

Tuesday, January 11, 2022 7:00 p.m. Greece Public Library

Seabreeze: 142 Years of Family Fun by Kevin Dorey

Explore the history of Seabreeze Amusement Park through photographs and stories with Kevin Dorey, Seabreeze Park Historian. Seabreeze is the fourth-oldest operating amusement park in the country and has been one of Rochester's favorite summertime playgrounds since it opened in 1879. Learn about the park's origins as a picnic grove at the end of a steam railroad, its evolution into an amusement park, and its growth into the popular family destination that it is today.



Kevin Dorey is the historian at Seabreeze Amusement Park in Irondequoit. He is an educator and avid amusement park enthusiast with a passion for history. Kevin has been actively researching and documenting Seabreeze for the past seven years; he enjoys talking with people about their memories of Seabreeze, as well as viewing their photographs, home movies, and memorabilia from the park.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: Log in to Greece Public Library <https://www.greecepubliclibrary.org/> then click on Events then Calendar, then January 11 or call 585.225.8951. direct link: <https://greecepubliclibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=10607&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2022/01/01> Attendance is limited to 60.

NOTE: Check our website or Facebook page prior to this event as COVID restrictions may have changed. If you are registered you will be notified of any changes.

Thursday, January 20, 2022 7:00 p.m. at the GCS D Transportation Center

Annual Membership Meeting

On Thursday, **January 20th** our annual meeting will be held at the new **GCS D Transportation Center**, 1790 Latta Road. Join us to receive a copy of our 2021 Annual Report, view a photo montage of our activities from 2021, and hear about our plans for the future. A financial report will be presented by our treasurer **Bill Peeck** and an election of trustees will be conducted. Trustees serve a term of three years. Those currently seeking re-election are: **Paula Smith, Bill Peeck, Deborah Whitt** and **Ruth Curchoe**. **Bridget O'Toole** will be seeking election to fill the late Tom Sawnor's position.



(Continued on page 5)



Paula



Bill



Deborah

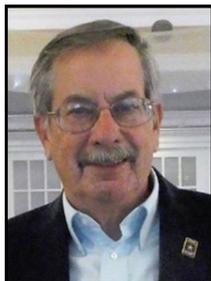


Ruth



Bridget .

"President's Message"



The anticipated mid-December publication of our book *Pioneer Families of the Town of Greece* met with some unforeseen delays and although it is now available on Amazon, it will not be stocked in our museum shop until sometime after the first week in January. Although the museum is closed on Sundays in January and February, we will be open Monday mornings and for those that can't make it on Mondays, we are willing to set up appointments for you to come and purchase a copy.

We are excited to report that we recently received a \$5,000 grant from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, secured by NYS Senator **Jeremy Cooney** (see page 6). We also recently received a small grant from the Rochester Regional Library Council to assist in finishing our *Greece Post* scanning project. Sometime during this bicentennial year there will be a free searchable on-line database of the *Greece Post* (1967-2009.) We wish to thank the Rochester Public Library, owner of the film, for their assistance in this project.

This past month we were visited by a group of retired Kirk Road School teachers who also enjoyed a light breakfast prepared by Kathie Firkins. Our December open house was a success with several first-time visitors and many last-minute museum shoppers.

If you have driven by our museum, you may have noticed some construction fencing and an access road to the community & senior center. The construction crew will be using our parking lot during the remodeling of the Community Center and the fence will remain until construction is done. So, for now, we will have to wait to start planning our June Strawberry Festival until we are told of any future plans.

We look forward to this bicentennial year for the Town of Greece. We will be publishing the second volume of *Pioneer Families of the Town of Greece*. Work is progressing on a children's coloring book featuring buildings in Greece. A local cemetery tour is scheduled for the summer. We plan to post periodic history spots on our website and Facebook page and a PowerPoint program on the history of the Town is planned.

Happy New Year and as always, thank you to all our members, friends, and supporters.

Bill Sauers, President

Tours and Education



On December 14th I hosted a group of retired teachers and our nurse from Kirk Road Elementary School. Kirk Road is now a Charter School for the City of Rochester. We enjoyed a light breakfast, talked about our earlier days and of being glad that we are now retired. We then toured the museum. Most had not been there before. Of special interest was the Greece Olympia exhibit. Many names of principals, coaches, etc. were recognized. Some of their children attended Kirk Road.

Pictured (front to back): left side: **Marsha Hazen, Jill Fitzsimmons, Diane Levin (nurse)** right side: **Molly Posato, Kathie Firkins, Connie Gurske**

Kathy Firkins, Coordinator

Our new exhibit on Greece Olympia has been a hit with many of the former students, teachers, and administrators. Stop by to see the artifacts and history about our Town's first high school.



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"Museum Shop"



The holidays are over, and we will be closed until March.

The Friends of the Library no longer have our books for sale so you can check our website www.greecehistoricalsociety.org for our local history books available through PayPal.

Our closing will allow us to inventory our items and look for some new ideas that might be interesting to our customers. We are always open to any ideas that you may have on items that we could offer for sale in our Museum Shop.

Looking forward to opening in March.

Wendy Peck
Shop Coordinator



Everyone who visits our museum or participates in one of our programs is expected to adhere to all stated safety protocols, which are subject to change and may be adjusted for consistency with the latest guidance.

Our Calendar

Museum Closed January and February
The museum will re-open March 6, 2022

We maintain office hours, Mondays 10:00 a.m. until noon
To make an appointment send an email to:
greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com

Tuesday, January 11— History of Sea Breeze

Thursday, January 20 — Annual Meeting

Tuesday, February 8 — Monroe County Bicentennial Reflections

Tuesday, March 8 — to be announced

Sunday, March 20 — Girl Scout cookie sale

Tuesday, April 12 — The Architecture of Thomas W. Boyde Jr.

Check our website or Facebook page prior to any event as COVID restrictions may have changed.

We greatly value and appreciate your donations*.

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

If you have the time, talent, and desire to help the Greece Historical Society & Museum, consider becoming a volunteer.

Call us at 225-7221 or email greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com.

We will be glad to discuss how you could contribute to the success of the Greece Historical Society.



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Paula Smith

Ruth Curchoe

Gregg Redmond, Esq.

Pam O'Sullivan

Sandy Peck

Deborah Whitt

Donald C. Newcomb (Honorary Trustee)

Greece History

The Ridgeway Air Park by Bill Sauers

For years during the 20th century many communities in our area had their own airports ranging from grassy fields to paved runways with hangers to store airplanes. Hilton had the Hilton Airport on Burritt Road. The Brizee airport in Pittsford was on Marsh Road. In Henrietta there was the Hylan Airport and the short-lived Genesee Airfield. Woodward Field was well-known in Leroy; even Honeoye Falls had a small airfield. Let's not forget the very early Britton Field on Scottsville Road organized by former Greece Supervisor Willis Britton.

What about the Town of Greece? Our first known airfield was run by WW I Ace, **Roy DeVal**, located in the Shoremont area in 1927. It had one of the first hangers in Monroe County. During the 1960s and '70s the Greenleaf Flying club had a private field on Kuhn Road. Of course, there were other landing areas on private farmland.

The largest and most infamous in the Town of Greece was located at the Southeast corner of Ridgeway Avenue and Lee Roads.

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Shortly after WW II, **Richard (Dick) Kaiser** opened Ridgeway Air Park. At the time many veteran pilots were looking for a place to store their planes or just a convenient field to land and rest, and this seemed to be an ideal spot. The place had a small hanger and at one time 16 private planes were quartered there.

But by the summer of 1947, neighbors began to complain about the low flying planes over their homes. In July *The Greece Press* reported that the Town Board received petitions from the residents of the Latona Tract and Koda Vista neighborhood, citing flights allegedly created by the air park that were "detrimental to the physical and mental health of the residents, especially children." They wanted the place closed down.

Kaiser claimed that Ridgeway fliers were getting blamed unfairly for the low flying acrobatics, but eventually did change the flight patterns of the planes flying in and out of the air park. This seemed to have calmed down the nearby residents.

However, a tragic accident occurred in October of 1947 when an Army Air Corps veteran flew too low while coming in for a landing and crashed into the Erie Canal embankment just north of the landing field killing himself and an 18-year-old passenger.

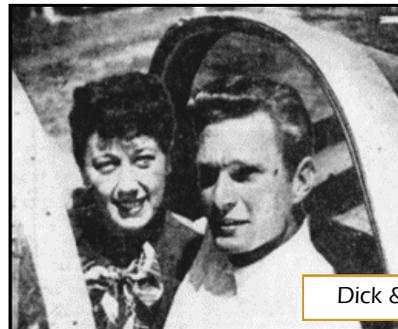
In June of 1948, a social organization, the Greece Aero Club, was formed at the air park and in August of '48, Jim Earl, also an Army veteran, took over ownership of the place. But soon news reports about the airpark vanished.

Dick Kaiser and his wife, June, eventually moved to Utah. By 1956 Kaiser's wife, also a pilot, was flying in *(I kid you not)* a "Power Puff Derby" in Salt Lake City and Dick was employed by a company in Utah.

We are not sure when or what exactly ultimately ended the life of this airfield. There were reports of young boys using the "old field" for radio controlled planes in 1955. Industrial expansion eventually took over the air field land, forever covering any evidence of it ever having existed. Now, three-quarters of a century has all but eliminated hearing personal stories of the Ridgeway Air Park.



1950 aerial view of the Ridgeway Air Park



Dick & June Kaiser

There are many untold stories about Greece. If you have a story to tell, give us a call 585-225-7221 or email us at greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com

Thursday, January 20, 2022 7:00 p.m. at the GCSD Transportation Center

Annual Membership Meeting

(continued from page 1)



Paula



Bill



Deborah



Ruth



Bridget

Paula Smith retired in 2009 after 37 years as a librarian. Her last position was director of the Monroe County Library System/Rochester Public Library. Paula has volunteered at the Greece Historical Society since 2011.

Bill Peeck is a retired US Army Finance officer, and a former Business Analyst for Eastman Kodak Company. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Drexel University and Master of Science in Systems Management from the University of Southern California. He has served as GHS Treasurer since 2015.

Deborah Whitt is a longtime resident and business owner in Greece. For the past 38 years she has operated a State Farm Insurance agency. She wants to see that the historical facts of all ethnic groups are preserved and their significant contributions to our community are shared.

Ruth Curchoe is a retired nurse who has been volunteering with the Greece Historical Society for several years. She has been involved in our governance and marketing committees and currently has been functioning as care manager for the GHS clothing collection. She also volunteers with Braddock Bay Raptor Association which provides education about local raptors.

Bridget O'Toole is an environmental, land use, and municipal attorney with The Zoghlin Group, PLLC. She holds a bachelor's degree in American History from the University of Albany and comes from a long line of amateur historians.

All GHS members are invited to attend.
Following the meeting there will be
a tour of the new building.



Volunteer needed!



We are seeking a volunteer willing to help with our office work, especially managing our membership rolls. Computer skills are necessary as we use PastPerfect museum management software, Word, and Excel. Some work can be done at home.

If interested give us a call 585-225-7221 or email greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com.

Happenings at GHS

GHS Receives \$5,000 Grant

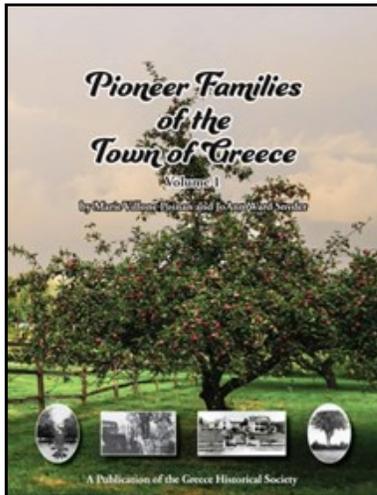
The Greece Historical Society recently received a \$5,000 grant from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, secured by NYS Senator **Jeremy Cooney**. It will be used to purchase a new computer server and upgrade other IT equipment at our historic center. In today's world it is critical that small historical societies like ours keeps up with the latest technology to better serve the community. We want to thank Senator Cooney, who appreciates the importance of local historical societies, for reaching out to us several months ago and arranging for the grant.



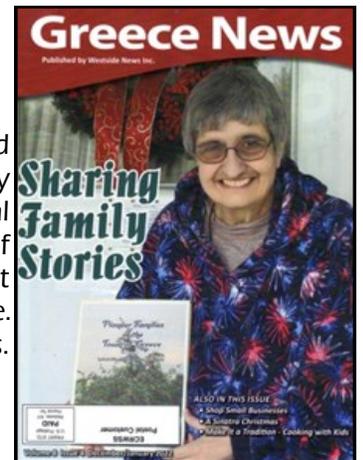
Pioneer Families of Greece Book

In celebration of the Bicentennial of the Town of Greece in 2022, the Greece Historical Society is honoring the families who settled in the area before 1872 with a book titled *Pioneer Families of the Town of Greece, Volume I*. Researched and written by **Marie Villone Poinan** and **Jo Ann Ward Snyder**, the book contains vignettes, photos, and input from current family members that highlight each family's contribution to the town.

The book is now available on Amazon.com and we expect to receive our shipment for our museum shop soon.



The December/January 2022 issue of the *Greece News* magazine featured a two-page article about **Marie Poinan** and the process of gathering family stories for the book, *Pioneer Families of the Town of Greece*. An additional two-page story featured our national award for the study of the work of architect, James H. Johnson. The *Greece News*, which is mailed to a select area of the town, is the only independent publication now available about Greece. Free copies are available at the Greece Public Library and some businesses.



At our holiday open house on December 19, we presented **Faye Cole** with the 2021 Volunteer of the Year award. Faye has been a member of GHS for almost 25 years. Not only is she a faithful Sunday docent, but she is always ready to help with school tours, the strawberry festival, craft show, and any other event we have. She also does the shopping needed to keep the house equipped with essential paper products, hand soap, cleaning supplies, etc. For several months each year, she takes over the scheduling of docents while Kathie Firkins is in Florida for the winter.

More Happenings at GHS

A Big THANK YOU to our **Lakeview Garden Club** friends for the holiday decorations on our front porch.

Lakeview Garden Club has been caring for our front gardens for many years and the **Lakeshore Garden Club** recently took over caring for the south garden next to the parking lot. The Town of Greece is fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers beautifying our community.



Address Labels on Mailed Corinthian

Many of you have asked about the date on the mailing address labels. The labels, which we have been using for the past few years, is a system developed by the US Post Office for organizations like ours. We send them a spread sheet of names and addresses, and they reply with formatted addresses, bar codes and the date the labels were created. This system has nearly cut in half the cost of mailing our newsletter.

The date printed on your address label is NOT your renewal date. Our membership year for ALL members is May 1 through April 29. We will put a reminder in the Corinthian at that time.

Reminder to Support G.H.S. with Free AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support the Greece Historical Society or any other charity of your choice. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

To shop at **AmazonSmile** simply go to <https://smile.amazon.com/>. You use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, and other account settings are also the same.

On your first visit to <https://smile.amazon.com/>, select Greece Historical Society, or any other organization listed, to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping.

We hope you will support the Greece Historical Society when you use AmazonSmile in the future.



"Look and listen for the welfare of the whole people and have always in view not only the past and present but also the coming generations, even those whose faces are yet beneath the surface of the ground – the unborn of the future Nation."

~Excerpted from Law 28 of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy

Greece Historical Society
 Greece Museum
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 P.O. Box 16249
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CONTACT US

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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 Museum open. Thank you for your support.

GREECE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

Membership Application

(Please print)

DATE: _____

NAME: _____ PHONE: (____) _____
(Last) (First) (M.I.) (Spouse, if applicable)

ADDRESS: _____
(Street) (City/Town) (State) (Zip Code + 4)

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

<u>Membership Classifications</u>	<u>Annual Rate</u>	<u>Select</u>
Senior (62+, Each) Student	\$15.00	_____
Individual Adult	\$20.00	_____
Senior (62+) Couple	\$30.00	_____
Family	\$35.00	_____
Business, Professional	\$50.00	_____
Benefactor (Each)	\$100.00	_____
Senior Life (62+, Each)	\$350.00	_____
Life (Each)	\$500.00	_____
Donation		_____

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Rochester NY 14616-0249

You will receive your membership card and receipt by mail.