

# PANORAMA

Valley Stream Historical Society

Volume XXX, No. 5

February 2003

## PAGAN-FLETCHER RESTORATION

143 HENDRICKSON AVENUE, VALLEY STREAM, NY ♦ (516) 872-4159 ♦ FAX: (516) 599-7069  
<http://www.nassaulibrary.org/vallevst/vshist.html> ♦ [VSHistorical@earthlink.net](mailto:VSHistorical@earthlink.net)

### PROGRAM

February 19, 2003  
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church  
7<sup>th</sup> Street and Brooklyn Avenue  
Valley Stream, New York  
8:00 p.m.

### "LONG ISLAND A TO Z THROUGH POSTCARDS"

Gary Hammond will feature a slide presentation of approximately 80 views of Long Island around the period 1906 through 1920. Hammond is site director for the Long Island Studies Institute, housed on the campus of Hofstra University, and he maintains an office at Sands Point Preserve.

Refreshments will be provided by Mary Ryder, Margaret Cook and Grace Donley. Agnes and Ted Libath have graciously consented to act as our Hospitality Committee for the February meeting.

Refreshments for the January meeting were provided by Florence Gunther, Walter Harrod and Carol McKenna.

### CALENDAR

The Society will host an Art Show for Adults at the Restoration on Sunday, March 2, 2003, between the hours of 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. There is a fee of \$3.00. Don't miss out on the opportunity to see the creative efforts in a variety of media by Valley Streamers.

### SOCIETY WAS HOST TO A MEDIA STAR

Harry Potter fans will recognize the name "Hedwig." The snow owl used in the recent movie "resides" in England. While considering the bird's appearance at the NY premiere and the need for its quarantine, a search was conducted for a double. Robert Young consented to allowing his snow owl not only to appear at the premiere but it was a guest on the Jay Leno Show. Our January

program was such a success that our youngest member spoke about it to his class. Thank you, TJ Darcy.

### SOCIETY IS FEATURED IN LOCAL PAPER

In the January 16-22, 2003 edition of the *Valley Stream Herald*, under the headline "Saving the past," an article appeared about the Society marking three decades of service to the community. Ted Libath, Anthony Fiero (the Society's first President and author of its formation documents, among others), Agnes Libath and Carol McKenna were interviewed by Nicole Falco.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Joanne Leopold Ferrante, a graduate of the Central High School District, has gifted the Society with a copy of her publication "Where Do The Christmas Trees go?" Ms. Ferrante not only wrote but illustrated the book.

The Society mourns the passing of Eleanor Porensky. Members will remember the embroidery show held many years ago and Eleanor's contribution to the exhibit. She will be missed.

The Hempstead Liederkrantz will have its Annual Costume-Fasching Dance on Saturday, March 1, 2002 at 8:00 p.m. at the Plattdeutsche Park Restaurant, 1132 Hempstead Turnpike, Franklin Square, NY. Tickets are \$10.00. For further information, please contact Bob Presbrey. Please also note that members of the Society in the last three years have taken top prizes for their costumes.



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Historical Society  
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WILLIAM VIVENZIO

**HONORARY TRUSTEES**  
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LILLIAN WEAVER  
EVELYN McQUADE



**FEBRUARY 14 — A DAY FOR ROMANCE AND SENTIMENT**  
By CAROL MCKENNA

Valentine's Day contains vestiges of not only Christian but also Roman traditions. There are also several myths connected to it.

One, in particular, concerns a priest named Valentine. He performed marriage ceremonies for soldiers in defiance of Emperor Claudius II's ban on married soldiers. He was put to death.

Another myth puts Valentine in prison where he wrote the first greeting, it is believed, to his jailor's daughter who visited him. Legend indicates it was signed "From your Valentine."

Yet, another myth theorizes that Valentine may have been killed helping Christians escape Roman prisons.

Valentine's Day is believed to be celebrated in mid-February because the anniversary of his death occurred around that time in 270 A.D. It has also been said that the Christian church celebrated St. Valentine to offset the pagan celebrations of the time—Lupercalia, in particular, which was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus—the Roman god of agriculture as well as to Romulus and Remus, the deified founders of Rome.

In 498 A.D., Pope Gelasius declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day. During the Middle Ages in France and England, it was commonly believed that February 14 was the official beginning of the mating season for birds.

While imprisoned in the Tower of London in 1415, Charles, the Duke of Orleans, wrote the oldest Valentine in existence to his wife. It was in the form of a poem.

Here in the United States the exchange of valentines began in the 1700's. The first mass produced valentine was sold in the 1840's by Esther A. Howland.

Today an estimated one billion cards are sent every year, 85% by women.



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William Stris  
41 Parkwold Drive East  
Valley Stream, NY 11580

# PANORAMA

Valley Stream Historical Society

Volume XXX, No. 6

March 2003

## PAGAN-FLETCHER RESTORATION

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### PROGRAM

March 27, 2003  
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church  
Brooklyn Avenue and 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Valley Stream, New York  
8:00 p.m.

#### "REMEMBER THE LADIES: WOMEN IN LONG ISLAND HISTORY" NATALIE A. NAYLOR

Although Abigail Adams wrote John Adams in Philadelphia in 1776 to "remember the ladies" in the "new code of laws," it took more than 140 years for women to achieve the right to vote in New York State and the nation and thereby receive legal recognition. Moreover, women have been nearly invisible in the American history traditionally taught in schools and colleges although women have played important roles and made significant contributions throughout our history. In recent years, historians have been writing women back into history.

Dr. Naylor will briefly discuss the reasons for the past neglect of women in history. This overview of women in Long Island history includes the traditional roles played by women as well as non-traditional activities. Dr. Naylor will focus on women with national reputations and locally important women such as Lady Deborah Moody, Frances Hodgson Burnett, General Rosalie Jones, Alicia Patterson and Barbara McClintock.

Natalie Naylor was a member of the faculty of Hofstra University for more than 30 years where she taught women's history, Long Island history and other courses in American social history. She served as director of Hofstra's Women's Studies Program from 1980 to 1989 and was director of the Long Island Studies Institute at Hofstra from its inception in 1985 until

her retirement in 2000. Professor Naylor has edited or co-edited several of the Institute's publications. She also serves as Vice President of the Nassau County Historical Society and editor of its annual *Journal* since 1991.

Refreshments will be provided by Dorothy Ganycer, Kay Keely and Irma Shapiro.

### CALENDAR

Our Victorian Tea is scheduled for April 12, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. in the Libath Room at the Restoration. This event is limited to 32 people. The fee is \$15.00. Reservations can be made by calling Marge Chvatal at (516) 825-0324 or Adele Hagmann at (516) 825-5317. Guests are reminded that they must bring their own teacup, saucer, cake plate and spoon.

The Society is hosting a children's art show Sunday, April 27, 2003, at 1 p.m.

### SAVE THE DATE

On September 14, 2003 (with a rain date of September 21, 2003), the Society will celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a Garden Party on the grounds of the Restoration.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Society wishes to thank Jim Buckley, Tom Buckley (son of Jim and Anita Buckley), Ted Libath, Walter Harrod and Gabe Parrish for painting the walls in the hallway and the baseboard around the stairs.

Ce'ad Mile Fa'ilte!  
(Gaelic for A Hundred Thousand Welcomes)



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**A TEA TIME LINE**

- 2737 B.C.—Tea discovered in China by Emperor Shen Nung.  
350 A.C.E.—First description of tea drinking written in a Chinese dictionary.  
479—Turkish traders bartered for tea on the Mongolian border.  
780—Poet Lu Yu wrote the first book on tea called *Chu Ching*.  
805—Buddhist monk Saicho brought tea seeds from China to Japan.  
1422-1502—A Zen priest named Murata Shuku created the Japanese tea ceremony called *Cha No Yu*, which means "hot water for tea."  
1610—The Dutch brought tea to Europe from China.  
1657—England first sold tea at Galway's Coffee House in London.  
1773—Colonists, protesting against high taxes imposed by England on tea, participated in what history refers to as The Boston Tea Party.  
1838—Tea was imported by England from India.  
1856—Tea was planted in many areas of Darjeeling.  
1867—Tea plantations were started in Ceylon although tea was not exported until the 1870's.  
1904—Richard Blechynden created iced tea for the St. Louis World's Fair.  
1908—Thomas Sullivan invented tea bags quite by accident in New York. He sent tea in silk bags to clients, which they, in error, steeped without opening.

**A HISTORY OF TEA TIME**

Continental Europe was introduced to tea by the Portuguese Jesuit, Fr. Jasper de Crux, who wrote about the beverage that he encountered while serving as a missionary.

The British were introduced to afternoon tea in or about 1652. Anna, Duchess of Bedford (1783-1857), one of Queen Victoria's ladies-in-waiting, is credited with beginning this tradition. Two types of service emerged: Low Tea—served by the wealthy with finger sandwiches (such as cucumber and watercress), scones and crumpets and High Tea—a tradition enjoyed by the lower classes who would also serve meats and vegetables along with cookies.

By CAROL MCKENNA

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*Ms. Kallian Stue  
41 Parkwood Drive East  
Valley Stream NY 11580*



# PANORAMA



Valley Stream Historical Society

Volume XXX, No. 7

April, 2003

## PAGAN-FLETCHER RESTORATION

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## PROGRAM

April 23, 2003  
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church  
Brooklyn Avenue and 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Valley Stream, New York  
8:00 p.m.

“VILLAGE JUSTICE IN VALLEY STREAM  
AND THROUGHOUT NEW YORK STATE:  
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE COURTS CLOSEST TO  
THE PEOPLE”

HONORABLE ROBERT C. BOGLE  
VILLAGE JUSTICE

Bogle is a lifelong resident of Valley Stream who was re-elected to his fifth term as Village Justice in March, 2003. Since 1999, Bogle has been serving as Chief Court Attorney, Department of Law, Nassau County Court, where he supervises its staff and court attorneys. Bogle provides legal advice to County Court Judges and the Clerk's Office. He reviews decisions, prepares memoranda, and keeps court personnel apprised of changes in statutes and developments in case law.

His other accomplishments include:

- B.A. in political science *cum laude* Niagara University 1979
- J.D. Hofstra University School of Law 1982
- Admitted Second Department 1983
- Admitted U.S. District Court, Eastern District 1984
- Admitted U.S. District Court, Southern District 1984
- Admitted Supreme Court of the United States 1992

Bogle co-authored *Village, Town & District Courts in N.Y.*, a legal handbook on local Court practice. He has written numerous articles of interest to the legal profession; published 15 decisions as

Village Justice in *The New York Law Journal* and 7 decisions in the *New York Official Reports*.

Refreshments will be provided by Irma Shapiro, Anita Buckley and Carol McKenna.

Editor's Note: In the March, 2003 issue of *Panorama*, the name of one of our contributors for refreshments was misspelled. Apologies to Dorothy Gamper.

## CONDOLENCES

The Society extends its condolences to the family of Tony Melillo. Tony served the Society as its President for two terms 1989-1990 and 1990-1991. At his passing, he was on the Board of Trustees. For many years, Tony and his wife, Adele, hosted the monthly general membership meetings of the Society. He was a warm, caring, generous person and will be missed.

## CALENDAR

The Society will host a Children's Art Show on Sunday, April 27, 2003 from 1:00 p.m. through 4:00 p.m.

Friends of Rock Hall and the Town of Hempstead will be celebrating the museum's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sunday, May 4, 2003 from 12:00 p.m. through 2:00 p.m. For questions, please telephone the museum's office at (516) 239-1157.

*The Society wishes  
Its neighbors and members a  
Happy Spring, Passover and Easter.*



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## SUPREME COURT DECLARES LONG ISLAND *NOT* AN ISLAND

Let me save you a trip to the dictionary for the definition of an island. It's described as land completely surrounded by water and not large enough to be called a continent. Are you scratching your head yet? So are a number of scientists who can't quite believe the 1985 decision rendered by the United States Supreme Court.

In *United States v. Maine*, the coastline of 13 states on the Atlantic Ocean was at issue. The United States sought to determine its rights to the seabed and subsoil beyond 3 geographical miles from each state's coastline. The Court held that the interests in the seabeds of the states involved only 3 geographical miles. However, it did not fix the precise coastline of every state. Subsequently, the United States filed a motion for a supplementary proceeding to fix the legal coastline in the area of Block Island Sound and the eastern portion of Long Island Sound. A Special Master was appointed, and he allowed the State of New York to be party to the proceeding.

The decision of the Special Master was based upon the determination both Sounds constituted, in whole or in part, a juridical bay under Article 7(6) of the Convention on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone. He further concluded that Long Island was an extension of the mainland. Exceptions were filed.

Briefly, the United States argued that it disagreed with the Special Master's recommendation that Long Island be considered a part of the mainland; that certain relationships between Long Island and the mainland cannot overcome the fact that Long Island is geographically separate from Manhattan.

After oral argument, the United States Supreme Court overruled the exceptions and held the Special Master's report is confirmed.

The Court noted that at Throgs Neck, Long Island is about 1/2 mile from the mainland. The East River, which separates Long Island from Manhattan, was at one time as shallow as 15-18 feet with a rapid current making navigation impossible. Additionally, coupled with the fact that the East River does not have an opening to the sea indicates that Long Island is an extension. Furthermore, to the surprise of geologists, the Court determined that Long Island and the adjacent shore share a common geological history. Experts responded that Manhattan consists of exposed bedrock in existence far longer than Long Island. They further indicated Long Island is mostly loose sand and separated from the mainland by a series of complex tidal straights, none of which are man made.

With all due respect to Justice Blackmun and the other Justices sitting on the Supreme Court when this decision was rendered, it is my considered opinion that I reside on an island. Do you agree?

By CAROL MCKENNA

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# PANORAMA

Valley Stream Historical Society



Volume XXX, No. 7

May, 2003

## PAGAN-FLETCHER RESTORATION

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### PROGRAM

May 21, 2003  
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church  
Brooklyn Avenue and 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Valley Stream, New York  
8:00 p.m.

#### "DON'T CALL US MOLLS: WOMEN OF THE JOHN DILLINGER GANG"

Ellen Poulsen, author of the above referenced publication, will be our speaker for the May meeting. Poulsen is the daughter of a New York City police officer and did extensive research in libraries as far west as San Francisco. She compiled a newspaper archive through travel to Northwestern University and the Indiana State Library as well as spending immeasurable time in the Reading Room of FBI headquarters in Washington, D.C.

*Don't Call Us Molls* focuses on the women behind the gangsters of the 1930's. Paul Maccabee, author of *John Dillinger Slept Here: A Crooks' Tour of Crime and Corruption in St. Paul* refers to Poulsen's book as "an untold story of desperate romance, astonishing escapes, unspeakable brutality, covert abortions and intra-gang rivalries for the affection of men, both in and out of prison."

Refreshments will be provided by Grace Donley, Helen Dowdeswell and Marge Chvatal.

### ELECTIONS

At our May meeting, we will also hold elections. Following are the recommendations of the Nominating Committee:

President: Carol McKenna  
Vice President: Gabe Parrish  
Treasurer: Florence Gunther  
Corresponding Secretary: Agnes Libath  
Recording Secretary: Ruth Anholzer

#### Three Year Trustees

Barbara Ehlinger  
Stephanie Darcy  
Mary Ryder  
Pete Kaiser  
Florence Rothage

Thank you to Marge Chvatal and Florence Gunther who served as members of the Nominating Committee.

### CALENDAR

The Memorial Day Parade steps off on Monday, May 26, 2003, at 9:30 a.m. Marchers are to meet at the Wheeler Avenue School at Rockaway Parkway. Meghan Nolan, *Miss Long Island of 2003*, will be joining us in the line of march. Nolan is an accomplished actress and singer and is pursuing an undergraduate degree in English and Spanish Education at St. Joseph's College. She is the great niece of the Society's Chairman, Jim Buckley and his wife, Anita.

### ACQUISITIONS

Bob Bogle, Village Justice, co-author of *Village, Town & District Courts in N.Y.*, recently gifted the Society with the eight edition of this legal handbook on local Court practice. On request, he also consented to autograph it. Thank you, Bob.

### SOCIETY'S 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

A committee comprised of Karen Selah, Valerie Esposito, Marge Chvatal, Florence Gunther, Hank Selah and Carol McKenna has been formed to plan the Society's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. The date has been set for September 14 with a raindate of September 21, 2003. The celebration will be held on the grounds of the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration.

### CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Society needs tour guides for the Restoration. Please call Agnes Libath at (516) 825-2759 to volunteer your services. Training and support are available for those who have not served as guides. It's great fun meeting new people.



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April SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS

Did you know that flowers have a language of their own referred to as floriography?

During the Victorian era, flowers were used everywhere – hair, clothing, jewelry and men's lapels to name a few. A gentleman could please or displease a lady by a gift of flowers. Flowers conveyed messages by type, size, how they were held or grouped together. If they were presented in an upright position, they indicated "positive thought." If presented with the right hand, the response was affirmative, with the left – negative. Woe to the left-handed gentleman.

Tussie Mussies were popular gifts during this era. They were small bouquets of flowers wrapped in a lace doily and tied with satin. Often they carried secret messages.

Below are some of the writer's favorites with their meanings:

Baby's Breath – innocence, pure of heart.  
Calla Lily – magnificent beauty  
Daffodil (yellow) – chivalry  
Gardenia – you're lovely, secret love, purity, refinement  
Hyacinth (blue) – consistency  
Hydrangea – thank you for understanding, frigidity, heartlessness  
Rose (yellow) joy, jealousy, friendship

As you can see, flowers can have a myriad of meanings. Floriography is a most interesting subject.

MOTHER'S DAY

Nearly 150 years ago, Anna Jarvis organized a day to raise awareness of poor health conditions where she resided in Appalachia. It was called "Mother's Work Day." She believed this cause would best be advocated by mothers. Julia Ward Howe, 15 years later, organized a day encouraging mothers to rally for peace as women felt the loss of human life more keenly than males.

Anna Jarvis died in 1905; her daughter (also named Anna) began a campaign to memorialize her mother's work by lobbying prominent people like John Wannamaker and Presidents Taft and Roosevelt to create a day to celebrate motherhood. At a service in 1908 to commemorate her mother, she handed out white carnations (a favor of her mother's). Five years later, the House of Representatives adopted a resolution for government officials to wear white carnations on Mother's Day. In 1914 President Wilson signed a bill recognizing Mother's Day as a national holiday. However, with the commercialization of Mother's Day, Jarvis' daughter, prior to her death in 1948, allegedly confessed she regretted starting the tradition.

By CAROL MCKENNA

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# PANORAMA

Volume XXX, No. 8

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June, 2003

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## PROGRAM

June 18, 2003

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church  
Brooklyn Avenue and 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Valley Stream, New York  
8:00 p.m.

### BITS AND PIECES OF NOSTALGIA AND STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

The Society's own Walter Harrod once again will jog our memories with bits and pieces of nostalgia.

Strawberries along with pound cake and ice cream will top off our last meeting of the 2002-2003 membership year. The cost is \$1.00 per person.

### SWEARING IN CEREMONY

At the June 18, 2003 meeting, the newly elected officers and trustees will be sworn in.

### MURALS

Arthur M. Haglich, a Valley Stream resident and professional photographer, has offered to photograph the murals showing the Village's history on the walls of the Astoria Federal Savings Bank branch located at South Franklin and West Hawthorne Avenues.

### RESTORATION UPDATE

A committee consisting of Jim Buckley, Ted Libath, Bill Vivencio, Walter Harrod, and Gabe Parrish planted about 125 to 150 plants on the grounds of the Restoration.

### RESTORATION LISTED

On page 166, under Storehouses of History in *Newsday's Fun Book 2003*, is the listing for the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration.

### HEAR YE! HEAR YE! CALLING ALL CENTRALITES

The Central High School Alumni Association is hosting the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Central High School on Saturday, October 9, 2004 at *The Sands*, Atlantic Beach, Long Island, New York. Volunteers are needed to help make this event a success.

## FATHER'S DAY

In 1909, Mother's Day was just gaining prominence in the United States when a woman by the name of Senora Louise Smart Dodd heard a sermon on putting aside a day to honor mothers. Inasmuch as her mother had passed away in childbirth and her father raised her and her five siblings, it was much more important to her to celebrate her father. Along with the efforts of the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA, on June 19, 1910, the first Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane, Washington. The official Father's Day flower is the rose. In 1972, President Nixon signed a proclamation declaring the third Sunday in June as Father's Day.

## THANKS

The Society is grateful to Village Trustee Joe Zabatta who has offered to repair and upholster two of the chairs on display in the Libath Meeting Room at the Restoration.



### SAY IT AIN'T SO



Although the game of baseball goes as far back as 1871, the World Series, as we know it today, was first played in 1903. The Boston Pilgrims (the Red Sox of yesteryear) played the Pittsburgh Pirates in a best of nine series. Cy Young pitched the first game for the Pilgrims, which they lost. The Pilgrims went on to win the World Series by winning five games against the Pirates' three wins.



## SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER



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BERTHA BALLOU

**TWO YEAR TRUSTEES**  
TONY MELILLO  
GABRIEL PARRISH  
RUTHANNE ZWARICO  
MARGE CHVATAL  
EILEEN BRENNAN

**ONE YEAR TRUSTEES**  
KAREN VITALE SELAH  
ANITA BUCKLEY  
WALTER HARROD  
GEORGE DONLEY  
WILLIAM VIVENZIO

**HONORARY TRUSTEES**  
HELEN DOWDESWELL  
TED LIBATH  
BERT KELLER  
CLAIRE McMAHON  
LILLIAN WEAVER  
EVELYN McQUADE

**BRING BACK THOSE LAZY, HAZY, CRAZY DAYS OF SUMMER**

By CAROL MCKENNA

The weather we have been having caused me to think about past summers. It brought to mind one in particular -- the summer before my junior year of high school. The popular song that year was sung by *Nat King Cole* and it was entitled *Those Lazy Hazy Crazy Days of Summer* with lyrics by Charles Tobias and music by Hans Castre. The song topped the charts at number 6, and unbelievably it has been forty years since that summer. I attended St. Joseph's High School in Brooklyn, where the entire student body was female. Our usual school outing was to Rye Playland in Westchester County. We all gathered at school for the bus trip to Rye. School policy dictated that we not wear shorts or slacks but skirts (thankfully, not our uniforms). My mother had sewn a pair of culottes for me. Did I get in trouble? Yes, I did. The nuns planned on sending me home, but then they relented. The prior year we had gone by ferry, which I prefer. The temperature was warm and not a cloud in the sky. Approximately 1,500 young women converged on the amusement park to take advantage of the rides and to eat junk food.



**Membership Form**

Valley Stream Historical Society  
P.O. Box 22, Valley Stream, NY 11582

**Expires June 2004**

Individual \$10, student \$2, contributing \$15, family \$15 (2 or more)  
Organizations, clubs, business, etc. \$25; tax exempt life gifts \$100.

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_

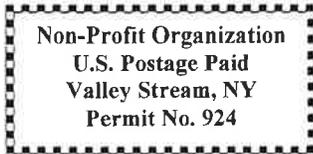
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_

Valley Stream Historical Society  
P.O. Box 22  
Valley Stream, NY 11582-0022



Mr. » William Stris  
41 Parkwold Drive East  
Valley Stream, NY 11580

# PANORAMA

Volume XXXI, No. 1

VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

September, 2003

## PAGAN-FLETCHER RESTORATION

143 HENDRICKSON AVENUE, VALLEY STREAM, NY ♦ (516) 872-4159 ♦ FAX: (516) 599-7069  
<http://www.nassaulibrary.org/vallevst/vshist.html> ♦ [VSHistorical@earthlink.net](mailto:VSHistorical@earthlink.net)

## PROGRAM

September 17, 2003  
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church  
Brooklyn Avenue and 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Valley Stream, New York  
8:00 p.m.

## AVIATION ON LONG ISLAND

Slide Show and Lecture by James Kovarsick

Mr. Kovarsick is an acknowledged expert on aviation history on Long Island.

Desserts will be provided by Florence Gunther Marge Chvatal and Ruthanne Zwarico.

## WHAT A STORM!

It has been 65 years this month since the *Long Island Express*, as the Hurricane of 1938 came to be called, hit Long Island. It created Shinnecock Inlet and widened Moriches Inlet causing changes to the South Shore, which continue today. Certain statistics are listed below

- Peak Steady Winds – 121 mph
- Peak Gust – 186 mph at Blue Hill Observatory, MA
- Lowest Pressure – 27.94 in (946.2 mb) at Bellport, NY
- Peak Storm Surge – 17 ft. above normal high tide RI
- Peak Wave Length – 50 ft. at Gloucester, MA
- Deaths 700 (600 in New England)
- Homeless – 63,000
- Homes/Buildings Destroyed – 8,900
- Boats Lost – 3,300
- Trees – 2 billion (approx.)
- Cost – \$6.2 Million (1938) \$15 Billion (1998 adjusted)



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Halloween Costume Contest will be held on October 26, 2003. Look to the October issue of *Panorama* for more details.

## CONDOLENCES

Condolences to the families of Jim Boerckel and Margaret Cook, both of whom passed away this past June.

## SILVER JUBILEE

The Franklin Square Historical Society will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Thursday, April 29, 2004 with a dinner at the Plattdeutsch.

## RECOGNITION

The Central High School Board passed a resolution to name an alumni scholarship in honor of Bert Keller. Henceforth it will be called the Bert Keller Scholarship in the Performing Arts. Keller was an assistant principal and a drama director at Central High School. We are proud to add that he is a life member/Honorary Trustee of the Historical Society.

## CENTRALITES

Please volunteer to help make the Diamond Jubilee of Central High School a success on October 9, 2004. Contact Irene Gerbino Sarro '51 at [iveasar@optonline.net](mailto:iveasar@optonline.net) (516) 678-4975, Joan Rage Muller '52 at [vscalumni@aol.com](mailto:vscalumni@aol.com) (516) 872-3028, or Craig Edelson '02 at [Craigger4eva@aol.com](mailto:Craigger4eva@aol.com) (516) 377-7066.



## THERE IS STILL TIME

For those of you who would like to join with the Association of Public Historians of New York State at the Cradle of Aviation on October 20, 2003, reservations are being accepted. The cost for the event is \$50.00 per person. Please contact Carol McKenna at (516) 825-2490 if you have any interest in attending.

## MEMBERSHIP

This is a friendly reminder for those of you who have not yet paid your dues for 2003-2004. The form appears on the reverse side of *Panorama*. Thank you.

**Valley Stream  
Historical Society  
Officers**

**CHAIRMAN**  
JAMES E. BUCKLEY

**PRESIDENT**  
CAROL MCKENNA

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
GADE PARRISH

**TREASURER**  
FLORENCE GUNTHER

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**  
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LILLIAN WEAVER  
EVELYN MCQUADE

**Preservation - Always an Issue**  
By: Carol McKenna

This month the Valley Stream Historical Society celebrates thirty years of activism in preserving the history of our community.

Preservation has become a minefield, not only for historical societies and preservationists, but also at the government level. We are being asked to consider the question - is this worth saving? Not everything that is old is worth salvaging. Did I open a can of worms? Of course, I did. I believe the more important question is whether the building (or whatever is coming under scrutiny for consideration as a landmark) is unique. For example, let us consider the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration in the writer's adopted hometown. Was it worth the effort? An unqualified YES!

Here we have a residence where both the Pagans and the Fletchers lived. Each family played an important role in our community's beginnings. It is so very important for the young generation of today, newcomers to our village of all ages and the generations yet-to-be-born, to understand how our village evolved from the farming community it once was. It is also important for them to understand that Green Acres was not always a mall but an important airfield named Curtiss Field. This is particularly true in light of Long Island's contributions to the history of aviation in this country and the fact that we will be celebrating 100 years of flight in December, 2003.

Archives at the Restoration by way of photographs and documents reflect the changes in Valley Stream and our colorful history. For this and so many other reasons, preservation of our wonderful Restoration is essential. And The National Trust for Historic Preservation recommends ten simple ways to preserve historic places in our communities. Their suggestions follow:

1. Explore your family's history.
2. Walk or bike.
3. Shop on Main Street.
4. Tour your hometown.
5. Read all about it.
6. Entertain yourself surrounded by history.
7. Join an organization - even better, more than one, dedicated to preservation.
8. Sleep in an historic place.
9. Ask your neighbors about your neighborhood.
10. Visit some sacred history.



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Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_

Valley Stream Historical Society  
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Mr. William Stris  
41 Parkwold Drive East  
Valley Stream, NY 11580

# PANORAMA

Valley Stream Historical Society

Volume XXXI, No. 2

October, 2003

## PAGAN-FLETCHER RESTORATION

143 Hendrickson Avenue, Valley Stream, NY ♦ (516) 872-4159 ♦ FAX: (516) 599-7069

<http://www.nassaulibrary.org/valleyst/vshist.html>

### NEXT MEETING:

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church  
Brooklyn Avenue and 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Valley Stream, New York  
Wednesday, October 15, 2003  
7:00 P.M.



### Covered Dish Supper

Join the Society at its annual Covered Dish Supper. The doors of the church will open at 6:15 p.m. Members and guests are invited to a wine and cheese social. Supper will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Dishes should be brought according to the first initial of your last name as indicated below:

**A-E:** Dairy-type foods, eggs, cheese, gelatins, fruit, fish (hot and cold)

**F-J:** Desserts

**K-O:** "Starchy" type foods, hot or cold such as rice, beans, potatoes, pasta, etc.

**P-Z:** Vegetables such as salads (tossed or otherwise) or casseroles. If you bring a tossed salad, please provide dressing.

### Do Not Bring Meat Or Meat Content Dishes.

The Society will provide these items as well as bread, butter, tea, and coffee.

A donation of \$5.00 will be collected at the door.

Guests are welcome but we ask that they bring dishes in accordance with the requirements listed above. Members are asked to provide a dish if their guests are unable to do so.

### Halloween Costume Contest

Our Halloween Costume Contest will be held at the Restoration on Sunday, October 26, 2003. The Ragamuffin Parade will start at 3:00 p.m. Costumes will be judged and prizes will be awarded for both children's and adults' costumes.



### CONTRIBUTIONS

A copy of Stan Fischler's book entitled: *The Subway A Trip Through Time on New York's Rapid Transit*, published in 1997, has been contributed to the Henry Waldinger Library by the Society.



### ERRATA

There were two errors in people's names connected with Central High School's Diamond Jubilee. Joan Miller's middle name is **Ruge**, not **Rage**, as reported and Craig's last name is **Edelman**, not Edelson, as reported. Thank you, Barbara Ehlinger.

### Happy New Year!

Rosh Hashanah has a fourfold meaning, the New Year, the Day of Judgment, the Day of Remembrance and the Day of Shofar Blowing. To our members and neighbors who celebrate Rosh Hashanah, the Society wishes them a happy and healthy New Year.

### CRADLE OF AVIATION

To celebrate the centennial of flight, the Cradle of Aviation is offering a series of four lectures. The first lecture is on Friday, October 24, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. and features Fred Wallace Haise, Jr., a former astronaut, whose topic is *Failure is Not an Option*. The cost is \$10.00 per lecture. For more information, call (516) 572-4066.



### REMINDER

If you have not paid your dues for 2003-2004, this is your last issue of *Panorama*.



# Be Afraid - Be Very Afraid

By: Carol McKenna

Did you ever wonder if there are any sites on Long Island where there have been claims of sightings of ghosts? The most famous story, of course, is the Amityville Horror House where evil voices were rumored to have forced a man to murder his family. Enumerated below are other locations rumored to be haunted:

- ⊙ Reid's Ice Cream Factory (Blue Point)—haunted by a Go Go Dancer and a little boy. The dancer was murdered at the factory but no one has any knowledge of the reason for the haunting by the boy.
- ⊙ Normandy Inn (Bohemia)—a female strangled to death haunts the Inn.
- ⊙ Centereach High School track—haunted since 1997 by a man who was shot while running.
- ⊙ Wickham Farmhouse (Cutchogue)—James and Frances Wickham were hacked to death by an insane farmhand in 1854 and the house has been haunted since that time.
- ⊙ Fire Island Lighthouse (Fire Island Isle)—prior to the lighthouse being renovated its caretaker hung himself.
- ⊙ King's Park Psychiatric Center (King's Park)—souls of individuals supposedly tortured haunt the center.
- ⊙ Laurel Lake (Laurel)—the woods surrounding the lake are said to be haunted by the ghost of an angry man.
- ⊙ Raynham Hall (Oyster Bay)—the Hall has the largest number of ghosts - ranging from British soldiers to Irish immigrants.
- ⊙ Winfield Hall (Oyster Bay)—haunted by a former owner and his daughter - once the home of F. W. Woolworth.
- ⊙ Devil's Gate (Port Jefferson)—a boarding house supposedly haunted by former visitors.
- ⊙ Popper Poltergeist (Seaford)—site of one of the most famous poltergeist cases in history (1958).
- ⊙ Country House Restaurant (Stony Brook)—haunted by a woman who was hung as a spy during the Revolutionary War.
- ⊙ Morgan Hall (Glen Cove)—haunted by the ghost of Alice Morgan, daughter of the famous financier J. P. Morgan who owned the property.
- ⊙ Sweet Hollow Road/Mt. Misery (Huntington)—a stretch of road with a spooky history.
- ⊙ Six Corners School (Westhampton)—it is rumored that an unknown presence lurks in the halls.
- ⊙ Swezy Avery House (Yaphank)—alarms and lights going on and off when no one is home.

On October 31 when your doorbell rings, be careful opening the door. You might find Jason or Chucky on the other side!

## Valley Stream Historical Society Officers

<b>CHAIRMAN</b> JAMES E. BUCKLEY	<b>PRESIDENT</b> CAROL MCKENNA	<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b> GABE PARRISH	<b>TREASURER</b> FLORENCE GUNTHER
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41 Parkwold Drive East  
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# PANORAMA

Valley Stream Historical Society

Volume XXXI, No. 3

November, 2003

## PAGAN-FLETCHER RESTORATION

143 HENDRICKSON AVENUE, VALLEY STREAM, NY ♦ (516) 872-4159 ♦ FAX: (516) 599-7069

<http://www.nassaulibrary.org/vallevst/vshist.html>

### PROGRAM

November 19, 2003 at 8:00 p.m.  
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church  
Brooklyn Avenue and 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Valley Stream, New York

### BROOKLYN TROLLEYS FROM THE 30s TO THE 50s

Presented by: H. Warren Hiltonsmith

Trolleys once were the mode of transportation in New York City. During the 1930s, they were seen as an impediment to cars and buses and gradually phased out. In the 1990s, there were a few remaining trolley stations/terminals. One was at the foot of the Queensborough Bridge in Queens. The most ornate was at Grand Army Plaza. It sported Doric columns and marble work. Another station served Roosevelt Island. Bergen Beach and Essex Street were two other terminal locations.

(Refreshments will be provided by Karen Selah, Marge Chvatal, and Carol McKenna.)



### GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST AND BAKE SALE

The Society will hold its annual Gingerbread House Contest and Bake Sale on Sunday, December 7, 2003. The Pagan-Fletcher Restoration will open at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday to accept entries. Call Carol McKenna at 825-2490 with any questions prior to December 7, 2003. Call 872-4159 with questions on the day of the contest. The Society needs baked goods for its bake sale. Please consider donating.



### ARTIST AT WORK

Hans Semder will demonstrate how to decorate a gingerbread house on Sunday, December 7, 2003 at 2:00 p.m.

### PASSINGS

The Society announces the passing of Henry Krooss. Henry served the Society as

its photographer from time to time and recently donated the collection of photographs he had taken of Society events. Dorothy Sheridan, a long-time member of the Society, also passed away recently.

### EMPIRE STATE CAROUSEL

Imagine a museum that you can ride—Long Island has one—the Empire State Carousel located in the Holtsville Ecology Center and Animal Preserve. Over 1,000 volunteers consisting of carvers, quilters, woodworkers, and others from the State were involved in the project. The museum itself was established in 1984 with a mission to create and exhibit a full-size, hand-carved merry-go-round with a New York State theme.

The carousel contains 25 hand-carved animals, all of which are native; 14 historical, hand-painted murals; 8 hand-carved folklore panels; 3 benches, 12 hand-carved regional frames. It also contains a hand organ with 3-foot high carvings of George M. Cohan, John Philip Sousa, and Irving Berlin. Pennants for the 62 counties fly along the top. There are three dozen miniature quilts made by individuals and quilting societies based on local landmarks. One hundred thirty two hand-carved buildings are mounted on the top edge representing the 5 major cities in the State. The carousel also contains the State's map, seal, symbols, and songbirds. There is a title quilt measuring 3 feet by 5 feet containing the message: *Made in New York, By New Yorkers, For New Yorkers. Thank you, Eileen Brennan.* (For more information: [www.empirestatecarousel.org](http://www.empirestatecarousel.org).)



Happy Thanksgiving

Valley Stream  
Historical Society  
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PRESIDENT  
CAROL MCKENNA

VICE PRESIDENT  
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BERT KELLER  
CLAIRE McMAHON  
LILLIAN WEAVER  
EVELYN McQUADE

## The Soldier

**A Valley Stream Soldier Lost His Life Defending  
Our Freedom**

**It is the soldier, not the reporter,  
who has given us freedom of the press.**

**It is the soldier, not the poet,  
who has given us freedom of speech.**

**It is the soldier, not the campus organizer,  
who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.**

**It is the soldier, not the lawyer,  
who has given us the right to a fair trial.**

**It is the soldier, like Private First Class Michael John  
Abruzzesa Jr., 24, US Army, who salutes  
the flag, who serves under the flag,  
and whose coffin is draped by the flag,  
who allows the protester to burn the flag.**

**On 7 September 1968, At Quang Duc, South Vietnam  
(4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Div.)**



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MSgt Roy F. Woods, USAF (Ret.)



## VETERAN'S DAY

An unknown World War I American soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery in 1921. Similar ceremonies took place in England and France. All took place on November 11 and memorialized the end of World War I on November 11 at 11:00 a.m. (the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month). By Congressional resolution passed in 1926, November 11 became known as Armistice Day. Twelve years later by Congressional resolution it became a national holiday. In 1954, then President Eisenhower signed a bill declaring November 11 as Veteran's Day to honor those who had served in World War II and the Korean Conflict. On Memorial Day in 1958, two additional unknown Americans who lost their lives were interred in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier; one was a veteran of World War II and the other of the Korean Conflict. In 1984, an unknown soldier from the Vietnam War was interred at the site, as well. The 3<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Infantry (a/k/a The Old Guard) keeps watch day and night.

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# ❧ Panorama ❧

## Valley Stream Historical Society

Pagan Fletcher Restoration

143 Hendrickson Avenue, Valley Stream, NY ♦ (516) 872-4159 ♦ FAX: (516) 599-7069

Volume XXXI, No. 4

<http://www.nassaulibrary.org/valleyst/vshist.html>

Dec. '03-Jan. '04

### Program

January 21, 2004 at 8:00 p.m.  
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church  
Brooklyn Avenue and 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Valley Stream, New York

### Old Valley Stream

Presented by: James E. Buckley  
Jim Buckley, who serves as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Society, will present a slide lecture on scenes from the past from the Society's archives.

Jim is a native Valley Streamer. Outside of a period of three and one-half years, when he served our country during World War II, he has lived in the community since his birth. He retired from Hendrickson Brothers after an illustrious career.

(Refreshments will be provided by Ruthanne Zwarico, Dorothy Vitale, and Adele Hagmann.)

### Tis Not Just The Season Of Giving But Also Thanking

The Society wishes to thank Mamie Eng for all of the assistance she has given us in the past. Mamie serves as library consultant to the Society. She and her staff are responsible for maintaining and lending to the public the oral histories that have been recorded by the Society.

The Society wishes to acknowledge that Master Sergeant Roy F. Woods, U.S.A.F. (Ret.) graciously consented to the publication of *The Soldier* which appeared in the November, 2003 edition of *Panorama*.

Thank you, Hans Semder, for once again demonstrating how to decorate a gingerbread house. Hans is truly gifted and we appreciate his yearly appearances on Gingerbread House Sunday.

### Passings

Genevieve Elderkin MacLean passed away suddenly on November 24, 2003. She was a graduate of Central High School and had

served as Clerk and Deputy Clerk for the Village of Valley Stream. Gen also served as a member of the committee that was established to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Brooklyn Avenue School.

### Anniversary

Memorial Junior High School celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on November 10. The school was dedicated on November 11, 1953 (originally called Armistice Day). The doors were officially opened in December, 1952. In 1953 it was dedicated to the students of the Valley Stream Central High School who served in World War II and to the 37 who lost their lives.

### Seasonal Traditions



*Poinsettias* are named after Joel Poinsett who was our first ambassador to Mexico. He brought the plants to the United States in 1928. The Mexicans believed them to be symbolic of the Star of Bethlehem.



*Christmas trees* originated in Germany in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century and were brought to the United States in the 1820's by the Pennsylvania Germans. Martin Luther is credited with decorating his tree with candlelight. The Germans decorated their trees with roses, apples and colored paper.



*Candy Canes* have been around for centuries but in 1900 they were decorated with red stripes and bent into the shape of a cane. One story about the cane which cannot be substantiated is that a candy maker in Illinois used it to reflect the meaning of Christmas. The plain white stick symbolizes purity and Jesus' sinless nature; 3 small stripes symbolize the pain inflicted upon him as well as the Holy Trinity. He added a bold stripe to represent the blood Jesus had shed. If you hold the cane upside down, it becomes the letter "J."

# Valley Stream Historical Society

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James E. Buckley

### President

Carol McKenna

### Vice President

Gabe Parish

### Treasurer

Florence Gunther

### Corresponding Secretary

Agnes Libath

### Recording Secretary

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Adele Melillo

Adele Hagmann

Ruthanne Zwarico

Marge Chvatal

Eileen Brennan

### Honorary Trustees

Helen Dowdeswell

Ted Libath

Bert Keller

Claire McMahon

Lillian Weaver

Evelyn McQuade

## Seasonal Traditions (continued)



*Evergreens* were considered as a natural symbol of rebirth and life during the long, cold dark winter. Holly was used to decorate doors, windows and fireplaces and because of its prickliness was thought to ward off and capture evil spirits before they could enter or harm a household.



*Chanukah* is the Jewish festival of rededication, has its roots in a revolution against assimilation and suppression of the Jewish religion. Its story begins with Alexander the Great who conquered Syria, Egypt and Palestine but allowed them to retain a certain amount of autonomy. One of his successors, Antiochus IV, began to oppress the Jews in the region (including desecrating and slaughtering pigs on the altar of the Temple). He was opposed by two groups – Mattathias the Hasmonean and his son, Judah Maccabee and the Chasidim, the forerunners of the Pharisees. The revolution succeeded. At the rededication of the Temple there was only oil left for one night. The oil burned, however, for eight days and a festival was created to celebrate this event.



*Kwanzaa* is an African American celebration and not a religious holiday. It was created by Dr. Maulana "Ron" Karenga in 1966. He sought to establish a holiday that would honor the values of ancient African cultures and inspire African Americans. There are seven principles involved: Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self determination), Ujamaa (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Nia (a sense of purpose), Kuumba (creativity) and Umani (faith). Three colors dominate. Green for the fertile land of Africa, black for the color of the people and red for the blood shed in the struggle for freedom. Seven symbols represent Kwanzaa: kikombe cha umoja (the unity cup), kinara (the candleholder with seven candles), mazao (fruits, nuts and vegetables), mishumaa saba (seven candles representing the seven principles), mkeka (mat), vibunzi (ear of corn) and zawadi (gifts.). Kwanzaa comes from the Swahili language, the language of the majority of the people of Africa.

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