



The Gazebo Gazette

Newsletter of the Larchmont Historical Society

Annual Meeting Held: State of the Society in the year Twenty-Ten

It was a perfect summer evening to gather at one of the glorious birthplaces of Larchmont, Horseshoe Harbor Yacht Club in Manor Park. Each year, the Larchmont Historical Society's Board of Trustees, members and interested residents are invited to attend an open meeting to review and acknowledge the accomplishments of the LHS over the last year. It is also a time where we say farewell to retiring board members and welcome new ones. The LHS is truly blessed to have the support of so many talented, accomplished and committed board members.

Roar back to the 20's

Fireman's Ball

Saturday, October 30th

Dinner—Dancing—Silent Auction

fabulous house tour and moving on to our Oral History Project, Membership Initiatives, Programs, Storefront Signage, the Fire Truck Restoration, Walking Tours and the aArchives. We all enjoyed lots of laughter and a positive sense of accomplishment reviewing what this group has achieved over the last year.

President Colette Rodbell kicked off the annual meeting with a "State of Society" address which gave highlights of the many programs and events over the last year. Colette also gave a moving and heartfelt farewell to retiring board members Manuel Delgado, Lauren Gottfried, Peggy Kahn, Kate Kelly, Melissa Schoen and Roberta Warren. Their "big shoes" will be hard to fill and we will miss all their energy, talents and support.

Kate Kelly donated all rights and proceeds of her book "The Great Marble Match" to LHS. In special thanks, a donor's plaque will be placed at the Larchmont Library to acknowledge Kate's generous gift.



Cynthia McManus, Monica Foster, Chris Knowles and Katherine Ann Samon. Credit: Keith Loria

Each officer and committee member then provided updates of his or hers individual committee's past accomplishments and future aspirations. There was a lot to review, starting with the

Known more for our conviviality than formality, we then proceeded to learn the proper protocol of nominating and confirming new and re-elected officers and board members: I believe we all now can say "all in favor-say AYE!!" The following "official" confirmations were announced, confirmed and "Ayed": Nancy White as First Vice President, Membership, for the term 2010-2012; re-election of second term board members: Colette Rodbell, President, Patricia Roberts, Second Vice President, Programs and JimSweeney, Treasurer. Margi Gristina was also reelected to the board for the term 2010-2013.

Drum roll please.... the newly formed and official 2010 Nominating Committee of Laura Hoffman, Nancy White and Pier Witek then introduced the following new and returning board members: Beth Belisle, Ned Benton, Susan Emery, Jim Fleming, Monica Foster, Rick Lefever and Katherine Ann Samon. Both Susan

Published by:
The Larchmont Historical Society
P.O. Box 742, Larchmont, NY 10538

Editor: Nancy White
Contributors: Ned Benson, Lynne Crowley, Laura Hoffman, Kate Kelly, Carolyn Brown Okay

Officers and Board of Trustees:
Colette Rodbell President
Lauren Gottfried, 1st VP, Membership
Patti Roberts, 2nd VP, Programs
Carolyn Brown Okay, Secretary
Jim Sweeney, Treasurer

Stacy Caffrey	Jennifer Lamb
Erin Constabile	Jim Levi
Manuel Delgado	Ellen Martin
Elaine Everhart	Cynthia McManus
Andrew Francella	Stephen Rolandi
Margi Gristina	Melissa Schoen
Laura Hoffman	Margaret Takata
Peggy Kahn	Roberta Warren
Kate Kelly	Nancy White
Chris Knowles	Pier Witek

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.

President's Message:

Earlier this month, on a beautiful summer night, we gathered at the historic Horseshoe Harbor and finished up our 29th successful year of the Larchmont Historical Society. As I thought carefully about the year, I kept coming back to how particularly proud I am of our consistency. And what's great to note is that it's been across the board.

We've turned out our bi-monthly newsletter in a timely fashion and it's been both informative and lively. Many of our board members participate and that is thanks to our task master, Nancy White.

Our programs, created by Patti Roberts, have been varied and interesting the entire year. From our Veteran's Day family event to the pizzazz of Phyllis McGinley poetry and Kiran Chetry of CNN, these programs have been lively and well-attended. That's no easy feat in a town that offers so much to its residents.

Our lovely Spring House Tour graced the Manor on April 25th and will not be forgotten for a long time by anyone who attended. It was just magnificent. I have to say that having Laura Hoffman first say yes to this chair position (not knowing at all what she was getting into) and then to have Susan Emery act as senior advisor to this amazing committee was a gift to me and to the entire society.

Another area that has seen consistent growth is the Century Homes Club. We celebrated our fourth annual cocktail party at 8 Woodbine Avenue, aka the Rockledge Cottage, this year and can now lay claim to 40 brass plaques scattered around town. Stacy Caffrey definitely lead that charge and has had several key players assisting her.

The last area that has become consistently strong this year is PR. We have all noticed the catchy articles and attractive postcards and flyers that arrive in our mail boxes or make the local papers. This wouldn't have happened without Melissa Schoen's creativity and timeliness.

In addition to being consistent with ongoing formats, we've begun several programs to enhance our visibility and importance to the Village of Larchmont. Pier Witek has been running both our walking tours and our new oral history program! What perfect things for our society to be embarking on as we strive to "disseminate information concerning Larchmont".

We've also taken great strides in the restoration of Engine One and look forward to the day when the great fire truck rolls back into town. In anticipation of that day, we are busy planning a Fireman's Ball and Fundraiser to be held this fall. Thank you, Ned Benton and Jim Sweeney!

Cynthia McManus is currently tackling the project of "taking the museum to the streets." This is in the form of a coordinated display program set up throughout town. Keep an eye out!

While I am thrilled with this year's talented slate of new board members, it is time to bid a fond farewell to our departing members, Manuel Delgado, Lauren Gottfried, Peggy Kahn, Kate Kelly, Melissa Schoen and Roberta Warren. They will be sorely missed as it has been a true pleasure working with each of them. We thank them very much for their commitment to the historical society.

One more thing I'd like to do is to thank Kate Kelly Schweitzer for a generous donation that she has recently made. In 1991, the year of the Larchmont centennial, Kate wrote and published a book called *Larchmont Long Ago: The Great Marble Match*. It was illustrated by Meg Lesser Roberts and then used by the 4th grade at Chatsworth Elementary School. Kate has donated the rights to the LHS and we are hoping to include it as early as this upcoming year in our program series. Our purpose according to our constitution is to "guide adults and children in an appreciation of the significance of their local heritage". This seems a perfect way to do it.

Enjoy your beautiful summer in Larchmont – you'll be hearing from us again before you know it!
- Colette Rodbell

Emery and Ned Benton had taken a year off (not really, their fingerprints are all over many undertakings of the last year). Rick Lefever, an architect specializing in historic preservation became a new “pillar” of our society by rescuing and securing an errant poster being showcased for display in empty storefronts. Beth Belisle’s skill and contributions were already apparent with her help this year with the House Tour. We also welcomed Jim Fleming (unfortunately not present) as an architectural historian, Monica Foster, an antique rug specialist who also brings much creative talents as a film producer and writer and Katherine Ann Samon a published author, writer and trendspotter. Wow, we are again so lucky to attract the interest and devotion of such incredible talent.

Lots of “all in favors” and ayes in unison ended this years 2010 Annual Board Meeting at 8:20 pm. We all look forward to another productive and exciting year in fulfilling the Larchmont Historical Society’s Mission which is: “to discover, preserve and disseminate information concerning the natural, social and civic history of Larchmont and to promote the preservation of historical sites and structures”. Many thanks one and all for being such a fun and “can do” group!

- Carolyn Brown Okay

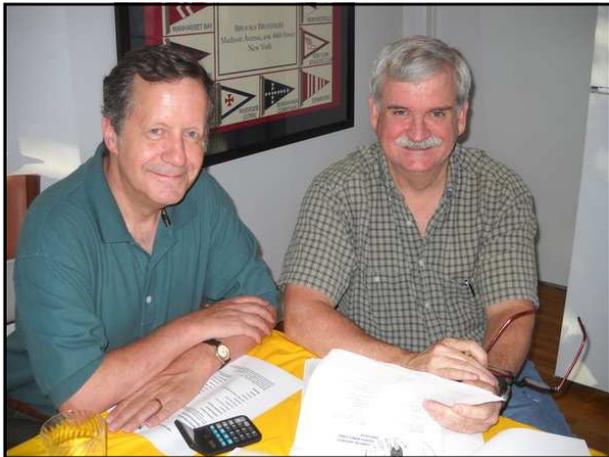
Century Homes Club 14 Pryer Manor Lane



Based on map evidence, land records, deeds, and directory listings we conclude that the house at 14 Pryer Lane was built by Frank D. White in 1907, the year in which he purchased the property from an auctioneer and very interesting character, Alphonse Montant. Montant was from a well situated French family. In addition to being an auctioneer, he was also an avid, early amateur photographer and inventor. The resident directories that we have from the early years of Larchmont list Montant as living at Willow Ave, corner of Prospect. On April 5, 1907, the *New Rochelle Paragraph* reported that the Kane homestead on Beach Ave had been rented to Frank D. White, which we speculate White occupied while building his home on Pryer Lane. On the April 1910 census, White is listed on Pryer Lane, along with wife Blanche G., their only child, 26 year old Frank and his wife of six years, Gertrude, along with four servants.

In terms of establishing the first owner of the house, this seems fairly straightforward, but in uncovering information about the owners some interesting questions, as well as a whiff of *scandale* arose: Blanche White successfully sued her husband for divorce in 1898, when she was 38 years of age. The grounds for this action were abundant evidence of an ongoing affair her husband had been carrying on with a widow, Mrs. Lydia Deans, who the couple had met in 1882 when both the Whites and the Deanss (before Mr. Deans’s death) were visiting the same hotel in LARCHMONT!

The Whites had been married in 1881. Blanche Genevieve Hall was from a more prominent Brooklyn family than her future spouse, the son of Frank C. White and heir to a highly successful wholesale baking company. The couple lived on Putnam Avenue in Brooklyn, had a son in 1884, appear to have been



Ned Benton and Jim Sweeney attend to some Historical Society paperwork.
Credit [Keith Loria](#)



Bruce Macfarlane, a 30-year Larchmont resident, is very involved with the Historical Society. Credit [Keith Loria](#)

Continued from page 3

socially active, frequently summering in Sea Cliff, Long Island. In the spring of 1898, after some 17 years of marriage, Blanche sued for divorce, sold the Putnam Avenue house (at least the deed transfer was in her name) and bought a house on Primrose Avenue in Mount Vernon.

None of this would really seem all that interesting or noteworthy, in and of itself, but the story is headed for some seemingly unusual twists. In the detailed report of the divorce, the press expressed that the 'other woman,' Mrs. Deans, "a widow, 38 years old, . . . bears so strong a likeness to Mrs. White that she has often been taken for her." And that the divorce was quite amicable, seemingly on both parts, as Mr. "White's father, who is partially paralyzed, is living with [Blanche at her home in Mt. Vernon]," and Mr. White had provided more than ample support for his ex-wife and child, unsolicited, such that no request for alimony needed to be made. In April 1903, Blanche still maintained a residence in Mt. Vernon, but the local press was apparently unaware of her divorce, as "Mrs. Frank D. White, whose husband is a wholesale pie baker in New York City, and who lives in Primrose Avenue, was thrown from her carriage this afternoon. Her jaw and one of her legs was broken."

The census takers of the time appear to have been equally in the dark regarding their divorce, as in June of 1900, they are listed on Central Park West as Frank D., a baker, wife Blanche G., son Frank and mother-in-law Sarah A. Hall (also one servant)!

At this point we have no further information regarding Lydia Deans. Based upon the information we do have, we might conclude that Frank and Blanche reconciled, and at least proceeded as husband and wife; whether their legal status ever changed back is unknown. Both Frank's and Blanche's names appear on the July 1907 deed of purchase of the property upon which they built 14 Pryer Lane. (We believe the Mount Vernon property was sold in January 1908). The 1908 and 1909 directories list only the son, Frank R., as the White in residence (the wives were virtually never listed). 1910 through 1914 list Frank D. exclusively. As mentioned above, the 1910 census shows the whole family, including daughter-in-law. 1915, 1916 and 1919 directories list both Franks.

In the mid 1910's, the Whites purchased the land at the end of Pryer Lane, and apparently built and resided in the home known then as 2 Pryer Lane, which has been razed and replaced. We are not sure which year they moved to this house, and as the directories list the family's location as only "Pryer's Point," (house numbers were not yet in common use), they do not help pinpoint the date, although it was certainly by the May 1917 sale of 14 Pryer to Thomas M. Hilliard. The January 1920 census places the White family at 2 Pryer Lane, along with a new son-in-law, Everett C. Wood, and a 36 year old 'friend,' George Maurice Marlo. It's not clear yet what happened to the son, Frank R.; in any event, his wife Gertrude appears to have

remarried by 1920 and continued living with the Whites with her new husband. This house was sold in May of that year, to John H. Duys, a photograph of which appears in the 1992 "Illustrated Supplement of the Larchmonter Times."

With the death of Frank D. White May 1923, "the last of the White family of bakers, for 83 years known to an exclusive old clientele, passes out of existence... As Mr. White is childless and leaves only his wife, this means the end of the White baking family. The business, however, probably will be continued as usual." His obituary from the *New York Evening Telegraph* goes on to describe the repute in which the company was held, helping frame for current day audiences how a bakery could generate the wealth necessary to build such fabulous waterfront homes: "All the big weddings of that period were not complete without a cake baked at Frank White's. The place also had a reputation for enormous and luscious pies."

Frank's formerly estranged wife Blanche outlived him for another 24 years, passing away at the age of 86 in 1947. From her obituary we learn that the business did indeed continue without a male heir. In fact Blanche took over as president upon Frank's death and continued in that role until 1934, when she retired at the age of 74. The 1930 census finds Blanche residing on Park Avenue in Manhattan, a 69 year old widow, with the aforementioned friend George M. Marlo, who she appears to have adopted. Blanche's obituary lists her surviving kin as a daughter, Mrs. Clifford R. Fowler (we can only surmise that Gertrude remarried), of Scarsdale, and an adopted son, George M. Marlo.

- Stacy Caffrey



Tapestries: 5 Interpretations of Fabled Architecture Thanks to All

Looking back on my “Rookie” year as a board member and House Tour chairperson I’m filled with feelings of trepidation and exhilaration. I honestly expected to spend my first year as a committee member, definitely NOT a “chair”. Thanks to a Guardian Angel in the form of Susan Emery and a committee that had been assembled for me, a deep breath and much encouragement from Colette, what might have been a intimidating task turned out to be a truly remarkable experience.

Once we had secured our homes through perseverance, friendship, a bit of moxie and some good fortune, the true work of branding, researching, documenting, illustrating, photographing, producing, underwriting, marketing, staffing and celebrating the tour began.

The expertise of the women who constituted the committee astounded and inspired me at every turn.

Stacy Caffrey led a very capable Historical Research committee which brought the heart and soul of each home to life in a most educational and enchanting fashion. Vicky Amon, Peggy Kahn, Ellida McMillan and Roberta Warren each interviewed an owner to gain perspective that brought the history to life through the eyes of the current resident family. Judy Spikes was always available to advise us with her special perspective.

Susan Emery, Margi Gristina and Patti Roberts used their exquisite eyes to guide us through each room, pointing out decorative and treasured details while Ellen Martin kept us attuned to the specifics of architectural detail.

My own personal nightmare was THE Journal! Fortunately, Alissa Hackmann, Susan Emery and Patti Roberts were onboard to coordinate the story of each home and bring it to life. Amanda

Schlumberger provided the graphic design and Leslie Wiener smoothly handled the layout and production.

We were so fortunate to have the very talented Phyllis Tarlow to illustrate each home in her lovely pen and ink style. They were a lovely, lasting thank you to each homeowner.

Susan Emery and Peggy Kahn were invaluable in getting the underwriting for the event. At times it was a daunting task but thankfully many of our local businesses led by our very generous Realtors offered impressive support. So please refer to your journal often and shop locally.

The long awaited day arrived and although the morning threatened some nasty rain by noon the rain had stopped and our guests were able to walk between several of our homes. To say that each home was a feast for the eyes and senses is an understatement. Our gracious hosts had prepared their extraordinary homes with exquisite taste and creativity. Each home was staffed and organized down to a gnat’s eyelash by our logistical guru Pier Witek with a nice assist from Jennifer Lamb. Beth Belisle arranged for lovely floral arrangements for each home. Erin Constabile, Berry Hoffman and Ellen Martin photographed each home for our archives.

While Lauren Gottfried had successfully presold hundreds of tickets, Ned Benton and Jim Sweeney manned the “ticket tent” welcoming guest with friendly, good cheer.

The day ended at The Mamaroneck Artist Guild with a lavish reception graciously hosted by Beth Belisle and Lou Pollak. The mood was festive and the response to the tour was enthusiastic and gratifying.
- Laura Hoffman

2nd Annual Newcomer’s Club Walking Tour a Great Success!

On Saturday, June 5th about 8 families, including 9 children, parents and grandparents alike gathered in front of the Larchmont Public Library. Our host, Pier Witek, from the Larchmont Historical Society, gave us a short introduction about Larchmont and its developments through the years.

The group strolled down Larchmont Avenue to the Manor. The first stop was at the “Manor House”, the first house overlooking the sound. Pier Witek explained how Larchmont was first settled and pointed out some of the earliest houses, churches and summer residences in our area. She explained the eclectic mix of architectural styles found in Larchmont Manor, from gingerbread to Tudor revival.



It was a lazy, comfortable stroll for all, finding some shady places on this sunny and hot morning with plenty of time to talk to each other while the kids had their own fun.

After two very interesting hours Pier left us with an urge to do learn more about our home town and its interesting history. So we have to go again next year! Thanks for Larchmont Historical Society to make this event a huge success!

From the Archives:



It Must Have Been Too Darn Hot in Larchmont the First Week of July in 1901!

From *The Larchmont Times*, Saturday, July 6, 1901:

The regular advertisement for Ware's Department Store on Main St. in New Rochelle specifically notes: "The Protracted Heat calls for goods of the Thinnest, Sheerest, Airiest. Here you can find it: thin underwear, sheer shirt waists, airy openwork hosiery and underwear." It sounds delightful!

On the previous Saturday, "the Second Annual Minstrel Show and Vaudeville performance given under the auspices of the Larchmont Athletic Club at St. John's Parish House was a great success," despite the warm weather, and the hall was crowded with spectators.

However, on Monday, "Mr Patrick Burns, gardener at Mrs. W.S. Neilson's residence on Larchmont Ave., was overcome with the heat."

Not far away, Street Commissioner and Engineer E. F. Campbell was overcome near the drugstore. He was carried into his office at the Casino Building and Dr. Francis Ward was summoned.



And on Tuesday, "William Cochrane, who drives a carriage for Thomas Harris" was felled by the heat. This time Dr. LeBarbier was notified.

By Thursday the "intense heat" turned lethal when local letter carrier, August Kreidler was "prostrated by the heat while performing his duties."

There must have been some relief by the Sound since it was reported that the Larchmont Yacht Club Regatta was sailed on Thursday and "was most successful." Further, the fireworks in the evening were "something grand."

Nevertheless, some sailors must have been affected by the heat: On the previous Saturday the steamer Mohawk struck a rock at Rodman's Reef off Davenport Neck and some 900 excursionists from the John W. Green hat factories of Danbury, Connecticut barely had time to get off the vessel before it went down.

Did we imply someone must have been sunstruck? Well, the next day, on Sunday, Mr. Augustine Monroe of Larchmont with his wife and a friend, "in his naphtha launch, the Elf" also managed to strike a rock on Rodman's Reef while trying to view the sunken Mohawk..... Fortunately, "Mr. A. Iselin's launch went to the Elf's assistance and succeeded in bringing the boat out of danger."

Oh, yes. And Mr. and Mrs. Newcombe and another couple in a vapor launch just off Larchmont were run down by a sloop named Xara, "hitting the little launch in the bow and doing considerable damage to the canopy."

Is this "par for the course" to mix my sporting metaphors? Or should Mad Dogs, Englishmen and Larchmonters have stayed out of the midday sun, for their own safety?

Never fear. A breezy little piece in the paper, promoting the New York theatres of Larchmont resident Frederick Proctor touted their seasonally pertinent amenities such as "electric fans and blowers for iced air" and a "special big palm leaf fan" for every seat as well as "iced water constantly being passed in the audience." Sit back, lower the lights and let the show begin!

As we enter the lazy, hazy days of summer, here's a glance at some summertime photos from Larchmont over 100 years ago:

-Lynne Crowley



WE'RE ONLINE
Visit us virtually
at
www.larchmonthistory.org

Visit our
ONLINE
PHOTO MUSEUM.

Learn more
about
LARCHMONT HISTORY

Find out
about
MONTHLY PROGRAMS
And
SPECIAL EVENTS

Join LHS, pay dues or make
a donation online.

Find out how to research your
home, join CHC, or Volunteer,
ALL ONLINE!

Send inquiries to:
lhs@larchmonthistory.org

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:

Individual \$ 15
 Family \$ 25
 Senior (65+) & Student \$ 5
 Institutional or Business \$ 40
 Sustaining \$ 50
 Life (individual only) \$150

Make checks payable & mail to:

The Larchmont Historical Society
P.O. Box 742
Larchmont, NY 10538

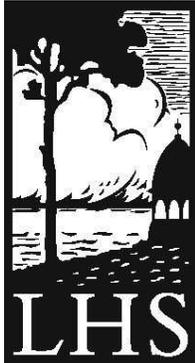
I would like to volunteer to help on the following committee(s):

Spring House Tour Museum Planning Grant Research/
 Membership Newsletter Writing
 Exhibits Fire History Century Homes Club
 Publicity Monthly Programs Fundraising
 Archives Special Events

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____



Larchmont Historical Society
PO Box 742
Larchmont, NY 10538

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Larchmont, NY 10538
Permit No. 366