

Stories as diverse as the town

“Embraceable You” book signing in New Hope

Bridget Wingert

Some wrote about the town’s history, some about the effect it had on their lives. All were touched by the magical place called New Hope.

All 57 had something to say in the book “Embraceable You: We’re All Part of the Story.”

And some of the authors will be at PNCBank Friday, Jan. 29, to sign copies of the book.

It’s well known that New Hope is a place where “the black sheep from all families come to stay,” wrote Jan Witte, but she points out that it an incubator for creative people from all walks of life.

Jan recalls the founding of the Hepatitis B Foundation in the early 1990s, when she and her husband, Paul, encountered Tom Block on the Delaware Canal towpath. The Wittes got together with Tom at their kitchen table to start the foundation, which has grown into a part of the Pennsylvania Biotechnology Center.

The Wittes latched on to another fledgling when they met Patrick Murphy, then an

unknown on the political scene. The congressman lived in an apartment at their house as he started his campaign from scratch.

Jon Case, who grew up in Lambertville, N.J., remembers the many coffee houses of his youth. “This little town in Bucks County had become a rural version of New York’s Greenwich Village. Painters, writers, sculptors, furniture designers, antique dealers, shop owners, bohemians and eccentrics of every stripe were drawn to the beauty, location, and social freedoms of this tiny borough.”

State Rep. Bernie O’Neill wrote about the spirit of New Hope. “Our nation has always prided itself in being the great melting-pot of the world, and the diversity of New Hope is the standard put into practice,” he said.

“The people of New Hope hold a broad, moderate cross-section of opinions,” wrote state Sen. Chuck McIlhinney. “Representing such a wide range of opinions is sometimes a difficult task, but it is made easier by the values that we all have in common, including respect for one another.”

McIlhinney’s chief of staff, Heather

Cevasco, remembers New Hope as a “Whistle-stop Town.”

She spent many days on the New Hope & Ivyland train with her father, Ed, the engineer. Later she played the stage at the Bucks County Playhouse.

The stories are as diverse as the town.

Authors who will attend the book signing Friday include Marilyn Bullock, Patti Cilenti, Loretta DeGenova, Stephen Glassman, Dorothy Grider, Sharyn Keiser, Bernie O’Neill, Marlene Pray, Dee Rosenwald, Eliana Young, Roy Ziegler and Barry Ziff.

“Some folks are collecting author’s signatures and they are welcome to bring the books they have already purchased to the signing,” said Geri Delevich, editor with Marilyn Cichowski.

The book and the CD of the “Embraceable You” documentary are for sale at Farley’s Bookshop, Me Salon and Spa, Logan Inn, Last Temptation, Not Too Shabby, Whatever’s Hot, Mechanic Street Mugs, Topeo, Bliss Jewelry and Accessories, Living Earth, The Nevermore, Salon Gratitude and Glenn Ricci Salon.