Volume 43, Number 3

Our 43rd Year

Spring 2017

Fireside Chat / Afternoon Tea March 12



A sold-out crowd of over 125 filled the Great Room of the Old Daley on Crooked Lake Sunday, March 12, to hear local author William Kennedy. SLHS Trustee Jackie Tremont introduced him, noting that [Kennedy] is an author, screenwriter, an Irish Catholic, veteran, husband and grandfather and an Averill Parker — born and raised in North Albany. His native city has been the setting of many of his works [including] Pulitzer Prize-winning Ironweed, for which he also wrote the screenplay... He also wrote the screenplay for The Cotton Club. Mr. Kennedy has additionally co-written children's books with his son, Brandon Kennedy... He has been a professor in the English department at SUNY Albany and is founding director of New York State Writers

Institute.

Kennedy was most engaging, talking about Legs Diamond at length, along with other topics. When asked, he said *Billy Phelan's Greatest Game* was his favorite book — about his uncle. Asked about the news media today and "fake" news and what he thought, Kennedy said the news today is great (*NY Times, Washington Post*), much better than when he was a reporter in the 1950s and 1960s! He also offered thought-provoking comments on current events and was most generous in signing copies of his books.

Dinner and Annual Meeting, May 9, 2017

The Sand Lake Historical Society invites everyone to our May 9th dinner / annual meeting / fundraiser at the Church of the Covenant, Averill Park. Dine on a great meal, meet some of our members and enjoy a typical program/speaker. Seating for dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m.

The trustees, some of Sand Lake's (self-proclaimed) best cooks, will prepare an **all-you-can-eat buffet, for only \$16.** It will feature pork loin roast, dressing, potatoes, green bean casserole, Caesar salad, mixed greens and vegetable salad, breads, applesauce and a variety of homemade desserts.

After the dinner, there will be a brief meeting, including presentation of nominees for the Board of Trustees: Joan Fuess, Bonnie Hellum, Jane Minotti, Mike Perry, Nancy Perry, Michelle Mosher Schultz. Also at this meeting, the winners of the silent auction for the mailboxes, decorated by local artists, will be announced. (More about the mailboxes elsewhere in this issue!)

Then hear local historian and Hudson-Mohawk Industrial Gateway Executive Director Michael P. Barrett's fascinating lecture: *Russell Sage, the Money King*. Sage was a politician, financier, railroad executive -- and robber baron -- of the 19th century. Barrett will speak about the founding of Russell Sage College and the interesting role Sage's second wife, Olivia Slocum, played in it.

Reservations must be made by May 4. Reservation forms are found elsewhere in this issue.

Upcoming Programs

Tuesday, April 11: Bob Shuey will present a History of Volunteerism in the Town of Sand Lake. The tradition of volunteerism has been alive and well with the emergency service organizations in the Town of Sand Lake since its earliest years. The West Sand Lake, Averill Park-Sand Lake and Taborton fire companies, and the Sand Lake Ambulance, were organized by groups of neighbors over the years and have evolved into the modern integrated system that it is today.

Tuesday, June 13: Genealogy, or the study of family history, has been described as the "fastest-growing hobby in America." With the popularity of television shows like *Who Do You Think You Are?*" the ease of sharing information via the Internet and the reconnecting of distant relatives using social media, it's no wonder more Americans than ever before are interested in discovering their roots. Professional genealogist *Lisa Dougherty* will help you get started in the pursuit of your own family history by offering guidelines for gathering information, conducting effective family interviews, and organizing your research.

The traditional June "Strawberry Social" will be provided by the SLHS trustees. Also at the June meeting, membership will vote on proposed amendments to our Bylaws; details of those amendments elsewhere in this issue.

The April and June meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. at Sand Lake Town Hall, 8428 NY 66, Sand Lake, New York 12153.

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 now only \$12.00 (including tax). Sand Lake, our first book, is also available for only \$12.00 (including tax); add \$3.00 shipping, for each copy. Both together may be had for only \$20.00! Copies of both books are for sale at the Town Clerk's Office for the Society. Marvin Bubie's book On the Trail of Henry Hudson and Our Dutch Heritage Through the Municipal Seals of New York State is available for \$27.00 (including tax).

A set of 6 note cards for \$7.00 (tax included) is available, including: Carousel at Crystal Lake Park; Parade at Younghan's Race Track and Fairgrounds; Summer campers "roughing it" circa 1915 at Methodist Farm at Crooked Lake; Hikers dressed 1928 style at Camp VanSchoonhoven; Victorian lady rowing her dog on an area lake; and Family relaxing on their porch at lakeside cottage. The note cards are available from the Town Clerk's office.

Order information is also available on our web site. You may send an order to Sand Lake Historical Society, Box 492, West Sand Lake, NY 12196 for any of the above items.

Sand Lake: Then and Now!

The free Smart Phone app, *Sand Lake: Then and Now*, is available to users of i-phones as well as droid devices. Simply go to the app store and search *Sand Lake: Then and Now*. The app gives you the chance to see what Sand Lake, West Sand Lake and Averill Park looked like in the 1800s. Images are being added continually!

If you'd like to share photos or if you have any questions about the app, call Town Historian Bob Moore 674-2026 x20 or **bmoore@sand-lake.us**

TR-SL DVD from SLHS



You will remember that, in April 2015, Teddy Roosevelt (a.k.a. Joe Wiegand) "revisited" Sand Lake to a sold-out crowd at The Old Daley on Crooked Lake. That April event was filmed and was shown in its entirety in November. Also shown was a 1989 interview with Al Coons

(then-owner of the Crooked Lake Hotel) that was made by a video club at Algonquin Middle School. Westfield Production Company is generously providing the DVDs (with both features), which are for sale for \$15 to the public and \$10 for members of Sand Lake Historical Society. This is a great gift idea for local history buffs!

We will have copies available at membership meetings. You may also purchase copies at the Sand Lake Town Clerk's office during normal business hours. Or write to us and enclose a check for \$10.00 plus \$3.00 shipping per copy. Please allow up to four weeks for delivery.

SLHS and **Facebook**

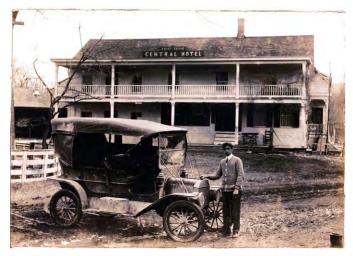
If you haven't already done so, look for us on Facebook! It's a great place to get the most up-to-date news on meetings and events, along with other items of interest from us and from other places and groups in the Capital District.

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" last spring!

From https://www.facebook.com, just type Sand Lake Historical Society in the Search Box at the top of the page. Then just "Like" us...and enjoy!

They're tearing down Crist Crape's Hotel!

The following is transcribed from *The Troy Record*, Saturday Morning, July 27, 1957. By Hilda Goodwin



Crist Crape Central Hotel, circa 1910. Pictured here is Frank Crape. [Collection of the Sand Lake Town Historian's Office]

Old Sand Lake Hotel, Famed For Good Food, Being Razed

The famed Crist Crape Central Hotel at Sand Lake [SE corner of the intersection of the current routes 43 and 66], believed to be more than 150 years old and once a favorite stage coach stop, is being torn down to make way for a gas station.

There are still Trojans who can remember traveling by horse and buggy or by sleigh to Crape's Hotel for Sunday dinner. And what dinners they were! The Crapes had their own gardens, poultry house where they raised chickens and turkeys, berry patch and dairy. They also raised lambs, pigs and beef cattle.

The Crapes smoked their own hams and bacon, made their own jellies, jams, pickles and delicious chili sauce, canned fruits for pies, made their own butter, cream and cheese and froze their own ice cream.

Sometimes, on a good Sunday in the spring or fall, more than 100 persons enjoyed dinner at Crape's Hotel. They sat at long dining tables and were served, family style, with heaping platters of stewed chicken and golden buttermilk biscuits, chicken pie baked in milk pans with only the best parts of the chicken reposing in golden gravy, smoky hams baked in maple sugar, every kind of vegetable the garden could produce, hot muffins, corn bread and pitchers of rich milk. The table was laden with bowls of cottage cheese, wild strawberry jam, pickled peaches, ginger pears, conserves thick with fruit and nuts and a half dozen varieties of pickles.

This was followed by homemade ice cream, plates of several kinds of cake and three or four different kinds of pie. The member of the family who baked the pastry, made the best pies in Rensselaer County.

All guests were urged to eat until they were at the bursting point.

The hotel was probably built about 1800. A history of Rensselaer County published in 1880 says that the hotel at that time was "more than 60 years old."

It was built as a stage coach stop by Clement Sliter. The community around it then was called Sliter's Corners. The tavern later was conducted by William Finch, Nicholas Fellows, Calvin Sliter and then George Sliter before it was purchased by the late Crist Crape. During the days that the Sliters owned the tavern, the glass works were in existence at Glass Lake and Franklin Averill ran the principal store.

Crape's Hotel had a wonderful old bar, still there within the memory of residents of the village, and an upstairs ballroom with a spring floor. Some residents who were young a half century ago can remember dancing there.



Another view of Crist Crape Central Hotel, early 1900s. [Collection of the Sand Lake Historical Society]

Several years ago the Crape family sold the hotel. It has been occupied as a residence since then by Oswald Biittig. The Biittig family moved a few weeks ago.

About 35 years ago the old hotel, at a point where Route 66, the Miller Hill road and the Taborton road meet, was somewhat shielded from the main highway by elms and a triangle of lawn in front of the white structure. At this time there was a long porch across the front of the hotel and a small, colorful flower garden at one side.

The elms were cut down several years ago when the new highway was built. The porch disappeared a few years ago and the old white structure was encased in a protective masonry-like covering.

John Warren remembers: There was a large tree to the right of Crape's that was cut down by my father in the 1960s or 70s. His chainsaw hit an old horseshoe that had been left in the crook of the tree. The building next door (now The Towne Tavern) was my great-grandfather's blacksmith shop.

Who Killed Hazel Drew?

Prologue

Part I: Some of you may remember the 1990-91 show Twin Peaks. The series began with the discovery of Laura Palmer's lifeless body near a lake. The inspiration for this story came from a local crime sometimes referred to as the Teal pond murder.



NEW TROY MURDER

CLEW LEADS TO

Woman Heard a Giri's Screams

Night Hazel Drew Is Sup-

posed Have Been Slain.

RAPIDLY SOON AFTERWARD

NEW CLEW IN THE

Frank Smith's Hurried Visit

a Suit Case

Drug Store.

FAILED TO TELL POLICE

and Hand Bag, But

AUTOMOBILE DROVE AWAY

THINK MISS DREW

in the Union S

In 1908, 20-year-old Hazel Drew's body was found in the pond on Taborton Rd. and thought to be a suicide. Upon further investigation, the cause was determined to be blunt force trauma to the back of the head. The murderer was never found. Screenwriter Mark Frost spent summers on Big Bowman Pond and has confirmed that he was inspired by the story and the ghost of this poor young woman who still roams

the woods.

It seems today that there is a great deal of interest in this unsolved murder. A number of people have contacted me for information, and there are two books and a play in the works. David Bushman, the author of Twin Peaks FAQ: All That's Left to Know About a Place Both Wonderful and Strange with Arthur Smith, mentioned Hazel Drew in his book and is convinced that this crime can be solved. Mark Givens, who hosts a Twin Peaks podcast (Deer Meadow Radio) from Washington DC has also been investigating the crime. Both men came to Sand Lake in November to check out the area. Ron

Hughes, an author and teacher, is another who visited Sand Lake. Two years ago he visited the scene of the crime to work out his theories for his upcoming book.

With all this attention, we may possibly get some answers on the Hazel Drew case. And one more thing: a new Twin Peaks series starts on Showtime this spring. - Bob Moore, Sand Lake Town Historian

Part II: It was a cold and stormy Monday night in the "East Manor." I was on my way to the Towne Tayern to meet my friend Katz for dinner. I decided to swing by my office at town hall to check the answering machine. It had been a week since the first article on Hazel Drew's murder appeared in the Advertiser asking for clues or information. The red

The Investigation Continues

light flashed, I entered my code and a voice began, "674-!@#\$, you might want to hear what I got to tell va"! This was it, the information that would solve the 1908 murder of poor 20-year-old Hazel, bludgeoned and left floating in Teal Pond.

WAS TAKEN TO TEAL POND

a mystery as ng toward a

I returned the call and learned of some interesting theories but nothing definitive. Influential businessmen possibly got Hazel in trouble and then did away with her. I interviewed the grandson of a suspect that was dismissed early on in the case, but nothing really new. There is an old house up on the hill across the street from Teal Pond. Next week I'll do a title search down in Troy to find out who lived there in 1908. That might give me something to follow.

This past Monday, I had a visit from Annette Witheridge a reporter from Britain's Daily Mail. It seems that Twin Peaks was very popular in Britain, and many there are looking forward to the new

> Showtime series to begin in May. The article about the Teal Pond murder and the Twin Peaks connection is now online features many photos of Sand Lake.

If anyone has information about the case, please call 674-2026 x20. You'll have to leave a message; Effie retired years ago! – Bob Moore, Sand Lake Town Historian

Going Viral

THEORY THAT DREW GIRL'S BOD DETECTIVE FINDS HER SUIT CASE was found July 11 in Teal's Every clew which might the exception of a story eath of the pretty domestic

If you know anything about social media, you know what "going viral" means: everyone seems to be talking about it and sharing it! Right now, that's certainly happening at least locally on sites such as Facebook, where that Daily

Mail article has been shared countless times! We link to it on our Facebook page, and you can also find it at: https://tinyurl.com/TealPondMurder

It was no different in July 1908. Not only did the story fill local papers, but articles with the latest on the case continued to fill column space in newspapers all around the State — New York City, Ogdensburg, Utica, Syracuse, Buffalo — and beyond! – *Ed*.

Sand Lake's Rich Agricultural Past and Present -- Part III

In parts I and II, we looked at farmer and state trooper Tom Winnicki as well as general farming in in Sand Lake, including important crops, prosperous farms and the marking of cattle, sheep and swine. In part III we'll consider how farming is



alive and well today in the southwest corner of the town.

Put the kids in the car and drive south on Route 150 towards Schodack; turn right on Barnes Rd. The old Lape farm is still in operation with different owners. Here you'll see a small herd of belted Galloways, a breed that originated in southern Scotland. Then there's the Windy Hill Farm, which advertises horseback riding lessons, as does the Broken-New Farm. I've heard stories about a "Hippie Farm" in this general area. Imagine, hippies right here in Sand Lake — far out!

The old Barnes family farmhouse still stands on the right. Across from it is another small herd of cattle, this time red and black Angus. This herd belongs to Luke Winnicki. I first met Luke when he came up to the house asking if I wanted him to cut down a dead tree to share for firewood. This seems to be the rule among the neighbors here, sharing small leftover parcels as an informal cooperative, each helping and sharing farm equipment.

Make a right down Parker Road and on the left is Besch's Round Hill Farm (see above), a gentleman farm with a few cattle, horses and chicken. This is the old Westfall farm (1790). Turn right on Shaver Road; it's a short distance to the Shaver farm that is still operational.

Follow the road and on your right you will see another old house that has recently been totally redone, keeping the character of the structure intact. This is the property leased to Philip Krist and Karen Mickle in 1789 by Stephen VanRensselaer. The original lease was subject "to the payment of an annual rent of 2 bushels and 4

pounds good clean winter wheat, one day's service with carriage and 4 fat fowl."

After a short distance, you're back to Route 150, with the old Uline house on your right. West Sand Lake was at one time called Ulinesville. Barent Uline purchased 325 acres here in the late 1700s. On the left is the Elmwood Cemetery dating back to 1820.

One more stop on the tour: turn right on 150, go down to Sheer Road and make a left. A short distance up on the right is Hoffay's Harvest House. Get the kids an ice cream; they deserve it!

- Bob Moore, Town Historian

Dues are due!

If the mailing label on your newsletter says 2017, or if that date is mentioned in the e-mail in which you receive this newsletter electronically, your dues for 2017-2018 are due. We hope you'll renew when you sign up for the Annual Dinner Meeting!

Hannaford helps...SLHS!



Again this year, the Sand Lake Historical Society will benefit from the sale of reusable shopping bags. All through the month of May 2017, we will receive \$1.00 for every

"Hannaford Helps" reusable shopping bag purchased at the West Sand Lake Hannaford Super Market. Help us...and help the environment in May!

Mailboxes!

Some fourteen local artists have generously donated their time and talents to create unique decorated mailboxes that are available via silent auction! The boxes made their debut at the Afternoon Tea and Fireside Chat at Old Daley on Crooked Lake. They moved to Town Hall for a couple weeks. Currently, they may be viewed and bid on at the Key Bank branch office in West Sand Lake. They then return to Sand Lake Town Hall and Sand Lake Town Library through May 8, and winners will be announced at our Annual Meeting May 9.



Sunflowers by Pat Allen: Pat is a local artist currently focusing on dog portraits. She has painted mailboxes before;

if you pass by her house, you will see beautiful roses decorating her own mailbox.

Birds of a Feather by Judy Vincent: Judy has been painting birds for years. An eye for detail and a love for what she does are evident in her work. Each single



evident in her work. Each single bird is a work of art in itself; this box has it all.



Covered Bridge by Sally Spring: Sally has the good fortune of being named what she

is -- a breath of spring. As you look at the covered bridge, you can feel the energy she puts into her brush strokes. A mailbox that reminds you of a bridge from the past.

Incubus Dreams by Chrissy Codner: Chrissy is a decoupage artist. She has painstakingly filled in all the colors to bring her subject



matter to life. More than 8 hours was spent just adding the color and then she completed the box and sponge painted the background.



Cardinals by Katharine Logan: Katharine has chosen to paint her mailbox in the style of Charlie Parker. Simple is its design, yet it has a high impact when you see it.

Elephant Walk by Sarah Keeler: Sarah has taken us on a short safari with elephants. The colors she uses and the diminishing eye allow us to



wander down the road with these wondrous beasts.



Burden Lake from our deck by Megan Keeler: Megan snapped a picture of Burden Lake and then painted what she saw. Trees,

houses, water have never looked so good. Can you see yourself on the chair, soaking in the calm?



Hare and Feathers by Deborah Bayly: Deborah captures her subject matter in such a way that you cannot help but want to touch them. The

rabbit could easily jump off the box, and we could almost hear the birds tweeting. Add to that the surprise of a nest inside the box; what joy!

Log Cabin Quilt by Lynn Kane: Lynn's talent includes painting and quilting, and here she combines both. Lynn has "quilted" using two sheets of



metal and insulation. She then used the popular log cabin block pattern and riveted her quilt to the mailbox.



Hibiscus in Bloom by Mary Ellen Stensel: Mary Ellen has given us a "wow" using colors so vibrant the flowers pop off the mailbox. Mary Ellen's love of

her art is evident in what she does.

On the Pond, Under the Pond by Elaine Wilson: Elaine has certainly used her imagination and talent in this mailbox. On



one side, the swan and bird with mail tell you what is on the pond; on the other side, the koi and a message in a bottle tell you what lies under the pond. For a bit of whimsy, a snail is on the opening flap; after all, it is snail mail!



Sand Lake by Jim Powers: The Sand Lake mailbox is painted in folk art style and includes a few of Sand Lake's historical highlights:

the mills, the trolley, Crooked Lake House, town schoolhouses, and the Crystal Lake Carousel.

Totem Lodge by Karli Powers: The Totem Lodge Mailbox was inspired by the historic totem pole that stood at Totem Lodge Country Club from 1904-1958. The totem pole and country club are gone, but this mailbox is a reminder of the grand and unique history our town possesses.





Hand woven With Love by Barbara Boughton: Barbara is a resident of Sand Lake. She is a basket weaver, and she used her creativity to hand-weave the

mailbox. A traditional basket pattern is now a mailbox cover.

The tiny pictures here do not do these works justice. Go to our web site or to our Facebook page to see more and larger images. Better yet: go take a look and bid!

Proposed Amendments to SLHS Bylaws

The following amendments to the Bylaws of the Sand Lake Historical Society will be presented for consideration at the June 13, 2017, Membership Meeting. The current Bylaws may be found on our web site (click on "Documents").

Article III, Section 3.02 A new subsection is added: (c) Any new member accepted on or after January 1 in any fiscal year shall be considered in good standing through the end of the following fiscal year.

Article VI, Section 6.01 is amended to read as follows: (a) Number of Trustees. The Board of Trustees of the Society shall consist of no fewer than twelve (12) eleven (11) and no more than twenty-five (25) fifteen (15) members of the Society, which number shall be determined by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Trustees.

Article VI, Section 6.02 is changed with addition of two new subsections: (*j*) Conflict of Interest. The Board of Trustees shall adopt a conflict of interest policy that governs the independence of Trustees as well as transactions in which Trustees have a financial interest. This policy must cover definition, disclosure procedures, and rules that a person with a conflict may not be present for, nor improperly influence deliberation or vote on the matter for which the conflict exists. The existence of a conflict and process for dealing with it must be documented in the minutes of any meeting where it is discussed or acted on. Each Trustee must annually sign a disclosure statement collected by the Recording Secretary and provided to the chair of the Audit Committee.

(k) Records management. The Board of Trustees shall adopt a records management policy and procedures to ensure the business records of the society are created, maintained, and made accessible according to professional standards.

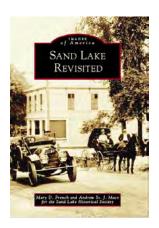
Article VI, Section 6.03(b) is amended to read as follows: (b) Election of officers. The officers of the Society shall be elected from and by the Board of Trustees within two (2) weeks after the Annual Meeting. *The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of officers for election from among currently serving Trustees. Nominations shall be accepted from the Trustees to supplement those proposed. Election shall be decided by a majority of the Trustees.*

Article VI, Section 6.04, subsection (e) is amended to read as follows: (e) The Treasurer shall be responsible for the receipt and safekeeping of the dues and other Society funds and securities. The Treasurer shall deposit or cause to be deposited the same in such banks or depositories as the Board may designate, in the name of the Sand Lake Historical Society. The Treasurer shall keep full and accurate records of all financial transactions *for transmission of reports to the Archivist* and shall render a report to the Board at each of its meetings and to the members at the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer shall be Chair of the Finance Committee.

Article VIII, Section 8.01: a new subsection (c) is added: (c) The Audit Committee shall annually review the society's financial transactions and reports and present a report of its findings to the Board. The committee shall consist of a minimum of three Trustees, excluding the President and Treasurer.

Subsequent subsections are renumbered. Subsection (g) (h) is amended to read as follows: (g) (h) The Publications Committee shall be comprised of an appointed Editor as chair, two (2) Trustees, the Librarian and one (1) other member. It shall be responsible for the selection of the contents of the newsletter and for its composition, printing and distribution of a newsletter one (1) month prior to the Annual Meeting and at least two (2) other times a year. It shall also be responsible for soliciting and overseeing the publication of other materials pertinent to the aims of the Society.

Article X, Section 10.01 is amended to read as follows: Section 10.01 THIS CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS MAY BE AMENDED at a regular meeting of the Society by two-thirds (2/3) of those qualified voters in attendance, provided the text of the proposed amendment has been published sixty (60) thirty (30) days in advance.



http://sandlakehistory.org E-mail: sandlakehistory@aol.com Historical Highlights Andrew Mace, Editor/Publisher





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

Sand Lake Historical Society Membership Application/Renewal 2017-2018

(Please print clearly)

THE THE PAPE	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 ite	ewsletter via e-mail or via Postal Mail (choose only one)
	Total enclosed: \$
Spring 2017 Please make checks payable to <i>Sand</i>	Total enclosed: \$



Sand Lake Historical Society May 9, 2017, Annual Dinner/Meeting Reservation

(Please print clearly)

Please return form by May 4, 2017, if you are planning to attend!

Name		
Address		
Phone	E-mail	
Number of Dinners (\$	16.00 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

 $\label{lem:feel} \textit{Feel free to write one check for the total amount of membership/renewal AND your dinner reservation (s)!}$