

# HISTORICAL



# NOTES

## Newsletter of the Garden City Historical Society

Volume 8, Number 2

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

Spring 2006

## MUSEUM NOW OPEN; NEW PROGRAMS UNDERWAY

Our Garden City Historical Society's 2005-06 season has been moving along at an exciting clip. The opening reception in September was followed the next month by the first lecture in the restored museum. Tom Kirby, the historian for the Garden City Golf Club, presented a slide show and discussion on the seven golf clubs that dotted the Garden City landscape over the years.



Reception guests, from left, Nassau County Parks Commissioner Doreen Banks, Long Island Arts Alliance Executive Director Maggie Malito, and Society founding member Virginia Fortnoy, with current Society Director Kris Harder.



From left, Tom Kirby, Secretary Gloria Jones, Director Dale DeMasco, Treasurer Alisa Backert and President Brian Pinnola.



At the opening reception, Property Owners Association Presidents, at left, John Traxler (West) and Daniel Karas (Central) view the installation of stair plaques recognizing donors to the Society.



Above, from left, Village Trustee Donald Brudie and his wife Barbara, their daughter Barbara and her husband Don Martis, and Village Trustee John Watras.

In addition to the restoration work on the first floor, we recently constructed a handicap ramp, designed *pro bono* by the Society's architect, Angelo Francis Corva, R.A., on the side of the museum that is adjacent to the Garden City Recreation Center.

We've refurbished the southwest corner room on the second floor as an administrative office for the Society, and future plans by the House

Committee include exterior painting, and porch and soffit repairs.

Inside this newsletter, you'll find information about our Children's Art Contest. We encourage you to stop by the museum to view the children's artwork. The museum will be open on Saturdays and Sundays from April 9 through May 21. Hours will be posted near the front entrance.

*MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT BRIAN PINNOLA*

Dear Friends,

2006 promises to be a very busy year for the Society. We've essentially completed the construction and renovation work required to operate our Museum and we can now concentrate on the educational component of our New York State Charter. I am setting forth the following four goals for the Society to work toward this year:

1. Expand our archives and associated cataloging processes;
2. Increase the frequency of our lectures and programs;
3. Enlist volunteers to staff our Museum for the lectures and programs;
4. Secure a professionally recognized traveling exhibition for display at the Museum.

Additionally, with our lecture on McKim, Mead & White, we invite civic minded individuals and businesses to underwrite our future lectures and programs so that we may host them more frequently. To jump-start this initiative, I will underwrite the first lecture.

Further, I would like to thank resident and good friend of the Society Greg Burke, owner of Lane Office Furniture, who last Fall donated a new lectern with a built-in amplifier and wireless microphone. We utilized it during our first public lecture in the Museum last October. It performed wonderfully, and complemented our efforts to present programs in a professional manner in the comfortable and unique setting of our Apostle House.

Lastly, we are currently conducting our annual membership drive, and I would like to thank those individuals and businesses who are Life members for their generous support. I look forward to meeting all of you at the Museum for our March 9<sup>th</sup> lecture or during the Children's Art Contest display on weekends from April 8 through May 21.

Sincerely,  
 Brian A. Pinnola (516-456-0433)



Greg Burke and Brian Pinnola

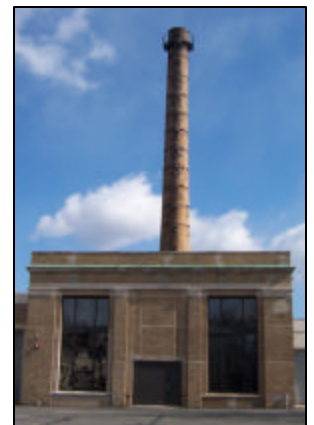
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*WHERE IN THE GARDEN CITY WORLD ...*

*DO YOU SEE THIS 77-YEAR OLD SMOKESTACK?*

The smokestack still remains of this former facility that specialized in airplane research and development when flight was one of Garden City's main industries. Who was the owner of the facility and where is the smokestack located? Send your guess to our webmaster at [info@gardencityhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@gardencityhistoricalsociety.org). Be the first to reply and receive a complimentary copy of Mildred Smith's book, "Garden City, Long Island in Early Photographs, 1869-1919."

Congratulations to Anne Imbornoni and Village Administrator Robert Schoelle who identified our last newsletter's mystery location — the date marker at the Edgemere Road railroad overpass.



*2006 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UNDERWAY*

Please check your mail for an invitation to renew your membership in the Garden City Historical Society. Your donation helps to keep the doors of our museum open. Membership funds pay our heating and lighting bills, and keep our archive room at museum standard.

**ARTIFACTS WANTED:** Period artifacts, photos, building plans and memorabilia, either donations or on loan. Please contact us at [info@gardencityhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@gardencityhistoricalsociety.org), or call 456-0433.

**GIFT ITEMS:** The Society offers afghans featuring Village historic sites, Village pictorial book, commemorative bricks, historic site ornaments, and gift memberships. Visit our website for a preview and details on how to order, or call 456-0433.

## Spring Lecture Features McKim, Mead & White

Art Historian and Professor Donald Dwyer presented a very informative and entertaining lecture and discussion on March 9 on McKim, Mead and White, the largest and most influential architectural office in American in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Professor Dwyer spoke of the different personalities of Charles Follen McKim, William Rutherford Mead, and Stanford White, who



Professor Dwyer details the architecture of McKim, Mead and White

changed the course of American architecture and championed the movement to introduce classical order to America's cities.

The noted architectural firm produced 750 buildings under the original three partners' direction, and the firm's name continued to be a force in the industry until the 1950s. McKim, Mead and White designed private residences, commercial buildings, private clubs and monuments. Using a slide presentation, Professor Dwyer illustrated a portion of the firm's famous New York City buildings—the Municipal Building (1914), the north/south wings of the Metropolitan Museum of Art (1911), the original Pennsylvania Station (1910), the New York Herald Building at Herald Square (1894), St. Bartholomew's Church (1902) on Park Avenue between 50<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> Streets and The Harvard Club (1894) on West 44<sup>th</sup> Street. He also highlighted the firm's design of some of the finest Gilded Age homes in Newport, RI.

Stanford White designed the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Adding an air of mystery, Professor Dwyer worked into his discussion the tragic death of Stanford White for an alleged affair that took place many year's earlier.

In Garden City, McKim, Mead and White designed the second Garden City Hotel in the early 1900s, and several Garden City streets, including Osborne and Wetherill, are named for relatives of Stanford White.

The presentation, which was underwritten by Brian Pinnola/NAI Long Island, kept the audience of 45-50 captivated. The Historical Society provided light refreshments for its guests.



Society Director Kris Harder, center, with Susan, left, and Ann Madonia.



Professor Dwyer with Brian Pinnola/NAI Long Island, sponsors of the lecture.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE LAUNCHES CHILDREN'S ART CONTEST

The Historical Society has launched its first Juried Art Contest for students in grades K through 12 who reside in Garden City. Called, *Landmark Buildings of Garden City*, the contest requires students to illustrate a residential or non-residential building, pre-1935, located in the Village of Garden City. All drawings must be created in pencil, color pencil, or pen and ink, and must not exceed 18 x 24 inches when matted.

The contest is divided into four categories: On the Elementary Level: grades K-1 and grades 2-5; On the Secondary Level: Middle School (grades 6-8) and High School (grades 9-12). The deadline for submitting work is March 21. All artwork will be judged by local residents who have backgrounds in art, and the Society will present awards to the First Place, Second Place and Honorable Mention winners in each category.

On April 8, the Society will hold a reception at The Garden City Historical Society Museum on Eleventh Street. Awards will be presented and all of the artwork submitted for the contest will be on display.

**The Garden City Historical Society Museum will be open to the public on weekends from April 9 until May 21**, so that our residents, friends and visitors can view the children's work and enjoy the beautifully restored museum on the main floor of the Society's 1872 Stewart-era "Apostle House."

**Landmark Buildings  
Of Garden City**

## OUR "THANK YOU" TO RECENT DONORS

A special "thank you" to those individuals who have donated items recently to the Garden City Historical Society Museum. Our collection is growing and we have begun our arduous but satisfying effort to catalogue all artifacts. We have over 1,000 pieces, from furniture, clothing and photographs to woodprints of Long Island scenes, books, trophies, even yearbooks from St. Paul's School.

At top right, President Brian Pinnola and Education Chair Maureen Traxler meet with longtime Village resident **Brenda Wydler**, center, widow of Congressman Jack Wydler. Mrs. Wydler donated two scrapbooks, posters and this framed copy of an energy bill, introduced by her husband, which was signed into law by President Jimmy Carter. The piece includes a pen that was used by the President.



At bottom left, Village resident **Gregory Burke** funded the purchase of 150 historic, late 19th and early 20th century photographs of Garden City and Hempstead. Thanks to his generous donation, the photographs, now owned by the Museum, are among the Gregory F. Burke Collection.



At right, former Society president **Ani Robertson** recently relocated and donated her grandmother's heirloom bedroom set to the museum archives. The set is made of maple and dates to the turn of the 20th century.



Box 179 Garden City, New York 11530

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