

Sewickley Valley Historical Society

Program Meeting
Wednesday, April 16, 2008, 7:30 p.m.
Sewickley Valley Cultural Center

The Dixmont State Hospital

an illustrated lecture by
Kate Guerriero



Dixmont State Hospital, whose cornerstone was laid in 1859, was named for 19th century social reformer Dorothea Dix, who selected the site for its good air, beautiful view of the river valley, abundant pure spring water and close proximity to the railroad. It was “an asylum for the care of those upon whom God in his inscrutable wisdom has laid a chastening hand” and served as a refuge where the insane could receive proper care and treatment. However, as methods for treating the mentally ill evolved, Dixmont outlived its usefulness, and the hospital was closed in 1984. It sat vacant until it was razed in 2006 to make way for the ill-fated Wal-Mart Supercenter. The site is now scheduled to become a greenspace.

Kate Guerriero, who produced a documentary film on Dixmont that premiered at the John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center on July 19, 2006, has been involved in writing, television and video production for over eight years. After graduating from Carlow University in 2000, she continued gaining valuable experience both in front of and behind the camera at various television stations and production houses in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. After working in New York City for a year and a half, Kate returned to the Pittsburgh area in 2004 and founded Stargazer Video Productions, where she serves as producer, researcher, director and editor of all projects. Of particular interest are projects that serve to preserve historically significant places in the City of Pittsburgh and the State of Pennsylvania.

Sewickley Valley Historical Society has a new book for sale:

*Resurrecting Allegheny City:
The Land, Structures & People of Pittsburgh's North Side*
by Lisa A. Miles

Published in 2007, the book was praised by John Canning of the Allegheny City Society as "Exciting ... the first work to sift through tons of documents that present a much broader picture of the history of Allegheny City." This 275-page, illustrated paperbound book is available at SVHS headquarters for \$16.00, plus 7% sales tax. The Historical Society plans to have the author as a speaker in its 2008-2009 lecture series.

PITTSBURGH HISTORY & LANDMARKS FOUNDATION

House Tour & Fund-Raising Event

Tuesday, June 3, 2008 — 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Event tickets: \$100 — Sponsorship opportunities: \$1,000-\$10,000

Tour the Abrams & Neeper Houses, Woodland Road, Pittsburgh

Remarks in the Andrew W. Mellon Mansion, Chatham University

The goal is to build Landmarks' Scholarship Fund, which involves more than 6,000 city and county students (K-12) each year, giving students an incentive to excel in school, become involved in their community and explore their city in a meaningful way. It encourages capable young people to return to this region to live and work.

For further information,
contact PHLF at 412-471-5808 or www.phlf.org

Sewickley Valley Historical Society — 200 Broad Street — Sewickley, PA 15143

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