

**PANORAMA**  
**Valley Stream Historical Society**  
**PAGAN-FLETCHER RESTORATION**  
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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 ↓



**Valley Stream  
Historical Society  
Officers**

**CHAIRMAN**  
Ed Fare

**CHAIRMAN EMERITUS**  
James Buckley

**PRESIDENT**  
Guy Ferrara

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
David McKean

**TREASURER**  
Florence Gunther

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**  
Angela Schultz

**RECORDING SECRETARY**  
Karen Vitale-Selah

**THREE YEAR TRUSTEES**  
Susan McKean  
Jaclyn Kunz  
Christina Bonfiglio-Scali  
Margaret Martino Swansig

**TWO YEAR TRUSTEES**  
Valerie Esposito  
Tony Gicala  
Clare Lenz  
Ross Thomas Rava

**ONE YEAR TRUSTEES**  
Amy Bentley  
James Borzamato  
Robert Presbrey  
John Urgo

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

**PANORAMA**  
Editor  
Carol McKenna  
GRAPHIC DESIGNER  
Stephanie Darcy

## WINTER SOLSTICE



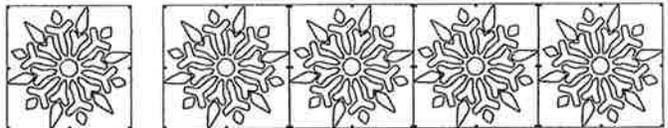
Winter is the season where nature remains dormant, the days are short and the weather is cold. Nevertheless, the Winter Solstice marks what is called "the turning of the Sun" and the days slowly getting longer.

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.

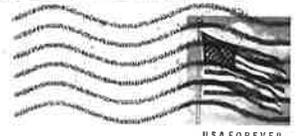
In pre-Christianity Poland, people show forgiveness and share food in a tradition still carried on called Gody.



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