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## The Douglaston and Little Neck Historical Society

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NEWSLETTER VOLUME 3 NUMBER 7, SUMMER 2013

### DOUGLASTON VILLAGE REVITALIZATION UPDATE

Efforts by the Douglaston Local Development Corporation for the preservation and revitalization of the Douglaston Village area of our community have continued – very methodically – over the past year. Following the last Public Meeting in December, 2011, the “Main Street Strategy: Strategic Action Plan” was developed, based on the community’s input and the recommendations of our consultants–Downtown Revitalization Group. It contained ten specific proposals, and current implementation progress is reported as follow

- *Strengthening and Improving the Organizational Capacity* : The DLDC is obtaining the important 501c(3) non-profit status required for grant opportunities, and has also re-organized into a committee structure to work on specific implementation efforts.
- In March a very successful *New Member and Fund-Raising Event* was held at the Il Toscano Restaurant. It was enthusiastically attended by more than 75 people (see p 2).
- *Exploring Opportunities for a New Community Center*: Several sites are being considered, including the Long Island Rail Road station building in Douglaston. Active negotiations with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority suggest the possibility of assuming control of the building for use as a shared community space, along with improvements to the station environment.
- *Developing Public Plazas and Civic Spaces*: An application to the DOT’s NYC Plaza Program is under way. This could help to transform the two vehicular roundabout areas into much-improved landscaped streetscape and pedestrian-friendly civic spaces.
- *Creating a Douglaston Village Historic District*: Working with partner Douglaston and

Little Neck Historical Society, the DLDC is continuing to move forward with possible State and National designation of area buildings to enhance preservation and development opportunities.

- *Improving Connections to Nature and Recreation*: Working with community organizations and the NYC DOT, the DLDC is exploring the potential extension of bicycle lanes connecting with the existing Bayside network and extending into the Douglaston Village.

The DLDC supported efforts of the community, and Grow NYC, to sponsor a Greenmarket which operated successfully for the past two years, and although it is not returning this season several other Farmers Markets are being considered for the site. Several new businesses have opened in the Village area, and others are in the process of opening soon, including a wine bar on the north side.

And everyone should be pleased to

know that the Douglaston Arts Festival will return on October 20, more information on page 14.

Local government and political support

**Douglaston Village.  
Minutes from the city.  
Miles apart.**

has continued to be positive, and our NY State Assemblyman Ed Braunstein is working to help the DLDC secure a very significant grant opportunity to fund implementation of revitalization efforts. We thank Assemblyman Braunstein and all who have helped move the Douglaston Village Revitalization efforts forward.

Please contact the DLDC at [www.douglastonvillagechamberofcommerce.com](http://www.douglastonvillagechamberofcommerce.com) to find out what you can do to help preserve and revitalize our Douglaston Village community.

– Victor Dadras



*Douglaston and Little Neck  
Historical Society*

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*Newsletter*

Julia Schoeck, Editor  
Hal Goluboff, Art Director  
Anne Ronan, Copy Editor

Contributors:

Bob Coddington, Howard Cone and  
Carolyn Cone Weaver, Victor Dadras,  
Pamela Van Zandt Gillmor, Hal Goluboff,  
Joan Hellmann, Stuart Hersh,  
Kay MacDermott, Julia Schoeck,  
William K. Sievers, Kevin Wolfe

Contact: info@dlnhs.org

*The booster slogans for the  
Douglaston Village are the creation  
of our Art Director, Hal Goluboff*

**MYSTERY PHOTO REVEALED:**

*Alameda Avenue in Douglaston with St. Anastasia  
Roman Catholic Church and Divine Wisdom Catholic  
Academy on the right.*

– Mike Gannon



**PRESIDENT’S LETTER**

Dear Fellow Members,

On June 2nd, the Board learned that the Armbruster property located at 41-23 240th St. (corner of Poplar facing Richardson Park) was to be sold at auction by the Public Administrator of Queens County. If no one was looking, this could have been a developer’s dream. Located on an oversized corner lot, an enterprising buyer might have torn down the Armbruster house and divided the large property into four lots. However, as it was pointed out to the Public Administrator, the Armbruster Home is part of the Douglaston Hill Historic District and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, in 2005, Geraldine Armbruster placed other restrictions on the property which prohibited the division of the property and the construction of any new buildings.

Fearing that the auctioneer might not disclose the landmark and deed restrictions to the prospective purchasers, the Board expressed its concern to the Public Administrator and provided copies of the deed restrictions. It was requested, that this information be provided to purchasers prior to the bidding. The auction took place on June 12th, and members of the Board followed up by attending the auction and monitoring the sale. It took only three days from our learning about the sale, to contacting the Public Administrator by registered mail. That was quick action!

This is just one example of why we have every reason to be proud of our Board of Trustees. In all the years that I have been involved in community organizations, I have never been a member of a group that worked so well together. Whether it was the Annual Meeting, with its variety of audio-visual challenges, or the ever-continuing struggle to landmark the historic district extension, the members of the DLNHS Board of Trustees have been united in their efforts to preserve and protect the historical significance of our two communities.

Although the historic district extension has not yet been approved, we continue our effort. Your support is greatly appreciated.

*Bob Coddington*



*DLDC New Members and Fund-Raising Event*

*Photo by Victor Dadras*

## LONG ISLAND MODERNISM LECTURE ATTRACTS ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD

More than 50 people attended author Caroline Rob Zaleski's lecture on her new book, *Long Island Modernism 1930-1980* for the Douglaston and Little Neck Historical Society's Annual Meeting, May 22nd at the Douglaston Club.

Despite technical problems that could not be resolved—Ms. Zaleski's powerpoint slide presentation would not "talk" to the projector—attendees listened with rapt attention for more than an hour and a half as Ms. Zaleski outlined some highlights from her book.

The book chronicles the development of the Modern movement on Long Island starting with the Great Depression, and Long Island's role as a veritable laboratory for Modernism that continued until 1980 with works by well-known practitioners like Richard Meier.

According to Ms. Zaleski, Long Island not only has some of the finest residential architecture built during the Modern movement—much of it modest in nature—but also schools and malls and other public buildings which have survived into the 21st century and which are largely ignored.

Some of the houses were experimental in nature, executed by émigrés from Europe who fled the Nazis during World War II to find a better life in New York.

Several of these architects bought parcels of land as the great Long Island estates along the North Shore were subdivided after the War in what was then still quasi-rural Long Island, including lesser known Modernists like Catalonian architect Jose Luis Sert, whose converted carriage house still stands in Locust Valley.

Ms. Zaleski said architects like Sert were known for their re-use of existing estate buildings, and the use of very ordinary materials. The Sert carriage house for example, has a huge open room that was converted from the stable area to make a stripped down pure architectural space that combined the living, dining and kitchen areas.

Ms. Zaleski's book, a 10-year effort, uncovered works of Modernism that had been long forgotten or unknown. The Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities published the book last year. Ms. Zaleski sold out several boxes of books she brought. She autographed copies after the lecture.

Ms. Zaleski is a former medical journalist. While getting a Master's degree in Historic Preservation from Columbia University, she decided to do a survey of Modernist buildings on Long Island for her thesis, and eventually turned this idea into the book.

Dinner and drinks preceded the event. Trustee class of 2016 was elected, below:

Suzanne Avena, Julia Bazel, Bob Coddington, Pauline Healy, Stuart Hersh, Ed LaGrassa, Julia Schoeck, and Jeannette Segal

— Kevin Wolfe

### A TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY WEBSITE FOR THE PAST

Have you ever visited the website of the Douglaston and Little Neck Historical Society? If not, you really should, and, if you have already, you should again. It's like a local Wikipedia with regular updates.

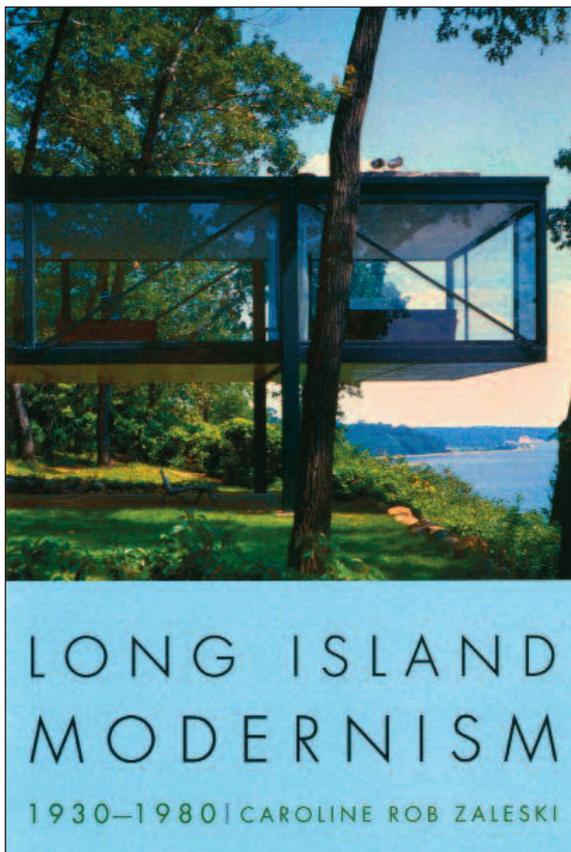
Our site at [www.dlnhs.com](http://www.dlnhs.com) was created by professional Webmaster Joe Tartaglia of High Caliber Solutions a decade ago. He has been servicing it since its inception, and is in the process of upgrading. It has a new look and includes links and services not previously seen.

You might have questions of your own. Perhaps you heard something about a luminary who could have lived in Douglaston at some time in the past. The website features histories and bios of many such people – from movie stars to scientists, authors and artists.

Want to know more about a place you remember from your childhood? Check out the website. If the information is not there, send your inquiry to Mike Gannon, [mgan-non51b@aol.com](mailto:mgan-non51b@aol.com). Mike is chair of the Society's Research and Archives Committee, and he will evaluate your inquiry and pass it along to whoever in the Society he thinks would be able to offer an answer. When available, the information will be emailed to you. We welcome inquiries, and also interesting historical facts about the area. Submissions may be considered for addition to the website with appropriate credit included.

And this is the answer to the question "If you have visited the website before, why should you do so again?"

— Stuart Hersh



## A LONG AND WINDING ROAD

On March 26, 2012, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg signed into law a bill that restored the half-dozen numbered roads in the Douglaston Hill historic community to their historic names.

Douglaston community leaders joined the



Mayor and Councilmember Daniel Halloran at City Hall, where Bloomberg signed off on a plan to change the numbered streets back to their historic names.

As many of you know, the Douglaston Hill community had been pushing the proposal since 1972.

Speakers at the bill signing included the Douglaston-Little Neck Historical Society's Trustee Stuart Hersh, resident Joan Hellman, Douglaston Civic Association President Elliott Socci and Bill Sievers, who presented the mayor with a framed copy of the 1853 map depicting the community with the original street names.

Bill moved his family to Douglaston 49 years ago. He and his wife Chizuko still remember the quaintness of the original street signs and the sense of history lost when the City converted the neighborhood to the numerical grid system.

For Bill and others, the community's prolonged effort to reinstate the old names was not a struggle against the wheels of progress, but rather part of a quest to further augment the heritage and special character that makes Douglaston Hill the unique and highly desirable New York City residential locality that it is.

"It's been a long time coming," Hersh said. "Paraphrasing a quote from way back in the 1600's, 'the mills of the city grind slowly' but they do grind."

The community's streets were changed from their original names to numbers in the 1920s to keep them in line with the city's grid. In the 1970s, a majority of them were returned to the original names, but several remained numbered.

In 2004, Douglaston Hill was designated an historic district, so community leaders thought the time was right to complete the street renaming project.

State Sen. Tony Avella, D-Bayside, proposed getting the names restored when he served on the City Council and Community Board 11 voted twice in favor of the proposal.

Present Council Member Daniel J. Halloran said he plans to invite the community to an unveiling ceremony of the new street signs, which he expects could take place within three months. The Council Member said the city would spend a total \$3,400 to change the city's signs and addresses for GPS systems, the Department of City Planning and the postal service.

Addresses for residents living on the renamed streets will automatically be updated by their local post offices. And emergency responders will recognize both the numbered street addresses as well as the new ones once they take effect.

Under the plan, a section of 243rd Street between 44th Avenue and Depew Avenue will be renamed Orient Avenue.

In addition, a portion of 240th Street between 43rd Avenue and Depew Avenue will be renamed Prospect Avenue, while a section of 242nd Street between 43rd and 44th Avenues will be switched to Hamilton Avenue.

Part of 44th Avenue between Douglaston Parkway and 244th Street will be restored to Church Street and 43rd Avenue between Douglaston Parkway and 243rd Street (now Orient Avenue), will become Pine Street.

Also, 42nd Avenue between the LIRR's dead end and Udalls Cove will change to Poplar Street.

– William K Sievers, April, 2012

## MORE ABOUT THE ROADS

"Why did it take so long?" That was the question asked by City Council Member, chair of the Committee on Parks and Recreation, and sponsor of the bill, Mellissa Mark-Viverito, at the February 7, 2012, public hearing. No one had an answer for this, but the persistence and dedication of all those who believed in and worked for the street-name restoration project are surely responsible for the final result, which was a 50-0 positive vote by the full City Council, and the subsequent signing of the bill by Mayor Bloomberg.

The parts of the area outside the Douglaston Historic District have traditional green-and-white signs while those in the District are brown and white. We benefit from the City's new and more visually pleasing font for the signs. The Historic District markers with map and history are in place at the western and eastern ends of (now) Pine Street at Prospect and at Orient.

A gala celebration and the un-veiling of two of the new signs took place at the western end of the District on the afternoon of June 24, 2012.

Thanks to Tony Avella, City Councilman and now State Senator, and Councilman Dan Halloran who were both instrumental in supporting the successful campaign. Thanks also to those who participated in the many events leading up to the passage of the law: Moira Arcidiacono, Christopher Campese, Julian Basel, Alice Fucigna, Tom Fucigna, Michael Gannon, Joan Hellmann, Stuart Hersh, Min Huang, Jerry Iannece, Anne McDermott, Bridget Mladinich, Julia Schoeck, Susan Seinfeld, William Sievers, Elliott Socci, Bruce Stewart, Patrick StJohn and Gloria Velantham.

– Editor



## WALKING TOUR, 10/13/12 HOUSE TOUR, 10/14/12

The pair of tours in October 2012, was part of a celebration for the fifteenth anniversary of designation of the Douglaston Historic District by the Landmarks Preservation Commission. The walking tour was robustly attended by District residents and many others from far and wide, indicating that there is considerable interest in what we have in Douglaston that called for and achieved historic-district designation. Kevin Wolfe, architect and former

President of the Historical Society, led the walking tour of buildings and points of interest, highlighting architecture, location and context, as well as recent renovations.

The group convened on the porch of the Douglaston Club, moved south to Cherry St., and then to the Point. The final stop for refreshments and a chat was the home of Alice and Tom Fucigna, 4 Kenmore Rd.

The house tour featured five houses, and concluded with an outstanding reception at 406 Shore Rd., home of Bob and Maruja Coddington.

– *Julia Schoeck*

## REMEMBERING FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES

Jenny Wright Cooper, long-time resident of Little Neck, was a month short of her ninety-sixth birthday, when she died on December, 2011. For almost her whole life she lived with her family in one and then another of three buildings located on the southeast corner of Northern Boulevard and 251st Street in Douglaston, just east of the post office. The original house on the property – now the home of Mrs. Cooper's daughter and son-in-law, Martha and Harry Dietrich – was built circa 1820. It was moved back on the lot when Northern Boulevard was widened in the late 1920s. At that time, Jenny moved to 45-19 251st Street, just up the hill, where she lived until her death. Mrs. Cooper's great-granddaughter, Lauren Dietrich, is the seventh generation to have lived on the homestead property.

Jenny was born on January 18, 1916. After attending P.S. 94 and graduating from Flushing High School, she was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree from Beaver College in 1938. She worked as a secretary for an insurance company in Manhattan and soon married Albert Cooper. They had two children: Martha, and a son Paul who lives with his wife in another of the houses on the property.

Jenny was very much interested in her family's history. Her extensive research led to membership in the DAR and the Colonial Dames. She traced her lineage to Captain David Layton, who fought at Wolver Hollow in the Battle of Long Island, and the Wrights enter the picture when Charles and William, English soldiers, were encamped in Connecticut; they deserted and crossed the ice to Oyster Bay in 1773.

They started a small shop as wagon and cabinet makers – and undertakers. Later Charles bought a farm at East Norwich, and still later the family moved to Port Washington, formerly Cow's Neck, where they had a wagon business.

By 1856 the family had moved to Little Neck. Jenny's great grandmother, Emiline Lowerre Wright, came to keep house for her widowed father Benjamin, in his home in Alley Pond. This later became known, more famously, as the Buhrman home and General Store, and the first post office on the north shore of Long Island. In 1861 Emiline bought the homestead at 251-10

*Walking Tour Finale at 4 Kenmore Rd.*



*House Tour Reception at 406 Shore Rd.*



DOUGLASTON VILLAGE.  
COUNTRY LIVING.  
CITY TAXES.

Northern Boulevard and lived there with father and family.

Jenny Cooper's grandfather, Alfred P. Wright, with the wagon business in his blood, started his own at nineteen. He continued until, as he said, "The auto drove me out." Not discouraged, he took up the automobile and garage business, and retired in 1924. In turn, Jenny herself came back to Little Neck when her mother Minnie was ill; she helped her father Elbert care for her, and after her mother died she stayed in the home with her father, husband, and children.

Jenny Cooper became active with North Shore Hospital in its early days. At that time each child received a Pinkie the Puppet; Jenny helped coordinate cutting the material and finding organizations to help in construction of the puppets. Not only a Girl Scout leader and active in scouting for many years, she went back to work as a New York City school secretary, and after serving in a number of schools in Manhattan she found herself at P.S. 94 in Little Neck, where she had been a student herself.

Jenny and Albert Cooper enjoyed traveling. There was a month-long rail trip across the United States, visits to France and the Scandinavian countries, and, as an active member, more travel with the Women's Club of Great Neck. An avid bridge player, she had planned to play the day she passed away, calling a day before to say she "wasn't feeling well."

The Historical Society is grateful to the Wright/Cooper family for sharing their remarkable property with those who attended the "Celebrate Little Neck History!" house tour in October, 2008. Family documents and photos were used to create an exhibition displayed in the present Arash real estate offices at 251-10 Northern Blvd. Jenny was there to "meet and greet," and, at the reception following the tour, she was given an award in recognition of her contributions to historic preservation in Little Neck.

– *Kay MacDermott*

Edith D. McCann died on February 21, 2012, at the age of 93. She and her family lived at 360 Manor Road from 1949 until 1953, and then at 14 Arleigh Road for another 35 years. Edith was very much a community-minded person; among her many other activities she was a president of the Garden Club.

As president of the Douglas Manor Asso-

ciation from 1979 to 1981, she was highly regarded as an innovative and responsible leader at a time when community security considerations occupied a significant part of everyone's attention. She developed a program which included purchase of a patrol vehicle and all the trappings, and direct employment of security personnel. The hands-on management of the security program was terminated after some time when DMA insurance declined to cover the risks, and a professional service was hired.

In recognition of the popular custom of daytime bridge games at the dock, she offered her home and refreshments for afternoons of low tide. All proceeds were donated to the security budget, and a comfortable and bug-free environment was provided for residents to enjoy the game.

– *Julia Schoeck*

Dr. Leo D. Kellerman... First his affiliations and commitment: Many years as a Board member of the Douglas Manor Association, a founding member of the Udalls Cove Preservation Committee, a strong supporter of the Historical Society, the Douglas Manor Environmental Association, and other local groups dedicated to the preservation and betterment of the community. He died at 95 on November 18, 2012.

Leo found a late mission, after retiring from an illustrious medical career, in planting street trees – those between the sidewalk and the thoroughfare – and it is believed that he was responsible for selecting and planting more than 750 trees on the Douglaston peninsula, some because there was a need, some as memorials requested by residents for family or friends. It all began when he and others planted a grove of hemlock at the foot of Hollywood and Douglas in the late 1970s to, one day, soften views of the tract houses being built on the other side of the creek.

He was very precise in placement – just two and one-half inches to the east, if you please – and kept fastidious records on the plantings. He re-visited most again and again in subsequent years to trim broken or superfluous branches, and of course insisted that it was all his wife Elizabeth's idea in the first place.

And that may be true, for at a very beautiful memorial service for Leo on March 23 of this year the table centerpieces were small

baskets with tiny Meyer Spruce and Mugo Pine seedlings from the GreenWorld Project. Elizabeth spoke of her wish that the trees be taken, cared for, and eventually planted. Wouldn't it be wonderful if in the future there would be a hundred or so of these trees in Leo's beloved Douglaston.

– *Julia Schoeck*

## THE SECRET WINDOW

It was there all the time, hidden in full view. When the aluminum siding was removed, it revealed itself in all its glory. The oval window on the third floor gable, with its wooden tracery, became the "Jewel in the Crown" of my house. But that is getting ahead of the story.

My late husband Joseph and I bought our house, clad in yellow aluminum siding, in 1979. With our first exterior paint job, we had the siding removed from the enclosed front porch area as it covered the lovely arched windows which had been painted white from the inside. I spent one month removing the paint with a regular and x-acto razor to expose their beauty. We also had carpentry work done to continue the line outdoors and indoors on the porch, and added cedar shake siding to restore the outer front porch door area.

When we were due for the next exterior painting, we tackled the outside dining room bay window area on the east side of the house. We removed the aluminum siding and also the aluminum storm windows. I spied a pile of windows behind the lattice-work wooden foundation fence that Joe had made and there they were: original glass-paned storm windows. We had them re-glazed and hung. It was a delight to look out the windows the way they were meant to frame the trees. Our heating bill also decreased due to the tight fit of the windows.

In 2011 the house was overdue for a paint job. Joe had died on May 28, 2010, and as a tribute to him as a great preservationist, and to add joy to my life, I decided to remove the remaining aluminum siding. I worked with Kevin Wolfe of Kevin Wolfe Architect, PC, and his associate, Pamela Broderick, who is

**Douglaston Village.  
Close to the City.  
Far from the Crowd.**

an interior designer and colorist. Benjamin Duarte, who had painted the house before and is a master of preparatory work prior to painting, was again on hand for the project.

The second or third day of siding removal, Benjamin called me to come outside immediately. And there it was: the oval wooden-tracery window that had been covered up with aluminum siding for years and years, and which was not evident from inside the house. Did anyone know it was ever there? Yes, the people who “remuddled” the house. The four wooden pieces surrounding the window in the four directions were ripped off during the aluminum-siding process. Kevin restored them, based on the outline of shapes still evident—the ghosts—and Benjamin installed them.

Carpentry was added to where the aluminum-siding installation had removed the original detailing, and, as in the case of the bay windows, I found six-over-six windows for the two bedrooms facing the front of the

house. Now all the front paned-windows were as charming as they were meant to be. The unsightly aluminum storm windows came off and, in addition to several wooden storm windows for the side of the house that were also under the porch, and window molding to accommodate these “new” windows, we were ready to paint.

Based on research I had done when I served on the Board of the Historical Society, I knew my house, an American Four-Square built in 1908, would be best served by the use of three colors as opposed to two. I chose Navajo White as the main body color. For a contrasting color, Brandy Cream was soft and subtle. Pamela gave me a few choices for the third color that would be the outline for the window sashing and, later, the shutter for the bedroom windows. I chose Harrisburg Green as opposed to a darker green as I like a softer subtle look for my house. All the paints were from Benjamin Moore.

The difficulty was choosing a door color; the color selected by the team was fine, but I wanted a different look and ultimately chose Rustique, a softer red color, better related to the green. Pam and Kevin always made me feel comfortable by providing me with their expertise, but they also allowed many of my views to prevail.

As a finishing touch, Kevin suggested I remove the existing replacement shutters and order new, wider ones that were dimensionally and proportionally correct for the windows. He also helped me select the correct shutters and hardware from Timberlane in Pennsylvania, and the shutters were painted Harrisburg Green. Pam helped me choose Galveston Grey for the step under the front door and Annapolis Gray for the foundation.

With a new roof, my house is “Done.” On the outside, that is.

Coming home to Pine Street after a day in Manhattan, I marvel at the secret window, the many-paned glass, and know that I am a good caretaker of this house that I hope many families will enjoy long after I am gone.

— Joan E. Hellmann



Before and after. Photos by Kevin Wolfe



On Wednesday, August 15, 2012, the Joseph B. Hellmann Overlook at Old Oak Pond Park was dedicated by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. Joe was a member of Community Board 11 and, because of his advocacy, this land was acquired by the Department. He envisioned an overlook and passive park along the shore of Little Neck Bay for the community to enjoy. The Overlook is located on the west side of Douglaston Parkway between Pine and Church Streets.

— Editor

## THE CONES OF MANOR ROAD

Introducing Howard Cone and Carolyn Cone Weaver, children of Howard M. and Jennie Rae Cone. The family moved to Douglaston in 1941 and lived at 335 Manor Road until Carolyn left for Duke in 1955 and Howard in 1959 for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The parents moved to Crystal River, Florida, in the early 1970s. A recent call from Howard asked about the Douglas Manor Association's 2006 100th anniversary book as advertised on the Historical Society website, and after some conversations with him and Carolyn, enough references made it clear that there were memories to be rounded up. Here are some of their recollections of growing up in Douglaston in the 1940s and 1950s, along with informative nuggets about other residents, and local lore.

**Schooling.** We began at P.S. 98. Major Connolly, who served in World War I, was the principal and Miss Best the first-grade teacher.

**Howard:** We walked, biked, or skated to school round-trip twice a day, year round, no matter the weather. Bikes were left unlocked in the stands on the north side of the school. We rode in swarms, mindful of the sand in the road that made you crash when cornering.

During World War II we had air-raid drills at school, crouching under our desks, our arms covering our heads. At the height of the Cold War we practiced "duck and cover" in response to the white flash of a nuclear attack. These drills usually followed a movie about the effects of a nuclear attack that always convinced me that "Duck and Cover" was a completely futile effort. About fifty years later, I worked with a Russian metallurgist who had migrated to the US in the 1980s and learned from him that they did "Duck and Cover" when he was a boy.

Later we walked to Northern Boulevard and then caught one of the special City buses that took us directly to Bayside High School where there was a swimming pool. The girls swam at a different time from the boys which was a good thing because the boys swam nude. It took a little getting used to.

In the spring we had the great marble fair. Students set up games of skill and everyone played in all the games. If you knocked out someone's marbles, you owned them; proba-

bly more economics was learned there than in graduate school.

**Carolyn:** Almost every day Patsy Casey and I stopped at Mark Rothenberg's family's deli on our way home from Bayside High and fished a huge dill pickle out of the barrel to split lengthwise. It makes my mouth water to think about it all these years later.

One year in the 1950s we had a big snow with more promised, but school was not cancelled, and the rule was that if we didn't have a fever we went to school. Back then we didn't wear slacks or jeans; it was skirts and knee socks, no matter the weather. When I got to school maybe ten students and five teachers were there (normally the student body was 4,000, with who knows how many teachers). School was cancelled. Luckily I caught the City bus to Douglaston Parkway but still had a long, cold walk home in the deepening snow. As I came down off the overpass, a milk truck stopped and offered me a ride home. In those days the milkman delivered to the box on your back porch – in wintertime the milk froze and pushed the paper caps up and off to a jaunty angle. He stood to drive, I hunkered down on the floor, and he took me express to 335 Manor where there were my mother's apologies and hot chocolate.

In the spring the upper-class girls prepared May baskets and danced under the May pole, something tall with different colored ribbons tied to the top. Each girl took one ribbon and danced around the pole, weaving in and out so that the pole would be covered in bright ribbon. A wonderful sight but no more after the mid-1940s.

**Freedom after school.** Kids had a certain license to move around and parents didn't worry about us. It seemed we were hardly ever home; we were at friends' houses or riding bikes, or roller skating, or walking – or sledding – all over the Manor. The only rule was that we be home by the time the streetlights came on. We invented games to play in backyards and empty lots, climbed trees, played hopscotch and baby dolls.

One neighbor encouraged the boys who collected stamps by showing us his collection, so valuable that he kept it in a large safe. Another let us shoot pool in their attic. Still others let us use their ping-pong tables, and on rare and usually disastrous occasions we

would be asked to be a fourth for bridge. Our father built a wonderful jungle gym in our backyard that was a magnet for our friends.

And we walked: the back road through the swamp to the Saturday movies in Little Neck. And we marched: Memorial Day weekend was the occasion for a big parade from Little Neck. Veterans and all the Scout troops marched, and so did we.

The wetlands, now known and preserved as Udalls Cove, were accessed at the foot of Manor Road. The reeds grew so tall that once we were off the road we were invisible to people passing by, and could hide out. It was obvious to us that the Big Kids (and maybe adults?) used the area for different kinds of recreation, leaving behind remainders that included beer cans as well as other items that weren't identified until much later in life.

When television was introduced, a bunch of us went to the Flemings' house – the Carriage House at 231 Manor – and watched black and white TV on a small screen in front of which was a large, free-standing magnifying glass.

In the 1950s Fred Paulsen, Chuck Walter, and some others along with a bunch of boys met at the Paulsen's, 371 Grosvenor, in the pre-dawn darkness to run around the Point to the dock and back.

Rick Paulsen used to get up very early and shoot ducks from a kayak off the point.

Living just half a block from the swamp our Whiskers the Wonder Dog made it his home away from home and proudly brought treasures – dead rodents and seagulls, mostly rotten – as tokens of his love.

In the 1940s Douglaston had many undeveloped lots. We made forts by digging fox holes and covering them with sticks and brush for camouflage. We sneaked matches and candles into the forts so they wouldn't be so gloomy and caught hell when our parents found out. After the war, houses were being built everywhere and we climbed all over them once the workmen were gone.

**Summer Jobs.** **Carolyn:** I babysat for many families in the Manor from twelve years of age through high school. Summers when I was home from college I taught sailing with Pam Weatherill, Hollywood Avenue, and Beth Pearson, Shore Road, for the Junior Yacht Squadron classes. The girls rowed

dinghies out to the moorings and towed the Bluejay sailboats used for the classes back to the dock. Most people don't realize that one can get very fit sailing.

*Howard:* I also started working around twelve mowing lawns at the Club and other properties. Once I taught sailing to a class of wives and learned that they were there for love of their husbands, not for love of sailing. At sixteen I started working as a lifeguard at the Club. Much better than mowing lawns, and in fact I rescued at least 5 tennis balls over the course of the season.

On a long weekend in the early 1950s I babysat "Lambie-Pie," the pet lamb of a family living near Parsons Point. We did not develop a deep or lasting friendship; she didn't say much and didn't seem too bright, but I have loved being able to say that I once worked as a shepherd in New York City.

**Farming.** Several families including some living in Douglaston Park kept honey bees. We had two supers on the flat roof of our garage, and the Washbournes on Grosvenor and the Powells on Warwick had some. Father led a Beekeepers Badge for members of Carolyn's Girl Scout troop.

We would take the combs from the hives, remove the caps on the honey cells with a hot knife, place the combs in a large centrifuge which when spun threw the liquid honey out to the walls, and then down and out the collection spout.

Italian honey bees are pretty easy-going and usually focused on their mission of getting honey, but on one occasion three-year-old Jill Walter sat down in the flight line in front of the Washbourne's hive to better watch the bees coming and going. Soon Mr. Washbourne looked out and saw that Jill was covered by bees. He gently called to her "Jill, I want you to slowly stand up and then walk to me." He was able to brush off the bees without incident, get her back inside, and then take a deep breath. Mr. Washbourne later moved to Whiteface Mountain where his construction company developed the ski area.

During World War II some families planted Victory Gardens in the adjacent empty lots across from our house. We put in rows of corn using the Indian trick of putting a fish in the ground with the seed to fertilize it. There were also tomatoes, and the taste of corn picked

minutes before being served together with tomatoes still warm from the sun has not been matched. We had two apple trees and a sour cherry tree in our yard. One year we canned sour cherry preserves. We climbed the tree, picked full buckets, and carried them to the kitchen which was full of large figures moving in and out of clouds of steam. It was magic.

**The Douglaston Club.** *Howard:* Father was an aeronautical engineer and loved tennis. By applying his training, he developed a way of slicing the ball so that it crossed over the net with such spin that it bounced back to his side. Spectators loved it but his opponents less so saying "Are you going to play tennis or screw around?" Once a member showed up with a bag of new rackets and try as he might he could never quite get the results he wanted. Rackets were changed and the process repeated. Finally his wife said, "Honey, it's not the racket." That became a catch phrase at our house.

In the early 1940s the senior men dominated the courts, especially on weekends. Things lightened up as time wore on and after we had left for college Father told about some young boys so eager to play that they would run out on the courts to play when the men were resting between sets. One of those boys was John McEnroe.

*Carolyn:* Ballroom Dancing classes were held on the top floor of the Club, and Raymond Bures, Beverly Road, and I won a polka contest. I'm still thrilled. I took ballet classes there and suffered through piano recitals.

*Howard:* There were traditional year-end formals. The girls wore white gloves and sat on one side of the room. The guys, uncomfortable in ties and jackets, sat on the other. Running, pushing and shoving were frowned on, and I don't think anyone enjoyed it.

**Boating.** Our father took us to a boat show at Madison Square Garden in the mid-1930s and, inspired, we bought a sailing dinghy kit and built it in our basement.

Father built a little dolly for the boat, and if we wanted to use the *J-Rae*, named after our mother, we had to pull it from our house up the hill, over to Beverly, and then try to keep it from rolling down the hill to the dock.

Later we had a Lightning and Carolyn named it the *Firefly* because we were "Lightning Bugs." It was an old, heavy boat num-

bered 494. Other kids had newer boats with numbers above 5,000 and sometimes they'd sail by and shout that one of our numbers had fallen off the sail. We had our revenge when one day the winds were so strong that everyone else had dropped their jibs and reefed their mains, but we planed into the Bay, the boat on the step and humming.

*Carolyn:* We sailors looked down our noses at the power boat "Stinkpots" who in turn looked down their noses at us slowpokes. One very windy day Pam Weatherill and I were sailing the *Firefly* when we saw a classic wooden Chris Craft dead in the water. When we returned an hour later the same boat was drifting. We threw them a line and towed them to the Douglaston dock, sweet revenge for all the teasing.

One summer the Junior Yacht Squadron held an overnight cruise for high-school-age boys and girls. Owners of the larger boats made them available for crewing and chaperoning, and parents provided food for an on-shore supper and breakfast the next day.

We sailed into Long Island Sound, dropped anchor in a sheltered location with a sandy beach at the head of Oyster Bay. We swam and sang and laughed, built a bonfire, had supper and then it was time for bed. The men and boys camped out on the beach and the women and girls slept on the boats, safely out of each other's reach. My friend's date, a lanky and very pale city boy sat at the bow of our boat with his feet hanging over the side. The sun reflecting off the water burned the soles of his feet so badly that he couldn't walk for days.

*Howard:* I crewed whenever I could and remember being asked in one race to report on "our good friends behind us," and then being asked to report on the positions of "those bastards in front of us."

Racing was serious stuff. Around 1957 the Bayside Yacht Club had a big three-day invitational regatta. After the first day, Keville Larson, 126 West Drive, organized four of us to go out in the dark to the committee boat and carefully cover the BYS insignia with that of the Douglaston Yacht Club. To our great enjoyment no one noticed the change for the rest of the regatta and possibly another month until one morning we found a beautifully crafted

outboard end of the Douglaston dock, right at the cross bar of the T.

We put our Lightning in the water at Parsons Point in the spring, and in the winter we stored it in a cradle on concrete blocks in our back yard. The boat dried out over the winter and was caulked and painted in the spring. We would launch the boat and watch it slowly sink as water poured in through those seams. After about a week, we beached the boat, cut off the caulk that had squeezed out, repainted it, and were good for the summer.

Hadley Williams, 112 Manor Road, occasionally walked from his house to the Flushing subway. He was President of Cuban American Sugar Company and the family relocated to Cuba until Fidel Castro took over at which time they returned to their house across from the Club. They had a sailboat with the port side painted red and the starboard green. In their bathroom, opposite the commode, he had a poster of the signal flags as a memory aid, and he introduced us to Gilbert and Sullivan.

**About the Parents.** Our mothers were leaders of Brownies and Girl Scouts, and Den Mothers for Cub Scouts, and hosted our many birthday parties. Our fathers taught tennis and sailing, umpired ball games, took us to the movies, and broke up fights.

During World War II many of the husbands were away and it became the practice for several of the ladies to meet at one of their houses at the end of the day, share any news, and support one another. The children were cared for by either a maid or a sitter. This was a moveable feast so the tactic was to drive around until a group of cars was found parked in front of one of the group's homes.

One of the men, mindful that not all the families could be together at Christmas, dressed up as Santa Claus and delivered presents to the houses.

Our mother always taught Sunday School, and "older kids" were invited to our house for Easter Breakfast and sticky buns. It was amazing for a small child to see a great mound of dough rising slowly from a ceramic bowl with a plate on top.

Our father designed and, with help from friends, constructed the concrete boat ramp near the southeast corner of Memorial Field. It was one of his last projects before they moved to Florida. The design was an upside down L shape with the long axis acting as the surface of the ramp and the short leg as an extra footing

to resist the tendency for the ramp to slide into the channel. Visiting Douglaston shortly after it was constructed he was taken down to the Field to be shown his work. You can see it today on Google Earth forty years later.

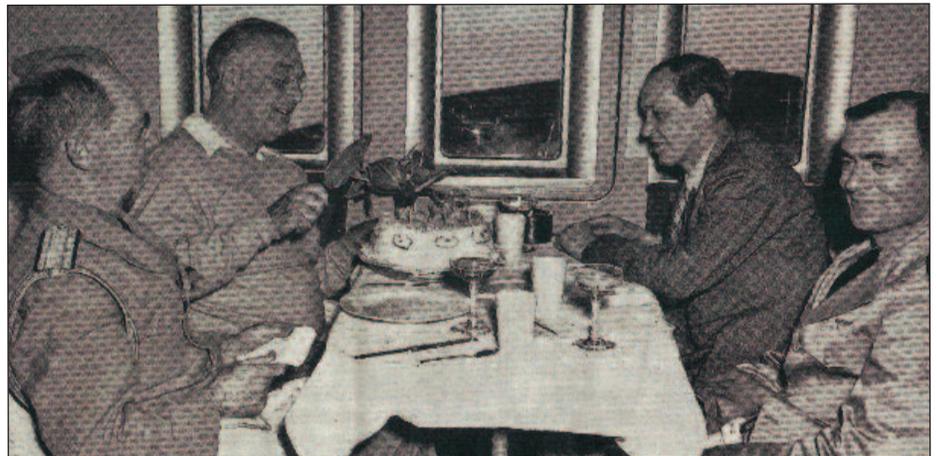
Father was a Captain with Pan American World Airways and was the first to fly a United States President in office when he took Franklin Delano Roosevelt to Casablanca for the conference in 1943. Carolyn remembers the crush of reporters when Father returned to La Guardia.

During the war, controllers either were not allowed or did not have the means to communicate the expected time of arrival of the seaplanes. So Father bought a radio that received the aircraft frequencies and when he landed

he would broadcast the message "On the water" which was Mother's signal to bundle us into the car and start driving to the LaGuardia Marine Air Terminal. The radio is in Howard's attic now, probably waiting for another signal.

The Seaplane Terminal is west of the current main airport and is certainly worth a visit. The main room has a domed ceiling with 1930s-style heroic figures representing early aviation legends starting with Icarus.

...Children unquestioningly accept their lives as they find them and so it was not until we had gone and learned of other places and people did we understand how unbelievably lucky we were to have grown up in Douglaston.



*President Franklin D. Roosevelt celebrating his 61st birthday while flying back from Casablanca, 1943, with Adm. William Leahy, Henry Hopkins and Howard Cone, the plane's pilot. From a review of "The Hopkins Touch" by David L. Roll, Oxford University Press, appearing in the Wall Street Journal, December 29-30, 2012.*

## REMINDERS AND SOME NEW ZONING

Do you still have your copy of the "District Master Plan" published by the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) shortly after designation of the Douglaston Historic District in 1997? The document was developed after consultations and meetings with both the Douglas Manor Association and the Historical Society, and there was a public hearing at LPC before final revision and publication.

The Society, as well as the DMA, receives many requests for information on the concrete color recommended by the Commission for sidewalks in the District, and the specifics have been added to the Master Plan., Article 7 (b)(2)(iii). We repeat them here for your convenience:

*color:* "winter beige," sample 6063 from color chart A-213-10, Chromix Admixtures for Color-Conditioned Concrete

*supplier:* available through Raw Equipment Corp. 28-00 College Point Blvd., Flushjng, NY, 718-461-2200.

A revision to the Master Plan by the Commission on 8/1/03 extended jurisdiction over mature trees in the District to include trees in side yards as well as those in front yards. (7)(3)(iii).

The LPC regulations governing HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) require that air conditioning "equipment is not visible or is minimally visible from a public thoroughfare or is made not visible

or minimally visible by the planting and maintenance of permanent vegetation designed to screen such equipment from view throughout the year.” This appears in Article (5)(e)(1)(iv)(A) of the Master Plan. Lots of numbers and letters, but it’s there.

Note that the Landmarks Preservation Commission requires that permits for any approved work be securely posted at the work site within three days of issuance, and in a conspicuous location readily visible to the general public from a right of way. This is the same requirement the New York City Buildings Department issued in 2009 as an amendment to the Charter regarding public challenge of department decisions.

We call these matters to your attention so that you may avoid the inconvenience of violations and fines.

Copies of the Master Plan are available through the DMA ([office@dmanyc.org](mailto:office@dmanyc.org)) and the DLNHS ([www.dlnhs.org](http://www.dlnhs.org)).

*A Zoning Change.* All or part of 18 blocks within the Douglaston Historic District, formerly zoned R1-2, were re-zoned for R1-1 by New York City on December 20, 2006. The R1-2 requirements of FAR, building height, front yard (20’), and parking regulations remain, but the new R1-1 requires a minimum lot size of 100’ x 100’, and the minimum side yard width increases from a total of 20 feet to 35 feet, with a minimum of 15 feet each.

The map shows the re-zoned area which starts at the north with 1120 Shore Road and continues south on Shore Road to the block bounded by Melrose Lane, West Drive, Bay Street and Beach Place. The increased yard and lot-area requirements will lessen the potential for subdividing lots and altering the density of the area.

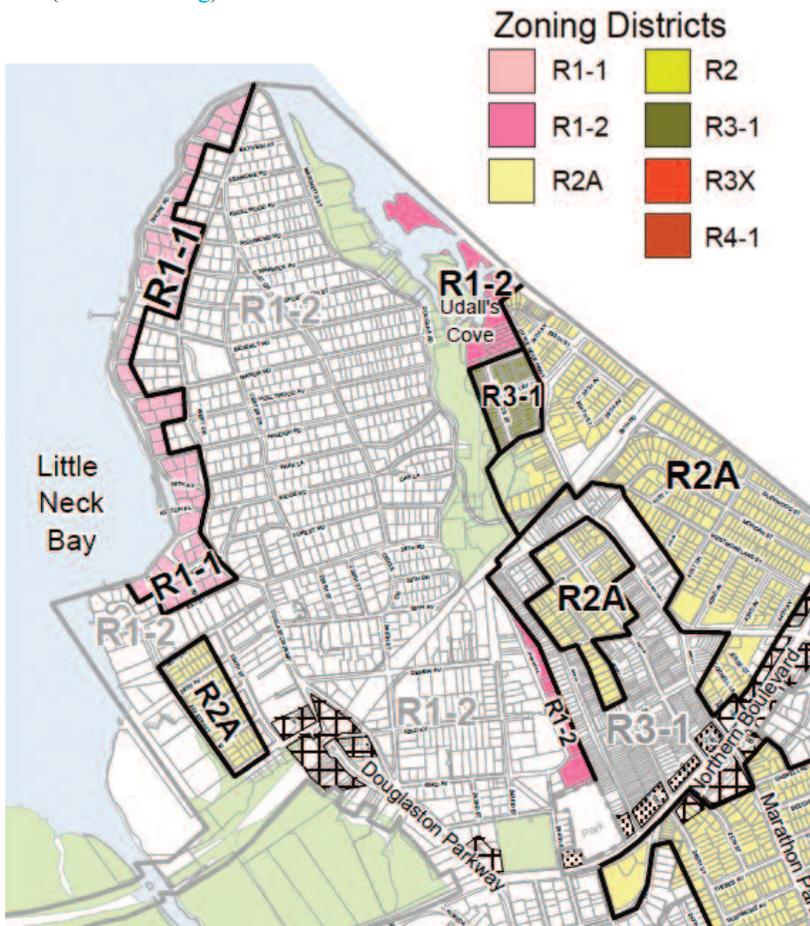
– Julia Schoeck

## WHERE ONCE THERE WERE MANY...

There was a time when you could almost walk across Little Neck Bay from Douglaston to Bayside without getting your feet wet. All you had to do was step from boat deck to boat deck right across the bay. That might be a bit of an exaggeration, but it is no stretch of the truth at all to say that Douglaston has enjoyed a long-standing heritage as a sailing community. Indeed, those present at our 2010 annual meeting heard guest speaker, George Graf Jr., present a program on “Early Yachting In Little Neck Bay”. We learned from Mr. Graf that The Manhasset Bay Yacht Club, of which he is past Commodore and Historian, began as the Douglaston Yacht Club. The tradition is extraordinarily strong, going all the way back to before the turn of the 19th century. In 1871, the Yacht, Sappho, owned by William P. Douglas, won the Americas Cup and became the first to bring it to our shores. In fact, the burgee of the current Douglaston Yacht Squadron, formed in 1927, was adapted from Douglas’ own personal flag.

Sailors and their crews of all ages and both genders have enjoyed many years of racing aboard boats ranging in size from tiny to enormous, right here on Little Neck Bay. My own son, Douglas, was Commodore of the Junior Yacht Squadron some thirty-five years ago. After racing Blue Jays and Lasers in the Junior Yacht Racing Association (JYRA), he aged out of the program to become a sailing instructor at the Offshore Sailing School, first on City Island and later at Hilton Head, South Carolina. It proved a fine way for him to earn spending money during summers off from college, and today he is a rather accomplished sailor with Santa Barbara, California as his home port.

Even earlier than that, one of our former Board members here at the DLNHS, Jim McCann, came up through the Junior racing program to become part of Douglaston’s sailing heritage for four decades and more. We watched him grow from a Blue Jay-sailing “Peck’s Bad Boy” in the 1960’s (the misadventures and mischief that got him that reputation are stories for another time) to a 19-foot Lightning racer, finally graduating to a 34-foot C&C called “Romp”, which he sails today. With Jim at the helm and with his regular red-shirted crew, Romp has won many races in its division in Little Neck Bay, as well as at more distant regattas on Long



**Douglaston Village.  
Back On Track.**

Island Sound. Today, Jim is past Commodore of the Douglaston Yacht Squadron (DYS).

Another member of the DLNHS board, Bill Sievers, has captured trophies with his son, Chris, as First Mate and Tactician in the weekly races that have been run every Thursday night for as long as I can remember. In fact, this writer crewed for the Sievers', taking the mainsail in many of those nautical contests.

Our Thursday night races used to be conducted under the aegis of the Cruising Club of Little Neck Bay (CCLNB). For the past few years the weekly event has been run by the Cresthaven Yacht Club in Bayside, but the race courses remain, as they always have, in or near Little Neck Bay. Moreover, the Race Committee responsibilities (those who officiate the races, choose the course based upon wind force and direction, and record the order of finish and the scores) are shared by Cresthaven and the Douglaston Yacht Squadron. For many years, those Thursday night races attracted as many as two dozen boats divided into two or more divisions. Some of the racers came from Bayside, or even further afield, but most were from our own Douglaston Anchorage. All enjoyed the thrill of competition combined with the best seat in the house for some of the most brilliant sunsets to be found anywhere. Starting at 7:00 P.M., all racers see the sun going down behind the Throgs Neck Bridge at some time during the contest. As that orb sits atop one of the towers on the bridge, transforming it into the icon

of a giant matchstick while turning the bay crimson, Skippers and crews bathe in and become part of the incredible view. That has not changed throughout the history of sailing on Little Neck Bay.

What has changed recently, and substantially, is the size of the racing fleet. Where once there were many, now there are few. Today we are lucky if we see four boats jockeying for position at the starting line. Representing Douglaston on a regular basis are Kinsale, expertly skippered by Mike White; Wuestwind with Ralph Wuest and his Son Greg alternating as Helmsman and Tactician (I have been crewing for them for the past several years); and Blue Streak helmed by Bob Gordon. Tom Holman is also often in attendance on Night Moves. The few other boats come from Bayside and their presence is irregular at best.

We continue to foster the sailing abilities of Douglaston's youth with an enduring junior sailing program, as reported in an earlier edition of this newsletter. Honing young nautical skills sailing several classes of small boats, Optimists, Blue Jays and Lasers among them, we are ensuring a crop of competitive sailors for the future. But for now, local big boat racers are sadly wanting in number. To paraphrase the popular folk song, "Where have all the sailors gone...?" It might be a function of the recent, less than sterling, economy. Yachting is, after all, not an inexpensive sport. J.P. Morgan is quoted as saying, "If you have to ask the price

of a boat, you can't afford one." And somebody else, I can't remember who (if you know, please send the answer in to our website, www.dlnhs.com) said, "A boat is a hole in the water that you just keep pouring money into." In fact, it is not quite as extreme as that, and every boat owner I know, sail or power, says that it is worth the cost. Furthermore, whenever I'm on the launch, threading its way through the fleet, I see several new, race-worthy sailboats. This says to me that there are people out there who ought to be looking into joining our Thursday night competition and whom we would welcome with open arms. Perhaps they are daunted by the prospect of racing their sailboats, thinking it is dangerous. If so, they should know that our Thursday night series is in no way intimidating. We don't fly spinnakers in that series, and the race committees choose relatively simple upwind/downwind courses with most contests finishing before dark. All of the Skippers are assiduous about respecting the right-of-way rules, placing safety well ahead of "the need to win". All boats are rated for size and sail capacity and each is assigned a time correction to level the playing field and provide all an even chance at placing first. If this sounds as good to you as I know it is, and if you are interested in joining our group, or if you would like to crew on a racing sailboat, please contact DYS Commodore, Vincent Panaro at 917 873 7091.

– Stuart Hersh

## TWO VAN ZANDTS RETURN TO DOUGLSTON

In June of last year a memorial service was held at Zion Episcopal Church to celebrate the life of Mary-Louise Van Zandt Gillmor. Her daughter, Pamela Van Zandt Gillmor, spoke as follows:

"Today we honor the life of our mother, Mary-Louise Van Zandt Gillmor. She was born in 1921 in Plainfield, New Jersey, and passed away at the age of 91 in Concord, Massachusetts. She is a direct descendant of Wynant Van Zandt, the founder of Zion Episcopal Church.

"On June 15, 1930, with her little sister Posie by her side, she unveiled a bronze plaque commemorating the 100th anniversary of Zion. Mom and Dad were also married in this church.

"As a young person growing up in Great Neck and Sands Point, she enjoyed sailing on Manhasset Bay and going to hear the Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, and Tommy Dorsey bands. She was a talented ballet dancer and could sing too, but 'life upon the wicked stage'

was not for her. After graduating from the Katherine Gibbs School in New York City, she worked for the Sperry Gyroscope Company. One of her more important memories was escorting Madame Chiang Kai-Shek to Sperry's Lake Success plant when she visited the United States.

"Our father and mother met at a mutual friend's home, and he was smitten. As a new flight student, he decided to fly low over Mom's home and tip his wings to say hello. The most romantic thing our father did, however, was to bring her fifty dozen daffodils. 'And then her heart with pleasure fills and dances with the daffodils.'

"Mom loved gardening, reading historical novels and paying bridge. She attended church, was active in the League of Women Voters, was an officer of the Memorial Society that operated the Woodstock artists' burial ground and was treasurer of the Woodstock Artists Guild. At the

age of 63, she went to work in the library at Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences in Boothbay Harbor, Maine, and loved it.

"We remember our mother as a beautiful and loving woman, gracious and kind with a gentle soul who always had a warm smile for anyone in her presence. We love you Mom, and we miss you."

The graveside service was held at All Saints' Church in Great Neck, New York.

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Here is a condensed version of an often-told story. It provides background for some intriguing tales about the remarkable Van Zandt Family.

Wynant Van Zandt, a wealthy merchant and a New York City alderman, bought the Douglaston peninsula including the Van Wyck farmhouse at 126 West Drive in 1813. In 1819 he built a mansion at 600 West Drive,

now the Douglaston Club, for his wife and eleven children.

He donated the land and funds to build Zion Church in 1830, died in 1831, and his estate was sold to George Douglas in 1835. George's son William P. inherited the estate upon his father's death in 1862, re-named it Douglaston, and spent his years there engaged in international yacht racing and developing his father's interest in the importation of exotic plant specimens from Europe and Asia. In 1899 William Douglas and his wife Adelaide moved to Manhattan and rented the Douglaston mansion to notables and others.

Realizing that the rural life of the country squire was ending, Douglas sold the estate to the Rickert/Finlay Realty Company in 1904, and lots in the community known today as Douglas Manor were made available for sale in 1906. William P. Douglas died in 1919.

Time passes and on May 5, 2003, two young men knocked at the office door of Zion Church and asked if they could "see" the church. One of them was Eric Van Zandt, and he and his friend had come from Paris to visit the United States. Using information found on the Internet, this Van Zandt descendant found his way to Zion Church.

I was there at the time, and as a parishioner showed them the burial plaque in the undercroft hallway, the stone monument in the church, and the coffin plates of the Van Zandt family mounted on a piece of mahogany in the Guild Room. Eric commented that he had a copy of the Wynant Van Zandt portrait displayed there.

After our visits to 126 and 600 West Drive, and a tour of the community, they returned to the churchyard where they found other names of interest to them from their research. Then they were on their way to find what else but Van Zandt Avenue.

Some months later the church received a copy of the book Eric had written about his family. It is in French and includes pages of geneology charts for the three branches of the family. A translator for the book is yet to be found, but there is a chapter on the American Van Zan

Zandts, Trinity Church, Zion Church, the Douglaston mansion, and the cover displays the family crest.

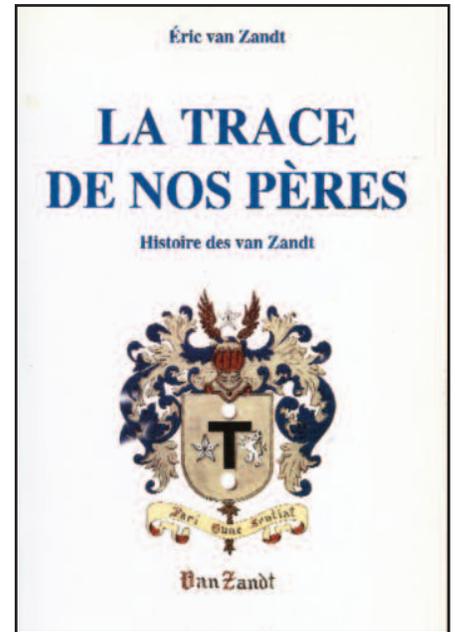
*A coat of arms?* Seems unlikely, until other stories are revealed.

During the past year the Historical Society has received, through the generosity of his wife Joan, archival files of the late Joseph Hellmann, a meticulous collector and student of the Douglaston and Little Neck area. The files included pages from early local newspapers, and in the March 22, 1910, issue of the "Flushing Evening Journal" there appeared an article by Justine Abbot of New York. She had written to the Journal editor, following the announcement of the sale of the Van Zandt/Douglas estate, saying that she would like to submit the "the true story" of the property, and referred to Part I of the Second Volume of the History of New York by Mrs. Martha J. Lamb, pages 33-34.

Ms. Abbott writes that Wynant Van Zandt held a high position at the court of Charles I of England. He lost his heart to the king's favorite and was banished to America in 1638. But before he left, the king, who was greatly attached to him, and knowing that he would never consent to his return, commissioned him to act for England as agent in the city of New Amsterdam. He was also accorded a tract of land extending from below Flushing to Great Neck. The country was quite wild at that time, and nothing was done with the property for generations, and most of it was sold over time. It's not clear if the land included today's Douglaston but there is documentation of the previously mentioned purchase of the peninsula in 1813.

Wynant Van Zandt I (so designated as the first of the family born in the United States), lived from 1683 to 1757, and had a residence on William Street in New York. His son Wynant II was born in 1730, and died in 1814.

Other early American Van Zandts were Jacobus, a surgeon in the army under General Washington at Valley Forge and Trenton. Catherine Van Zandt was one of the leading belles at the inauguration ball of the first President, and married James Homer Marshall, son of the founder of the first banking establishment in New York.



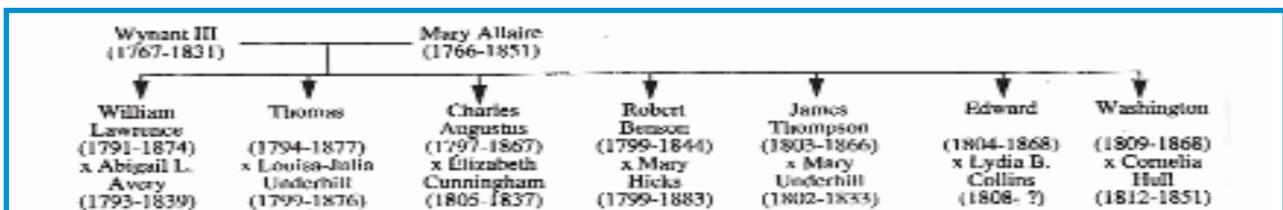
Wynant III, our Wynant, was born in 1767 and was a vestryman of Trinity Church in Manhattan from 1806 to 1811. An Alderman at the time City Hall was built, he fought against using brownstone for the north wall. He was overruled, however, by those who thought the city would never grow beyond that point and that the rear would scarcely ever be seen.

He and his family spent six to eight summer months at the manor house on Little Neck Bay and other times at their town house on William Street. He built Zion Episcopal Church and made improvements on and about what was then known as Van Zandt's Point. When the property was sold to the Douglas family, Thomas Van Zandt, son and executor of Wynant's will, decided to take up residence permanently in Paris, France.

Although several main branches of the family were no longer wealthy they clung to the old traditions and, when Mr. Douglas changed the name of the estate to Douglaston, they resented being deprived of the truthful history of their distinguished ancestors.

At least this clears up the appearance of Eric, the French Van Zandt, and the existence of a family crest. There could even be more...for another day.

—Julia Schoeck





# 4th Annual Douglaston Village Arts Festival

October 20, 2013

Calling for Fine Artists & Craftspeople

## DATE

Sunday, October 20th, 2013, 11AM-6PM Rain or Shine.

## ELIGIBILITY

This is a Festival open to artists, craftspeople and photographers. All work must be original in design and produced by the exhibiting artist. NOT ALLOWED: objects made from commercial kits, molds or items imported for resale.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

All applicants must submit four clear images of their work on a CD (300dpi) by August 31st. High quality photographs are acceptable. Only CDs and photos with a self-addressed stamped envelope will be returned. Two artists sharing a space must each submit the required images. You will be notified of acceptance.

## EXHIBITION SPACE & FEES

Booth spaces are 10' x 10'. Booth assignments serve the overall function of the festival. Assignments are final. Exhibitors may reserve more than one space and must provide their own set-ups (tables, chairs, tent weights, display boards). Limited electricity is available for an additional \$20. Fees will be refunded to artists whose work is not accepted. All other fees are non-refundable.

## SET-UP TIME

Beginning at 8:00AM. All vehicles must be cleared by 9:30 AM. There is plenty of street parking nearby for participants.

## REGULATIONS

Exhibitors must remain for the duration of the show and have a representative on duty in the booth throughout the festival hours. Each artist is responsible for the display, protection, storing, and removal of work. The organizers are not responsible for any loss or damage to any work from any cause during the festival. Artists should provide adequate protection for their work against sun, rain, and wind. No breakdown of exhibits to begin before 6PM. No vehicles permitted in area before 6PM. All tents and umbrellas must be weighed down and must be cleared from the streets by 7PM.

All exhibitors should cover tables with white table cloths. If you do not bring one, one will be provided for you at an additional charge of \$20.

All non-profit organizations will be charged a \$20 administration fee.

## TAXES

Collecting and paying New York State sales tax is the sole responsibility of the exhibitor. Tax I.D. #'s must be provided by exhibitors who have one.

## INFORMATION

Contact: Carol Panagi @ 347.306.8087

## APPLICATION FORM DOUGLASTON VILLAGE ARTS FESTIVAL 2013

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

Number of spaces required \_\_\_\_\_

I am a new exhibitor  I am a returning exhibitor

\$85 per space

Non-profit organization @ \$20

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### EXHIBIT DESCRIPTION

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

As an exhibitor, I agree to comply with the requirements and regulations of this show.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Tax ID # \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to: DVAF, Inc.

\*Make Sure To Send Photos With This Application Form\*

Send to: Carol Panagi, 220 Warwick Ave, Douglaston, NY, 11363

**Did You Know...**that in the past twenty-four years the Historical Society has held events, published newsletters and other documents, and achieved, or helped to achieve, important breakthroughs in our communities as listed here?:

- 21 house and garden fund-raising tours and receptions
- 3 walking tours
- 12 public meetings to support historic district designation for the Douglaston Historic District, the Douglaston Hill Historic District, and the Douglaston Extension
- 21 annual meetings with speakers on architecture and historic preservation group trips to historic sites
- 17 newsletters
- census of trees on Douglaston Historic District private property
- funded Douglaston Historic District brown street signs
- worked for restoration of street names and placement of Douglaston Hill Historic District brown street signs
- funded Douglaston Historic District and Douglaston Hill Historic District markers with map and legend
- funded replacement of historic weeping beech tree at the station roundabout
- hosted dozens of consultations with property owners and architects for renovations, additions
- sponsored Douglaston Village Visioning Committee public meetings and 2 workshops
- sponsored 2009, 2010, and 2011 Douglaston Village Arts Fairs
- sponsored the Douglaston Village Chamber of Commerce and Local Development Corporation
- funded the Douglaston Village Strategic Plan for Restoration
- applied for landmark designation of the Little Neck Parkway Cornell Farm

***Be a Community Supporter and Join the Historical Society Today!***



## **JOIN THE DOUGLASTON AND LITTLE NECK HISTORICAL SOCIETY!**

**IF YOU SHARE OUR PRIDE IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS AND LOVE HISTORY, PLEASE JOIN US AND SUPPORT OUR WORK**

*Please enroll me as a new member, or renew my membership in the Douglaston and Little Neck Historical Society*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*I prefer to receive the newsletter by email*

**Detach and mail this form with your check made payable to:**

Douglaston and Little Neck Historical Society  
Jeannette Segal, Treasurer  
240-51 Depew Avenue  
Douglaston, NY 11363

**Membership Category (check one)**

- \_\_\_ \$ 25 Annual
- \_\_\_ \$100 Business
- \_\_\_ \$150 Contributing
- \_\_\_ \$250 Life (one-time contribution)
- \_\_\_ \$500 Benefactor (one-time contribution)

**The Society has 5 active committees and welcomes your interest and participation**

- \_\_\_ Research and Archives
- \_\_\_ Architecture
- \_\_\_ Educational Programs and Events
- \_\_\_ Publications
- \_\_\_ Community Relations



Douglaston and Little Neck Historical Society

328 Manor Road  
Douglaston, NY 11363  
718-225-4403  
www.dlnhs.org

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**Arts Festival 2013**  
**Sunday, October 20, 11-6**  
**Douglaston LIRR Station**  
**Celebrate our local Art,**  
**Music, and Food**

Current resident or



**MYSTERY PHOTO:**

We see from the signs that this is the Douglaston Tea House and Mayflower Antiques, and also Bernard T. Jones Real Estate-Insurance, but its location is not known.

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