

The Franklin Square *Historical Society* **NEWSLETTER**

P.O. Box 45, Franklin Square, NY

February 2023

Volume XLIII No. 5

Special Viewing of Pottery Exhibit for Society Members

Before plastic, most everyday storage was in crockery — vessels made from fired clay. In his talk, Dr. Paul van Wie pointed out that clay vessels vary in strength and durability according to the heat used in their manufacture. Before we had electric thermostats, you could adjust the heat of the fire for a kiln according to the kind of wood you used. Pine would yield a lower temperature than ash or oak. The lower fired clay yielded terracotta which was not very durable. However, hotter fires could produce stoneware, which as its name suggests, is much stronger. Glazes could “seal” the stoneware vessel’s surface so it could hold liquids. The museum’s collection of stoneware includes pieces made by the Brown Brothers firm in Huntington using local clays and simple glazes, sometimes made with salt. More decorative items might have simple blue designs created using more expensive cobalt for color. The collection also includes a variety of crockery items ranging from a butter churn to bottles for ginger beer, jugs for everything from molasses and maple syrup to whisky or witch hazel. There are also many ink bottles and ink wells (needed before ballpoint pens).



Members, We Need Your Help!

At our annual dinner we always have beautiful gift baskets that our members love to look at and take a chance to win. This year the board is looking for help in gathering donations needed for our raffle baskets. We need Cash, Lottery tickets, Gift cards, Liquor, New and unused gift items. Popular themed baskets at our previous dinners included: car cleaning supplies; wrapping paper, stationary supplies, tape and gift tags; Italian dinner items; Fun in the sun items – beach towels, sunscreen, beach snacks, and beach reading paperbacks; craft items for children such as crayons, markers, drawing paper, glue and tape; Picnic basket with paper goods, tablecloth, cups, utensils, sand bucket, and wine or beer. No one needs to make a complete basket. If you can give us some items to include, we will add to your donations and make a complete basket. Call Nancy Youngfert at 516-352-8376 if you want to drop off items or have any questions.



Reminders: Sunday, March 5—2:00-4:00 p.m.—Museum Open for Visits

Drop in to learn more about our collection!

Wednesday, April 26—42nd Annual Dinner—6:00 p.m.

Journal ads—due by April 7 - Dinner Reservations—deadline April 12

February Membership Meeting

On Wednesday, February 8 we had our second membership meeting of the year at the Franklin Square Public Library. Over 20 members attended. Nancy Youngfert, President, welcomed all members and began with a brief business portion of the meeting with the reading of minutes, treasury report and historian's report.

Dr. Paul Van Wie then gave a presentation addressing the question: "How Did Franklin

Square Get It's Name?" The area at the intersection of the Hempstead-Jamaica Road (Hempstead Tpke.) and John Street (present-day Nassau Blvd.) was called Trimming Square in the 1840's when Walt Whitman was the teacher for District 17 students, but known as Munson or Washington

Square by 1895. It wasn't until sometime in the early 20th century that the whole area from just west of the Road to Near Rockaway (Franklin Ave.) and the Road to Hyde Park (New Hyde Park Road) as far north as Light Horse Road (Tulip Ave.) was joined together and recognized as Franklin Square. Paul drew a map of the town showing all the creeks and names of the original roads, amazing the audience at his ability to draw such a detailed map freehand, without notes, as he described the settlement process of our community. After the presentation there were refreshments while members socialized with each other.



A Tribute to Earl Valder

The Society was saddened to learn of the passing of Earl Valder, an esteemed member of the Society, in January 2023. Earl was 99 years old.

Earl and his lovely wife Miriam were long-time residents of Franklin Square. In 2004, Earl was elected a Trustee of the Society. He served four terms with distinction until 2016. Earl's service as Trustee coincided with much of the construction of the Franklin Square Museum. His understanding of engineering and good advice contributed greatly to the success of the project. Earl was a veteran of the armed forces and a member of local veterans organizations.

Earl and Miriam were loyal members of Ascension Lutheran Church. When speaking to Earl in December, he indicated that he would be coming to Franklin Square in the spring for the 100th Anniversary Celebration of Ascension Lutheran. He very much wanted to view the Museum at that time, since several years ago he had moved to New Jersey and had not yet toured the completed building.

In the 1960s, Earl worked on technology which contributed to Project Apollo. He was very proud to have worked on this project, and Earl even donated several items from this experience to our Museum. The Society will miss this fine citizen and neighbor. Our condolences to Miriam and the Valder Family.

Paul van Wie



50-50 RAFFLE

The drawing will take place at the Annual Dinner on Wed., April 26, 2023.

You do NOT have to be present to win!

The more who participate, the higher the prize will be!

Mail your tickets and check to: Fr. Sq. Historical Society, Box 45, Franklin Sq., NY 11010

50-50 RAFFLE – \$1 each / or 6 for \$5

Name _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____

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Name _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____

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Name _____

Address: _____

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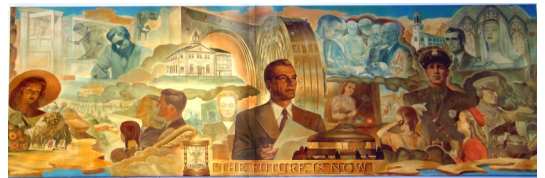
Name _____

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A Second Chance

Did you miss Paul van Wie's presentation on the murals from the Franklin National Bank on display at the Franklin Square Public Library? You can catch it online with this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qUSJDy52JqM>



Donation of Flat Chart Cabinet

At the beginning of February, Society President Nancy Youngfert saw a listing on Facebook Marketplace for a flat file cabinet used for maps, architect plans and posters. Nancy contacted the seller, asking if the price might be flexible since we are a non-profit organization. Surprisingly, it turned out that the seller was Antonio Farella, a graduate from Carey H.S. who grew up in Franklin Square. Antonio very generously agreed to donate the cabinet to our museum! He stopped by on our first Museum Open Hours on Sunday, Feb. 5th with his two daughters and we were able to thank him in person and show him how the cabinet was already filled with many large maps and charts.



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