



PANORAMA



VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME XXVII ISSUE 4

January 2000

PAGAN - FLETCHER RESTORATION
143 Hendrickson Avenue
Valley Stream, NY 11580

HAPPY NEW MILLENNIUM

NEXT MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2000
8:00 p.m.

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BROOKLYN AVENUE AND 7th STREET
VALLEY STREAM

PROGRAM

CRADLE OF AVIATION MUSEUM

Gary Monti will present a program on the Cradle of Aviation Museum which is adjacent to Nassau Community College in the old Mitchell Field hangars. Mr. Monti will show a film on the museum and will discuss the progress of the museum and the plans for the future.

Mr. Monti, who lives in Westbury, is the past president of the historical societies of the Westburys and past president of ANCHO, the Association of Nassau County Historical Organizations.

This historically inclined gentleman is affiliated with the Nassau County Museums, Old Bethpage Restoration, Sands Point and the Brooklyn Museum. He is part of the Friends of Long Island Heritage, is curator of Nunley's Carousel and had been affiliated with the Cradle of Aviation Museum for five years.

He particularly enjoys his volunteer time spent with the Old Time Baseball program at Old Bethpage Village. The season parallels the regular baseball season from April to October and the participants are very proud of the media coverage they have received, including the front cover of the Smithsonian magazine.

The Cradle of Aviation Museum which plans to open the first phase of exhibits in the fall of 2000 will be completely modernized. It will include an IMAX theater which is the latest in film technology and will be one of the few in the country.

Gabriel Parrish, trustee of the Historical Society, has been working with the Cradle of Aviation Museum since 1987. (See over for Hank Anholzer).

Cakes for the January meeting will be provided by Karen Selah, Joan Duffy and Agnes Libath.

RESULTS OF GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST

The winners of the Gingerbread House Contest were Adele Castillo and friends who built a gingerbread log cabin, Christmas at Rockefeller Center by the Kids on the Block and Marge Chvatal. Agnes Libath asked that all those who contributed to the very successful bake sale be thanked. We appreciate their participation.

Mr. Hans Semder generously gave several demonstrations during the day of gingerbread house decoration which fascinated children and adults alike.

MULTIPLE HONORS FOR VALERIE

Valerie Esposito has been honored repeatedly in the last few weeks. Valerie, a trustee of the Historical Society, has been extremely effective in assisting Bob Presbrey with publicity for our meetings and activities.

On December 7th, she was honored at the Village Hall by Mayor Cahill as a winner of the Mayor's Volunteer Award. She has volunteered 3,000 hours at Mercy Hospital and since 1990 has been involved with the Town of Hempstead Day Care Program for the Elderly. She was instrumental in having the veterans memorial to those who served in W.W.II which stands in front of Central High School restored and also had a new memorial placed next to it honoring the veterans who died in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Valerie is also one of the directors of the Central High School Alumni Association.

In recognition of her multiple accomplishments, the Valley Stream Herald dedicated its front page to her on December 30th declaring her "Person of the Year"!

FRANK KEOGLER DIES

Frank Keogler, our devoted treasurer, died on December 9th. Frank had many serious illnesses in the last few years which he doggedly bounced back from with his optimistic attitude. Though all his physical problems, Frank was dedicated to the Society and to "keeping the books" straight. We grieve with his family for him.

THIS 'N THAT

The first Halloween costume contest for children drew 26 participants to the Restoration on October 31st. Marissa Chavez was the winner.

The Christmas celebration at the Pagan Fletcher Restoration on December 19th was replete with a choral sing, Christmas cookies, candies and punch. It was a truly festive occasion orchestrated by our president, Karen Selah.

Panorama neglected to acknowledge the participation of Joe Bergen, Jack and Carrie Mahoney in constructing the operating Central Clock Tower featured in the Central High School Alumni parade and the Nassau County Centennial parade.

ORAL HISTORY

Helen Dowdeswell recently interviewed Vincent Spadaccino, her former student, who operates Vin and Sal's barber shop, the oldest store in Valley Stream run by the same family. Helen reminds us that oral history is an ongoing project and would appreciate suggestions of people to interview.

CONDOLENCES

Charlie Fare, 53, son of Wilber and Elsie Fare and brother of Ed Fare, died on Sunday, December 12.

BITS OF HISTORY-MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

HANK ANHOLZER
by Joan M. Duffy

Got him the job with PanAm. In 1939, he started working for free at Floyd Bennett Field just to learn more about planes.

When I heard that Hank Anholzer was going to display a model airplane at the November hobby night, I thought, "Oh isn't that nice," envisioning the models my sons and grandsons have made. Well, Hank's plane was a Fleet bi-plane 1/3 the size of the regular training plane designed originally in 1930 and used at Roosevelt Field. It was mind-boggling! The plane takes off in 25 feet, flies for about half an hour, contains a 1/4 gallon gas tank and performs like a real plane.

He is extremely proud of his work with young boys. He was an assistant Scout Master of Webelos in Troop 109 at Grace Methodist Church., has worked with the Sea Rangers, and started his own Boys' Club to make models. Among the members were Gregory and Ernie Mansley of Granada Appliances.



Hank and his friends from the Cradle of Aviation Museum where he is volunteer supervisor rent a farm in Eastport, exit 61 on Sunrise Highway to fly their "model" planes. Besides the Fleet bi-plane, Hank has built a W.W.I Foker D-7, the Bellanca C.F. and the 1930 Monocoupe.

Hank's heart is with the Cradle of Aviation Museum which basically began in 1973 with the discovery of Lindbergh's original 1918 Curtis JN-4 (Jenny) in a pig barn in Iowa. One of the restorations which the volunteers completed was of Admiral Byrd's aircraft, the FC2w2, a gift from the Smithsonian Museum. Four hundred and sixty nine years of aviation experience among the volunteers contributed to the restoration.

The snowstorm of 1947 was Hank's introduction to Valley Stream. That was the year he moved into his house on Fairview Avenue. He was attracted to Valley Stream because of working at JFK International Airport for PanAm. He spent 42 years with the company retiring in 1982 as a manager of facility planning. For the following three years he worked as a consultant in the aviation industry, traveling all over the world.

It is obvious that Hank doesn't watch much television. He spends 10-12 hours a day in his basement workshop where he presently has eight model planes. He is building a 1/4 scale model of the Spirit of St. Louis with a 138 inch wingspan. The model will be just under 12 feet.

During WW II, he worked for the Naval Air Transport Service on flying boats between Honolulu and Australia.

This master mechanic is also an antique car buff, a hobby he began when his then 13 year old son and he rebuilt a 1941 Ford from the bottom up, a car purchased for \$250. Hank is the husband of Ruth Anholzer, recording secretary of the Historical Society.

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BITS OF HISTORY-MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

AVIATION MUSEUMS
by Joan M. Duffy

When we consider Long Island's multiple associations with aviation, it is appropriate that the island will boast not one, but two, museums devoted to aviation history.

A private museum, the American Airpower Museum is scheduled to open this month in two hangars at Republic Airport. At the present time, the museum features a WW II B-17, the Flying Fortress, and two other planes of that era, according to the president, Jeffrey M. Clyman. It will also have a restored WWII control tower, which will cost \$50,000 with most of the work done by volunteers. A floor of the control tower, resembling a WWII officers' club will serve as an orientation room for visitors. Radio and radar equipment from WWII will be found on the top floor of the tower.

Visitors will be able to experience short flights in a military version of a DC-3 cargo plane. Other airworthy planes at the museum will include a B-25 bomber, a Grumman Avenger, a AT-6 trainer and a Curtis P-40 Warhawk.

Closer to Valley Stream and closer to our hearts because of the devotion of Hank Anholzer and Gabe Parrish will be the Cradle of Aviation Museum in two original restored hangars at the former Mitchel Field. It is anticipated that Phase I of the project, which will include a technologically remarkable Imax theater, will open in the fall of 2000. Over the course of 25 years, the volunteers, which include retired

pilots, engineers and others involved in aviation will have donated 600,000 hours to restore the 65 aircraft and spacecraft to be displayed. The value of the collection will be almost \$40,000,000 and represents the donations of private owners and the military. Corporate donors have contributed several million dollars, including Grumman's donation of 1.2 million for the Imax theater which will be called the Leroy Grumman theater.

A prize possession in the collection will be a 1909 French-built Bleriot, the first plane to fly across the English Channel and in 1911, the first plane to inaugurate airmail service in the United States which began on Long Island. Also included will be the 1918 JN-4 (the Jenny) owned by Charles Lindbergh and used by him for barnstorming and a 1928 Ryan Brougham, one of the two surviving "sister ships" of the "Spirit of St. Louis"

The museum will be arranged chronologically in eight galleries from the evolution of flight through the WWII gallery with a recreated aircraft carrier flight deck with a Grumman Avenger, Wildcat and Hellcat, to the final gallery, the space gallery which will contain one of only three Lunar Modules on earth.

A curved wall of the Imax theater will commemorate those involved with aviation on Long Island with 20,000 names. The names will surely include George Dade (1913-1998) Dade, whose basement was where he built precisely crafted models, discovered the pieces of Lindbergh's Jenny and helped establish the Cradle of Aviation museum and was its first director.

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BITS OF HISTORY

THE HISTORY OF TEA

By Joan M. Duffy

Source: The London Ritz book of Afternoon Tea by Helen Simpson

The classic tea ceremony has a long and complicated history. Centuries ago, the Chinese were the original tea drinkers and kept their pleasure in tea a secret. Tea did not come to Europe until the middle of the 16th century when Portugal established a trading center at Macao.

Tea arrived in England during Cromwell's Protectorate in the mid 17th century and the pleasure of drinking tea was assuaged for the Puritans when importers sold it as medicinal. Finally, under the Merry Monarch, Charles II, tea and pleasure came into fashion with his marriage to Portugese Princess Catherine of Braganza in 1662. Catherine brought a chest of tea to England as part of her dowry and tea became the rage at the English court.

In the eighteenth century, tea drinking had become a national passion and though expensive, was brewed throughout the land. Once the rich had drunk the first brew, their servants would make tea from the used leaves and sell the twice used leaves at the back door.

As we remember from American history, the British tax on tea was a factor leading to the American Revolution when patriots organized a "tea party" in 1773 to dump incoming tea in Boston harbor rather than pay a tax on it.

Josiah Wedgwood was influential in popularizing tea drinking with his creation of elegant tea services, teapots, cups and saucers.

The practice of measuring tea leaves into sealed paper packets was not originated with, but was promoted by, two orphaned teenage brothers, the Tetleys.

The practice of indulging in afternoon tea can be traced to Anna, 7th Duchess of Bedford who grew tired of the sinking feeling between meals at 4:00 p.m. In 1840, she asked for a tray of tea, bread and butter and cake to be brought to her room. Her practice spread and afternoon tea became more elaborate with ladies changing into long tea gowns for the occasion.

In Edwardian times, the tea hour was moved to 5:00 p.m. and later became a full-blown social occasion with hot dishes added to the tiny sandwiches and cake. This was the period when Josiah Spode invented bone china, a beautiful and inexpensive form of porcelain.

The tea ceremony is frequently mentioned in English literature, for example in Dickens' Pickwick Papers. Another notable example is the scene in Oscar Wilde's The Importance of Being Earnest where Algeron is appalled at the lack of cucumber sandwiches.

The Ritz Hotel in London preserves the niceties of the Edwardian tea ceremony which is reenacted daily at the Palm Court: "The light is kind, the cakes are frivolousTakers of tea perch on rose-colored Louis XVI chairs at marble tables sipping their steaming cups of Darjeeling or Earl Grey."

One of the treats of traveling in the British Isles is finding a kettle, tea and cups in every hotel room to relish the pleasure of afternoon tea.

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VOLUME XXVII ISSUE 7

APRIL 2000

PAGAN – FLETCHER RESTORATION

143 Hendrickson Avenue
Valley Stream, NY 11580

Valley Stream, NY 11580, 516 872-4159

NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2000

8:00 p.m.

**Brooklyn Avenue & 7th Street
Valley Stream**

PROGRAM

THE MINEOLA FAIR

Mr. Gary Hammond will do a slide presentation on the old Mineola Fair which was begun in 1841 and is still continued at Old Bethpage Village Restoration.

Mr. Hammond lives in Wantagh and is the assistant site director for the Nassau County Division of Museum Services. He works at the Old Bethpage Village Restoration and the Long Island Studies Institute. The original records of the Agricultural Society of Nassau and Suffolk Counties are available at the Long Island Studies Institute and this is where Mr. Hammond did his research. The slides he will present are based on a paper he presented at Hofstra University at the Nassau County Centennial History Conference last year.

Refreshments for the April meeting will be provided by Adele Hagmann, Ruthanne Zwarico and Anita Buckley.

TRIBUTE TO HELEN ZANG

On Sunday, March 19th an affecting ceremony was held at the Pagan Fletcher Restoration to unveil a benefactor plaque in Helen Zang's memory. Benefactor plaques are given to those for whom donations are given in excess of one thousand dollars. Several members of Helen's family were present on this occasion and Marge Chvatal read from a book of poems that Helen had given to her.

SEVENTY FIFTH ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES

Members are urged by Mamie Eng at the Waldinger Library to complete their family registry forms and return them to her.

The VSHS has purchased a brick for the Walk of Honor to be placed on the Village Green near the Band Shell. It will commemorate the Society and its founding in 1973.

A family picnic will be held on June 10th from 12:00 noon until 5:00 p.m. The anniversary committee promises fun, games and entertainment. Admission is free and participants are asked to bring their own lunch.

A parade will be held on Saturday, October 14th and the VSHS will participate.

VALERIE HONORED AGAIN!

Valerie Esposito was awarded a plaque by the Town of Hempstead in honor of Women's History Month. Valerie received the Pathfinder award on March 14 for excellence as a volunteer.

CHILDREN'S ART SHOW

The Pagan-Fletcher Restoration will host a Children's Art Show on Sunday, April 30th. Children between the ages of 5 and 18 are invited to display their artistic productions. There may be a limit on the number of items each child can submit. Those who wish to participate are asked to call Marge Chvatal at 825-0324. Children may also compete that day by drawing pictures of the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration from 2:00 p.m. until 3:45 p.m. Judges will include Bridget Manney, Gloria Fetter, Karen Zang, and Mike Stankowits. Every child who participates in any way will receive a certificate. Admission will be free.

SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

The VSHS will submit Ted Libath's name as a nominee for Nassau County Senior Citizen of the Year.

BERT KELLER ON THE MEND

Members of the Valley Stream Historical Society were delighted to learn that Bert Keller has returned home and is recuperating from his recent heart surgery at St. Francis Hospital. We wish Bert a rapid return to good health and anticipate seeing him very soon at meetings.

TED AND JIM TO SPEAK

The Gibson Civic Association requested speakers for one of their meetings on the history of Valley Stream. Ted Libath and Jim Buckley have volunteered.

GEORGE IS BACK DAY

The Valley Stream Historical Society's celebration of George Washington's Birthday on Sunday, February 20th was a resounding success. The Pagan-Fletcher Restoration welcomed 125 visitors, some of whom took a tour of the house, while others were fascinated by our members attired in colonial regalia. George and Martha were Bert Keller and Ruthanne Zwarico; Thomas Jefferson was Gabriel Parrish. Karen Selah, Valerie Esposito, Bob Presbrey Marge Chvatal and Irma Shapiro were also decked out in 1776 outfits. Valerie Esposito and Bob Presbrey are to be congratulated for the excellent publicity provided for this event.



Martha & George

Photo by Granant Assoc.

BITS OF HISTORY

GLENN CURTISS AND MARGE CHVATAL

by Joan M. Duffy

There was a time when the name Curtiss was ubiquitous in the field of aviation on Long Island.

Charles Lindbergh had the "Spirit of St. Louis" in a hangar at Curtiss Field in Mineola on the night he decided to make his transatlantic flight. On the night of May 19, 1927, he had the plane towed to Roosevelt Field to make his memorable non-stop flight across the Atlantic. Roosevelt Field, the former Hazelhurst Field, had been renamed in honor of Quentin Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt's young son who had died flying in W.W. I.

But then there was also a Curtiss Field in Valley Stream where the Green Acres Shopping Center is now. The site was the former Reisert farm extending from Central Avenue west to the city line.

It was from that Curtiss Field that Lee Kar, a Chinese man, employed at a Mott Street restaurant, took off in August, 1932. He was a comparatively novice pilot, having had fourteen hours of instruction and five hours of solo flight, when he realized after about 40 minutes in the air that he was going to crash. He aimed toward a driveway between the houses on Elmwood Street when he suddenly saw Majorie McDermott (Chvatal) age 10, bouncing a ball in front of her house. The pilot made a last minute effort to control the plane and crashed into Marge's family's garage and across the fence.

When he was pulled from the wreckage, he was thought to be

dead, but he regained consciousness asking about the little girl. He could have saved himself from injury, if he had landed in the driveway.

Back to the name Curtiss. Glenn Curtiss grew up in the Finger Lakes region of New York State, but after he learned to make airplanes, shortly after the Wright Brothers, he became fascinated with the flatness of the Hempstead Plains when he attended the 1905 Vanderbilt Cup races. He brought his biplane, the Gold Bug, to Mineola in 1909. It was built for the Aeronautic Society of New York and flew almost 25 miles above the Mineola Fairgrounds in 1910 winning the silver trophy from Scientific American magazine.

In 1911, Curtiss invented the "hydro-airplane", an amphibian, and in 1919 the NC-4, an amphibian made the first transatlantic flight.

Glenn Curtiss opened an experimental aircraft factory, the Curtiss Engineering Company on the corner of Clinton and Stewart Avenues in Garden City. This factory was the first in the world for research and development. The Curtiss Company became a corporate giant in W.W. I. Its smokestack is still there. Glenn Curtiss died in Garden City in 1930 at the age of 52.

Interestingly enough the site of the present LaGuardia Field was originally the Gala Amusement Park (built by James J. Lynch, a foreman for the Crimmins Corp. and grandfather of Joan Duffy). In 1929, it was transformed into a private flying field, named Glenn Curtiss Airport, later North Beach Airport

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BITS OF HISTORY

**THE VANDERBILT MUSEUM
EAGLE'S NEST AND
PLANETARIUM**

By Joan M. Duffy

(This article is another in a series we have written on museums on Long Island).

The Vanderbilt Museum, William K. Vanderbilt's summer estate on Little Neck Road in Centerport, represents a continuation of the famous Gold Coast over the Suffolk border from Nassau. William K. was an avid racing car driver and had the Long Island Motor Parkway built from Queens to Suffolk to indulge his hobby. A portion of this first concrete-paved roadway still exists from Dix Hills to Lake Ronkonkoma. This is one example of why the term "conspicuous consumption" was first used in reference to the Vanderbilt family. Despite the affluent lifestyle of the Vanderbilts, it must be remembered that the family was responsible for opening the Metropolitan Museum of Art and founding the Metropolitan Opera.

Where did the money come from? William K.'s grandfather, Cornelius (Commodore) Vanderbilt, born in 1794, started a boat service that became the first Staten Island Ferry. Though his investments, he bought steamboats and then railroads.

There are actually several different museums on the Vanderbilt property. There is the Marine museum, the Memorial Museum, the Stroh Museum and the Planetarium as well as the main house.

William K. Vanderbilt purchased the house, Eagle's Nest in 1906 and later expanded it to give it a Spanish look. The courtyard

is tiled in Moroccan fashion and opens onto the library. There are many examples of art, including church treasures and religious art collected from all over the world exhibited throughout the house. The music room was specially built to house a 1918 Aeolian pipe organ.

The master bedroom is filled with Napoleonic artifacts including a reproduction of Bonaparte's campaign bed. Also in the bedroom is a picture of Vanderbilt's yacht, the Alva, the most powerful and luxurious yacht in the world at its time. It was equipped with seaplanes and its own movie theater. The yacht was sunk by a German U-boat in 1943.

Another significant building on the 43 acre estate is a planetarium which was begun in 1971. Mr. Ed Quaranta has been the director for 14 years and was quoted in Newsday in mid-April when an unusual Northern Lights display was visible in New York and southern states. The planetarium on the Vanderbilt estate is the only one on Long Island that serves the public. The facilities, include a glass-enclosed observatory containing a 16" inch Cassegrain-type reflecting telescope on which a 4 1/2 " refracting lens is mounted. The Planetarium also has a sky theater. The 60ft diameter dome serves as an artificial sky.

On April 25th Newsday wrote an editorial on the maritime research facility to be opened at the Vanderbilt Museum thanks to a consortium of interested organizations. The devastation of the lobster industry will be studied among other marine issues. Information: 631-854-5555

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VOLUME XXVII ISSUE 9

JUNE 2000

PAGAN - FLETCHER RESTORATION
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LET THE 75TH CELEBRATION BEGIN

NEXT MEETING
WEDNESDAY JUNE 21, 2000
8:00 p.m.
Brooklyn Avenue & 7th Street
Valley Stream
PROGRAM

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

The June meeting will be the occasion to welcome the new officers and trustees of the Valley Stream Historical Society for 2000-2001 year. The new officers are: Hank Selah, president; Carol McKenna, vice-president; and Florence Gunther, treasurer. The new three year trustees are: Karen Selah, Anita Buckley, Walter Harrod, George Donley, Sr. and William Vivencio. Other trustees and officers are listed on page 2 of Panorama.

We will serve our traditional strawberries and ice cream and musical entertainment is planned.

LET THE CELEBRATION BEGIN

The cold drizzly weather could not dampen the joyous spirits of 50 or more people who attended the May 21st initial celebration of the Village of Valley Stream's 75th Anniversary at the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration. Marie O'Connell was the master of ceremonies and Pastor Robert W. Howard from Grace Methodist Church gave a brief, but inspiring talk on the history of religious life in Valley Stream and the plans for the future. Led by children from the Church's Sunday School, the assembled group sang the hymn "Jesus Loves Me." Karen Selah, president of the VSHS spoke and Marge Chvatal read a touching poem "Our Town" by the late Helen Zang. Many members wore flapper dresses from the 20's thanks to Valerie's Esposito's dogged search for period costumes.

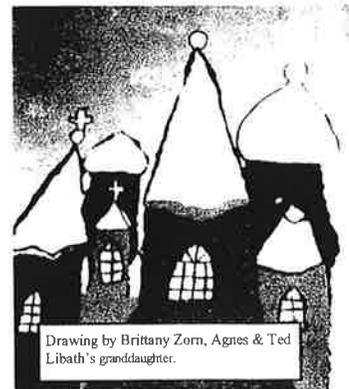
Future plans for the 75th include a family picnic on June 10th on the Village Green and a Parade on October 14th

RESULTS OF CHILDREN'S ART SHOW

The Children's Art Show on Sunday, April 30th was another successful undertaking this year. The children's submissions were colorful and original. The winners were as follows: Preschool: tie between Juan Guardado and Nicole Albanese ; 6-9 year olds: 1st prize Kristen Wraith 2nd prize Jose Guardado; 10 and over : 1st prize Gia Fraher 2nd prize Danielle Albanese ; Best in Show: Anna Veracruz. Best in show was awarded to Anna Veracruz for her drawing of the Restoration that afternoon. The children had gathered on the front lawn busily putting pen to paper to depict their versions of the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration.

....AND MORE ART

The Long Beach Art League will mount an art show at the Restoration on the weekend of September 23 and 24.



Drawing by Brittany Zorn, Agnes & Ted Libath's granddaughter.

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VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 22, VALLEY STREAM, NY 11581

EXPIRES
June 2001

Individual \$7., Student \$2., Contributing \$15., Family \$12. (4 or more in 1 Family)
ORGANIZATIONS, CLUBS, BUSINESSES, ETC. \$25, TAX EXEMPT LIFE GIFTS \$100.00

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BITS OF HISTORY

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF
BLESSED SACRAMENT
CHURCH

By Joan Duffy

Interview with Father Cappuccino

Blessed Sacrament Church was founded on October 10, 1950. The parish was established because Holy Name of Mary parish under Rev. Msgr. Peter McGovern had grown too large and Archbishop Molloy agreed to begin a new parish in Valley Stream.



Father Andrew McKeon was the founding pastor and the first Mass was held in the St. Therese's Knights of Columbus clubhouse on Buscher Avenue. The first church was formed according to one version from two 20 ft. garages and the loving labor of the parishioners. Another story is that a small barn was converted into the original church. The rectory, which was recently replaced after standing for 150 years, was an old farmhouse, occupied at one time by Florence Gunther's grand-aunt.

According to Father Cappuccino, Father McKeon had the incredible task of "forming a parish out of nothing."

In the ongoing history of the parish a second church, an auditorium style which was eventually incorporated into the school, was opened in 1953, and in 1962, the present Georgian style church was constructed.

Another building in the complex on McKeon Avenue was a brick convent which became the Christopher Residence, a home for retarded people.

The pastors who followed Father McKeon in the course of 50 Years were Father Clement Walsh, Monsignor Edward Trench, Bishop John Dunn and now, for the past eleven and a half years Father Cappuccino. His assistants are Father Frank Nelson and Father Aloysius Pakianather.

In 1996, Father Cappuccino met with the finance committee and the pastoral staff proposing a three phase reconstruction plan. The first phase consisted of demolishing the existing rectory and constructing a new building with two separate sections, the priests' home and

with two separate sections, the priests' home and area of 11 offices and a large meeting room, all handicapped accessible.

The second phase will be the renovation of the church which will begin in June. Phase three, maintenance of the school, hall and Saint Christopher's residence will follow when funds are available.

To celebrate Blessed Sacrament's fifty years as a parish a variety of activities are planned. On Memorial Day Weekend, ShowTime IV, a musical selection from Broadway shows, involving 300 parishioners will be held at Central H.S.

On the weekend of June 25th and 26th, the Feast of Corpus Christi, the parish's special feast, the parish will celebrate its 50 years and there will be a festival following each Mass. A dinner dance will be held at Russo's on the Bay on Sunday, September 23rd and on November 19th, there will be a rededication and reconsecration of the renovated church.

In June 2001, Stephen Hanifan, a parishioner whose parents still live in the parish will be ordained a priest and will celebrate his first Mass at Blessed Sacrament.

Also next June, the various cultures of the parish will be celebrated through music, dance and food.

The warmth, and dedication of the parishioners is apparent in the fact that there are 49 different ministries and societies and the parish has grown to 3600 families.

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BITS OF HISTORY

**THE HISTORY OF
GRACE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**
by Walter Harrod

In the beginning, the church began with the founding of St. John's Methodist Church in present day Elmont. This church was later referred to as the mother church of Grace Church. Eventually, a part of the congregation moved closer to Valley Stream and established Sinner's Hope Chapel in the area of the present day Wheeler Avenue Public School. As the population in Valley Stream was being established well south of the chapel, the congregation sought to build a church in this more populous area. For a while, services were held on the second floor of the South Corona Avenue Firehouse as well as in Sinner's Hope Chapel.

In March of 1904, the trustees purchased five lots on the northeast corner of the intersections of South Franklin and West Fairview Avenues. This was to be the site of the church's first building and the word Grace was officially added to its title. It was now known as Grace Methodist Episcopal Church. Soon thereafter, a parsonage was built for \$2,240.00. In 1921, a recreation hall was added and in 1953, an education building was erected on the northerly side of the church.

In February of 1957, there was a groundbreaking ceremony for the present church (see page 1) which is located on the northeasterly corner of South Franklin and West Lincoln Avenues. The final construction was a further addition to the education building. This addition was built where the old wooden church stood and it joined the education building so that both buildings now constitute one building.

After a merger with the Evangelical United Brethren Church, the Church's title became Grace United Methodist Church.



SINNERS HOPE CHAPEL

Valley Stream 1890

**THE SPIRIT OF THE
CHURCH**
by Bert Keller

United Methodist Church has long been a haven for those in the community seeking a religious home. Throughout its history it has subscribed to the beliefs of its founder and has adapted itself to the needs of its population, serving as one of the guideposts in making Valley Stream a more desirable place to reside.

Concern is the all-important word in the church's purposes: to provide a place of worship, to spread the word of God and to be a symbol of right. Its ambition to unite its membership is attested by 1. the establishment of one of the finest nursery schools in this area. 2. providing an effective Sunday School 3. sponsoring organizations to enhance the effectiveness of the church 4. providing quarters for worthy groups to meet 5. serving as a potent unit within the boundaries of the community 6. becoming an ecumenical force within the religious denominations of Valley Stream. This is especially true of the efforts of the present religious leader, Robert W. Howard, who has been pastor for twenty eight years.

It is the oldest religious center in the village, but throughout the years it has been successful in adapting its practices to meet the needs of its population.

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VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME XXVIII ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2000

PAGAN – FLETCHER RESTORATION

143 Hendrickson Avenue
Valley Stream, NY 11580, 516 872-4159

NEXT MEETING

**HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
WEDNESDAY October 18, 2000**

8:00 p.m.

Brooklyn Avenue & 7th Street

Valley Stream

PROGRAM

COVERED DISH SUPPER

If you are tired of cooking in every night and want a fantastic meal out, our covered dish supper is the place for you on October 18th. Members and guests are invited to a wine and cheese social at 6:15 p.m. in the church hall. Non-alcoholic beverages will also be served. Supper will be served at 7:00 p.m.

Covered dishes will be brought according to the first initial of your last name as indicated below:

A-G "Starchy" type, hot or cold. This might include rice, beans, potatoes, etc.

H-O Vegetable contents such as salads, casseroles, etc.

P-Z Dairy type foods, eggs, cheese, gelatins, fruit, fish (hot and cold)

Since kitchen facilities are limited, hot foods should be fully cooked and Hot.

DO NOT BRING MEAT OR MEAT CONTENT DISHES. The Society will provide these items as well as bread, butter, tea and coffee. Desserts will be provided by Barbara Ehlinger, Kay Keely, Agnes Libath, Joan Duffy and Dorothy Vitale.

A minimum of \$3.00 will be collected at the door. Guests are most welcome; however, they will be expected to bring covered dishes according to the requirements listed above, unless you undertake to do this for them

HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST

The VSHS will host a children's Halloween costume contest again this year. The date will be Sunday, October 29th. Children are urged to come to the Restoration in costume between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. and the contest to judge the costumes will be held at 3:00 p.m. Ruthanne Zwarico will be the judge.

HERE COMES THE PARADE !!!

Mark your calendar NOW! The massive 75th anniversary parade which will include all the organizations, businesses, 14 schools and school bands in town will be held on Saturday, October 14th. The VSHS members will march with the Central H.S. alumni and the clock float will be featured. VSHS members are asked to meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Wheeler Avenue School parking lot and are asked to wear either vintage costumes of the last seven decades or the blue Historical Society shirts and white pants. A craft fair will be held on the village green and the VSHS will have a booth manned by Eileen Brennan. The historical panels from the exhibit room in the Restoration will also be on display.

ART AT THE LIBRARY

The Henry Waldinger Library is hosting an exhibition "The Pride of Valley Stream Art" as the library's part in celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Incorporated Village of Valley Stream. The exhibition will run from October 1-31. Included in the show will be Angela Schultz' remarkably detailed miniature replica of the Pagan Fletcher Restoration. There will be works by twelve Valley Stream artists including those by trustee Joan Bridget Manney and Mike Stanko whose painting of Central High School is now on display in the Ted Libath room at the Restoration. Prints of Mike's picture are available at the Restoration of \$10.00.

THANKS TO AGNES

Agnes Libath was tenacious in insisting that the Village mount directional signs to the Pagan Fletcher Restoration. Due to Joe Zabatta's intervention there are now road signs north and south on Corona Avenue and also on Fletcher Avenue indicating the way to the Restoration.

MEMBERSHIP

If you have not sent in your dues for the 2000-2001 year, please do so promptly or you will not receive Panorama. Dues are \$7.00 for singles and \$12.00 for a family. Send checks to VSHS P.O. Box 22, Valley Stream, N.Y. 11582.

APPRECIATION

We are grateful to Joe Gunther for having built shelves for the Country Store

WALL OF HONOR

The VSHS has purchased a brick for the 75th Anniversary Wall of Honor that will be laid around the tree in front of the Henry Waldinger Library

STATE GRANT

A grant of \$2500 is available to us from the State Education Department. The VSHS is in the process of applying for this grant which is awarded to historical societies for preservation and restoration.

75th ANNIVERSARY DINNER DANCE

The Coral House in Baldwin will be the site on November 17th of the finale of the yearlong celebration of the Village of Valley Stream's 75th anniversary. That is the date of the dinner dance. Tickets will cost \$75 and will be available through the Village Hall.

GUIDES FOR DOCENTS

Helen Dowdeswell and Adele Hagmann have made up an instructional booklet which will serve as a guide for members who wish show visitors around the Restoration.

BITS OF HISTORY



Photo Joan M. Duffy

TEMPLE GATES OF ZION

TEMPLE GATES OF ZION
by Joan M. Duffy

The following information was obtained from an interview with Mr. Paul Radler, financial secretary of the Temple and from the "History of Temple Gates of Zion".

The genesis of the temple occurred in 1929 when a group of families met to find a site to conduct services. But the true beginning was in 1932 when approximately 40 Jewish families, calling themselves Congregation Gates of Zion, met in a converted building on East Mineola Avenue. Eventually, they had to move to the firehouse on Corona Ave. It was also in 1932 that the State of New York issued a charter to Congregation Gates of Zion as a conservative synagogue.

A building on Fairview Avenue was purchased in 1939 by a group of 80 families at a cost of \$9,000. In order to raise funds, seats for the High Holy Days were sold at \$5.00 a person. Membership for an entire family was \$30.00. This included two tickets for the holidays, Sunday School and Hebrew School attendance and Adult Education classes. The first rabbi was Nathan Rosen.

Mr. Radler joined the congregation in 1946 with his wife and two children. This was shortly before a tremendous growth in membership in the temple in the years 1947 through 1949. The building in use at Fairview Avenue had to be extended to accommodate the large group and a house on East Mineola Avenue was purchased and redecorated by the Men's Club.

Mr. Radler has warm memories of Cantor Mann who walked from Loralton to the synagogue to conduct services regardless of the weather. One day he came to conduct a bar mitzvah in a torrential rainstorm.

The year 1952 was a memorable one in the history of the congregation. Rabbi Simon Resnikoff was engaged as a rabbi for one year. He remained as a beloved leader of the Temple until his death in 1987. He was honored to be the first rabbi appointed chaplain of the fire department. At the time of his death and after services in the Temple, his cortege passed an honor guard of volunteer firemen which, along with state troopers

accompanied Rabbi Resnikoff's body to the congregation's cemetery plot in Wellwood Cemetery.

Many significant events occurred during the period when Rabbi Resnikoff was the spiritual leader. In April 1953, the congregation negotiated for the purchase of property on North Corona Avenue and began an intensive drive to raise funds. This is the present site of Temple Gates of Zion and the Valley Stream Jewish Center renamed in the new 1953 charter.

In September 1955, Mr. Radler proudly attended the dedication of the Temple. Also present at the ceremony were Mr. and Mrs. Bahrenburg, from the famous bakery on Rockaway Avenue, Arthur Hendrickson as well as Mayor Waldinger and the Village Board. The temple was basically unfinished on the inside. There were drop lights from the unfinished ceiling. The Village of Valley Stream had proclaimed September 9, 10 and 11 Temple Gates of Zion Dedication Week-end.

In the early '70's the congregation purchased a "Yad Vashem Memorial Lamp" in memory of the 6 million Jews who perished in the Holocaust.

On Thanksgiving Day 1979, at 2:00 a.m. tragedy struck Temple Gates of Zion. Mr. Radler, who was president of the temple, was called and told there was a fire. Two volunteer fire captains, Michael Moran and John Tate died trying to save the Torahs. Four other firemen were hurt.

Within two years, the Temple was rebuilt and the main sanctuary was dedicated to Rabbi Resnikoff and the two fire captains.

Today, the president of the Temple is Arlene Novick and the spiritual leader is Cantor Robert Heyman.

The temple is actively supported financially and socially by the work of the Men's Club and the Sisterhood. For many years there was a very popular bazaar held at the temple. There is an active bridge club, a L'Chaim Society and a discussion club.

Services are held twice a day, 365 days of the year. Sabbath services are held every Friday night and Saturday, and a breakfast is held every Sunday after prayers.

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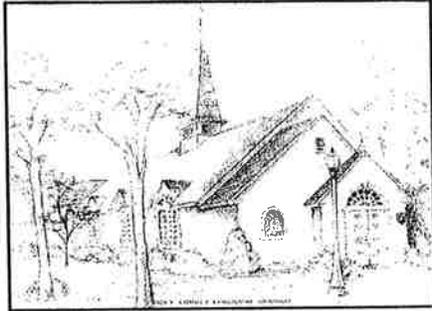
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BITS OF HISTORY



**HOLY TRINITY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

*Interview with Mother Brenda
Overfield
by Joan M. Duffy*

The Valley Stream Historical Society has a particularly warm feeling for Holy Trinity Church since we have held our monthly meeting in the parish hall since 1976

The parish itself began as a mission church from Trinity St. John's in Hewlett in 1923. When a church such as Trinity St. John's becomes very large, parishioners from a particular geographic area can petition the Bishop to have a mission closer to their homes.

In 1928, Father George Benson Cox became the vicar of the mission and the parish was incorporated under N.Y. State law on April 8, 1945.

The present parish hall was the original church building and was built in 1923. Father Cox, who was unmarried, lived in an upstairs apartment which is now the parish office.

Father Cox remained as the rector for 25 years until 1943. An article from the archives of the Historical Society gives an account of his retirement as rector to return to Holyrood, Ontario, Canada where he was born.

There are 92 year old parishioners at Holy Trinity who remember Father Cox.

Mother Overfield who provided us with this historical information attended General Theological Seminary in N.Y. and was graduated and or-

She served as director of Pastoral Care at St. John's Episcopal Hospital, nursing home and retirement community. She oversaw the chaplaincy at this institution for five years. She served as an interim rector at All Saints Church in Great Neck and was called by Holy Trinity to be the rector at this church in November, 1998.

The ministry of the church includes welcoming other community groups to its facilities. Besides the Valley Stream Historical Society, other groups which meet at Holy Trinity are Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, the Knights of Pythias and Al-Anon. Three nights a week the church facilities are used by another congregation, the Assembly of God. Your writer's daughters attended Girl Scouts at Holy Trinity Church close to 40 years ago.

The Reverend Gowan Hoyt Williams, who was well beloved in the parish, was rector from 1955 until 1963, and died of a brain tumor. The Williams building behind the church was built in his honor.

The Williams building, which has a full size regulation basketball court on its second floor, hosts a very successful nursery school, directed by Sally Weiss and a thrift shop.

Sunday services with the Eucharist are held at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. followed by Sunday School.

Holy Trinity Church is part of the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island which includes Nassau, Suffolk, Queens and Brooklyn., one of the largest dioceses in the country.

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