



# The Newsletter of the Larchmont Historical Society

September-November

2004

Join us as we begin a lecture series

## Larchmont Houses of Worship

Part 1: St. Augustine's Parish

Sunday, November 14

3-4:30 pm

St. Augustine's Church

Larchmont Avenue

Meet inside the Church

Free and open to the public

Religious services for the summer residents of Larchmont were first held in the community house at Horseshoe Harbor. As more and more people began to live here year-round, permanent houses of worship were built. In 1892, the first Mass was celebrated at the first St. Augustine's Catholic Church, located on Beach Avenue. The cornerstone was laid for St. John's Episcopal Church on Fountain Square in 1894. In 1915, the Presbyterians orga-

nized the Larchmont Avenue Church in Helena Flint's carriage house and, according to Walter Lister in the Larchmont Centennial book, "Long before Larchmont had a synagogue, Catholics, Protestants and Jews joined in interfaith services at Village Hall." Today, Larchmont has six houses of worship and, over the next few years, each will be the subject of an on-site lecture about the history of

the congregation, the architecture of its building and the future of its place in our community. Part One--St. Augustine's Parish--will feature Father Joseph A. DeSanto, Ph.D., Associate Pastor of St. Augustine's Roman Catholic Church. Professor Emeritus and former Chair of the Criminal Justice Department at Iona College, Father DeSanto has been ministering to the parishioners of St. Augustine's since 1975--*Dee van Eyck, Program Chair.*

## President's Message

By Barbara Newman

Welcome autumn and all the refreshing excitement it brings to Larchmont!

October truly is a magical time of year. A noticeably more golden sunshine glimmers across the colorful leaves both on and off the great old trees that line our streets. Summer's thick green foliage has thinned lending us more detailed views of the wonderful landmarks, structures, parks and waterfront all tucked into our beautiful village. Rich orange, yellow and red tones cast a warm and inviting glow wherever you go.

Autumn here is a fabulous time to be outside and really see all the special assets we have in this town. Take time before the harried holiday schedule and frosty temperatures arrive to take a walk through Manor Park or sit and watch the sea. Notice the buildings, the parks and the mystique of the cemeteries. Explore our great memorials and revitalized downtown. Look up every once in awhile to take in your surroundings. Our village is rippling with rich history--challenge yourself to learn something new about it this fall. Visit the Archives, the library, read an historical publication or just talk with a neighbor who has lived here for years. Or share your stories, if you have them to tell. It's how history gets passed along to newcomers and younger generations. Tell your children and grandchildren fascinating lore about the village and how things came to be. It's a way to promote community appreciation for all the true treasures that make Larchmont such a special place to live.

Having spent much of the past weekend stopping to do just that--really study and explore landmarks with my own children--I realized what an honor it is to have this job. As president of LHS, I feel it is important for us to renew our commitment to our charter. We were founded to preserve, protect and maintain our history and to educate the community through programs and by work-

ing with our schools. It is a daunting responsibility to fill the shoes of others before me, but I am optimistic about the challenge.

I say this because I am working with a truly amazing group of people. The Board of Trustees for 2004/05 has 21 members, 21 energetic people full of ideas and enthusiasm who have hit the ground running. At our September kick-off meeting, we welcomed new board members George Berridge, Manuel Delgado, Kate Kelly, Melissa Schoen, Jenny Gregory, Cate Jarrett, and Lauren Gottfried.

We announced our commitment to get committees established with volunteers from our board and our members. We have outlined goals for each and are working to get them all productive and operating independently. Over the next few months, you will be again receiving monthly newsletters that will keep you informed of LHS activities. We will also return to monthly programs. Watch for announcements from Dee van Eyck and Colette Rodbell for time and place and make an effort to attend--they promise to be most interesting and enlightening.

The Century Homes Club Committee, chaired by Ellen Martin, is back in full swing. Watch for announcements in the next newsletter. Our Archives have been bustling with research and reorganization. Diane Holland, archivist, has been churning out amazing improvement and development and working beyond the call of duty. The House Tour Committee, chaired by Meredith Brawer and Susan Emery, has exciting plans for next spring's annual event, and we are discussing some new special events for 2005.

Our Website Development Committee chairman, Ned Benton, will have exciting news soon as we roll out the brand-new LHS website. Ned devoted a large part of his summer break to the creation of a very special collec-

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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 Road, 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.

**The Archives are located in Suite 301 of the Mamaroneck Town Center, 740 W. Boston Post Road, Mamaroneck. 10543.**

**Regular hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 9-2. Appointments on other days, including Saturdays, may be arranged. Please call 381-2239 for more information or to make an appointment.**

**Archivist: Diane Holland**

email: <lhs@savvy.net

## Notes from the Archives

By Diane Holland

The LHS Archives have been bustling with activity. Thanks to the generous people in our community, we have received some terrific donations. This past autumn, Melissa Schoen, a House Tour volunteer, donated a reproduction of the 1904 Hughes and Bailey perspective map of Larchmont. This map is not only a valuable addition to our map collection but a reliable and fascinating depiction of Larchmont at the turn of the twentieth century. One can see the Larchmont Horse Railway Company's trolley traveling down Larchmont Avenue as well as the many Victorian-era homes that did, and still do, grace our community.

Remember Larchmont's first drug store? For almost a century, a pharmacy occupied a space on the Post Road between Larchmont and Chatsworth avenues. Originally Wilson Pharmacy, it was then purchased by Harold T. Hughes and changed to Hughes Pharmacy in the 1950s. The elegant wood-paneled shop celebrated its one millionth prescription in 1970. The Society is now the proud owner of the mortar and pestle and the porcelain jar given to Hughes by Eli Lily and Company for outstanding community health service. These artifacts were donated by Sholom Sussman, co-owner now retired of Hughes Pharmacy.

Other donations include a copy of the Larchmont Yacht Club's 1877 Constitution and Bylaws, given by Mr. Sheridan of Mamaroneck. We are happy to observe that some of the rules have changed, and women

are now allowed in the dining room. Stacy Jamar Caffrey has donated \$150 to LHS. She has been researching the history of her over-100-year-old house and, in the process, has added valuable information to the Archives' collection of 19th-century history.

The Gleysteens donated two photographs of the original house on their Bay Avenue property. The photos are particularly valuable because this beautiful seaside Victorian-era house, which no longer exists, belonged to Helene Hollis Schaeffer, and at another time, to Frank E. Campbell (1857-1934), who founded the Frank E. Campbell Funeral Home in 1898.

Thanks to the newest book donation, Margot Peters' *The House of Barrymore*, by Jan Northrup, a past president of the Society, we can delve deeper into the relationship between Larchmont and the famous family of thespians who vacationed in our resort community at the turn of the 20th century. For those interested in Larchmont's celebrity connections, don't miss Theora Hahn's series of articles on Larchmont Luminaries in our files.

Thank you again to all our generous patrons. Visit the Archives on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9 am and 2 pm. Step into Larchmont's past and have some fun with history.

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### President's Message continued from page 2

tion that will appear on the website. Look for an interactive site that with opportunities to become a member, pay your dues, check for upcoming events, do research, learn something new, contact us, volunteer and more.

We have plans for a Membership Drive, continue our Presentations on "How to Research Your House" (and other topics) to local organizations, and create Temporary Exhibits in town and Traveling Trunk Show Exhibits for our schools. Theora Hahn continues to put together marvelous historical exhibits all over town. We also thank our Membership Coordinator, Diane Goodman, for signing on for another year.

Look for announcements on Fundraising efforts that will support our goal to obtain a museum, office, archives and storage space somewhere in Larchmont for the Historical Society. And for the financial

details of all this and more, we are so pleased to have as our new treasurer George Berridge, who is already working wonders with our records and budgeting plans

Thank you to all the trustees for your early support, encouragement, and most all enthusiasm that I fully intend to inspire and tap throughout the year.

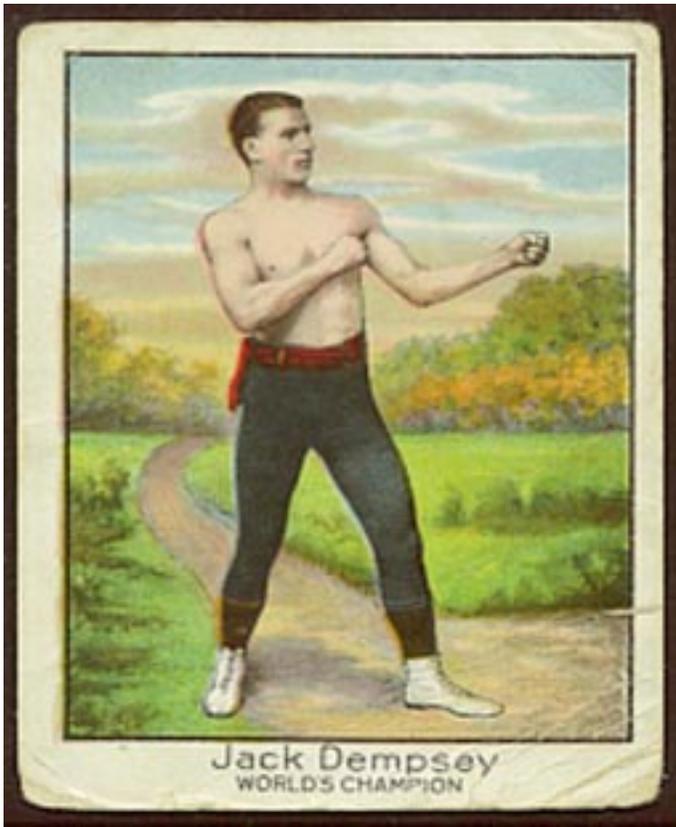
And to all our members, please think about volunteering some time to get involved. More information will follow in the next newsletter. In the meantime, call the Archives if you have a few hours to help research a project, join our website development team or any other committee. The more people we have working on projects, the more exciting the work we can accomplish. If you are interested in Larchmont's history, I guarantee there is a place for you to get involved.

Have a happy and safe Halloween!

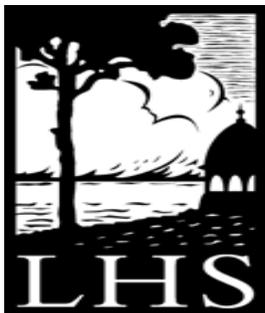
According to this card issued c. 1910 by Mecca Cigarettes Company in their Champion Athlete and Prize-Fighter series, Jack Dempsey, bare-knuckle middleweight champion of the world, won his title and a \$1,500 prize in a 13-round contest at Larchmont with George LaBlanche, "the Marine." No date is given for

this contest. Dempsey lost the title in 1891 to Bob Fitzsimmons in New Orleans, who knocked him out in the 13th round. I'd tell you when this particularly brutal form of prize-fighting was outlawed if I could go on line and search, but I can't, because my DSL service went down on September 29, and in spite of many, many

hours on the phone (most of them spent waiting while "the service representatives are assisting other customers") I am still without service three weeks later. My best guess for where the match was held, however: Springmeyer's Hotel (on Post Road across from Pine Ridge condos), where the *Larchmont Times* occasionally reported goings-on of this sort--*Ed.*



**Larchmont Historical Society**  
 P.O. Box 742  
 Larchmont NY 10538



### Membership Form

Please enroll me as a member of the Larchmont Historical Society. My tax-deductible dues for one year are enclosed. Membership year ends December 31, 2004.

New

Renewal

- Individual \$15.
- Family \$25.
- Senior (65 or older) or student \$5.
- Institutional or Business \$25.
- Sustaining \$50.
- Life (individual only) \$150.

Make checks payable and mail to:

Larchmont Historical Society  
 Box 742  
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I would like to serve on the following committee:

- Membership
- House Tour
- Program
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- Historic Sites
- Costumes
- Archives

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