roof. Which brings me to cucumbers. Cucumbers love full sun (there is in abundance on the roof). So now if I have cucumbers, then I am going to make simple sweet pickles, or what my grandmother called "bread and butter pickles," and what today's chefs call a "quick pickle".

### Bread and Butter Pickles, 1888 Great-Grandmother Georgia Eileen Crull Householder

Makes 7 cups

6 cups thinly sliced cucumbers

1 cup thinly sliced onion (I use a sweet onion; my grandmother used a white onion)

1 ½ cups white sugar

1 ½ cups cider vinegar

½ teaspoon kosher salt (un-iodized)

½ teaspoon mustard seed

½ teaspoon celery seed

½ teaspoon ground turmeric

Sterile jars and lids (if you are unfamiliar with this process, please consult instructions on safe canning such as at the library, those included with Ball or Kerr jars, or on the internet).

Place cucumbers and onion slices in the jars, alternating the layers.

Combines the sugar, vinegar, salt, mustard seed, celery seed, and turmeric in a medium saucepan over high heat. Bring to a boil, stirring just until the sugar is dissolved.

Remove the brine from the heat and pour over the cucumber and onion mixture. Put the lids and rings on the jar and let cool. Any jars that do not seal properly should be refrigerated and eaten within one month. Those that seal well, will last longer in the refrigerator and can be eaten within 3 months. Since the vegetables were not heat processed after being canned, they should not be stored at room temperature.

### Quick Pickle Cucumbers, 2006 Andrea Nguyen

2 Persian Cucumbers (or Japanese) thin skinned – thinly sliced

1 cup rice vinegar

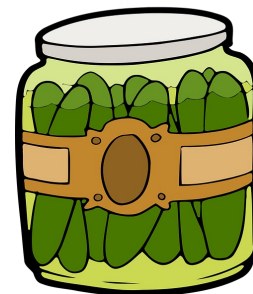
1/3 cup white sugar

1 teaspoon kosher salt (un-iodized)

Place sliced cucumbers in a glass bowl.

Combine vinegar, sugar, and salt in a jar and shake until the sugar is dissolved.

Pour the combined vinegar mixture over the sliced cucumbers and let sit 5 minutes before eating. If you want additional veggies for a more Asian meal, add julienned carrots, and radishes to the cucumbers, then wait an extra 5 minutes before the veggies are quick pickled. Eat within 2 days.

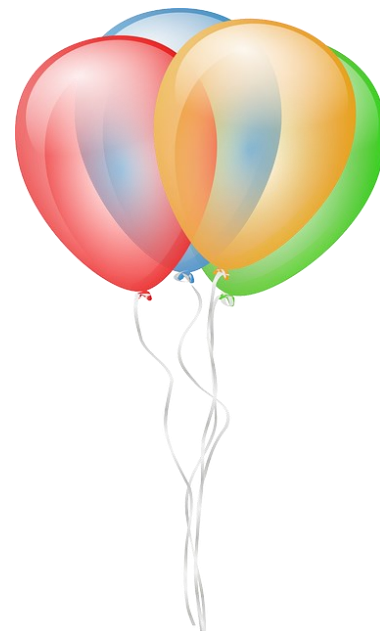


Sources:

Bread and Butter Pickles, The Fannie Farmer Cookbook, 1915 (similar to 1988 version above)

Quick Pickle Cucumbers, Into the Vietnamese Kitchen, 2006

# Happy 94th Birthday Mickey Miller!



## Calendars 2025

Barrett Township Historical Society calendars for 2025 are on sale at Ace/Steele's Hardware in Mountainhome for \$10.00 each. They are titled "Yesteryear" and feature a selection of photographs taken through the years from the calendar collection housed at the Library Research Center.



## BTHS Word Search April 2025

W Z Y M A G P I M E A S L E S  
 T Y H F W S U M O J M S T D L  
 R K L N R L I N U S P R I N G  
 E A E J H G Z O N T B F X N D  
 A M E M B E R S H I P T R F K  
 S S C U C U M B E R X G K E F  
 U R A J G E N E R A T I O N A  
 R E L L Y H P S E B W V A V M  
 E L E P M B Z O S G C E R Z I  
 S I N N K O X Z S R A X T L L  
 O C D D Q B N K R T J X I O Y  
 Z S A Y O N Z T E N C G S I M  
 X K R T P I C K L E S A T Z D  
 Y M W C O M M U N I T Y R O C  
 A X C E L E P H A N T L F D Y

Generation

Membership

Community

Postcard

Treasures

Elephant

Cucumber

Measles

Family

Calendar

Pickles

Salmon

Spring

Relics

Artist

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## More Pleasure for the Housewife.

*Read your favorite Book or play the Piano while Nature's Elements are doing the*

### **WORK OF WONDERS!**

The recent marvelous, miracle-working, amazing, wonderful discovery provides a safe and sane means of eliminating for all time woman's greatest drudgery.

### **The Dread of Washday is Past!**

Get rid of your washboards and washing machines, do it to-day, banish forever these implements of back breaking, nerve torturing toil, of ruined, bruised, disfigured hands.

### **RIDER'S CLEANALL CRYSTAL**

Cleans and purifies your clothes in 30 minutes, and makes them speckless clean, strengthens the fiber and makes the clothing wear longer. Possesses sanitary, purifying and disinfecting properties; makes clothes smell fresh, wholesome and clean.

### **Positively no Rubbing!**

Is guaranteed not to injure the clothes, laces, woolens, or the finest fabrics, and to do the work we claim, or your money refunded in full.

### **Three Large Washings for only Ten Cents.**

*Agents, this is your opportunity to put on a little side line that will be a big money maker for you. Agents sell it at 10c. a package. We mail sampl pkg. & terms for 12c.*

*Address* **Ladies' Art Co., 46 Gay Building, St. Louis, Mo.**

Advertisement for Rider's Cleanall Crystal Provided by Ellen Davis

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**Barrett Township Historical Society****Membership Form**

\_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_\_\_ New Member

\_\_\_\_\_ Mr.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs.

\_\_\_\_\_ Ms.

\_\_\_\_\_ Dr.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Partner/Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (home) \_\_\_\_\_

(work) \_\_\_\_\_ (mobile) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please check here if you agree to receive the newsletter via e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Membership Levels**  
*Please select a membership level*

_____ Individual	\$25.00
_____ Family	\$35.00
_____ Business	\$100.00
_____ Lifetime Membership	\$500.00
_____ I would like to make an additional donation	\$ _____

**Please make checks payable to Barrett Township Historical Society and mail check and membership form to:**

**Barrett Township Historical Society  
PO Box 358  
Mountainhome, PA 18342**



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## Mission Statement

Mission statement of the Barrett Township Historical Society is to promote the history of Barrett Township and surrounding areas. The service of the Society is dedicated to educating diverse audiences through a variety of resources and programs. Specific goals include:

- I. Preserve and disseminate information about the township and its people through the support and maintenance of a historical file and a research center
- II. Promote and encourage historical research and study, particularly the discovery, collection, preservation and publication of the history, historical records, data, writings and speeches pertaining to Barrett Township
- III. Collect and preserve archival materials including books, newspapers, maps, genealogies, manuscripts, letters, journals, film footage, radio and video tapes and oral histories.
- IV. Collect and preserve historical artifacts including portraits, paintings, engravings, relics and other objects and materials which illustrate various traditions and cultures of the township.
- V. Collect information relative to the growth and development of the population, wealth, education, agriculture, arts, manufacturers and commerce of the township.
- VI. Develop and present educational opportunities to all age groups, including on-site and outreach opportunities to school groups, elder groups, service clubs and the community at large.

