Raise the Roof on May 18

Join us for the second annual Raise the Roof fundraiser reception on Sunday, May 18, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the restoration of The Speaker's House. With your help, we'll complete the exterior restoration phase by 2017, the 300th anniversary of Trappe's founding. Plans include the replacement of the exterior doors and windows; stucco removal and masonry repointing; reconstruction of the original chimney, front door hood, and built-in benches; and rebuilding of the original pitched roof. The projected cost of this phase is $250,000. Your support is critical to help us successfully "Raise the Roof" and provide hands-on training in historic preservation to students and volunteers from around the country.

The reception will be held at The Barn on Bridge, a converted historic bank barn located just minutes from Trappe. Beforehand, guests are invited to tour The Speaker's House starting at 3:30 p.m. At 5 p.m., the reception will begin with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, followed by a surf-and-turf dinner (vegetarian/gluten-free options available), live jazz music, dancing, and a silent auction with unique works of art made by local craftsmen. Tickets start at $125/person and may be purchased online at www.SpeakersHouse.org/RaiseTheRoof or by calling 610-489-2105. Advertising and sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, please visit our website or contact us at info@speakershouse.org. RSVP deadline is April 25.
Raise the Roof 2013 (left to right): Trappe councilman Fred Schuetz and his wife, Jane; Joan and John Sartor; Trustee Matt Schelly; Trappe mayor Connie Peck and her husband, Bob

Raise the Roof 2013 (left to right): Steve and Susan Babinsky; Speaker’s House President Lisa Minardi; Trustee Matt Schelly; Deb and Ron Pook

The Barn on Bridge banquet facility
Students in the 2013 field school excavated along the north wall of the kitchen wing

**Archaeology Field School**

We are delighted to announce that Montgomery County Community College is partnering with us so that students who participate in the archaeology field school can earn college credit. Now in its sixth year, the field school program has grown rapidly since it was founded in 2008, with students coming from all over the United States to gain hands-on training in historical archaeology and to learn about the Muhlenberg family. Previous digs have uncovered the foundations of a general store that Frederick Muhlenberg operated during the 1780s. The store was torn down about 1870 and its location unknown until researchers found clues that it was attached to the east side of the main house and archaeologists confirmed it. This year’s dig will focus on the area surrounding the original kitchen wing, built in the 1760s, which includes the remains of a bake oven. Students will also conduct shovel tests in an area where a traditional Pennsylvania German kitchen garden is planned for installation.

The field school is an intensive three-week program that runs June 10-28 on a Tuesday through Saturday schedule from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. Participants will receive training in excavation techniques, record keeping, artifact identification, processing, cataloging, and classification. Optional field trips and guest lectures will also be offered. No previous experience is necessary, and the field school is open to anyone age 15 or over. Three college credits are available to students who enroll through Montgomery County Community College (MCCC). For information on how to enroll as well as tuition, fees, and lodging, visit [www.SpeakersHouse.org/archaeology](http://www.SpeakersHouse.org/archaeology). Preference will be given to students taking the course for credit through MCCC, but additional spots may be available for those who do not enroll. A non-credit, optional add-on week is also being offered this year June 30-July 5 (with a break on July 4). This fourth week will focus on artifact processing, including cleaning, washing, sorting, labeling, cataloging, and storage preparation. Participants will also have the opportunity to learn about historic preservation and assist with various hands-on restoration projects at The Speaker’s House.
**Heritage Tourism Project**

The Speaker's House has initiated a Heritage Tourism Project to promote local history in preparation for Trappe's 300th anniversary in 2017. The first phase is the installation of banners along Main Street to highlight several historic buildings and create a distinctive sense of community. The banner designs are based on sketches by noted artist Julie Longacre and were developed by Trappe Today & Tomorrow. The second phase is the development of a walking tour brochure and website that will feature historic buildings along Main Street in both Trappe and Collegeville. The third phase is the installation of a Pennsylvania German kitchen garden at The Speaker's House using traditional raised beds and heirloom plants. The Heritage Tourism Project is generously funded by grants from the Schuylkill River Heritage Area and Pfizer Corporation, with additional support from Keystone Grange, Trappe Today & Tomorrow, the Collegeville Economic Development Corporation, and numerous volunteers. Community members are especially welcome to help with the garden. For more information or to volunteer, call 610-489-2105 or email info@speakershouse.org.

**Recent Acquisitions**

Thanks to several generous donors, The Speaker's House has recently added two important items to the collection. The first is a dinner plate, made in England of white salt-glazed stoneware. Its elaborate dot, diaper, and basketweave pattern exactly matches several large rim fragments that were found during the 2013 archaeology field school. Because this type of ceramic was fashionable in the 1760s and 1770s, it is likely that the plate came from a set owned by John Schrack, who built The Speaker's House in 1763. Alternatively, it may have been from a set acquired by Frederick and Catharine Muhlenberg at the time of their 1771 marriage and later brought to The Speaker's House when they moved there in 1782. The same pattern has been excavated in Colonial Williamsburg and at George Washington's Mount Vernon. The plate will be used for teaching purposes during the field school and displayed in the house following restoration; its purchase was kindly underwritten by trustee Steve Babinsky and his wife, Susan.

The second recent acquisition is a portable desk that descended in the family of Frederick's brother, General Peter Muhlenberg. Based on its hardware and construction details, we believe that the desk was probably first owned by Peter Muhlenberg Jr. (1787-1844), who served as an army captain in the War of 1812. Inside the desk are 12 cubby holes, some with handwritten paper labels. One is inscribed "Ordinance Papers." Although slightly later in date than a desk Frederick might have used as Speaker, this portable design speaks to the need. The acquisition of the field desk was made possible through a partial gift by Kurt and
Valerie Malmberg, with additional funds donated by Ted Stokes Sr. and Brian and Barbara Hendelson.

Field desk owned by Peter Muhlenberg Jr., c. 1810