

'Keepsakes to Keychains'

A history in artifacts, dolls and T-shirts at Whitefield House Museum

By GAIL VOZARI
Press writer

"Keepsakes to Keychains: 200 Years of Lehigh Valley Collectibles" is currently on display at the Whitefield House Museum, 214 East Center St., Nazareth.

The exhibit features artifacts from Bethlehem and Nazareth area people, places and events and includes a collection of interesting dolls.

An important person highlighted in the collection is Bishop Nitschmann.

"This doll was made in 1930 by the Busy Worker's Society from Bethlehem," museum director Susan Dreydoppel said.

The Nitschmann Family was an important Moravian family.

Sixty members held membership in the Moravian Church and a number of them were prominent.

Bishop David Nitschmann reached Bethlehem Dec. 15, 1740 and bought 500 acres of land at the confluence of the Lehigh River and Monocacy Creek on April 2, 1741.

He then visited an Indian mission in New York and returned to Bethlehem.

The last time Bishop Nitschmann came to Bethlehem in 1755, he was leading a colony of immigrants.

He retired to Bethlehem in 1758, became paralyzed and died shortly thereafter.

An exhibit of calendars of places that includes Nazareth and Bethlehem was done by local artists.

Specialty tiles of Nazareth are also on display along with antique paper weights, vases, plates and an 1811 needle case owned by a Thomas



PRESS PHOTOS BY GAIL VOZARI

A collection of Moravian theme related T-shirts, Our Lamb Has Conquered-Let Us Follow Him with the Moravian seal.



Moravian Dolls on display include Bishop David Nitschmann, c. 1930, Anna Nitschmann, c. 1930; Polly Heckewelder 1970; and Ama Nitschmann, c. 1953, all in the back row.



Antiques plates, vases, paper weights and needle case.

Sparks, who had been visiting his daughter at the Moravian Seminary for young ladies which is now Moravian Academy.

One item not in the collection, is a mug on eBay. Dreydoppel is hoping it will be purchased for the Moravian Historical Society.

The events room has a unique display of Moravian-themed T-shirts.

One shirt, emblazoned with the logo "Da Zinzi Code" represents the 2006 Northern Province Synod of the Moravian church.

According to Sarah Hrinak, a volunteer at the museum, the shirt is named after Count Nicholas Ludwig von Zinzendorf who allowed some Moravians on his land in 1720 to help them and later decided they formed a community.

The Moravian museum is planning other events throughout the year.

"I hope people will come and see familiar items from their past as well as see things that they did not see before which are unique," Dreydoppel said.

In addition to changing exhibits, the museum's second floor has permanent exhibits on Moravian history, local settlements and schools, worship, music, decorative arts and world wide missions.

"Keepsakes to Keychains" continues through April 15.

For more information, call 610-759-5070 or www.moravianhistoricalsociety.org.

Kids for America, in the foreground, Taryn, Tasia, Teara, Jewel and Jorne Gilbert, presented a check for \$5,150 to Blue Star Mothers representative, in the background, Past President Dotty Nicklos and Vice President Lynda Gehris. They performed and presented their donation at Bath Community Day.



Blue Star Mothers receive donation Kids for America raise money to support troops

By GAIL ANN VOZARI
Special to The Press

Blue Star Mothers were presented with a check for \$5,100 from the Kids for America family singing group at Bath Community Day, Oct. 4.

Blue Star Mothers, whose local chapter meets in Hanover Township, supports the families in the various branches of the Armed Forces.

Their focus has recently been with the service men and women who are deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. The theme that keeps coming up with the Mothers organiza-

tion is that our men and women in the military who are deployed have the hard job of protecting our country, may be put in a situation where they are in danger, and they deserve our support and assistance.

Kids for America has a similar mission to support the troops. It is one family working together to recognize the sacrifice that US forces make to keep citizens free sacrificing their life and the comforts of their family.

The Gilbert family children make up the Kids group. They have been taking singing and dancing lessons

for about six years from Broadway Rhythms Dance Company & Studio in Allentown. Then Bruce and Gina Gilbert, their co-managers and parents, decided to take their five children one step further. They wanted to raise money for a cause and came in contact with the Blue Star Mothers.

Dotty Nicklos, a Blue Star Mother past president expressed her gratitude for the doation.

"They started raising money in 2003," she says.

This year alone Kids for America has helped 80 families and done 60 perform-

ances. They perform at concerts, parties, festivals, meetings, weddings, and for seniors.

They performed an Armed Forces Medley of songs at Bath Community Day.

Also that day, the Blue Star Mothers set up a display featuring some of the support work they do, and sold brewed coffee at a dollar cup or \$7 for a bag of ground coffee, to raise money for their cause.

They also sold raffle tickets to win a copy of "Generation Kill," a book about Iraq which will soon be an HBO series.

'Stitch by Stitch' display runs to March 30

Sunday stitching sessions offered; Colonial, Victorian Tea Party Feb. 23, 24

GAIL VOZARI
Special to the Press

"Stitch by Stitch: Celebrating 30 Years of the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the Embroiderers Guild of America," a display of embroidery pieces at the Whitefield House Museum, 14 E. Center St., Nazareth, features almost 150 pieces created by 29 local stitchers. LVEGA President Lisa Geosits said the stitchers have 22 different embroidery techniques represented. The exhibit has seven historic pieces from the museum's collection.

LVEGA members will provide the craft project for the third annual Colonial and Victorian Tea Party.

"The tea is a special event for girls and their friends, their dolls and their mothers, grandmothers or other special adults," said museum director Susan Dreydoppel.

Because of the success of the tea party, it is being offered 10 and 2 p.m. Feb. 23 at the Whitefield House and 2 p.m. Feb. 24 at Granny McCarthy's Tea Room, 534 Main St., Bethlehem.

The tea will feature costumed hosts who will explain customs of the historic colonial and Victorian eras, as guests enjoy foods and activities from each time period.

The Whitefield House Museum is open 1 to 4 p.m. every day. Stitch by Stitch continues through March 30.

The Lehigh Valley Embroiders Guild members will offer special Sit 'n Stitch sessions at the Whitefield



PRESS PHOTOS BY GAIL VOZARI

Nancy Foster, a LVEGA founding member, with her cross stitch of a 1751 Moravian Chapel created to celebrate the 250th year anniversary of the Moravian Church.



House Museum, Nazareth, every Sunday afternoon from 1:30 to 3:30.

Visitors are invited to come watch the stitchers work, talk with them about the exhibit, or bring their own work to join them.

Information about becoming a member of the local chapter will also be available.

For more information, call 610-759-5070.

LEFT: Nena Asquith with her tote bag called Black-work is Fun.