



# Historical Highlights

Official Publication of the Sand Lake Historical Society

Volume 37, Number 1

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## From the president

☛ We have two guest authors in this newsletter issue. Thank you to Bob Pasquarelli for sharing the highlights of Sand Lake Kiwanis, celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to Joan Fuess sharing the highlights of The Sand Lake Center for the Arts, celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The richness these two organizations have provided to our Town is immeasurable. Enjoy reminiscing with them.

☛ Thank you to John (Mac) McEvelly for displaying our Sand Lake Historical Society sign on his Civil War reenactment cannon in the Sand Lake on Display - Things That Go... Vehicle Parade. We never looked "so powerful"! ☺☺ — *Mary French.*

## Upcoming programs and events

☛ We are another year closer to our Town's bicentennial in 2012 and will be co-sponsoring the 2010 Dinner Celebration on **September 18<sup>th</sup>**. That celebration will be our September meeting. How history has advanced! Charles Viens has made the pictures from the booklet on the Troy & New England Railway completed by him and Sanford Young into a PowerPoint program which will be shown. And another highlight: We will be able to view the scale model of the Railway's No. 6 trolley, which Ross Sterantino is constructing and will have mounted on the 4 feet of track he has constructed. (Dinner details in Bicentennial Planning Committee article and registration form).

☛ On **October 12<sup>th</sup>** at 7pm we will be at the West Sand Lake Fire Company "museum." Dennis Sinnott will be sharing the work done on the old fire house to display "Old Joe," their first fire apparatus, the hose cart and all their other historical artifacts. Come, view and hear about this superb project "up close"!

☛ **November 9<sup>th</sup>** will be a presentation by Dr. John P. Hart, Director of the Research and Collections Division at the New York State Museum, on "Maize-Bean-Squash: When and How the "Three Sisters" Came to New York."

☛ December 14<sup>th</sup> we will again enjoy the hospitality of Ron Berti and Barbara Neu at their historic Knowlson House. Our covered dish dinner has a sumptuous reputation. Program for the evening will be David Pitkin giving an update on his latest book on ghost stories, entitled *New England Ghosts* and will be giving a program on "Ghost Stories from eastern NY and New England".

☛ In other events, the Sand Lake Historical Society's **Antiques Appraisal Day will be October 16th**, at Miller Hill School, junction of NY Routes 43 & 66 from 10am- 2pm. Appraisers with their specialties are: Mark Lawson, WMHT Antiques Road Show sponsor, from Saratoga — jewelry, watches, coins, currency and oriental rugs; Nancy Toomer of House of Rose Antiques in Niskayuna — glassware, china, table linens and silver; Dennis Holzman of Holzman Antiques in Albany — rare books, maps, prints, paintings, furniture and decorative accessories; and Melody Howarth of Mel's Belles in Nassau — doll restoration and porcelain repair. Objects will be identified, described and given a verbal evaluation for \$5 per item or 3 for \$10. Large items may be left outside where they will be viewed in place or you may bring a clear photo of the article to be appraised. For more information, please call Nancy W. Davis at 674-2742.

☛ **New York State Archives Month Exhibit** will again be a cooperative effort between the Sand Lake Historical Society and Town Historian. Featured will be a display on the Troy & New England Railway in the Town Hall. This will be the topic at our September meeting and the display will be available in September as well as during the NYS Archival Month of October.

Mark your calendar and watch *The Advertiser* for these events. See you there!! — *Mary D. French, President*

## 2012 Bicentennial Planning Committee

Thanks to the support of the committee of Town Historian Judy Rowe, Librarian Mindy Fowler, Councilwoman Chris Kronau, Town Clerk Barbara Biittig, Michelle Elliott and girls, grown-ups and boys, the Doll Parade was enjoyed on June 26<sup>th</sup>. The doll display by Melody Howarth added to the event.

The Bicentennial Planning committee was represented in the Memorial Day and Summerfest parades.

An invitation to Civil War Heritage Day at Schuyler Flatts on August 21 and 22 has been accepted. MOSCOW, the Town's "Civil War Horse", and a list of Veterans, who were buried in local cemeteries, are included in the display from the Town Historian's office. Fred Erickson and Nancy W. Davis will staff the booth.

Plan to attend the Celebration Dinner on September 18th at Church of the Covenant at 5:45pm. (See also President's Message) Special menu of "historical" interest includes a Palm Sunday Buffet recipe of Marie Hayner's corn pudding, a recipe of Jessie Link's meat loaf served at Averill Park Central School and homemade pies. Cloth tablecloths and napkins are being assembled. Napkin rings, too!! Thank you for calling Nancy W. Davis 674-2742 or email [nanwd@mailstation.com](mailto:nanwd@mailstation.com) to help with set-up of theme decorations on the tables.

Thanks to John Simonds, the BLOG address is [www.sandlake200.wordpress.com](http://www.sandlake200.wordpress.com).

Your entry to the 2012 Parade on August 25<sup>th</sup> may need planning. Not too soon to start!! — Nancy W. Davis, Co-chair

### Gifts of history

Have you found someone to give a copy of *Sand Lake Revisited*? The Society realizes a 50% profit from their sales and receives a 10% royalty for sales in other venues. The cost of *Sand Lake Revisited* is \$21.60 (incl. tax) and \$3.00 shipping, for each copy. *Sand Lake*, our first book, is available for \$20.50 (inc. tax). Copies are for sale at the Town Clerk's Office for the Society. You may also contact Mary French (674-5710) or send an order to Sand Lake Historical Society.

The VHS or DVD, "A Journey by Postcard from Crooked Lake to West Sand Lake" is available for \$18.00 with postage \$1.75 for each copy.

Robert J. Lilly's book *The Wynants Kill: a small stream, but mighty* is available for \$16.20 (inc. tax). You may contact Mary French (674-5710) or send an order to Sand Lake Historical Society PO Box 492, West Sand Lake, NY 12196. Order information is also available on our web site.

We have a new set of note cards available, which includes: I.N. Wright's Drug Store, Troy & New

England Railway Station, Minahan's Wendell Inn (Crooked Lake House), the Butts House (now Cumberland farms site), the Fox Mansion and the Knowlson House. The set of six costs \$8.25 (inc. tax) and may be purchased from Mary French, Ways & Means chair. Order information is available on our web site.

### SLHS on the Internet

Our web site: <http://sandlakehistory.org>.

Our e-mail: [sandlakehistory@aol.com](mailto:sandlakehistory@aol.com)

Our constitution and bylaws are available at: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyslsh/bylaw0903revision.pdf>

### Dues are due!

The number after your name on this issue of *Historical Highlights* is your membership date. Dues are for the year June 1 to May 31. If the number is 2010 you're due and we thank you for renewing your membership on the form in this issue. Not renewing will mean your subscription to *Historical Highlights* will stop.

### Scholarship acknowledgments

*Dear Historical Society Members, I am both grateful and honored that you selected me to receive your award. History has long been a passion of mine, and I plan on majoring in it at college. I am very glad your organization encourages the study of History at Averill Park, and I hope you continue to do so.*

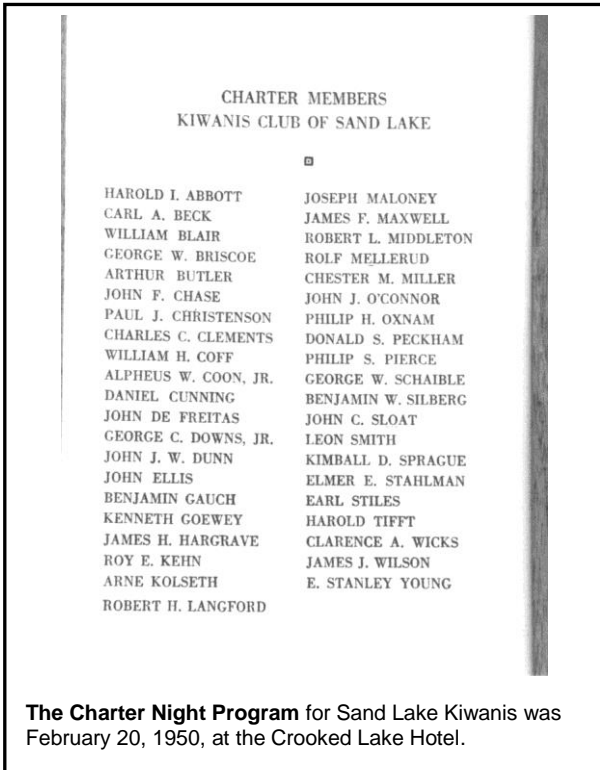
*Thank you very much, Patrick Stegemoeller*

*Dear Mrs. Kronau, I was the recipient of this year's Historical Society's Memorial Award in memory of Anne E. Lilly, Henry Goebel, Peter Weaver, Dennis Tremont Sr., and Leon Cylkoff. I would like to thank you for making this possible for me. I've enjoyed my time at APHS, both in and out of the history dept. I'm so excited to continue my growth and education next year at the College of Holy Cross in Worcester, MA!*

*Thank You! Colleen Curtin*

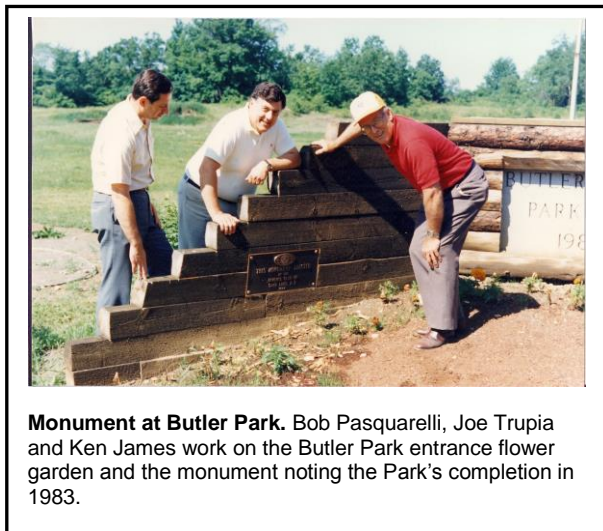
## Sand Lake Kiwanis celebrates 60 years of service to the community

On December 5, 1949, 10 members of the Kiwanis Club of Troy together with 34 interested persons from West Sand Lake, Averill Park, Sand Lake and Taborton officially met to organize the Kiwanis Club of Sand Lake.



The Charter Night Program for Sand Lake Kiwanis was February 20, 1950, at the Crooked Lake Hotel.

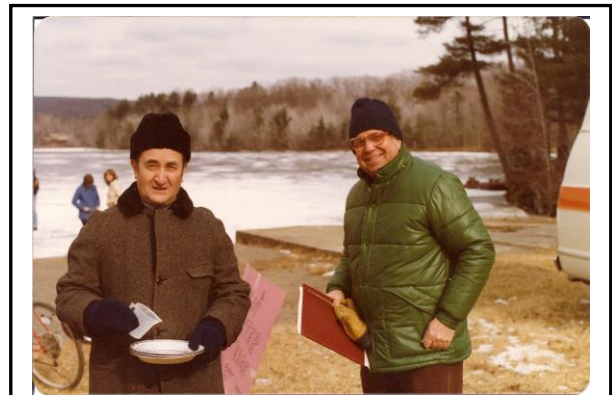
Over the 60 years, Sand Lake Kiwanis has been instrumental in providing funds and manpower to provide a better environment for the citizens of the town. Kiwanis was instrumental in the establishment of the Town Park on Gettle Road and has upgraded the facility over the years with a fitness trail and a pavilion for concerts.



Monument at Butler Park. Bob Pasquarelli, Joe Trupia and Ken James work on the Butler Park entrance flower garden and the monument noting the Park's completion in 1983.

Kiwanis has also provided funds for the playgrounds at the park as well as at the Miller Hill & West Sand Lake schools.

While the needs have changed over the years, Kiwanis has also modified its programs to meet many of these needs: from sponsorship of 4H programs to sponsorship of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts; from providing dental & optical needs for the needy to assisting the Sand Lake Area Association of Churches with the REACH program; from Winter Carnival to Summerfest; and projects such as providing a flagpole at the Senior housing complex.



Greg Benson and Phil Pierce get ready for the races at Crooked Lake for the Winter Carnival. When Kiwanis celebrated 50 years of service, Phil could boast of being a 50-year member and having 43 years of perfect attendance.

Sand Lake Kiwanis continues to assist Doors of Hope with food and manpower as well as providing needy families with food for a Thanksgiving & Christmas meal as well as toys and gifts for the children.

Kiwanis supports a team in the Twin Town Little League as well as sponsoring various sports camps throughout the year and provides summer camperships for the underprivileged.

We are co-partners with The Sand Lake Center for the Arts and provide scholarships for area students as needed.

By the numbers:

- Service projects performed by the Kiwanis Club of Sand Lake: 2520, an average of 42 projects per year over the 60-year span (recently more per year than in earlier years.)
- Money raised to be spent solely on service projects: \$350,000
- Service hours performed: 90,000, an average of 1500 hours per year (in the early years 700-800 hours per year; more recently over 3,000 hours) .
- Total service rendered by all Sand Lake Kiwanis members is undeterminable, but in a word....

**EXTRAORDINARY!**

**Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time. — Bob Pasquarelli**

Kiwanis on the web: <http://sandlakekiwanis.org/>



**Five Eagles in One Troop.** Five Scouts in Averill Park Troop 526 sponsored by Sand Lake Kiwanis earned Eagle Awards in 1976. The Scouts from left to right are Jeffrey Mosher, Robert Wagner, Michael Supkis, William Marshall and Daniel Case.



In the foreground, **Ken van Praag, Ken James and Joel Uline** build tent platforms at the Boy Scouts' Camp Rotary.



**Kiwanis basketball team in early 1980s.** Kneeling from left to right are Steve Quillinan, Clayton Besch & Steve Pavone. Back row: unidentified, unidentified, Dave Fazioli, John Polowski. From 1982-92, Quillinan and Fazioli and Dan Coiteux were instrumental in organizing the John Ray Memorial Basketball Tournament. Funds went to a scholarship for a high school senior in memory of Guidance Counselor John Ray.



SANDRA FERGUSON

**“Kiwanis 1983 Sno Ball Queen has brains, beauty and talent”** was the headline of Mary Hilt’s article. Sandra Ferguson “epitomizes the combination the judges were seeking.” The Sno Ball was the opening event of the Winter Carnival held at Crooked Lake Hotel from 1969 until 1983. (*Times Record*, February 11, 1983)



**Emily Giciewicz is the Key Club Lieutenant Governor for 2010-11.** Key Club is a service organization for high school students, operating under school regulations and drawing membership from the student body. Key Club is unique because it is sponsored by a local Kiwanis Club, composed of the leading business and professional men and women of the community. Key Club’s aim is the development of initiative, leadership ability and good citizenship practices.



**The Veterans of Foreign Wars Monument at West Sand Lake** gets some ground work done by Kiwanians. Gordon Palmer is seen in the forefront.

## Circle Theatre Players

Circle Theatre Players is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year and it all began with the words, "Let's put on a play!" In 1980, retired Averill Park High School English and Drama Club teacher, Bert McNary, was recruited by the Church of the Covenant, Averill Park, to direct plays during church services and special events. Originally known as the Chancel Drama Group, the name was later changed to Circle Theatre Players because of the round shape of the church.

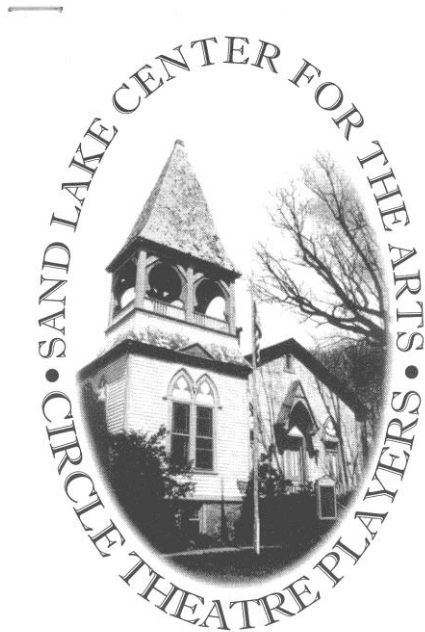
CTP charter member Allan Randall, pointed to the stage in the social room and uttered those immortal words, "Let's put on a play!" and the *Night of January 16th*, a courtroom drama written by Ayn Rand made its debut in January 1981.

The key to our new building was passed to us in May 2002 and we began the extensive renovations. We painted the building, formerly the Sand Lake Presbyterian Church, to preserve the historical colors of the 1835 period when the center part of the building was built and used as the sanctuary. Later the steeple section was added and when the Town of Sand Lake took over in the 1970s the back offices were added. And we have a wonderful storage barn that holds all our set construction material. Now CTP has a new home, which contains the Fuess Performing Space with lighting and sound booth and a stage; dressing rooms, makeup room, costume and prop storage – a treat for any community theater company. We draw actors, directors, crew and audiences from throughout the Capital District, and beyond, including out of state.

Our shows have ranged from comedy to tragedy, farce to drama, mystery, musical and melodrama. In addition to our major productions, we have always tried to stretch the experience of the actors and the imagination of the audience by including something new. This year in December 2010, we are featuring an original one-act festival entitled *Dynamic Characters, Dramatic Situations*. The festival runs four days during which we will present the best of 83 submissions from nine states. Each play will be repeated on alternate nights.

We have presented plays at the 2000 Irish Festival at Altamont Fair Grounds, the Irish Museum, the AIDS Network of Caregivers, Maple Hill and Averill Park High Schools, and Sand Lake Historical Society.

Circle Theatre Players has grown since then! CTP has been chosen to participate in the TANYS Festival



for several years. In the course of our affiliation, we continue to receive Merit Awards from the Theatre Association of New York State for our excellence in acting, directing, set design, and ensemble work. We expand our world by attending the TANYS Festival each year, sharing and learning from our colleagues and participating in the Adjudication process, which involves educational feedback to CTP cast and crew on a regular basis.

We became a "family" throughout the years, matchmaking and celebrating weddings, the birth of the next generation of actors, and losing members who moved or passed on. We have experienced all the faux pas of backstage and on stage work, meeting the challenges of a wide variety of sets on a small stage and introducing the community to new works, artists, playwrights, and Playback Theater.

When we moved, we expanded our mission to include not only theater but also visual arts, music and dance. We

now share our new home with others from the artistic community. Our volunteers have secured grants and underwriting and the community has been very generous. We are proud to say we continue to remain in the black for the full 30 years. As we expanded our mission, we began using: the lobby as a rotating art gallery; the cafe to provide refreshments for our shows and all SLCA events and an office for an Executive Director and Box Office Manager.

Our new facility, now known as Sand Lake Center for the Arts, Home of Circle Theatre Players, has created a sharing, learning, treasured place where all our dreams come true! We welcome you to our home and hope you will visit often.

**CIRCLE THEATRE  
PLAYERS**

**30**

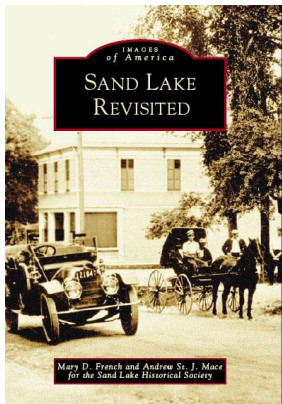
**Celebrate with Us  
All Year!**

**years of  
Award Winning Theatre**

[Ed, note: Earlier articles on CTP and SLCA appeared in Historical Highlights 28-3, Spring 2002; 30-1, Fall 2003; and 35-1, Fall 2008.]

On the web: <http://slca-ctp.org>





<http://sandlakehistory.org>

**E-mail: [sandlakehistory@aol.com](mailto:sandlakehistory@aol.com)**

Historical Highlights

*Mary French, Editor*

*Andrew Mace, Publisher*



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Sand Lake Historical Society

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West Sand Lake, New York 12196



## Sand Lake Historical Society

Membership Application/Renewal

September 18th Dinner/Meeting Reservation

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Sept 18<sup>th</sup> dinners (\$10.00 each) \_\_\_\_\_ Dinner Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: Join / Renew

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\$3 per student (13-22) \_\_\_\_\_ \$5 per individual \_\_\_\_\_ \$8 per family \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to *Sand Lake Historical Society*. Mail to: Sand Lake Historical Society, Post Office Box 492, West Sand Lake, New York 12196. **Please mail by September 10, 2010, if you are planning to attend the Celebration Dinner!**

*Give this slip to someone you know to become a member.*



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