



Floral Park Historical Society
The Docent's Digest

"My Recollections"
 shared by
Former Floral Park Resident
 and a
Pearl Harbor Survivor

On Monday, September 14, at 7:30 p.m. at Centennial Hall, Bill Holleran, a former Floral Park resident and president of the Long Island Chapter of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, will be the special guest of the FPHS. In December it will be the 68th anniversary of the surprise Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Bill was a Yeoman 2nd Class in the U.S. Navy assigned to the USS Phoenix in Hawaii on December 7, 1941. He has graciously offered to share his recollections of Floral Park and that historic day referred to as a "date which will live in infamy."

Your Are Cordially Invited
Fall Fancy Dinner Party
10th Anniversary

6:30 p.m., Thursday,
 November 12, 2009
Bob' Place Restaurant
 230 Jericho Turnpike, Floral Park

Entrée (three choices)
Dessert, Soft Drinks, Coffee-Tea
 \$35 per person

Recognitions
Entertainment

Dressy Attire

Reserve before November 1, 2009
Checks payable to FPHS
Mail to: Ann Corbett, President
 113 South Tyson Avenue, Floral Park



Historic Note: After President Franklin D. Roosevelt was informed of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, he calmly and decisively dictated a request to Congress for a declaration of war. The most significant change in the revision of his first draft was in the first line, which originally read, "a date which will live in world history." People huddled by their radios and listened attentively to the President's words relating the news of the horrific attack at Pearl Harbor. The words "a date which will live in infamy" resonated with Americans; instantly they were imbedded in their hearts and minds.

FLORAL PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Website: www.floralparkhistorical.org

Officers (2008-2009)

Ann V. Corbett, President
 Adele Werthmuller, Vice President
 Bernice Hayes, Treasurer
 Claire Mansfield, Secretary
 Walter Gosden, Village Historian &
 Museum Curator

Directors & Chairpersons

George Bowen
 Robert Rouge
 Jeanne Petta
 Frances Hornberger
 Stara Wickes Rudiger
 Clare Byrne
 Bill Corbett

FPHS President's Message

The members of the Floral Park Historical Society can be proud of its ten year history. The best way for me to tell readers about the progress of the FPHS is to simply list some of its many milestones and achievements:

Established FPHS-1999/Adopted Constitution and By-laws
Recognized as a N.Y.S. Historical Society- Temporary Chartered
Granted Federal and State Tax Exempt Nonprofit Status
Established a Website www.floralparkhistorical.org with Online Museum Shop
Engaged Artisan to Create Replicas of Historic Buildings
Purchased Display Cabinets to Outfit Museum
Opened FPHS Museum in 2007
Awarded N.Y.S. Legislative Grant (2008) \$3,000 (Archival/Museum Improvements)
HVAC –Temperature Control System Installed in Museum
Archival Room –Renovation Work, Carpentry and Flooring
Major Fundraising Project (2007-08) -\$15,000 Raised
Planned and ran Floral Park Centennial Gala
Schedule of Monthly Meetings, Programs, Tours and Trips
Participated in Community Street Fairs and Public Events
Received Donations of Historic Memorabilia, Photos, Artifacts and Documents
Docent Tours of Museum Conducted Regularly
Maintain Archive of Historic Materials
Participated in local teachers in service program

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the founders, too many to list, of the FPHS for their enthusiasm, perseverance and spirit of volunteerism that is solely responsible for the success of the organization that will celebrate its 10th anniversary this November. I also want to extend thanks to Mayor Kevin Greene, Deputy Mayor Tom Tweedy and Trustees Jim Rhatigan, Mary Grace Tomecki and Dom Longobardi and village personnel for their support of the FPHS programs and its museum.

Ann V. Corbett, President

NYS Legislative Grant

The FPHS pays recognition to N.Y.S. Senator Craig Johnson for his assistance in helping the FPHS obtain a \$3,000 NYS Legislative Grant (2008). The funds were used for a modern heat and air conditioning system for the museum area and for the renovation of the adjoining archival work area where volunteers will be cataloging and working to preserve the modest but growing collection of historic items.

New York State History Bus Trip to Albany

***Albany Institute of History & Art Guided
Tour of Exhibit
Hudson River Panorama
400 Years of History
A Narrative of Henry Hudson's Exploration
New York State Museum
Lunch at Jack's Oyster House***

Historical Society of East Rockaway & Lynbrook

October 17, 2009, \$74.00/person. Reserve before September 10.

Bus Leaves & Returns from Lynbrook For All Details
Call: 516 593-5791

Floral Park Trivia

1. Who was the first president of Floral Park?
2. Name the Floral Park Village Historian whose father hired John Lewis Childs to work for him.
3. Who served as president of the Floral Park Woman's Club for nearly 30 years?
4. Who was Floral Park's mayor on September 11, 2001?
5. Trees of what species are planted along Tulip Avenue in the business section?
6. Which church was the first to be established in Floral Park?
7. In what building was the first Floral Park Public Library located?
8. What is the most common wild animal (mammal) seen in Floral Park?
9. Where have all the October weekend Breast Cancer Awareness Days been held?
10. What are the names of the four civic associations in Floral Park?

Answers Page 3

DATES TO REMEMBER:

September 14, Monday, 7:30 p.m.

Guest: Navy Veteran Bill Holleran
Pearl Harbor Survivor
Hometown Floral Park
My Recollections

October 4, Sunday

Oheka Castle Tour – 2:00 p.m.
\$15 per person, Reserve by Sept. 30
Centennial Hall/Car Pool : 12:30 p.m.
Checks to: Adele Werthmuller,
34 Daisy Avenue, Floral Park

October 17, Saturday

Albany Historic Hudson Trip

November 2, Monday, 7:30 p.m.

Bayside Algonquin Indian Heritage
Details TBA

November 12, Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

Fall Fancy Dinner-Party
10th Anniversary

December - No Meeting

Sunday, January 3, 2010

New Year's Luncheon
Details TBA

February 7, Sunday, 2:00 p.m.

It is My Honor to Meet You...
Mr. President

Bill Corbett, Guest Speaker

March 7, Sunday, 2:00 p.m.

Show and Tell Road Show

April 11, Sunday

Polish American Museum Trip
Port Washington, Car Pool
Details TBA

May 3, Monday, 7:30 p.m.

Turnover/Annual Meeting
*(All meetings are held at
Centennial Hall, Monday nights &
Sunday afternoons in the winter.
Check floralparkhistorical.org
and local newspapers for
schedule updates.)*

2009 Docent Museum Tours:

Tigers and Webelos
Nassau Hiking and Outdoor Club
West End Civic Association
*(Call 516 775-6849 to arrange a
Docent's Tour (groups of 5 +))*

Volunteer Ops

Want to volunteer? We have things you can do that won't take "too much" of your time? Let us know if you are interested? 516 775-6849.



Answers to Trivia Questions:

1. John Lewis Childs
2. Hayden Allen
3. Caroline Childs
4. Mayor Ann Corbett
5. Pear
6. United Methodist Church
7. FP Village Hall
8. Squirrel
9. FP Recreation Center
10. Hillcrest, West End, South Side, North End

Focus on Donations and Community Support

The FPHS is fortunate to have so many residents, community leaders, business people and former residents who have and continue to embrace the FPHS's mission. The society continues to collect memorabilia, artifacts and documents related to the history of Floral Park. We thank donors for their generosity and supportive efforts on the society's behalf, as the organization goes forth, cataloging and preserving the collection.

Michele Mayo

Floral Park resident and Boker/Owner of RE/MAX Village Manor Real Estate, Michele Mayo, presented a check for \$815 to the FPHS. The donation is the result of Michele's sponsorship of a very successful Multi-Family Garage Sale Day in April with 31 local residents participating. Michelle publicized the garage sale day and paid the permit fees for the participants who each donated \$25 to the society.

The Trowel

The Floral Park Masonic Lodge, through the assistance of Mason, Al Ahrens, was gracious in giving several items to the FPHS. One of the treasures received was the silver trowel that was used to lay the cornerstone of the Floral Park Masonic Temple, now known as Floral Park Centennial Hall. The Floral Park Masons were an active fraternal service group of men who met at the Masonic Temple until it was sold in 2004 to the Inc. Village of Floral Park.

Floral Park's founder, John Lewis Childs, was a Mason but he was a member of the Jamaica Lodge. Perhaps the reason was the Floral Park Masonic Temple was not yet constructed. Childs died in 1928.

Nowadays the Masons hold their meetings in New Hyde Park. Among the many charitable undertakings of the fraternal organization during the years in the village, the Masons held an annual Christmas party at the Masonic Temple where Santa Claus visited and showered hundreds of needy children from the Queens Psychiatric Center with gifts that the men had donated. Centennial Hall houses the Floral Park Museum, and is also a place where art shows, book sales and other community events are held.

West End Civic Association

A special thank you to the president of the West End Civic association, Perry Criscitelli, the officers and board members and all the members of the oldest civic association in Floral Park for donating \$250 to defray the cost of printing and mailing the 10th Anniversary Edition of the FPHS *Docent's Digest*.



The Wright Place

Photo of "A. Wright & Son" shows Wright's place of business around 1904. This is where Koenig's Restaurant is located. Pictured (L to R) are Andrew Wright, William Andrew Wright, George Hurell (Floral Park's first deputy sheriff), and Sadie Allyn Wright (1878-1954).

The Wright Family

A disc of photos and newspaper articles, fire department badges and other memorabilia donated by William A. Wright, Jr., of Springfield, Virginia, were wonderful surprise donations. In a letter Mr. Wright, Jr., wrote "My grandfather, Andrew Wright (1853-1917), was Floral Park's fourth tax collector, early member of the Floral Park Fire Department, and the founding Vice President of the Floral Park Lions Club. My father, William Allyn Wright (1920-2005), was a founder and first commissioner of the Floral Park Little League in 1953 and ran a family insurance business at 20 Tyson Avenue until 1984. In 2006, he was honored with a plaque at the Floral Park Recreation Center."

Bits & Pieces & More Thank You's

Thank you Peter Fleig for your years of service on the FPHS Board and a past president ...Congratulations to St. Elisabeth's Church on its upcoming 100th anniversary...Contact Mother Murphy if you have any memorabilia or photos to help the church celebrate its centennial year...The museum has a collection of high school yearbooks but most are dated before 1980...Donations of Sewanhaka and Floral Park Memorial year books are always welcomed...Thank you to John and Barbara Murphy for their donation of Floral Park memorabilia and artifacts... Thank you Anthony Castoro of Astor Graphics for designing the tenth anniversary logo.. Thank you to the business leaders who took ads to help defray the cost of this newsletter...the Museum Shop has FPHS Centennial T-shirts at a bargain price-call (516) 775-6849

FPHS 2009 Highlights

A wonderful Victorian /Christmas Luncheon was held at Duggan's, a tasty cake compliments of Tulip Bakery topped off the festive **December** day...2009 began with a guided tour in **January** of Garden City's St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral of the Incarnation; splendidly decorated for the Christmas and New Year holidays...In **February** members were enlightened about Long Island Lighthouses by Robert G. Muller, an author and expert on LI's lighthouse histories, restorations and lighthouse keepers...In **March** Ann Corbett presented a program on the Golden Age of Post Cards and George Olivett, a Floral Park clock maker, folk artist and poet...**April** 18 attended a luncheon at Swing the Teapot before joining more history buffs and Garden City Historian John Kodes who conducted a bus tour of his village making it extraordinarily interesting for all...Oheka Castle and Gold Coast millionaire Otto Kahn were the topics of **April's** presentation by Peter Fleig...East Rockaway Grist Mill doors opened in mid- **May** for a sizable FPHS group for a special tour - weeks before the museum's official summer opening... In **June** the annual meeting was held and a "Floral Park Trivia" contest with prizes. Refreshments were enjoyed as members chatted and previewed the Friends of the Library giant book sale that was setup for browsers.

* Special thanks to our gracious Tour Director and Vice President Adele Werthmuller for her work in organizing all the trips and tours.
"Nobody does it better" than Adele.

Archival Room Update

Great strides have been made this year in the Archival room area that is next to our museum. We had a local contractor install a folding door to separate the room from the 3rd floor attic area that can not be used, and they also framed out and installed a multi pane door to the entrance of the room that closely matches the doors to our museum. Air vents were installed in all the closets we will use to keep the village, library and Historical Society collections. All the floors in that area were stripped of their old finish (including inside the closets) and refinished to match the rest of the museum area.

The village had removed the old carpet for us and patched the cracked plaster for us as well. The floors took longer than expected due to the humidity that affected the drying time, for the several coats of finish that had to be applied. All that remains to be done is to stain the new main door and reinstall one closet door and we are ready to start to arrange the archives. Both Northeastern Home Improvements and Horizon Carpets, who did the work for us, were very kind when it came to what they charged us for all the work, and we thank them for this. We will be asking for volunteers this fall to help us with the organizing of that area.

Museum News

The generous donation by Steve Fontakis earlier in the year of period Floral Park material will provide numerous early publications, postcards etc for displays and research. Current displays will be removed and new ones installed once the decision has been made as to what the next exhibits will be, and volunteers will be needed to help with this - as more develops you will be informed at the meetings. We continue to be informed of museum news from our association with our membership in MANY (Museum Association of New York). This lets us know what is going on in Albany that affects positively or negatively all museums in New York, both large and small.

Walter Gosden, Curator