

PANORAMA

VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PAGAN-FLETCHER RESTORATION

143 HENDRICKSON AVENUE, VALLEY STREAM, NY (516) 872-4159 FAX: (516) 599-7069
 WEBSITE: WWW.VSVNY.ORG E-MAIL: VSHISTORICAL@GMAIL.COM

Volume XXXIV No. 4 JANUARY 2017

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 7:15pm

Please note the new location.

Fireman's Field
 Clubhouse
 120 Albermarle Avenue
 Valley Stream, New York 11580

HOW TO GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP



Lecture given by Dr. Penny Stern.

WINNERS OF THE GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST

FIRST PLACE

Girl Scout Troop #2275 – Snowy Village



SECOND PLACE

Holy Name of Mary School – Candy Dandy Village



THIRD PLACE

Girl Scout Troop #2259 – Candy Corner



Mayor and Chairman of the Board Ed Fare gave an icing demonstration.



Our Village Elves, Kelliann Dupignac Joe Companaro supervised by Building Maintenance Supervisor Brian Howley, helped to set up the holiday decorations at the Pagan Fletcher House.

Despite having suffered a fractured foot, Karen Selah, Recording Secretary, put in countless hours decorating. ❤️ The Society awards her its version of a purple heart.

And to our members - Sue D'Alessandro, Margaret Martino Swansig, Angela Schultz, Claire Lenz, John Urgo and Florence Gunther who helped on short notice a great big **THANK YOU!**

ART DECO AT CENTRAL HIGH

On Thursday, January 5, 2017, at 7pm a ceremony was held at Central High School to celebrate the preservation of art deco style at the school. Ed Fare's contribution of the art deco fixtures was acknowledged.



Before ↑

After ↓



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WINTER SOLSTICE



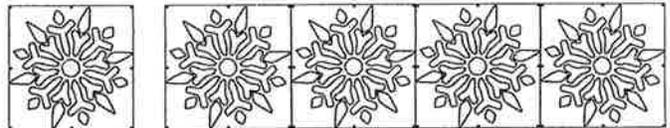
Winter is the season where nature remains dormant, the days are short and the weather is cold. Nevertheless, the Winter Solstice marks what is called "the turning of the Sun" and the days slowly getting longer.

Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on December 25. It is believed that this date was chosen to offset the pagan celebrations of the time. Christmas is also referred to as Yule, which was a pre-Christian festival where fires were lit symbolizing the returning sun. A Yule log was burned to honor the god Thor.

In ancient Rome the festival honored Saturn, father of the gods. Discipline was suspended and the usual order reversed. Grudges and quarrels were forgotten. Businesses, schools and courts closed while wars were postponed or interrupted. Slaves were served by their masters in a complete role reversal.

In Guatemala on December 21, Mayan Indians celebrate the sun god worshipped before they became Christians. They engage in the "flying pole dance." Three men climb on top of a 50 foot pole. One beats a drum and plays a flute while the other two wind a rope attached to one foot and jump. If they land on their feet, the sun god will be pleased and the days will begin to get longer.

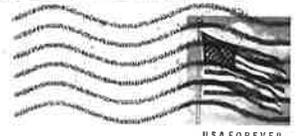
In pre-Christianity Poland, people show forgiveness and share food in a tradition still carried on called Gody.



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VOLUME XXXIV No. 5

FEBRUARY 2017

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 7:15pm

Please note the new location.

Fireman's Field

Clubhouse

120 Albermarle Avenue

Valley Stream, New York 11580

Sponsoring Children Through The Unbounded Organization



Slide lecture given by AnnMarie and Jeff Konzet.

GEORGE AND ABE ARE BACK



Let's celebrate two of our Presidents who led our country through trying times. Visit the Pagan Fletcher Restoration on Sunday, February 19, 2017,

between the hours of 1pm through 4pm. You will see a piece of memorabilia attributed to Washington's family along with members of the Society dressed in colonial costumes.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT



MEETINGS HELD AT VALLEY STREAM

Two women suffrage meetings were held at Valley Stream on Monday evening. Miss Irene Davison had made the arrangements and at 8

o'clock an open air meeting was held on the drug store corner. Mrs. R. C. Talbot-Perkins, Dr. A. L. Culnit and Miss Davison were the speakers, while Miss Nora Sharp and Miss Zonobia Culnet distributed literature. About 130 people gathered, and Dr. E. J. Decker of Far Rockaway, happening along, the suffragists pressed his automobile into service for a platform. It was noted that the women of the crowd gave very respectful attention to what was said, but the men seemed to think it was a great joke and several passing automobiles tried to make all the noise they could to interrupt the meeting, but notwithstanding these drawbacks the suffragists went on and gave their message. When the questions were asked for a young man said he was unalterably opposed to women suffrage because there were too many people voting now. Mrs. Talbot-Perkins then said he did not believe in a democracy then, and asked him if he would be willing for educated women to vote, "Then you believe in woman suffrage," said Mrs. Perkins, "and the only question with you is the qualifications for voters." At this time a great laugh went up from the audience. Another young man said that "women might know enough to be scrub women or stenographers," but they did not know enough to hold higher positions. Mrs. Perkins said she would like to know that young man's mother, as she felt that he certainly had a low opinion of women. But Mrs. Perkins was stumped for an answer when a young girl asked if all women suffragists were smart.

At shortly after 9 o'clock the Daughters of Liberty, who hold their meeting in the Fireman's Hall, threw open their doors to the suffragists, and then Mrs. Talbot-Perkins, Dr. A. L. Cuinet and Miss Irene Davison told them why they thought every woman should be interested in the question of votes for women. After the meeting many of the members signed the enrollment slips, and it is hoped that a women suffrage club will be started in Valley Stream before another month is over...*

The Brooklyn Daily Eagle -- August 23, 1913

Note: Milady Zincone, the mother of Panorama designer and life-long Valley Stream resident Stephanie Darcy, was a strong supporter and a proud past president of the League of Women's Voters of Valley Stream.

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**WOMAN SUFFRAGE
TIMELINE
1840-1894**

1840 - Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton are barred from attending the World Anti-Slavery Convention held in London. This prompts them to hold a Women's Convention in the United States.

1848 - Seneca Falls, NY is the location for the first Women's Rights Convention. Elizabeth Cady Stanton writes "The Declaration of Sentiments" creating the agenda of women's activities for decades to come.

1850 - Worcester, MA is the site of the first National Women's Rights Convention. Frederick Douglass, Paulina Wright Davis, Abby Kelley Foster, William Lloyd Garrison, Lucy Stone and Sojourner Truth attend. An alliance is formed with the Abolitionist Movement.

1861 - 1865 - Efforts come to a halt and women put their efforts into the War Between the States.

1866 - Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony form the American Equal Rights Association, an organization dedicated to the goal of suffrage for all.

1869 - Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony found the National Woman Suffrage Association, a more radical organization, to achieve the vote through a Constitutional Amendment as well as push for other women's rights issues. The organization is based in New York.

1878 - A Woman Suffrage Amendment is proposed in the US Congress. When the 19th Amendment passes forty-one years later, it is worded exactly the same as the 1878 Amendment.

1894 - 600,000 signatures are presented to the New York State Constitutional Convention in a failed effort to bring a woman suffrage amendment to the voters.

Timeline provided by the National Women's History Museum



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VOLUME XXXIV No. 6

MARCH 2017

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, March 15, 2017, at 7:15pm

Please note the new location.

Fireman's Field
Clubhouse

120 Albermarle Avenue
Valley Stream, New York 11580

NEW & EXCITING EVENTS IN THE VILLAGE OF VALLEY STREAM



Mayor Ed Fare and Chairman of the Board of the Society will speak regarding what is new and exciting in our community.

POLICE AVIATORS TO GET MEDALS AT AIR SHOW JUNE 25



Patrolmen Joseph Forsythe and Otto Kafka, Jr. of the police air division will be presented with medals June 25, commemorating their rescue of two naval officers from the illfated blimp J-3. The medals will be given at the Aviation Day celebration at Curtiss Valley Stream Airport, to be conducted by the National Aviation Reserve Association.

The celebration will include a model airplane derby which will start at 10am. More than 100 entries already have been listed, according to

Henry H. Fischer, head of Reserve Unit No. 1, Jamaica. The Tailwind Club of Valley Stream comprised of a group of airmen, will stage a race during the afternoon and Edlwood Keim, president, said yesterday that at least 12 planes will be entered in the contest. Parachute jumping will be another feature.



Ted Hebert, president of the Safair Corporation, one of the sponsors of the celebration, and JoJhn Philips will give an exhibition of "dogging." Hebert, who now has charges of flying activities at Curtiss Field, is a former army pilot while Philips is an ex-navy pilot.

The Brooklyn Daily Eagle - June 11, 1933

"BIG CITY" DRIVER RUNS AFOUL OF "HICK" LAW



Valley Stream, L.I., March 4 - In Police Court last night it cost Harry G. Steigman of Manhattan exactly \$10 for using the word "hick" three times, or, to be precise, \$3 and 1/3 cents a "hick."

When Officer John Klug of the Fifth Precinct stopped Steigman because his car had only one headlight, the New Yorker is said to have protested with the words, "Aw, you're only a hick cop in a hick town working for hick taxpayers!"

Police Justice Edward T. Neu considered the fair name of Valley Stream to have been insulted \$10 worth and imposed the fine, which was paid.

The Brooklyn Daily Eagle - March 4, 1932

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THE BEGINNING of SPACE EXPLORATION

The National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics was formed on March 3, 1915. Its mission was to undertake and promote aeronautical research. It was initially charged with overseeing and executing all aeronautical projects relating to World War I. Later its scope was broadened to include all civilian and military aviation problems.

By the 1920's, NACA had developed a wind tunnel. In 1927 the cowling was developed which is an aerodynamic fairing that enables more streamlined engines and body shapes which lead to a significantly lowered drag on an aircraft. NACA also developed an engine cooling system. Nevertheless, its most important achievement was the airfoil: the shape of a wing that produces lift.

The agency was dissolved on October 1, 1958 and all assets and personnel transferred to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). It was necessary for the United States to become involved in space exploration.



NASA is an independent agency of the Executive Branch of the United States established by President Eisenhower. The agency is responsible for the Apollo missions to the moon, the Skylab space station and the Space Shuttle. It supports the International Space Station and oversees the development of the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle, the Space Launch System and Commercial Crew vehicles.

NASA's insignia is referred to as the "meatball." It was designed in 1959 by James Modarelli, an employee. The design incorporates references to different aspects of its mission. The round shape represents a planet. The stars represent space. The red v-shaped vector represents aeronautics. The circular orbit around the agency's name represents space travel.

Valley Stream Historical Society
P.O. Box 22
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Ms. Amy Bentley
433-23 Cornwall Road
Kent, CT 06757



NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, April 19, 2017, at 7:15pm

Please note the new location.

Fireman's Field
Clubhouse

120 Albermarle Avenue
Valley Stream, New York 11580

How to Diversify Your Income



Marie L. Taylor, Financial Advisor, Edward Jones Investments will present a lecture on income diversification.

Why ARE Traffic Lights Red, Yellow AND GREEN



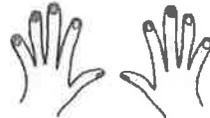
We have known from an early age that the color red means stop and green means forward. Why were those colors used for traffic lights in the first place? Couldn't other colors be chosen?

Before traffic lights were used for automobiles, they were signals for trains. Railroad companies used red to mean stop, white to mean go and green to mean caution. The color white proved to be a problem. One train conductor who thought he saw a white light moved forward when, in fact, he saw a bright star. Accordingly, railroad companies began to use the color green for go.

The color red has always implied danger and apparently has the longest wavelength which allows drivers to see it from a great distance. Yellow is used because it has a shorter wavelength than red but not as short as green.

In the early 1900s, yellow was used on stop signs as it was too difficult to see red in poorly lit areas. Over the course of time materials were developed that were reflective enabling red stop signs. As yellow can be seen well at all times day and night, school zones, some traffic signs and school buses continue to be painted yellow.

Why AREN'T THE LETTERS ON A COMPUTER KEYBOARD IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER?



There are many myths as to why the keyboard is designed one of which is that the design is a relic of the typewriter era and was engineered to stop the machine from jamming.

Another is that the keyboard was designed in an attempt to evenly split the degrees of usefulness of each letter between each hand.

Nevertheless, the design is a hand-me-down from morse code transcribers. The so-called QWERTY system was developed as a result of how the first typewriters were used. Telegraph operators needed to quickly transcribe messages but the alphabetical arrangement was confusing and inefficient for translating morse code. The keyboard as we know it today was evolved as a result of the input of the telegraph operators.



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HISTORIC EVENTS OCCURRING IN April

1513 – Ponce De Leon sighted Florida and claimed it for Spain. He landed at St. Augustine, which now holds the title of the oldest city in the continental United States.

1792 – Congress established the First Mint in Philadelphia.

1847 – Joseph Pulitzer was born in Budapest, Hungary. Among his many accomplishments was the endowment of the journalism school at Columbia University and the establishment of a fund for the Pulitzer Prize, an award for outstanding journalism. He died in 1911.

1860 – Pony Express Service began in the West as the first rider departed St. Joseph, Missouri. For \$5.00 an ounce, letters were delivered to California. The service lasted less than 2 years with the advent of the overland telegraph.

1865 – Confederate General George Pickett was defeated at Five Forks, Virginia sealing the fate of Confederate General Robert E. Lee's forces at Petersburg and Richmond, Virginia, which hastened the end of the War Between the States.

1887 – The first woman to hold public office – Susanna M. Salter – became mayor of Argonia, Kansas.

1896 – The first Olympics of the Modern Era was held at Athens, Georgia after a break of 1500 years.

1944 – Federal troops seized the Chicago office of Montgomery Ward and removed its Chairman of the Board for failing to obey President Roosevelt's order to recognize a union. The seizure ended when unions won an election to represent the company's workers.

1981 – The first space shuttle was launched. *Columbia* was manned by John Young and Robert Crippen who spent 54 hours in space during 36 orbits of the Earth and landed successfully at Edwards Air Force Base, California.



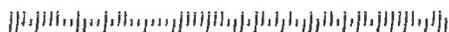
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VOLUME XXXIV No. 8

MAY 2017

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, May 17, 2017, at 7:15pm

Please note the new location.

Fireman's Field
Clubhouse

120 Albermarle Avenue
Valley Stream, New York 11580

LET'S MAMBO



Guy Ferrar, dance instructor and President of the Society, will offer lessons on how to do the Mambo, Salsa and Latin Line dancing.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE



Memorial Day
*Never Forget
Ever Honor*

The Village's Annual Memorial Day Parade will take place on Monday, May 29, 2017. Members of the Society who plan on participating in the march should meet at the parking lot of Wheeler Avenue School at 9am.

Please note that 10 blasts of the fire horn is notification that the Parade will **not** take place.

On Saturday, May 27, 2017 at 11am a ceremony will take place at Central High School commemorating Centralites who lost their lives in the wars.

EDWIN FERRAR WWII FIGHTER PILOT



AND ANIMAL TRAINER



Mr. Ferrar's two children, Susan and Steve hosted a special event at the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration on Sunday, May 7, 2017 at pm.

Ferrar piloted a P-47 Thunderbolt during World War II and was a Triple Ace having downed 17 enemy aircraft in the European Theater. He was the recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal of Honor and the Silver Star.

In the 50's and 60's Ferrar was a insurance salesman but more importantly known for the wild animals he kept in the family home in Valley Stream. He appeared on many television programs with his animals.

For additional information about the life of this extraordinary man, you are directed to vsvny.org. The Society's website appears in the pane on the right side of the Village's home page.



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HERE'S Why You Should THANK THE ANCIENT GREEKS FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY CAKE

Have you ever wondered why am I eating cake on my birthday?

Ancient Egypt is credited with introducing the celebration of birthdays. It was the Egyptian belief that when pharaohs were crowned, they became gods so their coronation day was considered their "birth" as a god.

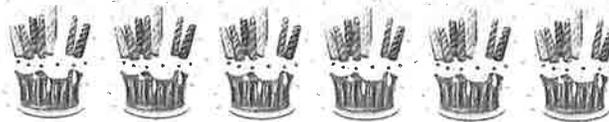
Ancient Greece borrowed the tradition but believed that a dessert would make the celebration more meaningful (baklava anyone?) The Greeks baked moon-shaped cakes and offered them up to Artemis, goddess of the moon in tribute and decorated them with lit candles to make the cakes shine like the moon. This is the reason why we put lit candles on our birthday cakes.



Modern birthday celebrations allegedly get their roots from the 18th Century celebration named "Kinderfeste." A child would receive a cake with lighted candles that added up to his or her birthday plus one. The plus one candle was called the "light of life" in representation of the hope of another full year lived.

Because no one could eat the cake until after dinner, the candles were replaced as they burned out. Finally the child would make a wish, try to blow out all the candles in one breath and dig in. Like the modern tradition the girl or boy wouldn't tell what she or he had wished for so it would come true.

Ingredients for cakes were expensive so the custom did not become popular until the Industrial Revolution. At that time the ingredients became available making it cheaper and local bakeries began to sell pre-baked cakes.



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VOLUME XXXIV No. 9

JUNE 2017

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, June 21, 2017, at 7:15pm

Please note the new location.

Fireman's Field
Clubhouse

120 Albermarle Avenue
Valley Stream, New York 11580

STRAWBERRY & ICE CREAM SOCIAL



Come join the Society for the last meeting of its membership year. Socialize with its members and share your plans for the summer. We would love to see you. **Fee - \$3.00.**

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES



At the June meeting we will also hold the election of our officers and three year trustees.

President – Guy Ferrara
Vice President – David McKean
Treasurer – Florence Gunther
Corresponding Secretary – Angela Schultz
Recording Secretary – Karen Vitale-Selah
Three Year Trustee – Amy Bentley
John Urgo
James Borzamato

MINEOLA

JURY DISAGREES ON GUILT OF MAN IN BURGLARY CASE

Mineola, Jan. 26 – The trial of James J. Naughton, 32, of 1179 Wolf Ave., Valley Stream, New York City patrolman who is under suspension, ended in a jury disagreement late last night.

Naughton, formerly assigned to the Empire Boulevard precinct in Brooklyn, was tried on a charge of attempted burglary after allegedly having tried to force open a screen door at the West Wood Inn, Valley Stream, last Aug. 11. He took the stand yesterday to deny the charge.

After the jury informed Judge Marcus G. Christ that it had been unable to reach a verdict, the jurist continued Naughton free on bail pending a retrial decision.

The Brooklyn Daily Eagle – January 26, 1952



Photo of Steve and Susan showing photos of their dad, Ed Ferrar, to Mayor/Chairman of the Board Ed Fare and Trustee Shawn Wright at the May 7, 2017 ceremony held at the Pagan Fletcher.



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Another childhood tradition came to a close on May 21, 2017, after 146 years of performances and travel.

The circus began two years before the US Civil War with traveling performances beginning in 1871.

1841 – Phineas Taylor Barnum buys Scudder’s American Museum in New York City and renames it Barnum’s American Museum which has a zoo, museum, lecture hall and freak show. The building burns down. Barnum also took his show on the road calling it P. T. Barnum’s Grand Traveling American Museum.

1881 – Barnum partners with James A. Baily and James L. Hutchinson for P. T. Barnum’s Greatest Show on Earth, and the Great London Circus, Sanger’s Royal British Menagerie and The Grand International Allied Shows United shortened to the Barnum and London Circus.

1882 – The Ringling Brothers – Alf, Al, Charles, John and Otto perform their first vaudeville-style show in Mazomanie, Wisconsin.

1884 – The Ringling Brothers Circus begins to travel.

1887 – Ringling becomes the Ringling Bros. United Monster Shows, Great Double Circums, Royal European Menagerie, Museum, Caravan, and Congress of Trained Animals.

1895 – The Ringlings and Barnum “agree to divide the U.S. rather than compete head-to-head.” The Ringlings establish their headquarters in Chicago while Barnum and Bailey stayed in New York.”

1919 – The two circuses merge and become known as Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows.

1927 – John Ringling moves the circus to Sarasota, Florida.

1952 – Paramount Pictures releases “The Greatest Show on Earth” and hundreds of the real circus’ cast are used in the movie. It goes on to win an Academy Award for Best Picture.

1967 – The circus is purchased by Irwin Feld.

1985 – Irwin Feld dies and the circus is taken over by his son, Kenneth.

1999 – Johnathan Lee Iverson becomes its first African-American ringmaster.

2016 – The elephants are retired and moved to the Center for Elephant Conservation. Kristen Michelle Wilson is named its first female ringmaster.

2017 – Its last performance is held at the Coliseum in Uniondale, NY.

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

MID-ISLAND NY 117

12 JUN 2017 PM 7 L



Ms. Amy Bentley
433-23 Cornwall Road
Kent, CT 06757





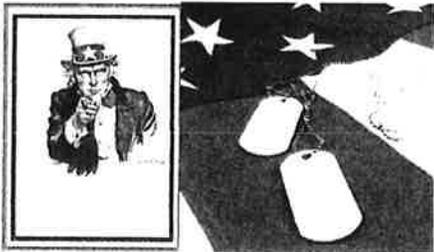
NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, September ~~20~~, 2017, at 7:15pm
27,

Please note the new location.

Fireman's Field
Clubhouse
120 Albermarle Avenue
Valley Stream, New York 11580

CENTRAL High School's LOST ALUMNI

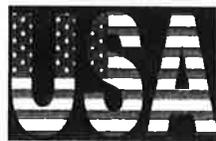


Lecture presented by Chris Critchley, Social Studies teacher at Central High School who will speak about the Centralites who paid the price for freedom.

NEW THREE YEAR TRUSTEE



HISTORIC Tidbits MONTH OF SEPTEMBER



9/2/1789 – The U.S. Treasury cabinet position was established by Congress.

9/4/1609 – Henry Hudson discovered Manhattan Island.

9/7/1994 – After a nearly 50 year presence, the US closed its headquarters in Berlin ending its presence in the once divided city.

9/8/1974 – Nixon pardoned by President Ford.



9/11/2001 - **NEVER FORGET!!!**

9/13/1788 – Congress chooses New York City as the Federal capital of government.

9/16/1620 – The *Mayflower* departed for American shores with 102 passengers. Arrived at Provincetown, MA on November 21 and landed at Plymouth on December 26.

9/17/1787 – Twelve delegates voted unanimously to approve the proposed US Constitution.

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Historical Society
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Ed Fare

CHAIRMAN EMERITUS
James Buckley

PRESIDENT
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VICE PRESIDENT
David McKean

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Clare Lenz
Ross Thomas Rava

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Ted Libath
Bert Keller
Claire McMahon
Lillian Weaver
Evelyn McQuade
Alphonse Maynernik

PANORAMA
Editor
Carol McKenna
Graphic Designer
Stephanie Darcy

WALTER D. HARROD
July 18, 1919 – August 5, 2017



The Society mourns the loss of its beloved Trustee and member. Harrod was a lifelong resident of the village, who attended Grace United Methodist Church. He was born into a family that believed in the principles upon which the country was founded. Harrod's grandfather fought in the American Civil War which lead to

his participation in the Civil War Roundtable, whose members share a common interest in the study, promotion and recognition of the Civil War. His father saw service in the Spanish-American War.

Harrod himself rose to the rank of Lt. Colonel while serving in World War II. He earned his law degree from Washington and Lee University and was admitted to the New York Bar in 1948. He practiced law at a distinguished and well-know Manhattan law firm until his retirement, which law firm on September 11, 2001 was headquartered at the World Trade Center.

Until he became too ill, Harrod always made himself available to serve as a docent at the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration. One of his favorite "tasks" was to dress as George Washington for the Society's Presidents' Day event.

Harrod was buried in Greenfield Cemetery in Hempstead. A gentle soul – he will be missed.

Form for Membership and Dues for the 2017-2018 Year

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

Expires June 2018

Individual \$15; Family \$20; Business \$25; Lifetime: \$100

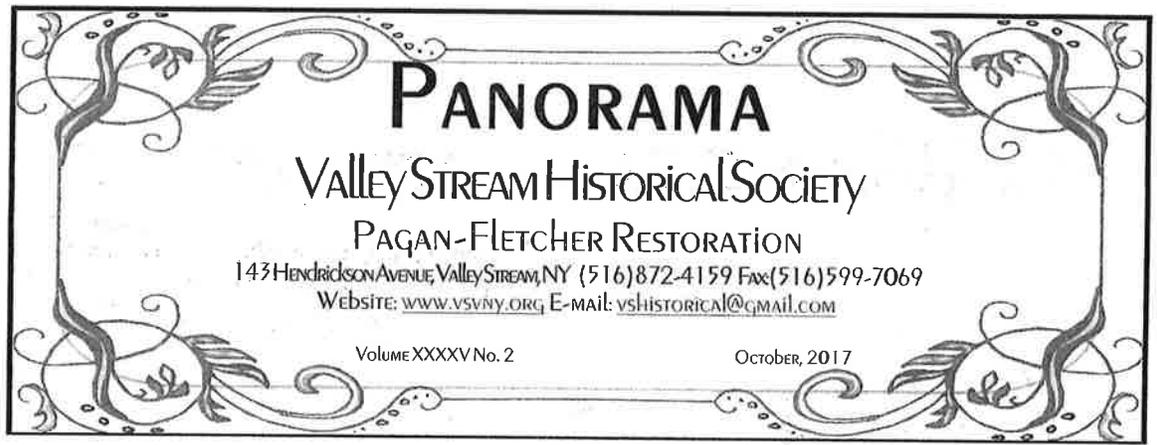
Date: _____ Amount: _____

Name _____ Renewal _____ New _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail: _____ Contact Phone: _____



NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, October 25, 2017, at 7:15pm

Please note the new location.
 Fireman's Field
 Clubhouse
 120 Albermarle Avenue
 Valley Stream, New York 11580

AROUND ELMONT AND ROSEDALE



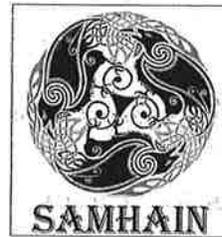
Lecture by Bill Florio. Learn how portions of a farming community known as Foster's Meadow evolved into what is now known as Elmont and Rosedale.



On Sunday, October 29, ghosts, goblins, vampires, witches and warlocks invite you to participate in the Halloween festivities at the Restoration. Come wearing your costume whether you are a child or an adult. Prizes will be awarded for the best costume. Ragamuffin Parade at 3pm weather permitting.



THE ORIGIN OF HALLOWEEN



Look to the history of Celtic Ireland for the origin of Halloween. It was referred to as Samhain and had distinct elements – one of which was an important fire festival which was celebrated on October 31 and throughout the following day. The old fires were extinguished and new fires lit by druids.

For the Pagan ancestors it marked the end of the pastoral cycle, that is, all of the crops had been gathered and stored for the coming winter. Livestock was brought in from the fields and either slaughtered or selected for breeding.

The last day of the year souls of the departed returned to their former homes and malevolent spirits were released from the Otherworld and were seen by man, woman and child.

It's origin lies in the Celt's autumn festival held on the first day of the eleventh month, that is, November in English but Samhain in Irish.

Huge bonfires were lit; people wore ugly masks and disguises to confuse spirits and stop the dead from identifying individuals they disliked while alive.

Samhain was celebrated in Ireland long after Christianity. Pope Boniface, a 7th Century pope, in an attempt to lead Christians away from Pagan celebrations declared November 1 as All Saints Day.

The custom of trick or treat was brought to the United States in the mid 19th Century presumably by the Irish who were escaping the famine in Ireland.





PANORAMA

VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PAGAN-FLETCHER RESTORATION

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

Website: www.vsvny.org E-MAIL: vsHISTORICAL@GMAIL.COM

VOLUME XXXXV No. 3

NOVEMBER, 2017

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, November 29, 2017, at 7:15pm

Please note the new location.

Fireman's Field
Clubhouse
120 Albermarle Avenue
Valley Stream, New York 11580

NEXT MEETING

STRANGE STORIES OF OLD BROOKLYN



Lecture by Henry Stewart of the Bay Ridge Historical Society.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST AT THE RESTORATION



On Sunday, December 3, 2017, between the hours of 1 through 4pm gingerbread houses made by residents of Valley Stream will be on display. Vote for your favorite house. There will also be an icing demonstration at 2pm.

On Friday, December 29, 2017, a Candlelight Tour of the Restoration will be held between the hours of 6pm and 8pm. Visitors are encouraged to bring canned goods for the community's food banks.



WINNERS OF THE HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST

CHILDREN

- 1ST PLACE Sophia Haimes – Princess Dino Fairy
- 2ND PLACE Natalia Rivera – Chickie
- 3RD PLACE Milo Scali – Resident Alien

ADULTS

- 1ST PLACE Jenna Scali – The Moon
- 2ND PLACE Laura Godler – The Rainbow
- 3RD PLACE TIE Christina Scali – The Astronaut
- 3RD PLACE TIE Bella Alvarez – The Wolf



FRUITCAKE TOSS DAY

Another tradition - January 3 is Fruitcake Toss Day and your opportunity to throw away old fruitcake.

Gather a few friends who also received fruitcakes, go out to a field and see who can toss it the farthest. But do not toss the fruitcake at anyone. It could injure that person.

Remember if you do not toss the fruitcake on January 3 you must keep it until the next Christmas. The first documented toss occurred in Manitou Springs, Colorado in 1995.

Another tradition regarding the fruitcake is to pass it around and whomever has the fruitcake on New Year's Day must store it away until the next Christmas. I understand you can store it in a tin wrapped in cheesecloth, adding brandy from time to time. Fruitcake, Folks, is an acquired taste.

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HISTORY of GINGERBREAD



Gingerbread was brought to Europe in 992 by an Armenian monk, Gregory of Nicopolis.

During the 13th Century gingerbread was introduced to Sweden by German immigrants. The first documented trade of gingerbread biscuits dates to the 17th Century where they were sold in monasteries.

In Medieval England gingerbread was thought to have medicinal properties. One hundred years later, Shropshire, United Kingdom, became known for its gingerbread as it is proudly displayed on the town's welcome sign. Gingerbread men are attributed to Queen Elizabeth I who allegedly served gingerbread in this form. Parkin is a form of gingerbread made with oatmeal and treacle popular in Northern England.

Gingerbread has many names throughout Europe.

Gingerbread bakers were gathered into professional baker guilds. In the 17th Century only professional bakers were permitted to bake gingerbread. Christmas and Easter were the exceptions when anyone was allowed to bake it.

Decorated gingerbread was given as a token of love particularly at weddings where guests received gingerbread. Gingerbread was also worn as a talisman against evil spirits. Communities in Pennsylvania and Maryland would dip gingerbread into wine or other alcoholic beverages. This continued until the early 20th Century.

The tradition of making gingerbread houses began in Germany in the early 1800s. It is believed the movement was accelerated by the publication of Hansel and Gretel.

Gingerbread does not necessarily have to be a house. It can be any type of building such as a church.



Valley Stream Historical Society
P.O. Box 22
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