



Bonnie Seipt attends the Holstein Convention almost every year. But this was the first time she brought along her daughters Margaret, 10, and Courtney, 8. "We are from the area, but we never saw Bethlehem. It's been very educational," she said.



Holstein Convention Ladies Day planners, from left, are Teresa Davis, Berks County; Andrea Semmel, Lehigh County; and Lisa Semmel, Lebanon County.

Stars In Bethlehem

Holstein Convention Women Gather In Historic City

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BETHLEHEM (Northampton Co.) — About 90 women congregated in historic Bethlehem Feb. 27 for the annual Pennsylvania Holstein Convention Ladies Program.



Dr. Leo Frangipane signs books after his presentation challenging women to determine what is most important in life.

Each year, the event is conducted at various sites throughout the state. The activities combine a mix of education, entertainment, inspiration, and shopping.

But most of all, for people like Pat Miller, Harrisburg, it is a time to renew friendships and build new ones with participants who share farm-related interests.

Although historic Bethlehem is well known for its name affiliation to the site of the first Christmas and to Moravian stars, a new type of star appeared in the city Thursday.

"You are the stars of Bethlehem," said Andrea Semmel, program chairperson.

Helping her plan the program were Teresa Davis, Berks County, and Andrea's sister Lisa Semmel, Lebanon County.

Both Lehigh and Northampton counties lay claim to the historic town of Bethlehem. The program began at the Holiday Inn where the Pennsylvania Holstein Convention was conducted. Buses transported the women to the Hotel Bethlehem, where coffee and luncheon were served.

During the morning, the group visited the Moravian Museum, a national landmark. The museum is the oldest building in Bethlehem and is where the Moravians built their community house. (See the Antiques Center for more about the town's history).

Dr. Leo Frangipane, a surgeon for 25 years, challenged the women to focus on the right stuff when dealing with life.

"What is really important?" he asked.

He presented several scenarios of life and death instances. Promises made by those facing death are never to build bigger houses or make more money or to gain more power. Instead, the focus is on relationships, he said.



Beth Raney, State College, tries on a hat in anticipation of next year's event, when women are asked to wear hats.

"We are spiritual beings having a physical experience," Frangipane said of the challenge to understand what life is all about.

Frangipane, a nationally known speaker on issues of wellness and healthcare, said that most disease is caused by attitudes and perspective. He challenges people to laugh often and focus on "the right stuff."

During the afternoon, women explored the many small shops in the historic district.



Elaine Deitrich, Lehigh County, center front, is one of the many Holstein women who attended the program conducted in Hotel Bethlehem.



Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Raechel Kilgore, right, Alternate Rachel Ebert, left, and Alternate Ashley Chapman lead the group in a milk toast.



The youngest person attending the ladies program is 4-month-old Noland, held by his mother Kandy King, Lehigh County.



Dairy farmer Donna Werley, Hamburg, drinks milk even when she is away from the farm.