

BACK MOUNTAIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY AUCTION

Volunteers are what makes the auction work

By SARAH HITE
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YOU CAN STILL HELP

The Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction is just a few days away but volunteers are still needed to assist at various tents during the auction. Volunteers are also needed today, Tuesday and Wednesday to set up from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided for volunteers during set-up. Call the Back Mountain Memorial Library at 675-1182 or stop by the building on Huntsville Road for more information.

The Back Mountain Library Auction is a labor of love. It can be seen on the faces of hundreds of volunteers as they haul heavy boxes, drive who-knows-how-many trips to and from the library grounds and commit to other tasks in the exciting days prior to the event.

This year, the auction will benefit from a newly-created position to keep track of all the helpful hands. Doreese Torrey, of Nanticoke, will serve as the auction's first-ever volunteer coordinator.

"Prior to this, everyone was getting their own volunteers," said Torrey, who has helped out at the auction in previous years. "No one knew exactly what they were doing or how many there were."

Torrey is keeping track of all volunteers who sign up at the

library and funneling extra manpower to tents that need it the most. She'll devise a schedule for each volunteer as a way to keep everyone busy during the four-day event.

Wayne Williams, of Trucksville, often needs at least 10 people to aid him in the Odds and Ends tent, which he calls a huge outdoor flea market. He's been asking local churches and schools for student volunteers for the past month.

Each tent has a different need and Torrey will depend on reliable sources in the community

as well as local community groups looking for volunteer work, such as Boy Scouts and students working on graduation projects.

"We can get them the amount of hours they need," she said.

In previous years, no one knew how many volunteers were involved in the library auction or how many were needed, Torrey said. With Torrey's new job, the library auction committee will be able to analyze how many volunteers make the event run smoothly.

Ernie Ashbridge Sr., a 52-year



Having fun on the auction block are, from left, Kerry Freeman, Carol Sweeney, Ernie Ashbridge and Eric Martin.

volunteer for the library auction, said the volunteer staff has grown monumentally since he first started helping out at the auction.

"It's getting bigger and bigger," he said of the event.

Williams said it's important to reach out into the community for volunteers, and young people are the most impressionable.

"It's fun to have kids helping out the library," he said. "Maybe they'll be volunteers in the future. Maybe they'll be the next generation."

Many of the volunteers are long-time helpers. Ashbridge started aiding the auction because antiques were a hobby of his. Now he looks forward to the four-day event every year.

"I do it for the love of the library itself and its contributions to the community," he said.



Dr. John Shaskas is a frequent bidder and auctioneer at the library auction.



Joe Stager carefully works the Dallas Rotary Food Booth at a previous Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction. Members of the Dallas Rotary faithfully man the booth each year, in addition to painting it and keeping it clean.

Dallas Rotary members return to man food booth at auction

By EILEEN GODIN
Dallas Post Correspondent

Passing the test of time, the Dallas Rotary Club is gearing up to operate its food booth at the Back Mountain Memorial Library's 65th annual auction.

The auction will run from 4 to 11 p.m. July 7-10. Joe Stager, a Rotary Club member since the 1980s, said club members are ready for auction once again, reporting that Rotary members volunteer two weeks ahead of the auction to begin getting the booth, equipment and menus prepared.

"All proceeds from food sales are given to the library," Stager said. "For a while, there was a misconception that the Rotary Club received the proceeds. This is not true. All the money raised goes to the library."

Menu options have changed as Rotary members stay on top of the latest food trends. Stager remembers when salads were popular.

"We did try offering salads, but with the booth's limited re-

frigeration and the summer heat, the lettuce wilted fast," he said. "We also tried fruit salad."

Chicken tenders have gone through a transformation. Stager said club members tried several different chicken tenders until the right brand and flavor was found.

"This year, we are bringing those back," he said.

This year's menu will also feature turkey and pork barbecues, sausage sandwiches, hamburgers, hot dogs, French fries, chili, soda and water.

Library Director Martha Butler said, although she cannot estimate the amount raised in food sales from last year, she does know it was profitable and that the booth has gained quite the following since its start around 1984.

"We have had people call us in the past to get the ingredients from the auction burger or their secret sauce," she said.

The food booth has undergone changes to keep up with the times, too. Stager said, over the years, exhaust fans, fryers, refrigeration units and grills

have been added. "When something was needed for the booth, the Rotary took care of it," he said.

Staffing the booth for the event has evolved with time, as well. When the club first began manning the booth in the 1980s, the Rotary had about 60 to 80 members and its membership staffed the booth for the event.

Times have changed, membership is smaller, so other service clubs are volunteering to help man the grills for the four-day event.

"Service groups such as the Lions and the Odd Fellows and companies like Century 21 and the Smith Hourigan Group have provided staffing over the years," Stager said.

These changes to the food booth have helped it maintain its community appeal and popularity. Stager said even pricing, which has gone up and come down with the times, has not had an effect on customers.

"The community really gets behind it," he said. "It has become a routine to them."

July 4 event remembers Battle of Wyoming

Dr. Kenneth Wolensky, a noted author and historian who grew up in Wyoming Valley, will be the keynote speaker at the 133rd annual Observance of the Battle and Massacre at Wyoming at 10 a.m. on Monday, July 4 at the Wyoming Monument National Historic Site, Wyoming Avenue, Wyoming.

The annual service, spon-

sored by the Wyoming Monument Association, celebrates the occasion of the 233rd anniversary of the Battle of Wyoming, Northeastern Pennsylvania's most significant Revolutionary War battle.

The Wyoming Valley Band will offer a concert at 10 a.m., followed by the program. Mayor Robert Boyer of Wyoming Bor-

ough is the ceremony chair and master of ceremonies. Monsignor Neil Van Loon of the Church of St. Maria Goretti, Lafin, will serve as chaplain.

The Wyoming Monument Association will celebrate the restoration and repairs recently completed at the Monument following the 2008 lightning strike at the site.

PEOPLE BRIEFS

Skudalski receives Seminary awards

Wyoming Seminary graduate Lauren Skudalski, of Wyoming, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard



Skudalski, received the Samuel Stephen Popky Leadership Award during the school's 167th commencement in recognition of

her service to the school and her concern for her fellow students.

She also received the Harry W. Wilson Memorial Award for excellence and versatility in sports and for true sportsmanship.

Prior to commencement, she received the All-Around Athlete Award.

Davidowitz named to dean's list

Samuel Davidowitz, of Shavertown, has been named to the dean's list at Bryant University for the spring semester of the 2010-2011 academic year.

Davidowitz is a senior majoring in International Business in Management.

Horwatt named to dean's list

Morgan Horwatt, of Dallas, has been named to the dean's list at Paul Smith's College for the spring 2011 semester.

Horwatt, who is majoring in culinary arts and service management, is enrolled in the college's School of Hospitality, Resort and Culinary Management and earned a semester average of 3.3 or higher to receive this distinction.

Two locals receive President's Award

Zachary Harvey, of Trucksville, and Brianna Wise, of Shavertown, are among seven Wyoming Seminary graduates who received the President's Award for Outstanding Service during the school's 167th Commencement.

The award is given in recognition of the students' outstanding special service to the school community, leadership and academic performance.

Three receive award at Wyoming Seminary

James Curtis and Bijoy Ghosh, both of Dallas, and Omeed Firouzi, of Shavertown, received the Mabel and Sterling Wandell Scholarship Award during Wyoming Seminary's 167th commencement.

The award is given in recognition of the students' academic achievements and school leadership.

Firouzi receives awards at Seminary

Wyoming Seminary graduate Omeed Firouzi, son of Dr. Masoud and Dr. Fariba Firouzi, of Shavertown, received the Francis J. Mehm III Memorial Award in recognition of his academic achievement, citizenship and significant contributions to school spirit during the school's 167th commencement.

He also received the Mabel and Sterling Wandell Scholarship Award in recognition of his leadership of the student body.

Prior to commencement, he received the Irving Robin Memorial Prize for scholastic achievement and good citizenship, the Wyoming Seminary Government Leadership Award and the Wyoming Seminary Model United Nations Award.

Olson named to dean's list at Ithaca

Cara Olson, daughter of Jeffrey Olson and Laura Olson of Dallas, was named to the dean's list at Ithaca College's School of Music for the spring 2011 semester.

To qualify for this academic honor, students must attain a minimum grade point average of 3.5 and complete a minimum of 15 credit hours, of which at least 12 are graded.

Hackett named to dean's list

Madeleine L. Hackett, of Shavertown, has been named to the dean's list at Boston University for

the spring semester of the 2010-2011 academic year.

Three locals pass national exam

Autumn Ferris, of Tunkhannock; Diana Thomas, of Shavertown; and Laila Kazimi, of Dallas, were among 27 members of the Misericordia University 2011 medical imaging graduating class who recently passed the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) national certification examination in radiography to maintain the program's 100-percent pass rate.

Zachery Roth named to dean's list

Zachery Roth, of Shavertown, has been named to the 2011 spring semester dean's list at Lafayette College.

To achieve dean's list status, a student must earn at least a 3.60 semester grade point average out of a possible 4.0.

Mona Lotfipour on dean's list at F&M

Mona Lotfipour, of Shavertown, has been named to the dean's list for the spring 2011 semester at Franklin & Marshall College.

A graduate of Wyoming Seminary, she is the daughter of Asghar Lotfipour and Nargas Lotfipour, of Trucksville.

A student earns dean's list recognition for achieving a 3.25 or better grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Coveleski graduates from Visual Arts

Aniela Coveleski, of Harveys Lake, was among 667 students from the School of Visual Arts who received undergraduate degrees at the college's commencement exercises on May 12.

Grossman receives award at Seminary

Gabrielle Grossman, of Shavertown, received the Charlotte M. Sours Academic Achievement Award during the eighth-grade graduation ceremony at Wyoming Seminary Lower School.

Grossman will enter eighth grade at Seminary in the fall.