



# Historical Highlights

Official Publication of the Sand Lake Historical Society

Volume 44, Number 3

Our 44th Year

Spring 2018

## Upcoming programs

**Tuesday, April 10, 7:00 p.m.** (note special time and place): Author Ron Hughes will discuss his book *Who Killed Hazel Drew?* at the March meeting of the Sand Lake Historical Society. The *Sand Lake Center for the Arts* will host the event, with book signing after the presentation. Be sure to arrive early; last September's Hazel Drew presentation was SRO! The event is free to all. [*This event rescheduled from March due to weather.*]

Our spring issue takes some quick glances back at local people, places and events of the 1960s, in celebration of our 2018 annual fundraiser on April 20. That and more inside!

SAND LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S  
2018 ANNUAL FUNDRAISER EVENT

A CELEBRATION OF THE  
1960S

A FUN NIGHT TO STEP BACK TO THE 60'S DECADE WITH APPETIZERS, COMFORT FOOD STATIONS, DANCING TO MUSIC OF THE 60'S, DESSERT AND COFFEE BAR. COSTUME PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED. CASH BAR, AND MORE!

APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup> 2018  
6 - 9:30<sup>PM</sup>  
AT THE OLD DALEY ON CROOKED LAKE

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED  
\$50. PER PERSON

FOR TICKETS: VISIT [SANDLAKEHISTORY.ORG](http://SANDLAKEHISTORY.ORG)  
OR  
MAIL CHECK TO: SLHS, P.O. BOX 492 WEST SAND LAKE, NY, 12168  
OPEN SEATING, OR A RESERVED TABLE OF 8-12 PEOPLE  
FOR MORE INFORMATION: 518-534-5143

**Friday,  
April 20,**

**6:00 -9:30 p.m.** (note special date and time): Step back to the 1960s at the Old Daley on Crooked Lake! Food, Dancing & a DJ. And we'll look back at what was happening in Sand Lake and around the country and the world: music, fashion, art, technology, politics, Woodstock, walking on the moon...and more. Members have received their invitations, so get those reservations in now!

**Tuesday, May 8, 6:00-9:00 p.m.:** Our *Annual Dinner, Meeting and Program*, located at Church of the Covenant in Averill Park and catered by the Mess Hall!

1 **Dinner** consists of Sliced Turkey Breast with Gravy; Sliced Herb-rubbed Sirloin; Mashed Potatoes; Rice Pilaf with Asparagus and Peas; Grilled Seasonal Vegetables; Honey Butter Glazed Carrots; Cornbread, Arugula, Radicchio and Fennel Salad; and an Assorted Desserts tray. (*Reservation form elsewhere in this issue.*)



1 At the **Annual Meeting**, we will elect four new trustees and re-elect three trustees to a second term. Joe Ferrannini's second term ends this year; the Nominating Committee has selected **Holli Boyd-White** to replace him

for a term to end 2021. Nancy Perry (2020); Mike Perry (2019) and Wayne Evancoe (2019) are leaving the board due to other commitments. We in SLHS thank them as well as Joe for their service to the Board and to the Society. The Nominating Committee has selected **Jim Powers** to complete Nancy's term; **Drew White** to complete Mike's term; and **Tedi Toca** to complete Wayne's term. The first terms of current Board members **Jane Minotti**, **Sue Powers** and **Rosemarie Sniezyk** also end this year; all three have been nominated to serve again. Note that nominations may be made from the floor as well.

1 After the Meeting, our **Program** will feature **Peggy Lynn**, referred to by poet Maurice Kenny as "The Voice of the Mountains." Ms. Lynn is recognized for her soulful songwriting and extraordinary vocal versatility. She is known for ballads of strong women, children's songs about nature, and bluesy songs of life and love. Peggy champions the addition of women to the record of history with *Breaking Trail: Remarkable Women of the Adirondacks*, co-authored with Sandra Weber, for which the Adirondack Mountain Club honored her with their Arthur E. Newkirk Education Award in 2005. She recently performed with Old Songs program on the Suffrages at the Sand Lake Center for the Arts. She has been a professional singer/songwriter and folk musician for 25 years. She is a faculty mentor at Empire State College.



History as well as columns for *The Advertiser* on local history. As a member of the Greenbush Historical Society, he is involved in gathering information of early settlers in this area.

## SLHS Facebook page and web site

If you haven't already done so, look for us on Facebook! It's a great place to get the most up-to-date news on meetings and events, along with other items of interest from us and from other places and groups in the Capital District. And occasionally, you'll see things you won't see in our newsletter or the web site!

We've developed quite the following beyond our members, and the Facebook page proved a true "lifesaver" when our web site provider had server problems that prevented us from updating our web site just as we were beginning to promote the "Big Band Gala" in April 2016. From October 2017 to January 2018, we went from **180** to **225** "Page Likes"! As of this writing, we're at **292**!

Look on our web site for the link or go to <https://www.facebook.com/SandLakeHistoricalSociety> — "Like" us...and enjoy!

~~Don't forget to keep checking our web site: <http://sandlakehistory.org>. It's as up-to-date as possible for programs and events, and we're constantly adding new material and features.~~

Our web site has been hosted for many years now by Rootsweb, part of Ancestry.com. Unfortunately, their entire site was hit with a major "denial of service" hacking; as a result, the site has been down since early this year. They are working to restore things. Meanwhile, [sandlakehistory.org](http://sandlakehistory.org) temporarily points to our Facebook page, while we explore future options for hosting the site.

## SLHS member notification list

Those of you who have shared your email address with us should have received notification of cancellation of the March meeting via a list called "[slhs-members @ googlegroups.com](mailto:slhs-members@googlegroups.com)." This is an announce-only list to quickly get word to members regarding cancellations, postponements and/or program reminders.

This is *not* a discussion list. Postings should only run about 1-2 per month, so we won't be filling up your inbox, and you will be offered the opportunity to opt out. We'll also be happy to add members whose email address was not on file.

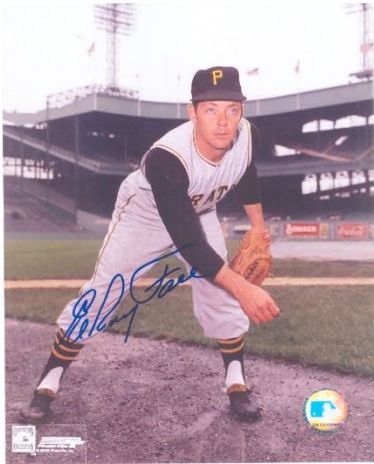
This will supplement any notifications on the School Closing Network or our Facebook page and web site.

**Tuesday, June 12, 7:30 p.m., Sand Lake Town Hall:** North Greenbush Town Historian **Jim Greenfield** will give a lecture on the Defreestville and Wynantskill, two hamlets in North Greenbush. Mr. Greenfield will discuss Defreestville and Wynantskill's naming and growth from the 1600s to the 21st century, the biggest influence in the hamlets' development and, what may surprise you, the second biggest influence. You'll meet some interesting characters: a congressman and friend of George Washington; an unconventional Justice of the Peace; a West Point Army man with a deep secret; and the "Sam Walton" of Wynantskill. And you'll relive some intriguing events: the night Wynantskill was "bombed" in World War II; "A Murder Most Foul"; a National Athletic Event; ...and much, much more!

Jim was a history major at Colgate University. After retiring from the NYS Attorney General's office, he had time to pursue his interest in history. He has been the North Greenbush Town Historian since 2006 and has written several books on North Greenbush

## Sand Lake and the 1960s!

[This is about as random a "timeline" as one can get, and it is in no way meant to be complete! Of course, your editor would not complain if anyone reading this would like to contribute to a more comprehensive Town of Sand Lake Timeline for the 1960s and other eras! – Ed.]



**1960:** In that year's World Series against the New York Yankees, Pittsburgh Pirates pitcher Elroy Face (1948 Averill Park High School graduate and soon-to-be amongst the first inductees into the Averill Park Athletic Hall of Fame) became the first pitcher to save *three* games in a single World Series.

A pioneer of modern relief pitching, he was the archetype of what came to be known as the "closer" and the National League's greatest reliever until the late 1960s, setting numerous team and league records during his career.

On April 2, 2018, Elroy threw out the first pitch at the Pirates' home opener!

**1961:** The new Averill Park Methodist Church, a.k.a. the "Round Church," is dedicated; to this day, it remains a modern "landmark" in Averill Park village.



**1962:** Kay' Burden Lake Restaurant, home of "Kay's Famous Pizza," opened for its fifth season. At that time, Kay's "famous pizzas and Italian dishes" were available in the off season at the Bueno Fiesta Restaurant on River Street in Troy, with "Vic" your friendly host"! A

**GLASS LAKE HOUSE**  
 AVERILL PARK  
 (FORMERLY GLASS LAKE HOTEL)  
 WE BRING YOU A FIRST!  
 FRIDAY, NOV. 23rd  
 ★ **THE MARSELLES** ★  
 ALL-GIRL TWIST BAND!  
 And Every Saturday for Your Dancing Pleasure  
 ★ **THE FOUR BOYS** ★  
 Reserve Now for Your Wedding Receptions,  
 Banquets, Parties, etc. — CALL OR 4-8936

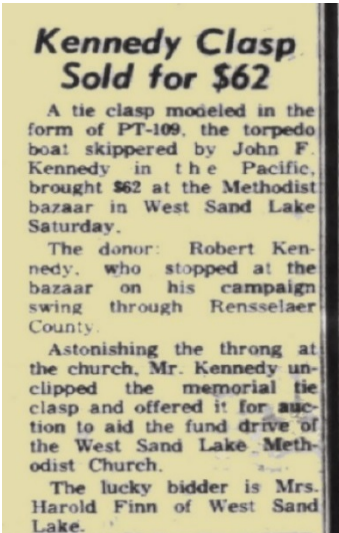
*Knickerbocker News* article featured Lilian Eau Claire and her ever-growing collection of dolls, which could be viewed at the popular Yesteryears Doll Museum.

November 23 brought a "first" to the Glass Lake House (formerly Glass Lake Hotel): The Marselles, an "all-girl twist band," along with "The Four Boys every Saturday for your dancing pleasure"!

**1963:** Fire damaged the former Cedarhurst Hotel in West Sand Lake. The building, dating from about 1833, had been owned by the West Sand Lake Grange since the 1930s. A grass fire was believed to be the cause of the fire, which did an estimated \$7,000-\$8,000 in damage. (*Times Record photo*)

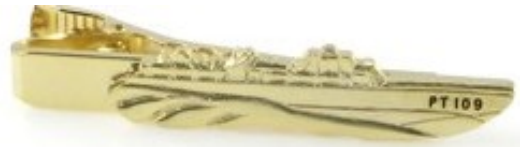
That summer, Jerry Lewis was in Albany to promote his new film *The Nutty Professor*. As was typical of Lewis, he asked *Times-Union* columnist Edgar S. Van Olinda to "call up Ben Silberg and give him my best regards. I used to be a soda jerker in his drug store [the Park Pharmacy, circa 1942]. Also, my best to Mr. and Mrs. Ben Butler who were neighbors and very kind to me."





**1964:** In fall 1964, both incumbent U.S. Senator Kenneth B. Keating and ultimate winner Robert F. Kennedy visited the Town during the campaign. Kennedy made a brief stop in West Sand Lake at the Methodist Church Bazaar. Meanwhile, Keating's helicopter landed in the parking lot of Crystal Lake Beach that same day.

During Kennedy's stop at the Bazaar, he donated a tie clasp in the shape of PT-109, which then brought \$62 at auction! (*Image is a replica from the JFK Library.*)



**1965: The Circus Comes to Town!** Specifically, the Mills Brothers Circus was brought in by the Sand Lake Kiwanis in July. The circus erected a tent seating 3,000 in the field between the "Middle School" and

Miller Hill School. Proceeds benefited the Community Service Fund, providing money for doctor and dentist visits and glasses for children whose families could not afford them.

School district residents approved a proposition to renovate and add to the High School, and to West Sand Lake and Poestenkill elementary schools, and to build a new school for Grades 6-8.

The Averill Park branch office of the National Exchange Bank (of Castleton) opened Saturday, October 23, fulfilling a long-held wish by many residents for a bank in the Town.

### Averill Park Bank To Have Open House

The new Averill Park Office of the National Exchange Bank will hold an "Open House" on Saturday, Dr. Richard H. Carroll, president, announced today.

The Bank Office will be open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday so that Averill Park area

**1966:** All production of knitted goods ended at Faith Mills.

Lt. Richard Butterfield, having returned from a tour of duty in Viet Nam, was the special guest of the Sgt. Walter A. Adams Post, American Legion, and spoke to Post members about the war. Butterfield would return to Viet Nam and remain until 1970.

While on duty as a second lieutenant with the 11th Pathfinders of the 1st Cavalry Division, he saw combat in the Battle of Ia Drang Valley in the Central Highlands in South Vietnam Nov. 14-18, 1965. Butterfield and his team directed helicopter resupply and medical evacuation missions.

After North Vietnamese soldiers and Viet Cong guerrillas inflicted heavy casualties on the 1st Cav soldiers at X-Ray, a nighttime rescue mission was launched to evacuate the wounded. Afterward, Butterfield led his pathfinder team to nearby Landing Zone Albany. Again, the Americans suffered heavy casualties during numerous enemy attacks. Butterfield's team directed medevac missions all night and into the next morning, making sure all wounded were removed. Butterfield was wounded at 1:00 a.m. but did not leave his team until all other wounded soldiers were removed.

His second tour was as a captain in Vietnam in 1968 as company commander of E Company, 2nd Battalion, 506 Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. He was wounded again and, after recovering from his wounds at Camp Zama Japan, Butterfield returned to Vietnam and served with the 5th Special Forces Group Airborne. After the war, he served with the New York Army National Guard from 1970-95 as a company commander, commander of 2nd Battalion, 105th Infantry, and as commander of the 1st Brigade, 42nd Infantry Division. As a civilian, he was a State Trooper until 2006. He currently serves with the Warren County Sheriff's office with the Narcotics

### Viet War Vet To Address Area American Legion Post

AVERRILL PARK

Mrs. L. H. Hill OR 4-3105

Lt. Richard Butterfield who recently returned from Viet Nam will be the special guest of the Sgt. Walter A. Adams Post, American Legion, Averill Park at their meeting, at 8 p.m. today.

Lt. Butterfield will show pictures and speak on the war in Viet Nam. All members of the post are asked to attend.

#### Another Trophy

The drill team of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Averill Park Sand Lake Volunteer Fire Co. who have won a trophy at every field day they've competed in since their organization kept their record intact Sunday. They competed in firemanic contests at the Johnsonville Field Day. They won second place in the dressing contest. Members of the team who com



LT. RICHARD BUTTERFIELD

Enforcement Unit. Butterfield earned 28 awards and decorations, with the Purple Heart his most cherished.

**1967:** Algonquin Middle School opened in September to accommodate students in grades 6, 7 and 8 in the Averill Park Central School District.

Asa Delamater, 83-year-old West Sand Lake resident and junk dealer, was brutally murdered at his home in February. Delamater's housekeeper, Ruth Mae Hugabone, was charged with his murder but ultimately found innocent reason of insanity.

**1968:** Church mergers were happening throughout the town. The year before, the Sand Lake Presbyterian Church had voted to merge with the Averill Park Methodist Church, which became the Church of the Covenant. (The Presbyterian Church building became a "coffee house and youth center" briefly, then became Sand Lake Town Hall, and currently is the Sand Lake Center for the Arts

West Sand Lake's Methodist church became Salem United Methodist when it joined with the Evangelical United Brethren Church in West Sand Lake. The EUB building later became a private residence, and the Methodists later erected a new church on Shaver Road; their old building became a Bible Baptist Church.

Maj. George Quamo had earned the distinction of being, at age 27, the youngest Major ever to have served in the Special Forces Unit (MACV SOG) in Viet Nam. Quamo received at least 26 medals, including the Distinguished Service Cross, and his actions save the lives of 14 men. He was killed in a helicopter crash in 1968. Averill Park's Post Office was renamed in his honor in 2006. *(The image at right is from the Special Operations Memorial Foundation)*



**1969:** Summer brought the fifth year of production of plays and musicals by Crystal Theatre, Inc., which had begun in 1965 as Lyric Theater Workshop (it would continue through 1970). That 1969 season included:

*Carousel*  
*The Fantastiks*  
*Camelot*  
*Stop the World, I Want to Get Off*, and  
*Brigadoon*.

Pictured here are (seated) Lansing Mace; (standing, l-r) Phil Pierce, Bob Strong, Bill Lance and Ned Pattison.

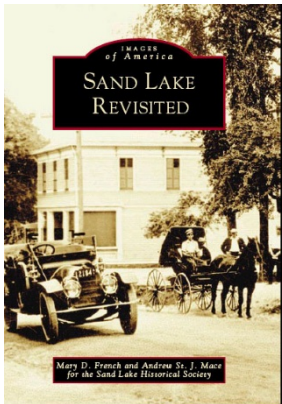
**1970:** "New Shopping Mall Planned On Route 43" read the front-page headline in the November 24, 1970, issue of the *Times Record*. The enclosed "Bon Acre Mall" was to feature a Grand Union supermarket and a department store as anchors, along with 33 other businesses, including a bank, movie theater, jewelry store, shoe and clothing stores and more.

"The Bon Acre Mall concourse will have restful seating areas for shoppers, a miniature waterfall and exotic paintings. Space will be provided for community exhibits. Overall, there will be approximately 114,000 square feet of floor space in the mall." "Medium-rise apartment structures" were also planned...

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## In Memoriam

We note with great sorrow the recent passing of member Joan I. Brown, and our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends.



<http://sandlakehistory.org>  
E-mail: [sandlakehistory@aol.com](mailto:sandlakehistory@aol.com)  
*Historical Highlights*  
Andrew Mace, Editor/Publisher



*FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED*  
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Sand Lake Historical Society  
Post Office Box 492  
West Sand Lake, New York 12196



Sand Lake Historical Society  
**Membership Application/Renewal 2018-2019**

*(Please print clearly)*

New Member\*  Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

\$3 per Student (13-22) \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 per Individual \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 per Family \_\_\_\_\_

\$100 per Lifetime (Individual) \_\_\_\_\_ \$150 per Lifetime (Family – two persons) \_\_\_\_\_

Would you prefer to receive newsletter via e-mail  or via Postal Mail  *(choose only one)*

**Do you have any particular historical interests or expertise? If so, please let us know:**

\_\_\_\_\_

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

HH 44-3 Spring 2018

*\*First time members joining after January 1, 2018, will see their first year's membership extended to May 31, 2019!*



Sand Lake Historical Society  
**May 8, 2018, Annual Dinner/Meeting Reservation**

*(Please print clearly)*

*Please return form by May 3, 2017, if you are planning to attend!*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Number of Dinners (\$20.00 each) \_\_\_\_\_ 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

*Feel free to write one check for the total amount of membership/renewal AND your dinner reservation(s)!*