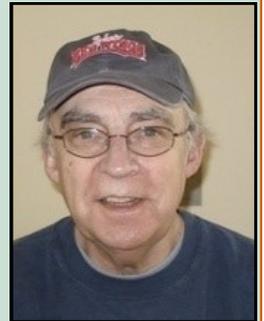


Tuesday, January 9th, 2018 Greece Public Library 7:00 p.m.

Westside Memories with Jim Memmott

Jim will share his memories of breaking into journalism by covering Greece for the Times-Union in the early 1980s– a time when Rochester was a two paper town, when Kodak was booming, when the schools were full. Much has changed; some things have stayed the same. A fond look back, an ambivalent look ahead.

Jim Memmott is a veteran of 37 years in Rochester journalism. He began as a reporter at the Rochester Times-Union covering Greece and Gates and went on to become executive city editor and then managing editor of the paper. Later, he moved to the Democrat & Chronicle where he served as managing senior editor. Though retired from the paper, he continues to write the weekly "Remarkable Rochester" column.



Reservations are not required.

Annual Membership Meeting Thursday, January 18th, 7:00 p.m.



Our members are encouraged to attend our annual meeting held at the Greece Museum, 595 Long Pond Rd. Receive a copy of our 2017 Annual Report, view a photo montage of our activities from 2017, and hear about our plans for the future. A financial report will be presented by our treasurer and an election of trustees will be conducted. Trustees serve a term of three years. Those currently seeking re-election are: Bill Sauers, Sandy Peck, Jack Wallenhorst, and Pam O'Sullivan. One new member, Gretchen Kozowski will be seeking election for the first time.

Bill



Sandy



Jack



Pam



Gretchen



Tuesday, February 13th, 2018

Greece Public Library 7:00 p.m.

Buffalo Soldiers Presentation Team

The Buffalo Soldiers Presentation Team which is part of the Pennington-Moye Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9251 will give an overview of the History of African Americans Soldiers after the Civil War. They were known as "Buffalo Soldiers," a name given to them by Native Americans on the western plains. They will talk about the uniform and equipment worn and used by the Soldiers. They will also explain and demonstrate how the Soldiers communicated in the 1800s. Of interest is that one of the presenters is Charles Price who was a soldier in the Army Air corps known as the Tuskegee Airmen.



The Corinthian

GREECE HISTORICAL SOCIETY and MUSEUM



"President's Message"



Happy New Year to our community and all our members and supporters. As we begin our 49th year serving the citizens of the Town of Greece, I can look back at the history of the Greece Historical Society with pride. It is remarkable what our founders did to create this fine organization and what incredible work it must have taken to open our historic center on Long Pond Road. Without the help from our past Town leaders and some State funding, the Town of Greece would not have the Greece Historical Society and Museum.

Our museum is constantly changing, and this coming year will be no exception. During January, when the museum is closed, we will begin major changes to our school house exhibit which may take several months to finish. This new enlarged exhibit will give the nearly 500 school children who visit us yearly a better experience as to what it was like in school 100 year ago and 50 years ago.

We continue to evaluate parts of our artifact collection, thinning out a few items that we never use because they do not fit our mission or because we don't have room or proper storage facilities for them. This is a very time-consuming process; as a chartered historical society, we need to follow N.Y. State Education guidelines when deaccessioning items.

Our Tuesday programs are now scheduled through May and we are planning several interesting Sunday programs at the museum as well.

I hope everyone enjoyed our activities, lectures and museum exhibits last year and we look forward to seeing everyone in 2018.

Bill Sauers, President

Quote of the Month

"When I was younger I could remember anything, whether it had happened or not."

~ Mark Twain

"Museum Events"

Museum and Museum Shop hours:
Sunday **1:30 - 4 p.m.** (and during office hours)
GHS office hours: Mon-Tue 9:30 a.m.- Noon

Closed Sundays in January
(details, page 1)

Tuesday, January 9th, Greece Public Library 7:00 pm
Westside Story Memories with Jim Memmott

Sunday, February 11th, Greece Museum 2:00 pm
The History of Magic with Wally Rust

Tuesday, February 13th, Greece Public Library 7:00 pm
Buffalo Soldiers

Tuesday, March 13th, Greece Public Library 7:00 pm
Rochester's Public Market



We greatly value and appreciate your donations*.

*Tax deductible per Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

"Museum Shop"



It looks like winter is finally here and we will take our break during the month of January. Time to check our Shop inventory and see what kind of new items we can add to our selection.

We'll be 'back in business in February; remember to bring in your 10% coupon for your purchases.

Have a Happy New Year!

Wendy Peck, Museum Shop Coordinator



Museum Shop hours:
Sun 1:30-4:00,
Mon-Tue
9:30-12



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A Life Remembered, Lives On.

This newsletter is published monthly by the editor for the Greece Historical Society and Museum. **Cyndie Shevlin, Editor**

Museum Winter Hours

Our museum will be **closed Sundays**

December 24th through January 28th, 2018

The museum will reopen Sunday, February 4, 2018.

We will maintain office hours on Mondays in January and we will have a Tuesday Program on January 9th.



Membership Year - May 1 through April 30

DATE ON THE MAILING IS NOT YOUR RENEWAL DATE !

As a reminder for those of you who occasionally ask about membership renewal, our membership year is May 1 through April 30. Please note that the date on the mailing label is not your renewal date. It is a US Post Office date showing the date the label was created. We will be sending renewal notices in the spring. Current up-to-date members who send in a renewal early will be credited for the next membership year beginning May 1st.

NOCO Promotion

NOCO, our alternative energy supplier has offered to contribute \$15.00 for every member of the society that switches their home gas and/or electricity to NOCO. If you consider this option call 888-710-6626, identify yourself as a member of the Greece Historical Society and give a reference promotion code GS10. This is not an official endorsement of NOCO by the Greece Historical Society but does give us an opportunity for a financial promotional consideration.

Tours and Education

City School Visit - Back in October students & teachers from Dr. Walter Cooper Academy School #10 visited our house & museum. In December, Bill Sauers and I were invited to visit their school in the City of Rochester. They asked that I speak to them about the difference of living in the City compared to the Suburbs. Here are some of the topics that I pointed out:

- ◆ you will see farms where food is grown & sent to grocery stores
- ◆ we need cars to travel to places
- ◆ we have malls where we can shop
- ◆ some of our streets only have sidewalks on one side of the street
- ◆ we have restaurants
- ◆ the biggest interest is Wegmans. When they came to our facility they noticed Wegmans and were amazed. Most of them have not even been to one.

I then read a story about a boy who lives and is growing up in the city. After my talk there was a few minutes to ask me some questions. As always, children ask the most interesting things. This one is my favorite:

A girl stated that when they visited us I told them about moving the house from Wegmans to its present location. She wanted to know WHY we had to move - WHY didn't Wegmans build their store where the house is? I explained that Wegmans needed lots of space and that there would not be enough room for their store on our property. She accepted that but I don't think she was totally happy with it!!!

After talking with the teacher, **Mr. Curtis Birthright**, he assured us that this will be an ongoing partnership.

Kathie Firkins, Coordinator



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Volunteers of the Year

During our Holiday Open House on December 10th we honored **Joe Vitallo** and **Arnie Amering** as our volunteers of the year. Joe and Arnie have been our "go to" guys for the past several years. From changing light bulbs, baking cookies, building exhibits, or making repairs to our building, we can always count on these two dedicated volunteers. We truly appreciate all that you do.

Congratulations!
Joe (L) and Arnie (R)



Letter From Volunteer Hannah Chhibber

For nearly two years **Hannah Chhibber** has volunteered at the Greece Historical Society helping us inventorying and evaluating our collection. This past fall she entered George Washington University's Museum Studies Program. Recently she wrote us about her experience this past semester and the following is a portion of that letter.

Dear Greece Historical Society volunteers:

How is everything in Greece?

I'm almost finished with my first semester here, and it's been great! I'm learning so much, and have had so many great opportunities! One of my classes (Preventive Conservation) is even at the National Museum of Natural History! It's so much fun. We spent the last couple of classes using the museum's lab spaces to do small experiments. We're learning a lot about the best storage and display materials for different objects and the different resources that you can use to take care of your objects. I'm really looking forward to part two of that class next semester, which will be more practical than this semester. I'm hoping for lots of lab time!

I'm also taking a collections management class, which is really fun! We're learning all about the policies and laws associated with taking care of a collection and museum. It's a very informative and useful class, and so interesting! I'm looking forward to the next part of the class, where we'll be writing our own Collections Management Policies. It'll be a lot of work, but it sounds fun to me!

I'm hoping all is well in Greece!

Hannah



Volunteers Needed

The Greece Historical Society needs a few volunteers who can commit their time and talent to help us serve the community, continue to provide stimulating programs, create new exhibits, and preserve the history of our Town. Most jobs only require a few hours a week and we will provide the training. Our most pressing need is for Sunday Docents and gift shop help. Give us a call at 225-7221 or email greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com for more information and we will explain the details of each of these jobs.

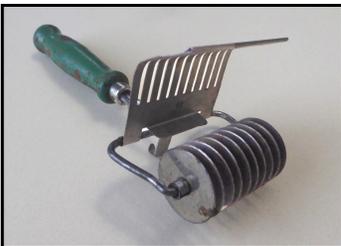
Museum Happenings

The beautiful December porch decorations were graciously provided by our friends at the **Lakeview Garden Club**.



During our **Holiday Open House** on December 10th, these guests enjoyed a selection of home-made goodies provided by **Arnie Amering** with punch by **Lee Strauss**.

Joe & Arnie have started work on the new class room exhibit.



The Old Junk Drawer

Every kitchen had a junk drawer (*and many still do*) filled with "stuff" and gadgets that may or may not ever have been used. Can you guess what this item is that was recently found in a kitchen junk drawer? **The first person to call 225-7221 with the correct answer will receive a Greece Coffee Mug.**

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Twelfth Night – A Forgotten Ritual

Twelfth night is the last evening of the 12 days of Christmas and according to an old European custom it calls for one final burst of feasting and revelry to commemorate the close of the Christmas season.

Many years ago, in the Town of Greece and other communities, the twelfth night was celebrated with the ritual of a community Christmas tree bonfire. It was a yearly event anticipated by all.

In the Dewey-Stone neighborhood in the 1930s, Barnard School land was used. That event was eventually moved to St Joseph Villa's lot next to the Barnard Fire House. Grandview Heights, the Legion Post on Dorsey Rd. and Holy Cross Church in Charlotte also had their twelfth night bonfires, as well as communities all around the Rochester area. For several days before the special night the neighbors would bring their trees to the designated empty lot. This was an era before artificial trees, so thousands of trees would make a huge pile. On January 6th, at the appointed hour, thousands of neighbors would gather. Here in Greece, Supervisor Gordon Howe, or some other official, might have said a few words, while a scout troop led the group singing. The fire was lit, and flames would ascend high into the sky. For the youngsters this was a really big deal, as it seemed like the entire town was there to see the huge fire. It was a lot of fun and a memory kept for a life time.

Due to a number of obvious reasons, the ritual was halted sometime in the early 1960s. Instead of burning our trees, we now send our "real" trees to recycling centers where they are turned into mulch for our gardens or other uses. Absolutely a much more environmentally correct thing to do, but not nearly as much fun!



A Typical 12th Night Bonfire

Three of the many articles about the 12th Night bonfires from years past:



Greece Celebrates Twelfth Night Rite With Huge Bonfire of Yule Trees

Greece celebrated the Twelfth Night last night with the Town's biggest fire in years. Gathering shortly after dark in the Clark property at the rear of the Barnard Fire House several hundred Boy and Girl Scouts, Legionnaires, Legion Auxiliaries members, Junior Legionnaires, Barnard Actives and Exempt Firemen and their Auxiliaries and Town and Police officials carried out the ancient ceremony of burning the Yule trees. Branches of pine, spruce, and fir that but 12 nights before glittered under the weight of tinsel and other shining decorations went up in crackling flames to

the accompaniment of community singing and general merrymaking. The big stack that Barnard Firemen began collecting a week ago had grown until it numbered well over a thousand trees and made a huge heap 20 feet high. Flames from the trees, once they were well alight cast a glow against the sky that could be seen for miles. The celebration will be made an annual affair members of the committee announced. Included in the committee were: Supervisor Gordon A. Howe; E. Hoppe, H. Schwind, president of Barnard (Please Turn to Page 5)

Twelfth Night
(Continued from Page 1)
Firemen's Association; G. Kohn, ex-chief of Barnard Fire Department; Fred Leonard and George Korn, commissioners of Barnard Fire Department; Mrs. H. Paul, president of the department's Women's Auxiliary, Harold Smith, chief of Barnard Fire Department; Milton H. Carter, Greece chief of police; Sergeant Frank Pitcher and Officer John Swanson of the police department; Guy Travis, assistant chief of Barnard Fire Department; J. D. Stone, vice-commander of Greece Legion Post; Herbert Smith; Howard Coner, deputy chief of Barnard Fire Department; Warren Dettman, Roy Ayers, Mike Walsh and N. Montelbein.
Gates-Chili Fire Department also held a celebration of burning the Yule trees at its fire house, Howard and Lyell Roads.

Greece Press Jan. 6, 1949

Scouts Arrange 12th Night Fire At Villa Tonight

By Everette VanPutte
A Twelfth Night celebration will be held tonight on the St. Joseph's Villa property next to the Barnard Firehouse in Dewey Avenue. The affair will begin at 7 p. m. and will be sponsored by the Scout units of Greece. Troops participating will be Boy Scout Troops 118, 14 and 248, Cub Packs 118 and 248, Girl Scout Troops 142, 40 and 242 and Brownie Scout Units 236 and 257. Miss Mary Simonds of Girl Scout Troop 142 will be mistress of ceremonies. Supervisor Gordon A. Howe will light the fire and is expected to say a few words. Edwin Wilcox of Troop 14 will lead the group singing. All troops bringing trees are requested to have them on the grounds by 6 p. m. Everyone is invited to attend the colorful ceremonies.

Greece Press Jan. 5, 1950

Twelfth Night Ceremony Set For Tomorrow

The annual Twelfth-Night tree-burning celebration will be held at Barnard Firehouse at 7:30 p. m. tomorrow, weather permitting. Should there be a heavy rain or high winds, the festivities will be held the following night. Residents are urged to place their Christmas trees on the pile on the field adjacent to the firehouse. All Scout units will meet with their leaders on the lot north of the firehouse and march to the scene of the fire in a body. This includes Explorer, Cub, Brownie and Boy and Girl Scout units. Scouts are asked not to bring American flags to the celebration. Unit flags are optional. There will be caroling as the trees burn.

Greece Historical Society
 Greece Museum
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**The Greece Museum will be closed
 in January and re-open February 4, 2018.
 We will maintain Monday office
 hours after the New Year Holiday**

CONTACT US

GHS Office: 585-225-7221

Office Email:

greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com

Website: www.greecehistoricalsociety.org

Your tax deductible membership in the Greece Historical Society is available at several levels. To join, renew, upgrade your membership or to donate a gift, fill out and mail the form below or bring it to our next program meeting. To pay via PayPal, visit our website at www.greecehistoricalsociety.org

**Only your donations and memberships keep our
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GREECE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

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