

PANORAMA

Valley Stream Historical Society

Volume XXXI, No. 5

February 2004

PAGAN-FLETCHER RESTORATION

143 Hendrickson Avenue, Valley Stream, NY ♦ (516) 872-4159 ♦ Fax: (516) 599-7069
<http://www.nassaulibrary.org/valleyst/vshist.html>

PROGRAM

February 18, 2004 at 8:00 p.m.
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Brooklyn Avenue and 7th Street
Valley Stream, New York



LONG ISLAND SODA, BEER
AND MINERAL WATER BOTTLES



Presented by: George Fisher

Did you know there are many factors that determine the age of a bottle? Shape, base and lip are among three of the aspects taken into consideration.

Beer was brewed and bottled in ancient times making beer bottles among the oldest. Soda and mineral water was not manufactured or bottled until the end of the 18th Century. Man has always been looking for a better mousetrap, but since bottles have been in use, man has also been looking for a better stopper. Early stoppers were leather or any soft material that could be pushed into the lip of a bottle. Cork was eventually used and oft times tar or pitch was applied to the cork to help seal it.

The collecting of old bottles has such interest that there is a National Federation of Bottle Clubs.



Please note that Mr. Fisher is looking for a bottle produced by the Landgrebe Family. If you have one, please bring it with you to the meeting. Mr. Fisher will also evaluate old bottles as a courtesy.

(Refreshments will be provided by John W. Mahoney, Valerie Esposito, and Evelyn McQuade.)

PASSINGS

Rita Schneider, a member of the Valley Stream Historical Society, passed away in August, 2003 at the age of 90. She was a member of Central High School Class of 1930.

GEORGE IS BACK

Come to the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration on Sunday, February 15, 2004 between the hours of 1:00 p.m. an 4:00 p.m. to see a genuine

piece of Washington memorabilia. Members will be dressed in costumes and refreshments will be provided.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The winners of our Gingerbread House Contents in December, 2003 were:

First Prize: Girl Scout Troop 2034
Second Prize: Brownie Troop 2011
Third Prize: James A. Dever School Brownie Troop 2394

The First Candlelight Tour of the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration was held on December 28, 2003. Guests brought canned goods for the food pantry at Holy Name of Mary Church.

Please note that due to the Lenten Season, the March general membership meeting of the Society will be held on Thursday, March 18, 2004.

CRADLE of AVIATION

Why Wilbur and Orville

The third in a series of four lectures will be held on March 25, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. The speaker will be Dr. Tom D. Crouch, who is the Senior Curator of the Division of Aeronautics at the National Air and Space Museum. Call 516-572-4066 for more information.

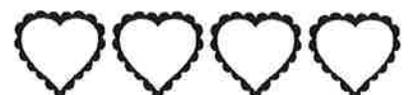
CALENDAR



The Society will host an **art show** for students of the Valley Stream High School District on Sunday, March 21, 2004 between the hours of 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.



The **Victorian Tea** is scheduled for Saturday, April 24, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$15.00. For reservations, call Marge Chvatal at 825-0324.



**VALLEY STREAM
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
OFFICERS**

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Carol McKenna

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Gabe Parrish

TREASURER
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Agnes Libath

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Ruth Anholzer

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TRUSTEES**
Barbara Ehlinger
Stephanie Darcy
Mary Ryder
Pete Kaiser
Florence Rothage

**TWO-YEAR
TRUSTEES**
Hank Selah
Robert Presbrey
Jack Mahoney
Valerie Esposito
Bertha Ballou

**ONE-YEAR
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Adele Melillo
Adele Hagmann
Ruthanne Zvarico
Marge Chvatal
Eileen Brennan

**HONORARY
TRUSTEES**
Helen Dowdeswell
Ted Libath
Bert Keller
Claire McMahon
Lillian Weaver
Evelyn McQuade

G.W. AND A.L.

In February we remember the birthdays of two of our Presidents whose terms of office occurred during periods of great conflict for our country.



George Washington was born to a Virginia family in 1732. He had two interests – military arts and western expansion. At the age of 16 he assisted in the survey of Shenandoah lands for Lord Fairfax. He fought in the French and Indian Wars. For the period 1759 through the American Revolution he managed his lands in Mount Vernon and served in the House of Burgesses. In May 1775, at the Second Continental Congress he was elected Commander in Chief of the Continental Army and on July 3, 1775 took command of his troops – a role that was to last 6 years. He developed the strategy of harassing the British rather than engaging in an action with ill prepared troops. In 1781 Cornwallis surrendered to Washington at Yorktown.

After the Revolutionary War Washington became a prime mover and at the Constitutional Convention at Philadelphia in 1787 he was unanimously elected President. While President he chose to remain neutral during the conflict between France and England.

Less than 3 years after his retirement, he died of a throat infection on December 14, 1799.



Abraham Lincoln was born in Hardin County, Kentucky on February 12, 1809 to parents originally from Virginia. His parents moved when he was 8 to Indiana. Lincoln worked on a farm, split rails for fences and kept store. He loved to read and preferred learning to physical labor. He served the country in the Black Hawk War. For a period of 8 years he was a member of the Illinois legislature. In 1846 he was elected to the House of Representatives but returned home after one term. In 1858 he ran against Stephen A. Douglas for Senator, but lost. Four years later he was nominated by the Republican Party as their candidate for President.

Among his better known achievements was the Emancipation Proclamation.

He won re-election in 1864 as Union troops brought an end to the war between the states. On April 14, 1865 his life was cut short by a bullet.

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

**Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Valley Stream, NY
Permit No. 924**

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

☞ PANORAMA ☞

Valley Stream Historical Society

VOLUME XXXI, No. 6

MARCH, 2004

PAGAN-FLETCHER RESTORATION

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FAMOUS PEOPLE I HAVE MET

Presented by: Evelyn McQuade

Ms. McQuade was employed by The Harvard Club. Ms. McQuade is an Honorary Trustee of the Society and in the past served as editor of *Panorama*.

The Harvard Club of New York City (the "Club") was incorporated on April 16, 1887. Its first meeting was held at the Mercantile Library Building on Astor Place. Four members attended. In early 1887 the Club signed a lease on a 4 story brownstone at 11 West 22nd St. and converted it into a facility with 10 bedrooms, a restaurant and rooms where members could read, smoke and talk.

By 1888 membership grew to 531. Other clubs were moving to 43rd and 44th Streets and the Club purchased land at 27 W. 44th Street. Charles F. McKim was the architect on the project and, rather than construct a building in the style we identify with Stratford-On-Avon as requested, he chose a Neo-Georgian style.

In 1894 the club was built (by this time the Club had also purchased the land at 29 West 44th Street) consisting of 3 stories which included a kitchen in the cellar, a dining room on the first floor and meetings rooms on the second and third floors. In 1905 an addition was built containing a Grill Room, a new library, a meeting room, a billiard room and two floors of bedrooms. Ten years later a seven story tower was built. A bar along with a formal dining room, additional banquet rooms, additional bedrooms, squash courts and a swimming pool (called the Plunge) were added. Elevators were installed together with a boiler for steam heat.

During World War II the demand for lodging was so great that the Club floored over the Plunge to create dormitory space where members could rent a cot. The clubhouse was one of the first buildings to be named a New York City landmark because of its architectural beauty.

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

PASSINGS

Dorothy Stromberg Pupke, Central High School Class of 1942, has passed away. Mrs. Pupke was a member of the Society. Readers of *Alumni Crier* will remember that she was honored

by Central High School principal, Joseph Pompilio, during American Education Week (Nov. 2003) for her "steady words of wisdom and encouragement to students of Central and neighboring schools."



CALENDAR

Just a reminder that the Society will host an Art Show exhibiting the creative talents of Central High School District students at the Restoration on Sunday, March 21, 2004, between the hours of 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. There is no fee but donations will be gratefully appreciated.



The Victorian Tea is scheduled for Saturday, April 24, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. The Society needs loans of 8 teapots, 8 tablecloths (cloth only), cloth napkins, tier dishes, 40 small dishes to accommodate clotted cream, jams, jellies, marmalade, butter and lemon slices, 8 sugar/creamers, sandwiches and desserts. Please call Marge Chvatal at 825-0324 and advise her which of the above items you wish to donate.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

In 1911 Europe celebrated March 8 as International Women's Day. Women's rights were a hot topic and winning the right to vote was a priority. Two catastrophic events served to put women's rights on the back burner – the Depression and World War II. In the 1960's interest in women's rights resurrected. In 1978 the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (Ca.) Commission undertook to celebrate Women's History Week which coincided with International Women's Day. In 1981 the US Congress passed a resolution establishing National Women's History Week and six years later expanded the week to a month.

In 1903 two years after the Nobel Foundation was established, Marie Sklodowska Curie won in the field of Physics and in 1911 in the field of Chemistry. Women have won prizes in all categories except one – Economics. Eleven women have been awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace whereas nine women have won in the field of Literature.

Dr. Natalic A. Naylor, who has presented programs for the Society, has been named, along with three other individuals by The League of Women Voters of Nassau County as a Nassau Woman of Distinction for 2004. We extend our congratulations to this most accomplished woman.

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Alphonse Maynerik



IRISH FAIRIES



The name leprechaun may have derived from the Irish words leath bhrogan (shoemaker) or luacharma'n (pygmy). They are the self-appointed guardians of old treasure burying it in crocks. They tend to avoid humans because we are seen as foolish, flighty and greedy. As legend goes, if a leprechaun is caught by a human, he will promise great riches if allowed to go free. He carries two leather pouches – one with a silver shilling which returns to the pouch each time it is paid out, and in the other a gold coin which turns to leaves or ashes once it leaves the leprechaun's possession. There is another type of leprechaun called cluricauns which may steal or borrow anything. They have been known to raid wine cellars and larders during the night as well as harnessing sheep, goats, dogs and other animals for riding.

The Dullahan is a headless creature. He carries his head with him either on the saddle brow of his horse or upraised in his right hand. The head looks like stale dough or moldy cheese possessed of an idiotic grin and small, black eyes. The entire head glows and is used by the creature as a lantern. Wherever the dullahan stops, a mortal dies.

The Pooka is the most feared fairy in Ireland. It often appears in the guise of a sleek, dark horse which allows it to roam large areas at night. It tears down fences, terrorizes livestock and tramples crops. In County Down, it becomes a small, deformed goblin who demands a share of the crops. In County Laois, the Pooka is a huge hairy bogeyman; in Counties Waterford and Wexford, it appears as an eagle; in County Roscommon a black goat with curling horns.

Changelings may be one of three types: actual fairy children, senile fairies who are disguised as children or inanimate objects which take on the appearance of a child through magic. Fairy children who survive birth often are stunted or deformed. Adult fairies attempt to swap them with mortal children who are far more pleasing in appearance. Puckered and wizened features, yellow, parchment-like skin, very dark eyes, crooked backs and lame hands, are all characteristics of changelings. Changelings are found in poor households because they traditionally drain all of the good fortune that might come to the family.

Grogochs were originally half human, half-fairy aborigines. They resemble small, elderly men covered in coarse, dense reddish hair or fur. They don't wear clothes and are not noted for their personal hygiene. The Grogoch is impervious to hot or cold and has the power of invisibility. He is a very sociable creature.

A merrow is extremely beautiful, promiscuous and comes from the sea. She has feet that are flatter than a mortal and her hands have a thin webbing between the fingers. She has special clothing which enables her to travel through ocean currents and take on the appearance of a seal. In some parts of Ireland she is considered a messenger of death and doom.

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Non-Profit Organization
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Mr. William Stris
41 Parkwold Drive East
Valley Stream, NY 11580



PROGRAM

Wednesday, April 21, 2004, at 8:00 p.m.
 Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
 Brooklyn Avenue and 7th Street
 Valley Stream, New York

 **RADIO DAYS** 
 **A SLIDE/LECTURE PROGRAM** 

Presented by: Bob Raynor

Radio's demise, as we know, was precipitated by the invention of the television. While radio was popular, however, it offered a diversity of programs which appealed to a broad range of the country's population. *The Jack Benny Program* (1934), *Amos and Andy* (1928), *Easy Acres* (1930), *Fibber McGee and Molly* (1935), *Abbott and Costello* (1942) and *Will Rogers* (1931) provided the audience with an opportunity to laugh notwithstanding the fact that war clouds were gathering over Europe and we were attempting to pull ourselves out of a financial depression. Radio also provided us with entertainment by way of *Major Bowles and His Original Amateur Hour* (1935). Mystery/crime buffs had *Shadow* (1936), *Whistler* (1945) and *Johnny Dollar* (1949).

(Refreshments will be provided by Marion Raeder and Carol McKenna.)



LONG ISLAND'S VANISHING FARMLANDS

will be the topic of a program presented by The Friends of the East Rockaway Grist Mill Museum Historical Society, Inc., the Lynbrook Historical Committee and the Lynbrook Historical Society on Monday, April 19, 2004, at the Lynbrook Library on Carpenter Avenue and Eldert Street (one block south of Sunrise Highway) at 7:30 p.m. in the Library's meeting room.



The program is being presented by Dr. Frank Turano, a member of the faculty of Stonybrook University.

Gifts

The Society has been presented with a bequest under the Robert H. Sutter 2000 Revocable Trust.

Walter Facompre has presented the Society with a red jacket worn by staff when the Pavillon Royal served the community as a rink. The back of the jacket has a seal with a crown surrounded by the words *Pavillon Rollers*.

Paul van Wie, Ph.D., President of the Franklin Square Historical Society presented the Society with his work entitled: *The German Settlements of Nineteenth Century Long Island* inscribed, in part, "in recognition of thirty years of exemplary work in the preservation of our heritage."

Accolades

The Long Island Convention and Visitors Bureau and Sports Commission has cited the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration as one of the top attractions for 2004. The Society, in turn, must thank Valerie Esposito for all of her efforts in promoting the Restoration.



Happy Spring



Ah! Spring is here – when a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of love. Birds are singing (right outside your window when all you want to do is sleep especially during the weekends). Trees are beginning to bloom (a beautiful sight except for those who have allergies). Readers, rest assured, this is not a disparaging essay on Spring but rather a relief that we have yet survived another Winter and can look forward to warmer weather and all of the beauty provided by Mother Nature.



PESACH AND EASTER



The Society wishes our neighbors a most Happy Pesach and Joyous Easter.



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Alphonse Maynernik



April — NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

In 1996, the Academy of American Poets declared April to be National Poetry Month. There can be no better way to celebrate than by publishing one written by the late Helen Zang, poet laureate of the Society, on a subject near and dear to the Society.



VOLUNTEER



“One who has made an effort to give freely” is the definition of a true volunteer.

So to all who offered their time and services to the Restoration this past year.

Guiding a tour, part of a project, lending a hand, organizing and committees, too.

Inside, outside, upstairs and down, so much credit is due.

We honor all who help preserve the history of our beloved Valley Stream.

And all those who have had a part in fulfilling our long time dream.

Every little bit helps and when we needed you, you were there.

A friend in need is a friend indeed, folks like you do really care.

The hours you gave, a labor of love, mean much more than mere words can say.

Therefore we give you our love and sincerest thanks as we celebrate this special Volunteer Appreciation Day!

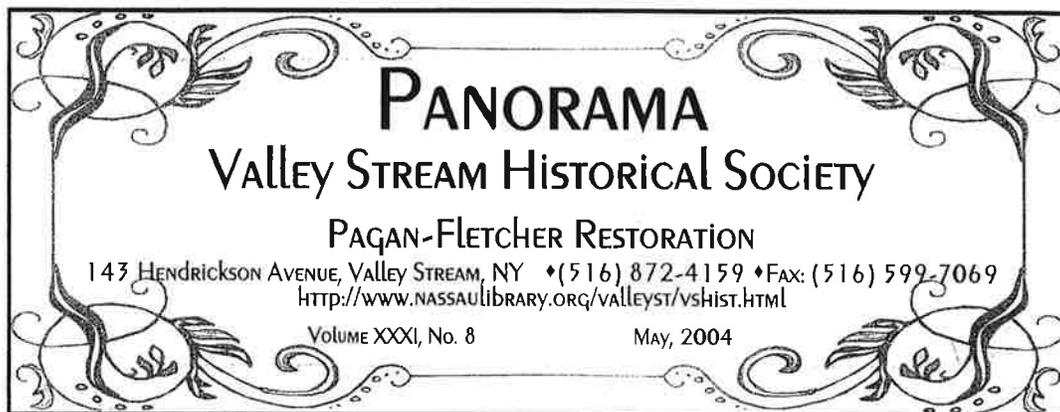
Editor's Note: Helen wrote and delivered this poem at an event the Society held in April, 1994 in appreciation of its volunteers.



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 Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
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Grist Mills A Slide/LECTURE PROGRAM



Presented by: Jerry Leeds

The grist mill is more than 250 years old and has many different uses. The mill was used to grind grains such as wheat, rye, oat and/or barley into flour and meal. The grist mill is also known as a custom mill. Custom mills operate seasonally with the harvest. They would grind grain for farmers and other individuals. The miller was paid for his services by collecting a toll which was a portion of the grain brought to the mill for grinding. The machinery used is rather simple – one pair of millstones (occasionally two pairs of millstones). Prior to the mills being built, grains were usually crushed by the use of crude mortars made from large logs with a burned-out cavity.

(Refreshments will be provided by Ruthanne Zwarico, Marge Chvatal and Agnes Libath.)

NOMINATIONS

The following individuals were nominated for the offices following their names:

- Bertha Ballou – *President*
- Gabriel Parrish – *Vice President*
- Florence Gunter – *Treasurer*
- Agnes Libath – *Corresponding Secretary*
- Ruth Anholzer – *Recording Secretary*

Three Year Trustees:

Anita Buckley, George Donley, Walter Harrod, Karen Selah, and William Vivencio

Elections will be held at the upcoming meeting on May 19, 2004.

INSIDE THE BLUE ANGELS

At the Cradle of Aviation on Thursday, May 20, 2004, at 7:30 p.m. Capt. Robert L. Rasmussen, USN will present a program on the Navy's precision flying team, the Blue Angels. Capt. Rasmussen joined the team in 1956 and flew with them for three years. For more information, call 516-572-4066.



Quilt Show



The Malverne Historical and Preservation Society is hosting a quilt show exhibiting the creations of Elaine Burns. The show will be held on Saturday, July 17, 2004 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and on Sunday, July 18, 2004 between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. The show will be held at the Joseph L. Landers Memorial Restoration, Ocean Avenue and Church Street, Malverne, NY. Donations are \$3.00; \$2.00 for seniors.

VOYAGE OF REMEMBRANCE

The Maritime Industry Museum's Slocum Centennial Committee is sponsoring two events. On Saturday, June 12, a boat will follow the course of the General Slocum to North Brother Island for a waterborne memorial and wreath laying. The boat will leave at 9:00 a.m. from the South Street Seaport Museum in Manhattan. The cost is \$35.00. On Sunday, June 13, 2004, at 9:00 a.m. the committee will unveil a plaque located on the building at 325 East 6th Street in Manhattan. For further information, please call 718-409-7218.



MEMORIAL DAY PARADE



The Society will be marching in the Memorial Day Parade to be held on Monday, May 31, 2004. Members are asked to present themselves at 9:00 a.m. at the parking lot of the Wheeler Avenue School on Rockaway Parkway.

On Saturday, May 29, 2004 at 11:00 a.m. there will be a ceremony at Central High School honoring students who have served their country.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Society extends its congratulations to Jim Darcy and Stephanie Darcy (trustee) on the birth of their second grandchild, Zoe Angelina.



MOTHER'S DAY

The Society wishes all mothers a happy Mother's Day.

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Alphonse Maynernik

UNUSUAL May Holidays

May 1 – Mother Goose and Save the Rhino Day
May 2 – Fire Day
May 3 – Lumpy Rug Day
May 4 – National Candied Orange Peel Day
May 5 – National Hoagie Day
May 6 – Beverage Day
May 7 – International Tuba, Paste Up and National Roast Leg of Lamb Day
May 8 – No Socks, Have a Coke Day
May 9 – Lost Sock Memorial Day
May 10 – Clean Up Your Room Day
May 11 – Eat What You Want and Twilight Zone Day
May 12 – Limerick Day
May 13 – Leprechaun Day
May 14 – National Dance Like a Chicken Day
May 15 – National Chocolate Chip Day
May 16 – Wear Purple for Peace Day
May 17 – Pack Rat Day and Visit Your Relatives Day
May 19 – Frog Jumping Jubilee Day
May 20 – Eliza Doolittle Day
May 21 – National Memo and National Waitress/Waiter Day
May 22 – Buy a Musical Instrument Day
May 23 – Penny Day
May 24 – National Escargot Day
May 25 – National Tap Dance Day
May 26 – Grey Day
May 27 – Body Painting Art Festival Day
May 28 – National Hamburger Day
May 29 – End of the Middle Ages Day
May 30 – My Bucket's Got a Hole In It Day
May 31 – National Macaroon Day



May Day

*Come all ye lads and lassies
Join in the festive scene
Come dance around the maypole
That will stand upon the green.*



On May Day ancient Romans marched in a procession to the grotto of Egena to conduct a celebration of the revival of vegetation. May Day was also called Beltane (Bright Fire) by the Anglo-Saxens and considered to be the first day of summer. The cow and bee were symbols based on the cow's ability to produce great amounts of milk and the bee's ability to create honey. Bonfires were built and people jumped over them or drove cattle through them. Bannocks were eaten (oak cakes) and a portion of the cake was either burned or marked with ashes. The individual receiving this piece was sacrificed. In more recent times, the recipient of the marked piece had to jump over a small fire three times. This practice was continued in Britain as late as the 18th Century. May 1 was also a day for outdoor festivals in England. All classes would rise at dawn and return laden with flowers and tree branches with which to decorate their homes. A Queen was crowned to reign over the festivities.



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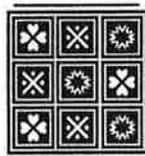


Please join us for strawberries, ice cream and cake plus Walter Harrod's walk down memory lane. The cost for the refreshments is \$1.00 per person.



SWEARING IN CEREMONY

The newly elected officers and trustees will be sworn in at the June 16, 2004 meeting.



Quilt Show

Just a reminder that the Malverne Historical and Preservation Society quilt show will be held on Saturday, July 17, 2004 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and on Sunday, July 18, 2004 between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the Joseph L. Landers Memorial Restoration, Ocean Avenue and Church Street, Malverne, NY. Donations are \$3.00; \$2.00 for seniors.



CURTAIN GOING UP

The Keynote Chorale will be performing songs from Broadway Shows on Saturday, June

12, 2004 at 8:00 p.m. at Grace Methodist Church. Cost of the tickets is \$5.00 per person.



FATHER'S DAY

The Society wishes all fathers a Happy Father's Day.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Oral History Committee of the Society needs volunteers to interview residents about their memories of Valley Stream. It is very important that the Society continues this vital service.

The Society also needs contributions of small card tables. If you have a card table to donate, please leave a message on the Society's telephone number (516) 872-4159.



CALENDAR

The Restoration will host a one-woman photography show by Jean Prytskacz on Sunday, July 18, and Sunday, July 25 between the hours of 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Prytskacz is a Valley Stream resident whose works have been exhibited in many places including the Henry Waldinger Memorial Library.

On Sunday, September 5, 2004, Mike Stanko will exhibit American Campaign Memorabilia at the Restoration. The hours for this exhibit are from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Stanko, a well-known artist, is a Valley Stream resident. There is no fee for the exhibit, but donations are welcome.

Summer is here yet again and the Society's 2003-2004 year has concluded. Have a fun filled, safe summer. We look forward to seeing you in September. Don't forget the **BIG REUNION** of Central High School in October.



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Lillian Weaver

Evelyn McQuade

Alphonse Maynernik



The History of Flag Day

In 1885, pupils in the Fredonia, Wisconsin Public School District 6 celebrated June 14 (108 years after the official adoption of the Stars and Stripes) as the Flag's birthday. The idea was conceived by BJ Cigrand, one of the district's teachers. Five years later, George Balch, an NYC teacher held a ceremony for his students and his idea was adopted by the State Board of Education of NY.

Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia held a Flag Day Celebration in 1891, and in 1892 so did the NY Society of the Sons of the Revolution. The Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames of America on April 25, 1893 adopted a resolution requesting that flags be displayed in Philadelphia on June 14, and on May 8 of that year the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution endorsed the resolution.

In 1894, the governor of NY directed that flags be displayed on all public buildings on June 14. In Illinois an organization known as the American Flag Day Association was formed in 1894 and the first general public school children's celebration of Flag Day in Chicago was held with more than 300,000 children participating.

In 1914, Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior, in a speech given at a Flag Day Celebration repeated words he said the flag had spoken to him that morning: "I am what you make me; nothing more. I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself."

Flag Day was established by President Wilson, by proclamation, on May 30, 1916 but it was not until August 3, 1949 under President Truman that an Act of Congress was signed designating June 14 of each year as National Flag Day.

Membership Form

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Expires June 2005

Individual \$10, Student \$2, Contributing \$15, Family \$15 (2 or more in family)
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Valley Stream, NY
Permit No. 924

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



PROGRAM

Wednesday, September 22, 2004, at 8:00 p.m.
 Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
 Brooklyn Avenue and 7th Street
 Valley Stream, New York

LONG ISLAND HARMONICA CLUB



The harmonica dates back to 1821 when a 16 year old clockmaker by the name of Christian Buschmann put together 15 pitchpipes. This unique invention was only four inches in diameter and height with 21 notes. It was named the mundaeline which is German for mouth harp. In 1857 another clockmaker named Matthias Hohner, having purchased a mouth harp, founded the company that bears his name and continues in existence today. In its first year, Hohner, his wife and another employee manufactured 650 mouth harps. It quickly found a market in the United States. When Lincoln was advised that Douglas was bringing a brass band to one of their debates, he responded by reaching into his pocket and saying "the harmonica will do it for me." Wyatt Earp, Billy the Kid and Frank James were all known to play the harmonica. In 1948 the American Federation of Musicians gave recognition to the harmonica by recognizing it as a legitimate instrument. Today Hohner produces over 90 different types of harmonicas.

Refreshments will be provided by Florence Gunther, Agnes Libath and Marge Chvatal.

AMERICAN AIRPOWER MUSEUM

The Museum is exhibiting a scale model diorama of the Republic Aviation Complex which occupied the site on which the Museum sits. The four by five foot model portrays the 500 acre site including the 400,000 square foot main assembly area. Over 9000 P-47 Thunderbolt aircraft were manufactured on this site during World War II. The model was created by three Long Island men. The Museum is located at 1230 New Highway, East Farmingdale, NY. For information and current hours, please call (631) 293-6398.

INFORMATION REQUESTED

Bill Stris, President of the Board of Education of the VS Central High School District, is looking for photographs of Valley Stream in the 1940's, photographs of school children and material, written or photographic regarding the Valley Stream Drive-In Theater on Sunrise Highway. If you have any photographs or the information requested by Mr. Stris, please be in contact with him at (516) 872-5602 (the telephone number for the Board of Education). Its address is One Kent Road, Valley Stream, New York 11580.

PASSINGS

The Society is saddened to report the loss of two of its members, Alfred (Kiki) Daries, Central High School Class of 1932 and Philomena Raeder, also Class of 1932.



ART SHOW



The Society is hosting an adult/mixed media art show at the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration on Sunday, September 19, 2004. Hours are 1:00 p.m. through 4:00 p.m. Admission is \$3.00. Join with us in appreciating the creativity of your neighbors.



LAST CALL



Requests for reservations for Central High School's "Diamond Jubilee" at The Sands in Atlantic Beach must be postmarked no later than September 17, 2004.



ROSH HASHANA



The Society wishes a Sweet and Happy 5765 to all members of the Valley Stream Jewish community.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Just a reminder that if you wish to receive the next issue of *Panorama*, you must send in your dues for the 2005-2005 membership year. Thank you.



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VICE PRESIDENT

Gabe Parrish

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Alphonse Maynernik

PANORAMA

Editor

Carol McKenna
Editorial Designer
Stephanie Darcy

WHO ARE WE AND WHAT ARE WE ABOUT

By: CAROL MCKENNA

The Valley Stream Historical Society (the "Society") was formed in January, 1973 with the express purpose of preserving the community's history. It is an organization comprised solely of volunteers with an abiding interest in the village and the high school district.

The Society's volunteers have expanded on the services they initially provided to Valley Stream. Certain of those services are listed below:

- Conducts interviews for its Oral History Program and provides the Henry Waldinger Memorial Library with copies of taped interviews for distribution.
- Provides slide shows of the history of Valley Stream to organizations as requested.
- Schedules meetings with informative programs each month except for December, July and August.
- Publishes a monthly newsletter except one issue is published for December/January. Does not publish in July or August.
- Maintains the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration (the "Restoration") on Hendrickson Avenue under an agreement between it and the village.
- Keeps the Restoration open for visitors on Sundays with certain exceptions from 1:00 p.m. through 4:00 p.m.
- Has interesting exhibits from time to time at the Restoration.
- Dresses in costumes for Presidents' Weekend and Halloween.
- Conducts tours of the Restoration for school groups, Brownies, Girls Scouts and others.
- Marches in the annual Memorial Day Parade.
- Has a Gingerbread House contest every December.

A special thank you to Jim Buckley who provided the idea for this column.

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THE HISTORY AND CUSTOMS OF HALLOWEEN

BY: CAROL MCKENNA

The word "Halloween" has its origins in the Catholic Church. It is a corruption of All Hollows Eve. In the 5th Century BC, the Celts referred to the day as Samhain, the Celtic New Year. It was also the day that summer officially ended.

It was believed that the disembodied spirits of all those who had died the preceding year came back in search of living bodies to possess for the next year. It was their only hope for the afterlife. The Celts believed all laws of space and time were suspended allowing the spirit world to interact with the living.

Since the living did not want to be possessed, they would extinguish the fires in their homes to make them undesirable, dress in ghoulish costumes and parade through their neighborhoods in order to frighten the spirits. A myth carried down through the ages has the Celts burning someone they believed to be possessed at the stake. As belief in spirit possession waned, the practice of dressing in costumes became ceremonial.

The customs of Halloween were brought to the United States in the 1840's by Irish immigrants.

Trick or Treating, which originated in ninth century Europe, was originally called "souling." Early Christians would walk from village to village begging for "soul cakes" made out of square pieces of bread with currants.

The custom of the jack-o-lantern is thought to be Irish. A drunkard/prankster by the name of Jack was thought to have tricked Satan into climbing into a tree. Jack then carved the image of a cross into the trunk trapping the devil. He extracted a promise from the devil that if he did not tempt Jack again, Jack would let him down the tree. When Jack died he was denied not only entrance to heaven but also to hell. The devil gave him a single ember to light his way through the darkness and this ember was placed within a carved-out turnip to keep it glowing longer. When the immigrants came to America, they found that pumpkins were more plentiful and so the turnip was replaced by the pumpkin.

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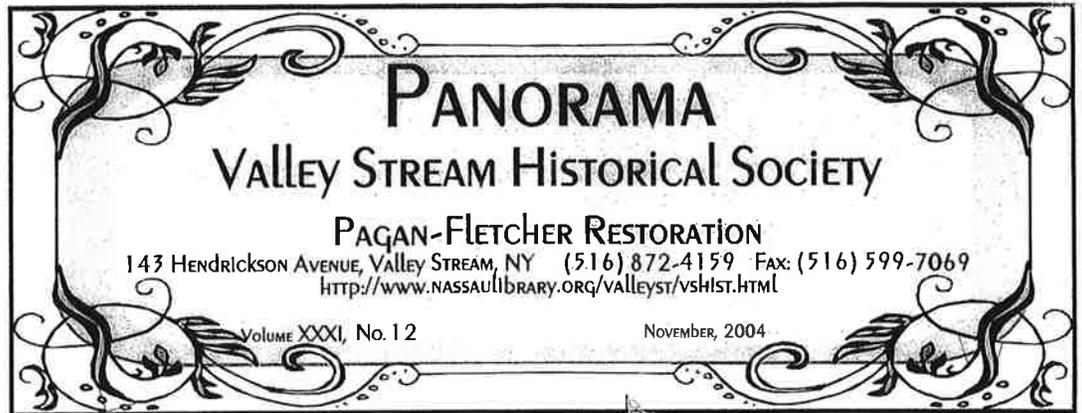
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NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, November 17, 2004, at 8:00 p.m.
 Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
 Brooklyn Avenue and 7th Street
 Valley Stream, New York

PROGRAM



"Identity Forgery" is the subject of this month's meeting. James W. Reed, Deputy Commissioner, Nassau County Office of Consumer Affairs, will provide information on how to protect yourself from the fastest growing white collar crime in this country. Refreshments will be provided by Karen Selah, Agnes Libath and Irma Shapiro.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST



The Society's annual Gingerbread House Contest and Bake Sale will be held on Sunday, December 5, 2004 between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Donations for the Bake Sale will be very much appreciated and can be brought to the Restoration at 11:00 a.m. the day of the sale.

MR. GINGERBREAD MAN



Hans Semder will demonstrate how to decorate a gingerbread house on Sunday, December 5, 2004 at 2:00 p.m.

CANDLELIGHT TOUR



The Society will be hosting a candlelight tour of the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration on Sunday, December 26, 2004 between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Participants are asked to bring one item of non-perishable food for the community's food pantry.



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Bill Stris has requested information on the Franklin Avenue (Wm. F. Donahue School), District 24, 1924-1984 and the Washington Avenue School, District 30, 1956-1981. He is particularly interested in the names of past PTA Presidents and PTA Life Members with dates of service, graduation programs, PTA Newsletters and any photographs of school. Please contact Mr. Stris at (516) 872-8205 or wpstris@hotmail.com. All materials will be returned.

Did You Know?

George Washington rejected a movement to make him king of the United States.
Andrew Jackson duelled with Charles Dickinson after he insulted Jackson's marriage. Jackson let his opponent fire first taking a bullet in the chest and then killing Dickinson.
James Buchanan reportedly took pride in his small feet.
Abraham Lincoln carried letters, bills and notes in his stovepipe hat.
Ulysses S. Grant was born Hiram Ulysses Grant but did not like his initials *HUG* so changed his name.
James Garfield was both ambidextrous and multilingual and could write Greek with one hand while writing Latin with the other.
William Taft weighed more than 300 lbs. and had a special bathtub installed in the White House.
Woodrow Wilson allowed sheep to graze on the White House lawn during World War II. Their wool was used to raise funds for the Red Cross.
Gerald Ford turned down offers to play pro ball for the Green Bay Packers and Detroit Lions.
Ronald Reagan rescued 77 people from drowning while a lifeguard in Dixon, Illinois.
Bill Clinton was infamous for taking a high number of do-overs while playing golf. According to one report, he once took some 200 swings to record a score of 82.
George W. Bush was head cheerleader at Phillips Academy.

Happy Thanksgiving

The Society wishes all a Safe and Happy Thanksgiving.



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A Timeline of Events
The Right to Vote



- ✓ **1787** – The U.S. Constitution was adopted. Article II describes the process by which the country would elect its president and vice president and creates the Electoral College.
- ✓ **1789** – The first presidential election was held. The Electoral College unanimously elected George Washington.
- ✓ **1820-1830** – New states joined the union and most of these states only allowed white, adult men to vote. Others restricted the vote to white men who owned property or who paid taxes. Only a few free northern or southern blacks could vote. Women (even if they owned property) could not vote.
- ✓ **1840** – The beginning of the reform movement to advance the status of women and, in particular, the right of women to vote.
- ✓ **1848** – Wisconsin adopted the most liberal voting laws in the country. Aliens could vote if they lived in the state for one year and had declared their intention to become citizens. Other states followed suite. The Woman's Rights Convention was held in Seneca Falls, NY.
- ✓ **1850** – A new political party called the *Know Nothings* was formed. They advocated literacy tests requiring that an individual prove he could read and write English as a prerequisite to voting.
- ✓ **1865** – At the end of the Civil War certain radical Republicans wishing to punish Confederate leaders supported the efforts of former slaves demanding the right to vote.
- ✓ **1866** – The 14th Amendment was adopted to protect all 21-year old male residences from obstacles to voting. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony formed the American Equal Rights Association.
- ✓ **1869** – The 15th Amendment was adopted formally giving all men the right to vote regardless of race, color or previous servitude. By the use of the word "men" women were specifically precluded from voting. There was a split in the suffrage movement – Stanton and Anthony led the *National Woman Suffrage Association* and Lucy Stone and Julia Ward Howe formed the *American Woman Suffrage Association*.
- ✓ **1872** – Stanton and Sojourner Truth attempted to vote in the presidential election. Stanton was arrested and tried. Truth was turned away at the polls.
- ✓ **1878** – An act to amend the Constitution to allow women the right to vote was introduced.
- ✓ **1880s** – States developed creative ways to prevent the black man from voting such as the poll tax, complicated ballot boxes, and literacy tests.
- ✓ **1890** – The two suffrage associations merged into the *National American Woman Suffrage Association*. Many states adopted the secret ballot to prevent intimidation of voters by party bosses.
- ✓ **1900s** – Theodore Roosevelt's Bull Moose Party supported the efforts of the suffragists.
- ✓ **1920** – On August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified granting women the right to vote. The *National Woman Suffrage Association* eventually became the *League of Women Voters*.
- ✓ **1964** – The 20th Amendment was ratified prohibiting poll taxes.
- ✓ **1965** – The Voting Rights Act was signed by President Johnson. This legislation protected blacks and minorities from stated-supported obstacles such as literacy tests and complicated ballot boxes that would keep them from voting.
- ✓ **1971** – The 26th Amendment was ratified lowering the minimum voting age from 21 to 18.

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NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, January 19, 2005, at 8:00 p.m.
 Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
 Brooklyn Avenue and 7th Street
 Valley Stream, New York

PROGRAM

Follow the Society's own Walter Harrod on a walk down memory lane.

Refreshments will be provided by Carol McKenna, Agnes Libath and Marge Chvatal.

PASSINGS

W. Betram Keller, a beloved and lifelong resident of Valley Stream and an honorary Trustee of the Society. He served as chairman of the committee charged with raising funds for the restoration of the Pagan-Fletcher house. Bert spent fifty years educating students at Central High School, was Vice Principal, and affectionately named *Mr. Central*. He was the ideal teacher bringing with him a certain flair into the classroom which endeared him to many of his students. Those who marched with Bert in the Memorial Day Parade will recall the number of occasions when his name was called by those on the sidelines.

Wilbur C. Fare, President of the Society for the period 1980–1981 in Tarboro, NC. He was born in Valley Stream and graduated from Central High School in 1938. His career with Grumman spanned thirty-seven years where initially he worked in quality control and later as an ultrasonic technician until his retirement. Mr. Fare was especially proud of the work he had done on the lunar module project. He was married to the former Elsie Klein, who was also born in Valley Stream and graduated from Central High School.

Christina VanBuskirk, who always took pride in the fact that she lived in the house once owned by Henry Waldinger. Her son related to the writer that she was proud to have lived in Valley Stream and that if she could have changed her place of birth on her certificate she would have done so.

SEEKS INFORMATION

The Society has been in contact with the great grandson of Paul and Mable Ackerly who is seeking information about his great-grandparents. The Society has provided him with a recording it had of his great-grandmother. If anyone can provide him with any further information about his great-grandparents, his address is: Alan Ackerly, 1602 South Airport Drive, #73, Weslaco, Texas 78596. He indicated that he would like to know where his family came from and when they came to North America. He also understands that his great-grandfather had at one time sailed to Cuba.

SITUATION AT LI STUDIES INSTITUTE



Since 1985 the Long Island Studies Institute has been a cooperative effort between Nassau County and Hofstra University. The contract expired in 2000 and efforts to renegotiate a new contract have been unsuccessful to date. The County has removed some of its materials and present plans are to transfer the balance of its collection to Castle Gould at Sands Point Preserve where some may be available by appointment. The County hopes to build an Historical Records Center at Old Bethpage Village but this is not likely to occur in the near future. The County's collection will be housed in a facility which does not have heat or controlled humidity and whose roof leaks. Materials would be accessible to the public only by appointment with a museum employee *if* that employee's schedule permits. If you believe this move is unwarranted, please write to County Executive Thomas Suozzi and Hofstra University President, Stuart Rabinowitz urging them to resume negotiations to allow the collections to remain on the campus: Their addresses follow:

The Honorable Thomas Suozzi, Nassau County Executive, 1 West Street, Mineola, NY 11501

Stuart Rabinowitz, President, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY 11549.



The Society wishes all a Happy Holiday and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2005.

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THE NUTCRACKER SUITE

The ballet and music was inspired by Ernst Theodor Amadeus Hoffman's book, *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*. Hoffman was born in Konigsburg, Prussia on January 24, 1776. He was a romantic and fantasy writer and composer. His writings illustrated the darker side of bourgeois life. In fact, *Nutcracker* was written during a politically sensitive period. He died in Berlin at the age of 46.



Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, born in 1840, began his career as a government clerk but retained his early interest in music. At age 21 he declared that, "Even if I actually had any talent, it can hardly be developed now." Within a year after making that statement, he quit his job after having been passed over for promotion. Tchaikovsky entered the Conservatory of the Russian Society of Music. In December, 1891, he was commissioned to write a one-act opera and ballet for the following season based on Hoffman's book. Although Tchaikovsky disliked the subject, he began work in early 1892 and finished the work in the summer of that year. Tchaikovsky used the celesta, a newly invented instrument, in the *Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy*. He arranged to have one delivered secretly to him in Russia because of his fear that Rimsky-Korsakov and Glazunov would discover it and use the instrument which made an unusual sound before him. None, however, have been able to duplicate the magic created by Tchaikovsky in his most popular work.



The ballet was choreographed by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov. Petipa was born in Marseilles, France in 1822. In 1869 he became the Ballet Master at the Imperial Theatre in St. Petersburg where he produced more than 60 full evening ballets. Petipa is considered to have laid the foundation for Russian ballet. He died in Gruzuf, Russia in 1910.

Ivanov was born in 1834 in Moscow and served as assistant to Petipa. When Petipa became ill in 1892, he finished the choreography for *Nutcracker*. Ivanov died in St. Petersburg in 1901.



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