



**The Squirrel Hill Historical Society is a membership organization established in 2000 that is committed to gathering and preserving the history and memories of our neighborhood.**

*The Squirrel Hill Historical Society Inc. has been determined to be exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). All contributions to the SHHS, including dues, are deductible from federal taxes under Section 170 of the IRS Code.*

## **SHHS Programs and Projects**

From its inception, the SHHS has presented a monthly lecture series on topics of interest primarily focused on Squirrel Hill's development and institutions and also programs about other historical topics. Due to COVID-19, our live programs have been suspended until further notice. When they resume, they will be held on the second Tuesday of every month except August at 7:30 p.m. at the Church of the Redeemer, 5700 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15217. They are free and open to the public.

## **For More Information About the SHHS...**

Go to the SHHS website, [squirrelhillhistory.org](http://squirrelhillhistory.org), to find information about online programs and projects, upcoming speakers and events, videos of past SHHS programs, links to other historical organizations, and other information about Squirrel Hill and the Squirrel Hill Historical Society. You can also contact us at [sqhillhist@shhsoc.org](mailto:sqhillhist@shhsoc.org).

# SHHS in the Time of Pandemic

The SHHS been doing a lot as it waits to resume its live programs at Church of the Redeemer. After COVID-19 put a hold on the SHHS’s monthly programs, the society has developed interactive projects that offer ways to explore the history of Squirrel Hill on your own.

This display describes what the SHHS has been doing and how you can participate in our projects. For more information, go to our website, **[squirrelhillhistory.org](http://squirrelhillhistory.org)**. It is continually updated to give you our latest news. For an idea of what we offer, the opening page of the SHHS website is shown below.

## Squirrel Hill Historical Society

*Note: Only the MEMBERS PAGE link is password-protected and is accessible only to SHHS members. The SHHS password is sent to new members when they join. The MEMBERS PAGE has all issues of the SHHS Newsletter.*

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This display was created by Helen Wilson, Vice President of the Squirrel Hill Historical Society, 2020.

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# Current SHHS Projects

Even before our live programs at Church of the Redeemer were cancelled, the SHHS had been initiating interactive projects to have our members and others become involved in Squirrel Hill's history. Here are our projects:

## Ongoing since 2014: The SHHS Newsletters

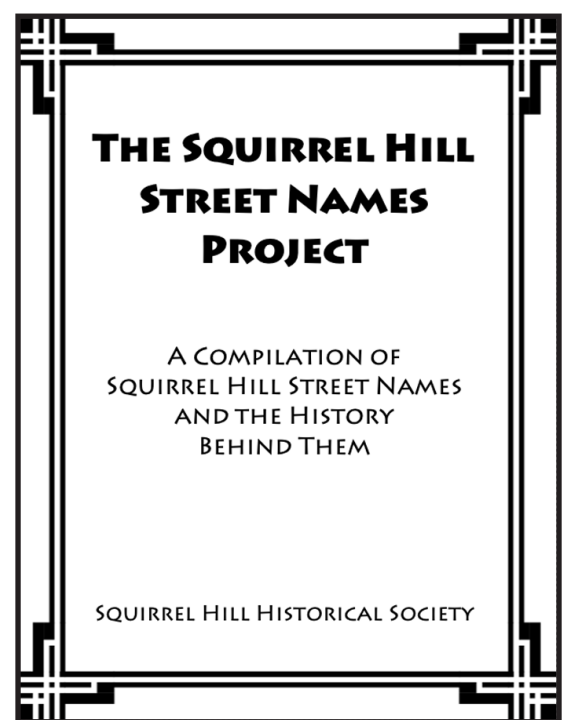
The monthly **SHHS Newsletters** have been sent to members since 2014. At first just two pages long, they have gradually expanded to eight and sometimes even ten pages because we never seem to run out of things to write about.

All past newsletters can be accessed on the password-protected **Members Page** of the SHHS website. Both members and nonmembers are welcome to submit an article concerning any topic about Squirrel Hill's history. Personal stories are especially welcome. Contact the SHHS for more information.



## Ongoing since 2015: “Squirrel Hill Street Names Project”

Forbes, Murray, Northumberland, Ferree, Pocusset, Beechwood ... where did the names of Squirrel Hill's 200-plus streets, roads, avenues, ways, courts, lanes and bridges come from? As we discover the varied answers to that question, we've found that the names of streets shed light on the history of the neighborhood from its earliest times—Saline Street, Federal Hill Road, Forward Avenue—to its most recent—the streets of Summerset. Let us know if you have information about where the name of your street comes from or if you would like to know its history. We're keeping a file of street names in our archives.



## New for autumn 2020: Squirrel Hill Calendar

The SHHS is working with the Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition to produce a 2021 calendar featuring photos of Squirrel Hill in the old days. The calendar will be a great idea for holiday gift-giving. Details about when and where it will be sold will be announced by the SHHS and SHUC as soon as they are available.



# SHHS 2020 Projects

## Ongoing since July 2020: “House History Project”

The SHHS initiated the House History Project to help people research the history of their homes and submit stories about them. Details can be found on the **House History Project** link in the main menu of the SHHS website. We’ve received some interesting stories about houses in Squirrel Hill. One person wrote about finding the remains of an old Jewish ritual bath (mikvah) in his basement. Another person’s house was raided by the Feds because bootleggers were making hooch in her basement in 1938. Still another discovered his house was damaged by anarchist bombings in 1919. Who knows what information will turn up when you research your own house? Join us in this intriguing project! Click on the **House History Project** link on our website for more information.



## Ongoing since August 2020: “Squirrel Hill Champion Tree Project

We’ve been doing a lot of walking in Squirrel Hill’s parks and streets, and we noticed there were really big trees around, some with diameters of 4 ft. or more, with estimated ages of up to 200 years. We’re keeping a list. Can you find a bigger tree? Let us know! Email us at [sqhillhist@shhsoc.org](mailto:sqhillhist@shhsoc.org).

Here are some of the largest trees we’ve found so far:

Type of Tree	Location	Lat./Long.	Circ. at 54” and Diam.	Growth Factor and Est. Age	Date Measured	Notes
Chinkapin oak	Top of Flagstaff Hill, Schenley Park	40.439887, -79.944630	C: 128” (10’ 8”) D: 40.76”	GF 5 200 yrs.	8-11-20	Unusual park trees were planted as specimen trees.
Ginkgo	Frick Park below Country Club Hill	40.430529, -79.909482	C: 132” (11’ 3”) D: 40”	GF 4 168 yrs.	8-12-20	Ginkgos are living fossils, dating from 270 million years ago, rediscovered in 1691 in China, brought to the US in the late 1700s.
Silver Cloud maple	Grove in Frick Park below Country Club Hill	40.431281, -79.911175	C: 154” (12’ 10”) D: 49”	GF 3.5 172 yrs.	8-23-20	One of several different specimen trees in grove
Linden	Grove in Frick Park below Country Club Hill	40.431281, -79.911175	C: 138” (11.5’) D: 44”	GF: 4 176 yrs.	8-23-20	One of several different specimen trees in grove, all different types
Red oak	Weak Way	40.421251, -79.925469	C: 164” (13’ 8”) D: 52.3” (4.35’)	GF 4 208 yrs.	7-20	Tree is on private property but can be seen from Weak Way.
Silver maple	To the left of the junction of Riverview Trail loop on gravel trail	40.431687, -79.911023	C: 157” (13’ 1”) D: 50”	GF 3 150 yrs.	8-23-20	This tree is at the edge of what had been a fairway of the old country club golf course.
Sycamore, probably a London plane tree	Intersection of Tranquil Trail and Falls Ravine Trail in Fern Hollow in Frick Park	40.432958, -79.900208	C: 168” (14’) D: 53.5” (4.46’)	GF: 3.5 187 yrs.	7-20-20	Forest ranger said it is difficult to tell the difference between an American sycamore and London plane tree except American has a whiter trunk

# Upcoming SHHS Activities

The SHHS has planned some interesting interactive projects for the coming months.

## Saturday, October 10, 1-3 p.m.: “Self-Guided Walking Tour of Turner Cemetery”

SHHS Vice-President **Helen Wilson** and other researchers continue to discover new information about Turner Cemetery at 3424 Beechwood Boulevard, the second oldest burial ground in Pittsburgh and the final resting place of many of the earliest inhabitants of Squirrel Hill, including military veterans from the Revolutionary War up to the Spanish-American War. The SHHS will be partnering with Mary S. Brown-Ames Memorial United Methodist Church, which maintains the cemetery. Researchers will be on hand to discuss its history, and church members will update attendees about future plans for the church. The walking tour will be self-guided, and all COVID-19 precautions will be in force. Wearing masks and social distancing are required. No restrooms will be available. Details will be posted on the SHHS website, [sqhillhistory.org](http://sqhillhistory.org) and the Turner Cemetery/MSBA historical website, [turnercemetery.org](http://turnercemetery.org), for more information.



## Beginning November 1: “Revisiting the Driving Tour of Squirrel Hill”

We hope to have a Zoom program in place for our usual meeting date of November 10 at 7:30 p.m. Meanwhile, we’ll feature an interactive activity of driving around Squirrel Hill to experience the incredible diversity of our large neighborhood. SHHS member Lauren Winkler is preparing an updated interactive version of our driving tour of Squirrel Hill that will have more information and pictures about what you’ll be seeing along the route. You can help by suggesting more things to see along the route. We’ll post a preliminary draft of the new driving tour on the SHHS website in October.

## December 8, 7:30 p.m.: Zoom Program

We hope to have a Zoom program in place for our usual meeting date of Tuesday, December 8, at 7:30 p.m. More information will be announced as plans are finalized.



# SHHS September Zoom Program

Tuesday, September 8, 7:30 p.m.

## “Doors Open Pittsburgh”

Presenter: **Bonnie Baxter**, Executive Director  
of **Doors Open Pittsburgh**

**Bonnie Baxter**, Executive Director of **Doors Open Pittsburgh**, founded the nonprofit organization in 2016 because she felt everyone should be able to see and experience the beauty in our city. Bonnie will talk about the **Doors Open Pittsburgh event on October 3**, when hundreds of volunteers will come together to open dozens of buildings to hear the stories they tell us about our past, present, and future.

The program on Sept. 8 will be on Zoom. For more information and to find out how to access the program, go to the SHHS website, [sqhillhistory.org](http://sqhillhistory.org) and click on “Upcoming Events.”

**SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY OCTOBER 3**



**NEBBINESS  
IS ENCOURAGED**



**DOORSOPEN.**  
PITTSBURGH

[www.DoorsOpenPgh.org](http://www.DoorsOpenPgh.org)

# Videos of SHHS Programs

Have you been craving knowledge about Squirrel Hill and Pittsburgh history? Videos of almost all past SHHS programs can be found on the SHHS website. Go to [squirrelhillhistory.org](http://squirrelhillhistory.org) and click on the “SHHS Program Videos by Topic” link in the menu bar at the top. Or, to check out a DVD of a program from this library, give Reference Librarian A the CL number to the left of the name of the program you would like to view. Here are the SHHS presentations listed by category and subject.

	SUBJECT AND TITLE	PRESENTER	DATE
CL#	SQUIRREL HILL HISTORY AND INSTITUTIONS		
121	The Convoluted History of Squirrel Hill’s Roads	Helen Wilson	3/10/20/
104	Streetcar Days in Squirrel Hill	George Gula	4/10/18
101	Squirrel Hill Then and Now II	Helen Wilson	1/9/18
96	The Making of our Book, Squirrel Hill: A Neighborhood History	Helen Wilson	7-11-17
90	Examining the History of Squirrel Hill Through its Buildings: How to Research Your Own Building	Kelley Stroup	3/14/17
84	“Auto Dealerships and Service Stations in Squirrel Hill Over the Years”	Morry Sable	7/12/16
78 A/B	History of Glenn Greene Stained Glass Studio, Part A and Part B	Glenn Greene	12/8/15
76	Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition—History and Current Projects	Wayne Gerhold	10/13/15
62	The Streets of Squirrel Hill: Forbes & Murray Avenues Over the Years	Michael Ehrmann and Helen Wilson	1/14/14
61	Squirrel Hill by the Numbers	Chris Briem	12/10/13
60	Development of Squirrel Hill: A Journey Through Time and Art	Helen Wilson	11/12/13
58	Remembering Walter Forward	Miles Richards	9/10/13
44	Squirrel Hill: A Sustainable Future	Eric Osht	2/14/12
24	Walking Tour of Forbes Avenue	Sandy Baskind	10/13/09
20	Squirrel Hill Retailing: 1966 to 2009	Jim Reich	4/14/09
	GREENFIELD		
31	Getting to Know our Neighbors: The History of Greenfield	Anita Kulina Smith	10/12/10
27	Celebrating 100 Years—Mary S. Brown/Ames Memorial United Methodist Church	Pastor James Cannistraci	3/9/10
	NEARBY NEIGHBORHOODS AND COMMUNITIES		
115	Getting to Know our Neighbors: The History of Hazelwood	JaQuay Carter	9/10/19
80	Shootin’ the Breeze: A Neighborhood Evolution and Pictorial Process of Point Breeze	Sarah Law	3/8/16
59	Tales from Our Towns	Gary Rogers	10/8/13
74	Getting to Know our Neighbors: The Four Faces of Lawrenceville	Jim Wudarczyk	6/9/15



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	<b>PARKS AND ENVIRONMENT</b>		
113	Catahecassa Springs Eternal	Matthew Falcone	6/11/19
107	Nine Mile Run	Wayne Bossinger	11/13/18
70	History of Nine Mile Run Watershed	Zelda Curtiss, Lisa Brown	1/12/15
30	History of Frick Park	Susan Radamacher	7/13/10
	<b>SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES</b>		
110	History of Taylor Allderdice High School	Mina T. Levenson	2/12/19
109	History of Squirrel Hill's Public Schools	Helen Wilson	1/8/19
105	Penn State" Then, Now & Forever	Athena Jackson	5/8/18
94	Community Day School: Preserving Tradition, Securing the Future	Avi Baran Munro	5/9/17
87	Historical Overview of Carnegie Mellon University	Holly Hippensteel	10/18/16
65	Nationality Rooms of the University of Pittsburgh	Michael Walter	4/8/14
35	History of the University of Pittsburgh	G. Reynolds "Renny" Clark	4/12/11
22	I Went to School in Squirrel Hill	Betty Connelly	6/9/09
11	History of Chatham University	Dr. Elisabeth Roark	3/11/08
	<b>PITTSBURGH ARTS, MUSEUMS AND CULTURE</b>		
120	The Art of Collecting of Pittsburgh's Gilded Age Titans	Dr. Elisabeth Roark	2.11.20
	<b>PITTSBURGH OIL AND GAS</b>		
69	Early Gas Explorations in the East End	Dr. Joel Tarr	12/9/14
47	Marcellus Shale – History, Production Methods and Current Issues	Daniel Bain	5/8/12
36	Petroleum Pioneers in Pittsburgh's East End	Al Mann	5/10/11
	<b>PITTSBURGH REAL ESTATE AND DEVELOPMENT</b>		
2	Howard Hanna Realty	Helen Hanna Casey	7/17/06
1	Walnut Capital	Todd Reidbord	6/13/06
	<b>PITTSBURGH RETAIL</b>		
97	History of Giant Eagle	Josh Shapira	8/1/17
68	In Search of Pittsburgh's Mr. Selfridge: Department Stores	David Grinnell	7/8/14
66	History of S.W. Randall Toyes & Giftes	Jack Cohen	5/13/14
63	Coffee Tree Roasters	Bill Swoope, Jr.	2/11/14
55	Ten Thousand Villages	Karen Horst and Susan Schneider	4/9/13
23	History of Tea and Teapots	Margaret Harris	7/14/09
	<b>PITTSBURGH SPORTS</b>		
77	An Unbreakable Bond: The Brotherhood of Maurice Stokes and Jack Twyman.	Pat Farabaugh	11/10/15
46	Black Baseball in Pittsburgh	Bob Ruck	4/10/12
15	History of the Pittsburgh Pirates	Dave Finoli	7/8/08
6	Billy Conn, The Pittsburgh "Kid"	Paul Kennedy	7/10/07
	<b>OTHER PITTSBURGH HISTORY</b>		
112	The History of Dollar Bank	Joseph Smith and Dorothy Spangler	4/9/19
111	The History of Kennywood Park	Andy Quinn	3/12/19
102	Historical Memory and Patriotism: Boquet, the Injun Girtys and Two Grants (James and Ulysses)	Charles McColleston	2/13/18
89	The Map in the Image--A 50-Year Effort to Combine Pictures and Maps	Dr. Douglas Cooper	1/10/17
75	Pittsburgh in World War I: Arsenal to the Allies	Elizabeth Williams-Herrman	9/8/15



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73	History of Colonel Schoonmaker	Frank Kurtik	4/14/15
72	Chinese Restaurants in America	Michael Chen	3/10/15
71	Why all these Presbyterians and Where Did They Come From?”	Dr. Peter Gilmore	2/10/15
48	UPMC Sports Medicine	Dr. Freddie Fu	6/5/12
40	The Thaw Family of Pittsburgh	David Grinnell	10/11/11
38	Unitarian Universalism – Western PA.	Dr. Kathleen Parker	
34	Paris of Appalachia -- Pittsburgh: Past, Present and Future	Brian O’Neill	3/29/11
29	The Names of Pittsburgh	Bob Regan	6/8/10
17	Pittsburgh Fire Bureau History	Kip Deleonibus	1/13/09
8	Horses of Pittsburgh	Dr. Joel Tarr	5/13/08
	<b>BRIDGES OF PITTSBURGH</b>		
82	The Evolution of Bridges in Pittsburgh	Todd Wilson	5/10/16
28	Noteworthy Bridges in the Squirrel Hill Area	Todd Wilson	4/13/10
4	Bridges of Pittsburgh	Bob Regan and Tim Fabian	1/9/07
	<b>JEWISH PITTSBURGH</b>		
118	The Irrepressible Sophie Masloff	Dr. Barbara Burstin	12/10/19
100	Pittsburgh Refugees and Resettlement in Pittsburgh	Dr. Barbara Burstin, Michael Ehrmann	12/5/17
95	Her Deeds Sing Her Praises: Profiles of Pittsburgh Jewish Women	Eileen Lane and Lois Michaels	7-11-17
94	Community Day School: Preserving Tradition, Securing the Future	Avi Baran Munro	5/9/17
93	The Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh	Lauren Bairnsfather	4/25/17
92	Congregation Beth Shalom, Celebrating 100 Years	Honey Foreman	4/4/17
86	Jewish Pittsburgh	Dr. Barbara Burstin	9/13/16
64	Tree of Life* Or L ‘Simcha Congregation	David Dinkin	3/11/14
57	Temple Sinai History	Jackie Braslawsce	6/11/13
42	Jewish Residential Services—History	Debbie Friedman	12/13/11
37	The Jewish Community of Pittsburgh: Finding Your Family Roots	Robert Zavos	6/14/11
25	Steel City Jews	Dr. Barbara Burstin	12/8/09
10	The History of Rodef Shalom	Daniel Young	1/8/08
	<b>PITTSBURGH HISTORY UP TO THE CIVIL WAR</b>		
81	White Indians (Captives) on the Western Pennsylvania Frontier	Roland Vendeland	4/12/16
67	Civil War in Pennsylvania: Stories through Photographs	Michael Kraus	6/10/14
52	The Civil War in Pittsburgh	David Albert	11/13/12
51	Meadowcroft Rockshelter: 1973-2011	Dr. James Adavasio	10/9/12
43	Whiskey Rebellion	Eric Meyer	3/13/12
5	Neill Log House	Dwight Fong	5/8/07
	<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>		
106	A History of Freemasonry	Austin Shifrin	7/10/18
88	The Story of St. Francis of Assisi	Rev. Michael Foley	11/8/16
83	Marketing the Presidency	Steve Mihaly	6/14/16
49	Preservation	Terry Necciai	7/10/12
43	Historic Preservation in the USA	Michael Ehrmann	
14	Bagpiping	George Balderose	6/10/08
12	Henry Hobson Richardson, Architect	Dr. William Garrett	4/8/08
3	Welsh Connection	Elizabeth Jeffries	11/14/06