



The  
**Gazebo Gazette**  
 Newsletter of the Larchmont Historical Society

## Mark Your Calendars! A Year of Programs

Happy autumn to all of our members and a warm welcome to all the new members that have joined us in the past months. I think you all will be excited about the slate of programs the Larchmont Historical Society has put together – with you in mind-- for the coming 2008-2009 year. As you will see, there is truly something for everyone, from the historical to the hysterical! We urge you to look over the offerings and save the dates!



The opening event on Sunday, October 19, **The Gravestone Conservation Workshop**, offers members and friends a rare opportunity to step in and save a little local history. We are pleased to bring renowned gravestone conservator Jonathan Appell to Larchmont for a hands-on lesson on how to properly preserve gravestones and monuments. It was only in the last few decades that graveyards-- and the stones in them-- have garnered respect from the population. We have come to

realize that these sacred burial grounds hold important clues to our past and surely aid in genealogy research. They also provide more insight and details to our Revolutionary and Civil Wars. As John Appell points out, “ we are now recognizing that burial grounds are a gold mine of otherwise lost and forgotten information.”

Mr. Appell, founder of New England Cemetery Services in West Hartford, Connecticut, will give LHS workshop attendees a broad overview on how to properly clean and reset stones. He will discuss appropriate poultices and non-ionic detergents as well as methods for resetting different materials. The Historical Society will hold the workshop in the Barker-Quaker Burial Grounds

next to Sherwood’s Restaurant on the Boston Post Road in Larchmont. This cemetery is in dire need of conservation and care. The workshop is 9am -1pm and is free to members and the public. Call Dee van Eyck, 914-834-0449 , to reserve your spot; the workshop is on a first- come first -served basis. Meet at the site and dress for the weather!



In November, the Larchmont Historical Society commemorates the **Bicentennial of the Abolition of the U.S. Slave Trade**. St. John’s Episcopal Church will co-sponsor this event with the LHS which includes a screening of the documentary film, *Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North*. This film tells the story of the DeWolfs, the largest slave trading family in U.S. history, who were Northerners and also a prominent part of the Episcopal Church in Rhode Island. In the film, Katrina Browne, a DeWolf descendent and producer and director of the documentary, narrates as we follow her and other family mem-

bers as they retrace their descendants’ steps trading sugar, rum and slaves, along the Triangle Trade route between Rhode Island, Ghana, Cuba and back to New England. Browne and her relatives address the complex issues of atonement and reconciliation during their voyage.

**Gravestone Conservation  
 Workshop  
 Sunday, Oct 19  
 9 am—1 pm**

**Meet at the Barker-Quaker Burial Grounds on the Boston Post Rd, Larchmont (next to Sherwood’s). The workshop is free and open to the public**

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**Editor: Nancy White**  
**Contributors: Ned Benton, Lynne Crowley, Stephen J. van Eyck, Patti Roberts**

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***Lynne Crowley, Archivist***

The Larchmont Historical Society was founded in 1980 and chartered in 1981 as a not-for-profit educational corporation by the New York State Board of Regents to discover, preserve and disseminate information concerning the natural, social, and civic history of Larchmont, and to promote the preservation of local historical sites and structures. The Society maintains an archives in the Mamaroneck Town Center, 740 W. Boston Post Rd., Mamaroneck; publishes a newsletter; offers programs; conducts tours for school children and adults; and offers outreach lectures to other community groups. The newsletter is published to provide news of the Society and occasional articles of related interest. Opinions expressed are those of their authors; publication should not be construed as endorsement by the Society.

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## President's Message:

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Dear Members,

As I presided over my first LHS meeting and heard the new board talking about our plans for the upcoming year, I saw that we were off to a great start. It is a new year with a new board, but thanks to all the strength gained over the past several years, we are already operating like a well-oiled machine. Everyone had done homework over the summer and there was plenty of news to report.

During her four year tenure as president of the Larchmont Historical Society, Barbara Newman led the board ably and with great dedication. She and her family have moved to New Canaan, Connecticut, and she will be greatly missed. However, we will continue to work to raise awareness of the importance of our rich and varied local history. The excitement, energy, and enthusiasm among the remaining board members spoke well of Barbara's ability to build a strong and productive board of trustees.

LHS members can look forward to a fun and interesting year. Here are some of the benefits you'll want to check out:

- This newsletter is just one of several you'll receive during the year. Editor Nancy White has done a great job of finding residents who are interested in writing for the newsletter, and the result will be that more and more of Larchmont's history is told. (If you would like to write for us, contact Nancy at [ncw@earthlink.net](mailto:ncw@earthlink.net).)
- Check out our expanded website. Webmaster Ned Benton is constantly adding information, so the website is a great place to check for details on events, but you'll also want to take a look at the Virtual War Memorial that has been established as a tribute to the local men and women who have given their lives in defense of our country. There is also a great virtual photo museum with new images being added all the time.
- There are several exciting programs scheduled for this fall. If you'd like to see the old Quaker Cemetery fixed up, don't miss the on-site workshop on October 19. If you're interested in learning more about slavery in the Northeast, come to the see the documentary, "Traces of the Trade," which will be shown at St. John's Episcopal Church in November. In December we'll be having a speakeasy mystery party that is guaranteed to be great fun. Our "crown jewel" each year is, of course, the Spring House Tour. (If you would like to consider having your house to be on the tour, please contact Susan Emery at 834 3682)

Our membership base is growing, and our Century Homes Program is expanding as well, so all in all, we are off and running for an exciting year. As part of our long-term commitment to honoring history, we still intend to locate space where we can have programs and house displays (including our newly acquired Engine One fire truck). We will continue fundraising toward that goal.

If you would like to volunteer or become involved in the LHS—or if you have papers or photos of local interest to donate—please contact Lynne Crowley at the archives -381-2239. Otherwise, please join us and enjoy all that we have planned for '08-09!

-Collette Rodbell

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## *From the Archives:*

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A century ago, summer in Larchmont was the high season. Nowadays it tends to be a quieter time when many people are away on vacation. However, whether due to the "staycation" phenomenon, or other ephemeral factors, this summer was pretty busy at the Larchmont Historical Society archives as we received several donations of documents from local folks.

First we received a collection of papers from former Village of Larchmont Mayor Martin Quigley (1980-1984) which included various papers and reports from the late 70s into the early 80s. In addition there were some election campaign materials which prompted us to initiate a program of collecting political materials from other sources with the intention of eventually scanning the pieces for inclusion on our website.

Then we gratefully accepted a few boxes of material from Ned Ryan, recently of 58 Edgewood Avenue in the Town. The son of another former mayor of Larchmont, Edward F.X. Ryan (1962-1966), Mr. Ryan, Jr. gave us papers from his father's day, his own recollections of his father's career, as well as his files on his own activities in Larchmont. From a man of many interests, these included his own time as a State Assemblyman, the establishment of a neighborhood group, the Larchmont Highlands Association, and perhaps most "piquant", papers and videotapes concerning the attempt to build an IKEA store in neighboring New Rochelle in 2000, a battle controversial on many levels.

find that the acquisition of personal papers like these help us to flesh out issues from the past that sometimes only exist in later years via newspaper accounts or as statistics in official reports. We hope that people will consider donating material like this to the Historical Society to help fill in the historical record.

Of course, not all of history is the political or the official or the public or the controversial. It's the everyday lives of people that often capture the imagination most. Also found in the hidden corners of Mr. Ryan's home were some boxes of material which belonged to a woman named Joan Davidson Hartley. These included yearbooks, letters, scrapbooks, and, yes, diaries. We have some detective work ahead of us to do to see if we can piece together her story. If you, dear Reader, can supply some clues, please get in touch with us! Perhaps we could have our own Red Leather Diary book someday. - Lynne Crowley




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## LHS Welcomes Jim Levi to the Board

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The Board of Trustees welcomes our newest trustee, Jim Levi. Jim is well known to many of us in the Larchmont community, both as the owner of 85 Larchmont Avenue (Century Homes Club member), participant in past LHS House Tours, as well as an amazing collector of all things hippopotamous. He and his wife Constance also have an extensive collection of Larchmont historical material outbidding all competitors on Ebay.

Mr. Levi is President of the Levi Company, an enterprise engaged in venture capital and real estate investments. Prior to forming the Levi Company, Mr. Levi was a founder and President of Value Properties, Inc., New York. At Value Properties, Mr. Levi primarily invested in existing real estate properties where there was an opportunity to significantly increase their value by physical and/or operational changes and improvements. From 1971 to 1987, Mr. Levi was President of Oppenheimer Properties, Inc., which he founded and was principally responsible for its development into one of the leading real estate companies among top investment and merchant banks, and was Executive Vice President and a member of the Executive Committee of Oppenheimer & Co., Inc. Before joining Oppenheimer & Co in 1971, Mr. Levi started the real estate operations of Smith Barney & Co.

Mr. Levi is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration and has also served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy.

Mr. Levi has been in the real estate business for more than 40 years and has been directly responsible for more than 400 real estate investments located in 38 states, involving total investment of well over one billion dollars. Those investments range from his first investment in a small apartment property in Cambridge, Massachusetts to St. Louis Union Station in St. Louis, Missouri, a world-class property which is believed to have been the largest adaptive reuse project in the United States. Mr. Levi has been involved in investments in virtually every kind of real estate property, including office buildings, shopping centers, industrial and warehouse properties, multi-family apartments, cooperatives and condominiums, single family developments, land investments, hotels, restaurants and others. He has been responsible for the formation of a number of real estate companies and real estate investment trusts and has also made many venture capital investments.

Mr. Levi has also held an appointment as a Professor a Columbia Business School and has served as Chairman of the Board and CEO of a publicly-owned retail company (54 stores). Mr.

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## Century Homes Club: 24 Helena Avenue

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Having lived at 24 Helena Ave since 1982, Laura Hoffman has generously shared her home with the community by participating in the 1990 and 2003 Larchmont Historical Society House Tours. As a result, 24 Helena Ave is one of the first members of the Century Homes Club!

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## Should the Larchmont Historical Society Get Involved with Politics?

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Should the Larchmont Historical Society get involved with politics, and post campaign ads on our website? That's what we're starting to do – but our interest is strictly historical. We've contacted former elected leaders, and former leaders of our political parties, and asked them to pull down some of those boxes of campaign literature in their attics, so that we can scan the flyers, ads and posters for our digital archive. We are also scanning some of the political ads in the old newspapers.

Our plan is to be as balanced as the League of Women Voters – grouping the candidates together with their opponents, so that people can revisit the lively politics of Larchmont over the decades.

Our earliest collection of actual flyers – thus far – was donated by former Mayor Martin Quigley. His collection includes material from his own campaigns as well as material from his running mates, opponents and candidates for other positions while he was Mayor. More recent materials have been provided by the local Republicans and Democrats.

“Frustrated taxpayers don't want to take it any more...” announces former Larchmont Mayor Leo Goldsmith as he runs for Town Supervisor in 1979. Martin Quigley promised “close day-to-day supervision of departments and officials” as he ran for

Laura never envisioned living in a Victorian house – her dream was a stately English Tudor-style home. But her husband had family ties to Larchmont and thus the focus became Larchmont and only Larchmont. After years of looking, Laura and her family found “Jenkins' Cottage”. As they say in the decorating world, 24 Helena Ave. has “great bones”, but you needed an equally great imagination to see past the brown shag carpeting and wrought iron stairway railing. Overgrown gardens hid the potential in the large, level backyard. Laura looked to a set of 1924 house renovation plans on file at Mamaroneck Town for inspiration as well as typical period Queen Anne details that were popular at that time. Most of those ideas were implemented in 1928, but Laura had her own ideas.

24 Helena was built sometime prior to 1886 and was originally known as the Jenkins' Cottage, on an area of land called Jenkins' Hill. The three Jenkins men were quite prominent. E. Fellows Jenkins, who died in 1923 at the age of 79, was superintendent and secretary of the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. William B. Jenkins, an importer and exporter with offices in New York City, died in 1927 at the age of 71. He was a prominent member of the Larchmont Yacht Club, as was his brother Charles. Charles E. Jenkins served as the Larchmont Yacht Club's second Commodore from 1881-83 but was dropped for nonpayment of dues in 1886. Charles Jenkins won the first trophy ever presented at Larchmont Yacht Club on July 31, 1880.



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Larchmont Mayor in 1978. In 1980, “Larchmont's Top team” of Barry, Scheffler and McCarthy promised to hire another policeman. In the 1980s, many of the campaign flyers were handwritten, but in the 1990s, more of the flyers seemed to be professionally designed and printed.

Over the summer, Archive intern Joe Viazzo scanned materials, but there's much more to be done. The local newspaper – the Larchmonter Times – published campaign advertisements. This resource should enable the archive to provide ads going back to the early 1900s. Eventually, the entire collection will appear on the digital photograph archive, so that they can be searched and viewed online. The project will never be complete, but we expect to have a substantial collection scanned and posted by the end of the year.

-Ned Benton

Subsequent owners were Marian Quattrone (1928-45), Emil Menlo (1945-61) and Marilyn Spielberger Harmon and Robert Harmon (1961-82). Helena Avenue is named after Helena Flint, the daughter of Thompson J.S. Flint, the entrepreneur who first formed the Larchmont Manor Company.

Laura has enjoyed raising her two children at 24 Helena. The house has evolved, with new uses for old rooms, and additions to make life ever more gracious. The house speaks to her – feeding her imagination by finding old trinkets and odd spaces. Ordinary pocket doors separating the foyer from the parlor could be hiding stained glass. What's that crawl space? The house has become Laura's foundation – her tap root to a community she loves.

- Nancy White

## Digging into the Past - Who Were They? LHS Interns Report on Cemetery Project



Dee van Eyck, center, with her son Stephen van Eyck and Daniel Luzzi at the annual meeting in June at Horseshoe Harbor Yacht Club.



Since last fall, when I began driving on my own, certain local street names started to stand out: Palmer, Secor, Cornell, Griffen, Berrian, Burling, Tompkins and Wright all surnames of people buried in our Quaker Burial Ground. Who were these people in our graveyards and what did they and their families contribute to the history of our Village and our Town?

I decided to approach the project genealogically. Using the U.S.

Federal censuses, early wills and land records, and church records (thankfully many of the people in our graveyards were Quakers and the Society of Friends kept great records), I have begun to document exactly who these people were. In many cases I have discovered their parents and grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins in addition to their spouses, children and, in some cases, their grandchildren. These Westchester families of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries intermarried with other well-known names: Underhill, Flan-dreau, Burtis, Merrit, Mott, Richbell, Pryer, Bishop, Bloomer, Gedney, Carpenter, Davis, Guion, Cooper.

I continue to be perplexed by the burial locations of many family members. Take, for instance, Aaron Palmer who is interred in the Quaker Burial Ground. Why is his wife, Mary Burtis, who died before he did, buried in the Palmer family section of the Methodist Church cemetery in New Rochelle? And what about James Donaldson, one of those buried in the mausoleum? His

wife, Mary Ann, the mother of his three sons, is buried outside the vault. According to a survey conducted by the Town of Mamaroneck in 1955, there are nine people interred there – who are they? Is one of them Elizabeth Swift, Donaldson's second wife, who raised his three boys? In an email sent to the Larchmont Historical Society in 2004 from the spouse of a Donaldson descendant, the 1883 death certificate of one of the sons, Thomas Donaldson, states that he is buried in Larchmont. Is he in there, too?

The most pressing problem is stabilizing the mausoleum and keeping it from deteriorating further. Funding for the building's restoration will be a challenge, but one avenue I think worth pursuing is seeking the assistance of the descendants. Going forward, I plan to continue researching the family lines and relationships of those buried in the Larchmont graveyards. In a little more than a week, I will be participating in a gravestone preservation workshop in Pennsylvania so that this fall I will be able to assist the conservator during a workshop planned for our own cemeteries. This summer, I will assist in mapping the graveyards and documenting the stones' current condition. Hopefully, by October of 2009, the graveyards will be in good enough condition to stage "Tales of the Crypt," a living history presentation where the characters are drawn from the individuals buried on the grounds. The research that I am currently doing will form the basis for these characterizations.

A Mamaroneck High School student once wrote, "There is no excuse for a town to be ignorant of its past or to let its past be destroyed." The student was Milton Prigoff and he made this statement in an award-winning 1940 essay about the Town of Mamaroneck's cemeteries. I agree with my fellow MHS student and look forward to continuing my internship with the Larchmont Historical Society's Cemetery Committee.

— Stephen J. van Eyck, LHS intern.

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*Programs, continued from page 1*

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Preceding the film, our own Ned Benton will give a short talk on the local history of slavery. We are grateful to St. John's parish for recognizing the importance of this event and for donating the use of their Parish Hall for the screening. Refreshments will be served. First come first served seating, no charge for members, all others \$5.00.

The LHS kicks off the holiday season on Saturday, December 6, with a sensational gala "**Murder at the Juice Joint Speakeasy**" in honor of this year's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the End of Prohibition. Given the number of rumored speakeasys in Larchmont, our past VP of Program, Dee van Eyck, has put together a kick-up-your-heels evening like no other in Larchmont. Save the date! Members, look for invitations in the mail. After you purchase your ticket you will find out where to meet as well as what role you will play in the night's "Who done it" shenanigans!

Looking ahead to 2009 we are happy to bring our own **Antiques Roadshow** to town with the help of Potomack Antiques. This event will be held on Saturday, February 7, and will no doubt be one of the membership's favorite programs. So dust off those silver ewers and gold-leafed platters. Plan to bring your ebay and flea market treasures to St. John's Parish Hall to have them appraised by the experts.

And of course, we are already hard at work organizing the Annual House Tour, which will take place in April.

This is just a glimpse of what is happening at the Larchmont Historical Society this season. We do need volunteers to help with these events and I urge you to consider signing up for one or two. Please call Patti Roberts (914-833-9080; patriciaroberts@optonline.net) for more information on any of the programs or to volunteer. Got any ideas for new programs? We welcome all input!  
*- Patti Roberts*

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*Welcome, continued from page 3*

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Levi is a former member of the Board of Governors of the Real Estate Securities and Syndication Institute. He has been a Registered Securities Principal and is a Licensed Real Estate Broker. He has been a member of the Society of Industrial and Office Realtors.

Mr. Levi also has been active in a variety of community activities, including the Board of Governors of the A.B. Freeman School of Business at Tulane University, The New York Board of Overseers of the Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion, Chairman of the Parents Committee of Johns Hopkins University, the Executive Board of the Westchester-Putnam Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and the Traffic Commission and Larchmont 2020 Task Force in the Village of Larchmont, New York.

Mr. Levi is 68 years old, married, has four children and lives with his wife, Constance. They have lived in Larchmont since 1974 and we are all thrilled to welcome Jim Levi to our Board!

## Calendar of Programs

### Saturday, October 19:

#### *Gravestone Conservation*

#### *Workshop*

9:00 am—1:00 pm: Meet at the Barker - Quaker Burial Grounds on the Boston Post Rd. Dress for the weather. The workshop is free and open to the public.

### Sunday, November 9:

#### *Abolition of Slavery Program*

6:30 pm: St. John's Episcopal Church. LHS's own Ned Benton to talk on the local history of slavery before the film. Refreshments, free and open to the public.

### Saturday, December 6:

#### *Speakeasy Murder Mystery: Cocktails/Dinner*

**Who:** Dauntless dames, Hollywood Harrys, the cops and more. **What:** A murderously exciting cocktail/dinner event promising swanky swill, high jinx and mystery... **Where:** It's a secret, but to be in the know, you must buy an invitation which will unlock the key to night's adventure. **Look for your invitation in November!**

### January/February tbd:

#### *LHS Antiques Roadshow*

### March tbd:

#### *Women's History Month Speaker*

### Sunday, April 26:

#### *Annual House Tour*

### May tbd:

#### *Speaker/Book Signing tbd*

### June tbd:

#### *Annual Meeting*

# Annual Meeting Horseshoe Harbor YC June 2008

Outgoing LHS President (center) Barbara Rewey Newman accepts a token of thanks from LHS Vice Presidents (left) Lauren Gottfried and (right) Collette Rodbell. Cate Jarrett, Secretary, looks on.



From left to right, Nancy White, Gazebo Gazette editor, Lynne Crowley, Archivist, and LHS Board member Roberta Warren. LHS Board member Ned Benton join Mary Lee and Treasurer-George Berridge



New Larchmont Historical Society President, Collette Rodbell with Vice President Lauren Gottfried. Board member and House Tour Chairman Susan Ermery stands with LHS board member Kzate Kelly



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## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please enroll me as a member of the Larchmont Historical Society. My tax-deductible dues for one year are enclosed. Annual membership year is: September - June..

New Member       Renewing Member

Please indicate membership category:

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$ 15	<b><u>Make checks payable &amp; mail to:</u></b>  The Larchmont Historical Society P.O. Box 742 Larchmont, NY 10538
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$ 25	
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65+) & Student	\$ 5	
<input type="checkbox"/> Institutional or Business	\$ 40	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$ 50	
<input type="checkbox"/> Life (individual only)	\$150	

I would like to volunteer to help on the following committee(s):

<input type="checkbox"/> Spring House Tour	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Grant Research/ Writing
<input type="checkbox"/> Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/> Century Homes Club
<input type="checkbox"/> Exhibits	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire History	<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising
<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly Programs	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Events
<input type="checkbox"/> Archives		

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_



Larchmont Historical Society  
PO Box 742  
Larchmont, NY 10538

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