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Larchmont Historical Society
PO 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. Annual membership year is: September - June..

New Member Renewing Member

Please indicate membership category:

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$ 15	<i>Make checks payable & mail to:</i> 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/> Writing
<input type="checkbox"/> Exhibits	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire History	<input type="checkbox"/> Century Homes Club
<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly Programs	<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising
<input type="checkbox"/> Archives	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Events	

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The
Gazebo Gazette

Newsletter of the Larchmont Historical Society

**Larchmont Luminaries Series:
Film Chicks & A Classic Flick**

In honor of Women's History Month, we're celebrating two of Larchmont's female film luminaries from yesteryear and today. Come join us for a special viewing of one-time Larchmonter Mary Pickford's "finest romantic comedy" on the silent screen with a special introduction by Academy Award nominated film producer and current Larchmont resident, Leslie Holleran.

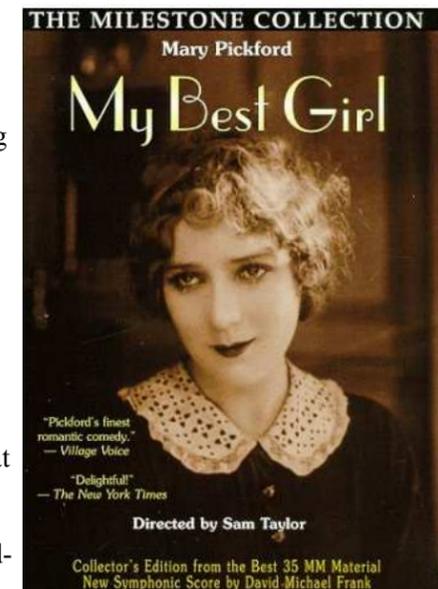
In "*My Best Girl*," Mary Pickford illustrates the endearing charm that won her the title, "America's Sweetheart." Maggie (Mary Pickford), a shop girl in a five-and-dime store, falls in love with the owner's son Joe (Charles "Buddy" Rogers), who is working incognito as a clerk to prove himself to his father. It's a timeless Cinderella tale set in the roaring twenties and sure to make you roar with laughter.

In the days of silent cinema, Mary Pickford was unmatched in popularity. She lived a fairy-tale life—marrying Douglas Fairbanks at the height of both of their careers and living in the legendary mansion, Pickfair, until her death in 1979. Pickford was not only an amazingly versatile performer, but also a shrewd businesswoman and film producer. She was a founder of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and also co-founded United Artists Pictures with Charlie Chaplin, D.W. Griffith, and Douglas Fairbanks in Mamaroneck (Orienta Point) in 1919. She spent sev-

eral summers renting a house on Park Ave. and was sometimes seen walking her pet duck on a pink ribbon through Manor Park.

As a special treat, Leslie Holleran will introduce "*My Best Girl*" with a discussion of women in the film industry throughout history. Ms. Holleran's own career credits include "*The Cider House Rules*," "*Chocolat*," "*The Shipping News*," "*An Unfinished Life*," "*Casanova*" and "*The Hoax*." She is currently in production of her latest film, "Sammy." Ms. Holleran was one of 3 first recipients of the Pelham Picture House Regional Film Center's "Harold Lloyd Award in Excellence." Lloyd was one of the biggest stars of the silent film era and made several films in Mamaroneck. Ms. Holleran lives in Larchmont with her husband, notable film editor, Andrew Mondshein.

These days, it's a rare treat to see one of the great silent films. We hope you'll come grab some popcorn, a good seat and enjoy our double dose of Larchmont Luminary talent.



March Program:

Date: Sunday, March 2nd
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Place: Larchmont Village Center
(behind the Larchmont Library)
R.S.V.P: Dee van Eyck, 834-0449
(if possible, but walk-ins welcome)

This event is free and open to the public

Published by:
The Larchmont Historical Society
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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.

President's Message: *Barbara Rewey Newman*

There are so many wonderful things happening at the Larchmont Historical Society—our new bi-monthly newsletter, new board members, terrific events, monthly programs and exciting plans for our Annual Spring House Tour.

Kudos to Dee van Eyck, VP/ program director, for all her work to create last December's special Victorian Holiday Tea. Held at the Manor House, it was a great success and so much fun! Special thanks again to the Olssons for sharing their historic home with us. I'd also like to thank Ned Benton for immersing himself in the wonderful role of our host, Col. Leoser, as well as our pianist, Lioudmila Astakhova. And my deepest appreciation goes out to all of you who volunteered to set up or work at the Tea. We couldn't have done it without each of you!

In honor of Women's History Month, mark your calendar for March 2nd, to join us for the second program in our "Larchmont Luminaries" series. In the next issue of the Gazette we will announce when you can start buying tickets to the House Tour, too.

Thanks to all who responded to the membership dues response cards. If you expressed interest in getting involved with an LHS project, join us for an evening of information on volunteer opportunities on March 4. The amount of time you have to give is completely up to you as there is something for everyone.

Hibernating in this cold weather? Spend some time learning more about Larchmont history by browsing the updated LHS site (www.larchmonthistory.org). Take a look at the slavery section where Trustee Ned Benton has added five new names of known slaves in the history of Mamaroneck area.

Finally, we welcome new board member, Jim Sweeney this month. Jim and wife, Sue Girardi Sweeney, (artist of the famous Ducktales' "Firehouse Duck"), live in Larchmont. Along with his other talents, Jim's credits include serving as Fire Chief of our beloved Village for 2 terms. His expertise and dedicated enthusiasm for history and Larchmont will be a great asset and we look forward to working with him!

A Conversation with Century Homes Club Member Rob Snedeker

The Morse Cottage, built in 1891, is home to Fran and Rob Snedeker. The house, originally constructed on the site of Saint John's Episcopal Church was moved to its current address, 20 Linden Avenue in 1893.



Rob and Fran have lived in their home for about 20 years during which time they have been important supporters and volunteers of many community programs. Rob is a former president of the Larchmont Historical Society and currently is President of the Larchmont Manor Park Society. Fran is active in local politics and women's causes.

The Morse Cottage was a complete "fixer-upper" when the Snedeker's purchased it in 1987. It had not had a resident owner in several years, and as Rob described it, when they saw the home for the first time, snow had blown inside the front hallway and covered much of the floor. As they removed the snow, beautiful parquet flooring revealed itself and it became immediately apparent that the home had tremendous potential. Previous owners had spray painted the fireplaces and painted over beautiful wood detailing; electrical wires with bare bulbs hung from the ceilings; but Rob and Fran were not discouraged and decided to do most of the renovations themselves.

The house was designed in the Colonial Revival style and during the period of their ownership, the Snedekers have frequently accessed historical files and photographs as part of a process to restore it to its original style. The most important of these projects, based on photographs from the LHS archives, involved restoration of a wrap-around porch that had been removed by earlier owners. Also as a part of this effort, clapboard siding was removed and replaced with shingles as documented by the photographs that were taken shortly after the house was built.

In recent years, Larchmont homes have seen a dramatic change in ownership and this presents a number of challenges as well as opportunities. Rob feels that local history has an important role to play in this equation, and thanks to the efforts of LHS and individuals such as Village Historian, Judy Spikes, the narrative and visual record is now quite complete and accessible. The hope, of course, is that residents will continue to maintain and upgrade structures that have been long-established elements of a neighborhood, where history is respected, and that changes are made in tune with the overall character of the community.

Volunteers who participate in local governmental committees that oversee this process play a critical role in providing the continuity to keep the effort on track. Rob notes, "Once again, we're back to involvement with the community- its government, committees and other social organizations. And at least from my perspective, and my particular interest in architecture and history, I think it's working quite well. Certainly, there have been a few miscues, but by and large, the results are positive. I continue to be very impressed with the detail and effort made to respect vintage homes during the renovation process."

Larchmont is blessed to have caretakers such as Rob and Fran as homeowners. They not only have done a first-class job in restoring Morse Cottage, but have been tireless in participating in the ongoing improvements and historic preservation of our community.

If you have a home that is at least 100 years old and are interested in joining the Century Homes Club, contact Lynne Crowley at Larchmont Archives 381-2239 or lhs@larchmonthistory.org.

Thank you Mike Tripicco!



One of the benefits of joining the Century Homes Club is the beautiful plaque installed by LHS beside your front door, identifying your home as a CHC member. LHS would like to thank Mike Tripicco from Custom Covers for doing these installations free of charge. Mike's company, Custom Covers, specializes in radiator enclosures, screen and storm doors, table pads, rescreening and lock work. He can be reached at 914-381-5693.

New Names Discovered of Slaves at Heathcote Hill

The Larchmont Historical Society maintains a web-site—[Slavery in Mamaroneck Township](#)—that documents the history of slavery in what is today called Larchmont and Mamaroneck. Susan Fenimore Cooper (daughter of James Fenimore Cooper) wrote an essay in 1883 for her grandchildren, to share her earliest memories of life in Mamaroneck on Heathcote Hill. Her essay provides a set of interesting new facts about slavery, and also raises some interesting questions for further historical research.

The Household Names....

[Slavery in Mamaroneck Township](#) includes a table of Names of Slaves that can be identified based on available records. The Cooper article provides us with some additional names:

- Harriet was described as the daughter of the cook who served as the chambermaid of the household. Harriet might be the same person that DeLancey identifies, in the Town records in 1814, as “Harriot”. DeLancey was registering Harriot’s daughter, “Anne or Nancey” as required under NY State law at the time. By registering Harriot’s daughter, DeLancey could retain ownership of the daughter as a slave until 1828.
- Henry was described as Harriet’s son.
- The article also describes three other slaves in the household but does not name them: a “fat black woman” who was the cook and who was the mother of Harriot and “a colored child or two”. One of the children might be “Anne or Nancey” - the daughter of Harriot registered by DeLancey in 1814.
- Fred, who Cooper describes as “a colored boy from Heathcote Hill” and as “the waiter.” Fred may be the inspiration for the image of the black man standing behind John P. Delancey in the mural at the Mamaroneck Library.

Susan Cooper suggests there may have been at least two more slaves in the DeLancey household, one of whom may be buried at the DeLancey Burial Ground on Palmer Avenue.

Ongoing Historical Research

Our knowledge of the history of slavery in Mamaroneck Township is extensive compared to what might be known in other small communities, but at this time our information is still fragmentary. Fortunately people like Susan Fenimore Cooper have left local historians some interesting clues for further research. Do visit our web-site for further information.



Welcome New Board Member Jim Sweeney

Our newest LHS trustee, Jim Sweeney, is a “local boy” who grew up in the Town of Mamaroneck off of Weaver St., and graduated from Iona Prep.

Employed by Harvard Maintenance as the Director of Insurance and Risk Management, Jim has been in the field of Risk Management for 26 Years, primarily managing insurance, health and safety issues for large public and private companies.

Jim lives in Larchmont with his wife Sue Girardi Sweeney. Sue was the artist who painted the firehouse duck for Ducktales.

Always an active member of the community, Jim was a member of the Larchmont Fire Department for 30 years and served as its Chief for two separate terms: ‘90-’91 and again in 2000.

Please join us in welcoming Jim Sweeney to the board.

Victorian Holiday Tea at Manor House

The Larchmont Historical Society hosted a Victorian holiday tea on Sunday, December 9th at Larchmont’s most historic landmark, the Manor House, at 18 Elm Avenue. Guests were invited to see this 18th century home draped in Christmas décor, learn about traditional Victorian holiday practices and partake of an old-fashioned tea with seasonal treats. Hostesses and entertainers appeared dressed in period Victorian costumes, adding to the historic atmosphere.



Guests were welcomed to “their home” by Colonel Charles McKnight Leoser and his wife (as re-enacted by LHS members Ned Benton and Dee Van Eyck). The Leoser’s rented the Manor House in 1892 from Frederick Flint. Colonel Leoser, the publisher of Bonfort’s Wine and Spirits, graduated from West Point in 1861 and fought at the Battle of Bull Run. He was captured later in the Civil War and confined at the infamous Libby prison.



During the tea, “Colonel Leoser” provided a poetry reading and displayed his Civil War pictures. He told stories of his Civil War service with the Eleventh New York Volunteer Infantry, or “First Fire Zouaves”, a regiment consisting of primarily volunteer firefighters from New York City.

Many of America’s Christmas traditions became popular in the Victorian era, including decorating the tree, sending holiday cards, giving gifts, caroling and even Santa Claus himself. Another favorite indulgence dates back to this time as well—afternoon tea.

“We presented “A Victorian Christmas” in 2001, and the response was overwhelming,” said Dee Van Eyck, Vice President and programs chair for the Historical Society. “This year, we decided that a “Victorian Holiday Tea” would be a fun way for us to illustrate life in our village over 100 years ago. For us to have the opportunity to host the event in Larchmont’s oldest and most historic home made this a special treat for everyone. We are grateful to Carl and Mary Olson, the current owners of the Manor House, for again sharing their home with the Larchmont community”.

Save the Date!
Sunday, May 4th
LHS Annual Spring House Tour

Volunteers needed
Contact Susan Emery at
834-3682
susanemery@optonline.net

Join us for our Volunteer
Opportunity Night
Tuesday, March 4
A casual evening of cocktails,
information and coffee
7:30 pm
6 Oak Avenue, Larchmont

RSVP 834-2069, if possible, walk-ins welcome