

# HISTORICAL



# NOTES

Newsletter of The Garden City Historical Society

Volume 12, Number 1

[www.gardencityhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.gardencityhistoricalsociety.org)

Fall 2013

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The Garden City Historical Society Board of Trustees has committed to a multi-year capital campaign to undertake a major facelift for the Museum structure, 109 Eleventh Street. The fundraising goal is \$500,000.

The renovation and preservation work include:

- ◆ Mansard Roof and Widow's Walk repairs: replace metal/slate shingles, replace flashing, renovate drains/install leaders, restore trim;
- ◆ Windows and Doors: replace sashes and adjust counterweights, strip and install new hardware where needed;
- ◆ Exterior: strip existing paint, prep and restore wood trim, repair soffits, repaint entire structure in period color;
- ◆ Driveway and Parking: re-grade and repair existing gravel driveway and parking lot surfaces.



Some interior renovations will allow for creation of a Reading Room adjacent to the Society's Archives, where visitors can review items from our extensive collections, and bring significant upgrades to an existing office space.

The Society kicked-off the capital campaign in September 2012, and held a gala benefit on May 2, honoring three long-time Historical Society supporters, Maureen Clancy, Kris Harder and Mayor John Watras. Since then, the Society has applied for a state grant through the State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

The Society needs your support to restore this historic structure, listed on the National Register. For inquiries about making donations, contact Board members Maureen Traxler (516-319-1906; [mtraxler@optonline.net](mailto:mtraxler@optonline.net)) or Mary Jane Caldwell, (516-248-5917; [mjsez@optonline.net](mailto:mjsez@optonline.net)).

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVES

The Society's archives collection continues to grow. Two recent acquisitions include a mid 1950s era photograph of the front of the Doubleday building and their colophon (a publisher's distinctive emblem) of an anchor and dolphin that hung in their offices. Doubleday's colophon was the company's trademark since its founding in 1897. Other acquisitions include a life-size plaster sculpture of A. T. Stewart by artist Granville Carter who created the bust of Stewart, which sits atop a granite column rescued from the demolished Penn Station and repurposed as the base for Stewart's bust, located at the Garden City train station. The Society encourages the public to donate building plans, photographs, paintings, prints and other ephemera that are related to Garden City by contacting Brian Pinnola, 516-456-0433.



**FLEA MARKET:** Annual Flea Market on the grounds of the Historical Society Museum, Saturday, June 7, 2014.

**ANNUAL MEETING:** The Historical Society will hold its annual meeting/installation of officers, Thursday, June 12, 2014.

**COMMEMORATIVE BRICKS:** Great as gifts or memorials, these bricks are placed in the pathway around the Museum. Donations support the Society. For information, contact Gloria Jones at 516-248-4402; [glijmjones@optonline.net](mailto:glijmjones@optonline.net).

**MUSEUM OPEN:** The Garden City Historical Society Museum is open to visitors on Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**A.T. STEWART EXCHANGE:** The Society's consignment shop is open Tues-Fri 10a.m. - 4p.m. and Saturday noon to 4p.m.

## CALL TO STUDENT ARTISTS

The Society is planning its 9th annual Children's Juried Art Contest, *My Favorite Place in Garden City*. Students in grades Kindergarten-Twelve, residing in Garden City, may submit artwork. All drawings must be created in pencil, color pencil or pen and ink. A photography/graphic design category is open to high school students only. Further details will be sent to Garden City schools in January. Deadline to submit artwork is March 21. The Society will host a reception and awards ceremony for winning artists and their families on April 6.

## OPERA COMES TO THE GARDEN CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Garden City Historical Society proudly presents "Opera Comes to The Garden City Historical Society," performed by Opera Night, Long Island, on **Sunday, November 17, 2013**, at 3 p.m., at the Historical Society Museum. Open seating begins at 2:30. Ticket donation is \$25pp; light refreshments follow the performance.



Tickets are available at the Society's consignment shop, the A.T. Stewart Exchange, on the Museum's lower level, Tuesday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from noon to 4 p.m., or by mail (deadline November 11): send check for the appropriate number of tickets to The Garden City Historical Society, c/o Penny Hinderstein, P.O. Box 179, Garden City, NY 11530. (Checks payable to The Garden City Historical Society) Limited seating.

Opera Night Founder and Director Isabella Eredita Johnson will provide piano accompaniment for soprano Barbara Divis, mezzo-soprano Lorraine Helvick and tenor Robert Murphy. The afternoon performance includes: Habanera from Carmen (Bizet), Lakme Duet; Un Bel Di from Madama Butterfly (Puccini); and "Ah, mes amis" from the Daughter of the Regiment (Donizetti), known for the 9 "High C's", as well as Mon Coeur from Samson and Delila (Saint Saen), O Mio Babbino from Gianni Schicci (Puccini), "Quanto e Bella" from L'elisire d'amore (Donizetti) and a possible duet: "O Soave Fanciulla" from La Boheme, Puccini.



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## BAG OF BONES — THE GRAVE ROBBERY OF GC FOUNDER STEWART'S REMAINS

Just arriving at the Museum's gift shop is an intriguing book that chronicles the grave robbery of our town's founder, A.T. Stewart, from the St. Mark's Churchyard crypt in November 1878. *Bag of Bones* by J. North Conway, published in 2012, is a riveting account of the mystery surrounding the theft and ultimate quest for A.T. Stewart's remains. You'll be drawn into the incredulous world of extortion, politics and relentless police work—another era's "cold case"—superbly detailed by Mr. Conway.

Before delving into the sensational event, Conway gives an excellent background of the life of A.T. Stewart, and how he established the *first* department store in Manhattan. The characterizations of Stewart's business partner and attorney, Judge Henry Hilton, provide a fascinating backdrop into man's personal treachery. On the flip side, you'll learn how Cornelia Stewart, his courageous wife, "turned Garden City into a bustling and much sought after community," including the construction of St. Mary's and St. Paul's Schools. The Stewarts led lives of great discovery and loss. Read how their deaths are intertwined with the history of our Village, Garden City.

The *Bag of Bones* hardcover is priced at \$24.95, and the paperback, \$16.95. To purchase your copy, contact Gloria Jones, 516-248-0042, or visit the Museum Gift Shop on Tuesdays.

