



MHS
MORAVIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual Report 2019–2020

The Moravian Historical Society

The Moravian Historical Society museum and historic site preserves, interprets, and celebrates the rich culture of the Moravians.

Founded in 1857, the Moravian Historical Society (MHS) is a not-for-profit organization that shares the fascinating contributions of the Moravians to worldwide culture through public programs, guided tours, and engaging museum exhibits. Located in historic Nazareth, Pennsylvania, MHS maintains the 1740–1743 Whitefield House and the 1740 Gray Cottage, the oldest surviving Moravian structure in North America. The Whitefield House Museum welcomes visitors from around the world and provides outstanding educational opportunities for those interested in history, art, and music. We care for 20,000 objects, photographs, and documents, and these primary sources help connect students, scholars, and the public to the stories of our past. Many of the items on exhibit are one of a kind or extremely rare, including the 1776 Tannenberg organ that was played for George Washington, an early Martin guitar, and the first violin made in America.



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Dear members,

This year, our organization adopted a revised mission statement. While not a huge change, the revision does help refocus our efforts on three core areas: to preserve, interpret, and celebrate the rich culture of the Moravians. Highlights of the impact of these activities include:

Preserve: This past year, a team of volunteers began the tedious process of documenting all of the items in our collection in a site-wide inventory project. In addition, we launched an oral history project that will document and preserve today's Moravian stories for future generations. We also completed the first phase of the exterior wood restoration and painting of the Whitefield House.

Interpret: New exhibitions opened this year that brought new perspectives to the objects in our collection and a significant research project was initiated. In November 2019, we welcomed a team of researchers to the Whitefield House to examine the upright piano in our collection. Believed to be the oldest extant upright piano made in America, the researchers have uncovered some fascinating details about the instrument that bring new understanding to the culture of the Moravians in early America.

Celebrate: Our first virtual Share the Heritage event was presented this September. Originally scheduled for March 27, our primary fundraising event was postponed as the global pandemic began to unfold. When we realized that we could still not gather safely this fall, many of our sponsors and ticket holders generously donated their tickets for what should have been a festive evening filled with music, mingling, and dinner. We were truly humbled by the response from everyone who celebrated the rich culture of the Moravians with us.

This past year has certainly been one for the history books! I want to thank our members, our volunteers, and our incredible community who supported the Moravian Historical Society this past year. Your involvement, now more than ever, is needed and appreciated.

Best regards,
Susan Ellis
Executive Director

Committees

Executive

David Roth, President
Steven Krawiec, Vice-President
Linda Wickmann, Secretary
Ed Perusse, Treasurer

Audit

Oversees annual audit.
David Roth, President
Ed Perusse, Chair & Board Liaison

Ephrata Tract Project

Plans and completes the site renovation.
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Rev. Dr. Craig Atwood
Chris Carson, Co-Chair
Marsha Fritz, Co-Chair
Jeffrey Long
Lanie Yaswinski
Andria Zaia

Finance/Investment

Monitors endowment performance by regularly meeting with investment firms and supports the work of the treasurer and the finance manager.
David Roth, President
Ed Perusse, Chair, Treasurer, Board Liaison
Linda Crook
John Stocker

Curatorial

Opens new exhibitions; digitizes and catalogs collection; updates records.
David Roth, President
Barbara Dietterich
Susan Orr, Curator
Traci Stocker, Chair
Jack Hommer
Linda Wickmann, Board Liaison

Development

Hosts tours, camps, events, programs, and fundraisers; secures grants, sponsorships, and donations.
David Roth, President
Sherri Hoff
Steven Krawiec, Board Liaison
Linda Zimmerman, Chair
Kaitlin O'Connor

Publications

Produces the newsletter, *Abundant Heritage*; selects and invites the annual meeting speaker; writes and designs second Guidebook.
David Roth, President
Barbara Dietterich
Scott Paul Gordon, Chair
Traci Stocker
Riddick Weber, Board Liaison





Collections

The anonymous eighteenth-century Germanic upright piano exhibited at Whitefield House is of great significance to American music history. It is believed to be the oldest extant American-made upright piano, testifying to the importance of music and the sophistication of crafts among the Moravian settlers in colonial America.

Researchers John Watson, Tom Winter, and Michele Winter have undertaken a remarkable project—to build a working, playable replica of the upright piano found in our collection. In doing so, they have made some new discoveries about the instrument and its maker adding to the canon of knowledge of eighteenth-century American music and crafts.

After nearly a full year of work, the replica is nearing completion and will be donated to our museum. You can read more about this extraordinary project on our website: www.moravianhistory.org.

Exhibitions

Our fall 2019 exhibition, *Hall Boys: Student Life at Nazareth Hall*, explored daily life at Nazareth Hall through the documents, pictures, and objects of the students who lived and worked there.

During the holiday season, MHS exhibited the Morris Putz at the Whitefield House. Our Jennie Trein Putz was the featured exhibit at Glencairn Museum's World Nativity exhibition, which drew thousands of visitors. The putz, composed of nearly 500 handmade pieces, represents six decades of putz making beginning with the very first Trein putz in 1908.

From January–May, the exhibition *Individuality in a Common Place* explored women's expressions of individuality through objects from our collection, including rare primary source documents, diaries, personal papers and visual art and musical instruments.





Susan F. Ellis with the Moravian Historical Society

Publications

A new book was published just as the pandemic shut everything down last March. *Nazareth*, which appears in the “Images of America” series from Arcadia Publishing, features hundreds of images from the MHS collection. It was authored by Susan Ellis with tremendous help from Barbara Dietterich who assisted with writing

the captions and researching the many details. Gerald Kroboth, MHS administrative assistant, diligently scanned and organized the photographs. Dr. Scott Paul Gordon, chair of the MHS publications committee, helped with historical fact checking and proofreading. The book is available in our gift shop and through our website.

Educational Programs

MHS staff members helped judge the 5th grade colonial projects at the Nazareth Area Intermediate School. Out of nearly 500 projects, 20 students were selected to present their projects at the Whitefield House museum. MHS also provided 16 complete activity stations and 3 experts to lead workshops on Colonial Life.



Public Programs

The 162nd Annual Meeting and Lecture of the Moravian Historical Society featured a lecture by Dr. Jeffrey Gemmell on the topic of *Moravian Music of a Particular Time and Place: The “Lititz Anthems” of Johannes Herbst*. The lecture was followed by a concert by the Lititz Moravian Collegium Musicum (LMCM). The motto history you can hear! reflects the purpose of this professional chamber orchestra and their mission to perform from newly edited scores of period-specific repertoire preserved in the vaults of the Moravian Music Foundation. The Lititz Moravian Senior Choir and the Millersville University Chorale joined the orchestra to bring selected “Lititz anthems” to life.

In December, a program entitled *Music for Advent and Christmas* featured Gwyn Michel on the 1776 Tannenberg Organ, a vocal quartet, and a carol sing-along.

In February, audiences were treated to a concert by Two Part Invention with Nora Suggs, flute and John Arnold, guitar performed “Morning Star—Music in Moravian America.”

Community Outreach



More than one thousand members of the community attended the annual Christmas in Nazareth event, which featured candle dipping in the Gray Cottage, student musicians performing in the saal, student Colonial project presentations, and an array of craft vendors on the lawn of the Whitefield House.



Our Historic Nazareth Walking Tour was revised this year. The new tour tells the story of how the town was established but also features the prominent architectural styles of Nazareth. Audiences have enjoyed the new route which now goes down part of historic Main Street.



Site Preservation

Two elevations of the historic 1740–1743 Whitefield House received urgently needed exterior work last fall. The porches, window sills, and dormers were repaired, restored, and painted. Plans are underway to complete the remaining two sides in the spring.

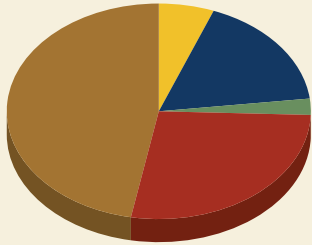
#Museum from Home



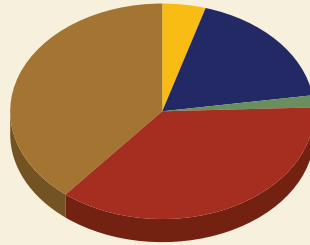
When we were unable to open our doors to the public, we launched our Museum from Home series on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. We joined other museums across the globe in the #MuseumAlphabet challenge where we highlighted items from our

collections for each letter of the alphabet! We also launched the highly popular “Sister Sarah” YouTube series of instructional videos around the theme of Colonial life. Our social media followers increased and some posts reached as many as 5,500 people.

Financials



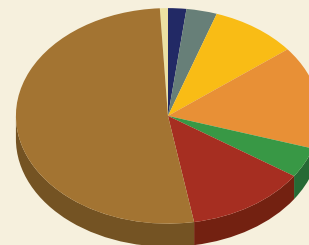
2019-2020 Income



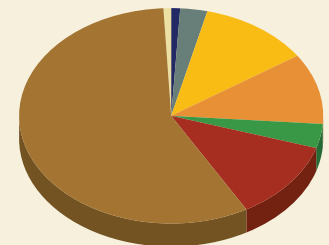
2020-2021 Income

- Museum
- Grants
- Programs

- Fundraising/Special Events
- Investment Income



2019-2020 Expenses



2020-2021 Expenses

- Museum
- Programs
- Fundraising/Special Events
- Property
- Administrative
- Insurance/Professional Fees
- Personnel
- Publications

	BUDGET 2019-20	BUDGET 2020-21
INCOME		
Museum	\$13,300	\$9,200
Grants	\$39,000	\$36,000
Programs	\$5,500	\$3,600
Fundraising/Special Events	\$62,000	\$73,000
Investment Income	\$106,500	\$78,000
TOTAL	\$226,300	\$199,800

	BUDGET 2019-20	BUDGET 2020-21
EXPENSES		
Museum	\$ 4,900	\$ 2,100
Programs	\$ 8,200	\$ 6,350
Fundraising/Special Events	\$ 23,200	\$ 25,900
Property	\$ 39,047	\$ 23,428
Administrative	\$ 11,400	\$ 8,000
Insurance/Professional Fees	\$ 32,300	\$ 26,300
Personnel	\$ 130,754	\$ 126,592
Publications	\$ 2,150	\$ 1,800
TOTAL	\$251,951	\$220,470





Thank you

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