

Floral Park Historical Society

The Docent's Digest

December 2019

Winter Edition

President's Message

Our 20th Anniversary year is winding down. In January we will officially say good-bye to a remarkable milestone year. From 1999 through 2019 the society has been committed to its mission of preserving local history and educating men, women and children about it. We opened a modest museum and maintained an archive with significant collections related to our community, its residents, government and business and service organizations. The highlight of 2019 was the April unveiling of eight historical markers that have since been installed at historic sites within the Village.

I hope you will plan to attend our special **20th Anniversary – Welcome New Year 2020 Luncheon** to be held on **Sunday, January 12, 2020 at the Nassau County Bar Association in Mineola**. It is one of only four bar associations in the country that has its own building with in-house dining facilities.



NCBA President Richard D. Collins will talk about his trip to London where he and 30 member lawyers visited the historic Middle Temple Inn of Court which served as the inspiration for the NCBA's Great Hall of the Domus – an exquisitely designed representation of feudal architecture. "Domus" refers to the home of the association. Read Rick Collins' biography below.

I have enclosed a flyer with more details about the January 12 luncheon and a second flyer about our February 9 program featuring local attorney and author Mark Torres. Meet Mark and hear about his experience writing "Adeline" his second novel and follow-up to his popular 2015 novel "A Stirring in the North Fork".



Best wishes to you and yours for a joyous holiday season from my husband Bill and I and the officers and directors of the society.

Ann V. Corbett

Rick Collins, Esq.



Rick Collins is a founding partner of the law firm of Collins Gann McCloskey & Barry. He is a former prosecutor in the Office of the Nassau County District Attorney, and has been practicing state and federal criminal defense since 1990, with most of his clients currently in the fields of bodybuilding, fitness and nutrition. Rick received his undergraduate degree from Hofstra University and his law degree from Hofstra School of Law, where he attended on a full academic scholarship and served on the Law Review. He was admitted to the New York Bar in 1985 and is also admitted to practice in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Texas, the District of Columbia, and numerous federal courts. (Over)

Rick Collins, Esq. (cont.)

Currently the President of the 5,000-member Nassau County Bar Association, he also sits on the Executive Committee of the New York State Bar Association Criminal Justice Section. As Co-Chair of the Section's Sealing Committee, he helped change state law to offer criminal record sealing to deserving ex-offenders with low-level, non-violent convictions from the distant past.

Rick is a former competitive bodybuilder and personal trainer. He has contributed chapters to two texts on sports nutrition and is a nationally Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (NSCA-CSCS). He is the co-author of Alpha Male Challenge, a men's diet and exercise book published by Rodale.

Among his other interests are skydiving, volunteer work and acting. Rick has raised nearly \$100,000 through charity skydive events, and is a USPA-licensed skydiver. Much of his philanthropic efforts are done through WE CARE, the charitable arm of the Nassau County Bar Association, and through Warriors for a Cause, a Long Island 501(c)(3). He is also a Screen Actors Guild member and has appeared in TV and film productions.

Our 20th Anniversary Logo

A special thank you is extended to Anthony Castoro, President of Astrographics, for creating the FPHS's 20th Anniversary logo. Anthony grew up in Floral Park and is the graphic artist who designed our first logo, our membership brochures, the map-and walking tour guide for our 20th Anniversary Historical Marker Project and various other materials over the years.

Anthony donated the bowling pin now on display in our museum. It is from the Tulip Bowling Alley on Hill St. and Tulip Ave. that was destroyed by a gas explosion in 1987. The scorched bowling pin and some bricks were blown onto the lawn in front of Anthony's house.



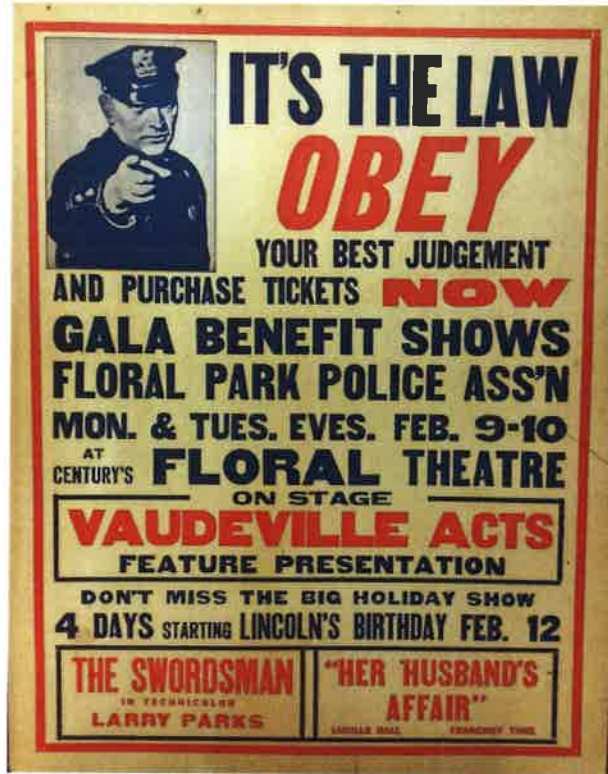
1952 – Eisenhower Visits Floral Park

Pictured is General Dwight David Eisenhower when he was driven through Floral Park via Plainfield Avenue during his election campaign for president. Note Msgr. Finney, Our Lady of Victory R. C. Church Pastor, greeting him. The onlookers pictured are in the OLV parking lot across from the church. *(Photo credit –Dot Carson)*



PBA Poster No Longer Hidden from View

It is always a wonderful surprise when a piece of history that has been hidden from view for many years is discovered. Recently, when emptying out a Village Hall cabinet a large poster



from a bygone year was discovered. Many remember when the Police Benevolent Association (PBA) hosted entertaining shows at the Floral Theatre. Low and behold, this poster reveals to us that Lucille Ball was in one of the films to be shown. There were vaudeville acts, celebrities and comedians that appeared in person at the PBA Benefit Shows – like Henny Youngman, a comedian who was a master of one liners and Tiny Tim who married Miss Vicki on TV and played the ukulele. The poster (on the left) is probably from 1947 when the film with Lucille Ball was released.



Lucille Ball was an actress and pioneer in comedy. She was the star of the popular television series, *I Love Lucy*. As an entertainer and businesswoman, Ball broke barriers for women in entertainment business (1911-1989).

Her name is hard to read but it is at the bottom left in the box under the title of the film “Her Husband’s Affair”.

Just think this tidbit of local history might have been hidden from view forever.

Three Red Tulips on a Blue Field

The square panel with three stylized red tulips on a blue field with the date 1908, the year the Village was incorporated, was the design used to create the Floral Park flag. It is considered by many to be the “Village Logo.” The original flag can be found in the FPHS Archives. It has been placed in an acid free box with acid free tissue paper to protect it from deterioration. However, from time to time the impressive flag is displayed at program meetings or special events.



In 2005, after the Village purchased the Masonic Temple and renamed it Centennial Hall, the tulip design was replicated on a panel of plastic and backlit by the light fixture that was situated at the front peak of Temple. The tulip panel actually replaced a glass panel with a Masonic etching on it that was backlit. At night the backlit panels of plastic and glass could be seen from afar.

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