

LOCUST VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO Box 218, Locust Valley, NY 11560

May 17, 2021

Dear Members & Friends:

As I write this, I hope that you, your family and loved ones have triumphed the last 17 months to see the world reopen again due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It has been a long road to haul on all of us and especially here at the historical society where we had to scale so much back in terms of sourcing, meetings with people, projects, and more.

NEWS

GENEALOGICAL: A genealogist from the US State Dept who was searching for a soldier who had perished in the Bataan Death March (April 1942) contacted us. We found out that it was one of our members, whom I immediately contacted. I gave her the story of what the State Dept. needed – they needed two (2) female members of the known deceased - relatives for DNA. In doing so, they were able to reach out to a gentlemen in Massachusetts - with their thought of a possible match. When the contacts here in locust valley were confirmed that they matched the gentlemen's in Massachusetts so she had a new second-cousin; they contacted one another and were overjoyed with the discovery!

DONATIONS: From this past year we are happy to announce the acquisition of items from Mr. Chris Alsopp – world class rower. Chris provided us with his United States Olympic Committee medal that commemorates the sacrifice of the entire 1980 Summer Olympic Team. The team was prohibited from competing in Moscow by an Act of Congress signed by President Jimmy Carter. This was in reaction to the Soviet Union's military invasion of Afghanistan. He gifted the USOC medal to the Locust Valley Historical Society as a thanks to his hometown that, in many ways both large and small, helped and encouraged him in pursuit of his Olympic dream so that it might inspire other young residents of the greater Locust Valley area to chase their own dreams. Along with the USOC medal he also gifted to us the following medals: 1972 Junior Singles National Championship gold medal(qualification for Jr. World Championships in Milan Italy at which he finished in eighth place), 1973 Canadian Henley Jr. Single gold medal (a.k.a. Canadian-American Championship), 1979 Puerto Rico hosted Pan American Games silver medal in the Double Scull event. Harvard grad, Tom Howes, was his partner. *(Note: Please remember us during your Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter cleaning! Many culturally important items from within Locust Valley and surrounding areas find their way to the garbage where they easily may arrive to us instead.)*

LEGACY CLUB: The Charles D.W. Thompson Legacy Club has been created within the historical society. The Charles D.W. Thompson Legacy Club acknowledges those who have made the future vitality of The Locust Valley Historical Society (LVHS) a part of their legacy. Legacy gifts ensure LVHS's independence and ability to continually acquire, preserve and conserve, document and display Locust Valley's tangible and intangible culturally rich past and present well into the future. Charles D.W. Thompson ("Charlie Thompson") was LVHS's inaugural President. Charlie's passion in and of Locust Valley was sublime. Every moment he was pondering new ways to reach out to the Locust Valley residents constantly enriching their lives with the history of Locust Valley and its environs. Planned gifts provide a way to make a charitable contribution while receiving

tax benefits. All those who confirm in writing that they have included The Locust Valley Historical Society in their will or estate plans, or as a beneficiary of another disposition of assets, are recognized as members of this club. These gifts can be any of the following: Will or bequest, Retained life estate, Life insurance policy, Charitable remainder trust, Charitable lead trust, Retirement plan.

STREET RENAMING: On April 17, 2021, the Town of Oyster Bay the business district portion of Forest Avenue was renamed Sgt. Robert Hendricks Way. Sgt Hendricks, a Marine who grew up in Locust Valley, made the ultimate sacrifice when he was killed in Afghanistan on April 8, 2019 when a car filled with explosives ambushed his convoy as it returned from a mission outside of the base.

SOCIAL MEDIA: Cross-platform social media coverage is starting in the Fall of 2021. On the web with our new website, along with Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others so that all that we do brings better news delivery and engagement with the public. Auto-postings updated directly from the site!

COMMITTEES: As we are a short time away from state charter, we are in the process of forming required committees for Audit, Programming, Membership, Nominations. Criteria for committee service shall be sent out in early August with the announcement of our Annual Meeting in September.

POLICIES: New policies including those for Board Governance, Ethics, Public Reporting and Transparency. and Conflicts-of-Interest are being finalized for better non-profit governance and participation.

MEMBERSHIP: It was decided that since 2020 was very limited, in all aspects, any member dues paid for 2020 were automatically transferred to 2021. *(New levels of membership are currently being prepared for 2022 making the historical society more inclusive and mindful of our Locust Valley students, firefighters and veterans! More details come in August!)*

IN MEMORIAM: This year we lost, Eileen Casey, one of the longest participating members (and a former officer); she shall be greatly missed for her friendship, candor and her awe-inspiring reminiscing!

In closing, we continually request active participation from you to make the Locust Valley Historical Society grow. Please contact us and comment about this newsletter (and anything in it) along with anything else that may be on your mind; I would like to know what you are thinking – it shall only make us a better organization. Email: info@locustvalleyhistory.org

Until August!

Sincerely,



Herb Schierhorst, President

**IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Thursday, July 1, 2021 we re-launch the website with much added features, stimulating content and the start of a new search capability as we begin the digitization of the collections.

Monday, September 27, 2021 at 6:00PM EDT: The Annual Meeting for 2021 (there was no annual meeting in 2020); the time and venue (in-person and/or ZOOM) shall be decided in late July for us to inform you in early August.