

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Peter Marcus

VICE PRESIDENT

Bernhard Preisser

TREASURER

Peter Marcus

SECRETARY

Matt Arone

DIRECTORS

Matt Arone

George F. Calvi

Bea Caporale, *Director Emeritus*

Barbara DeAngelo

Pierre Fontaine

Henry Groth

Robert M. Pellegrino, Esq.

Gary S. Rappaport, Esq.

Steve Wittenberg

EDITOR

George F. Calvi

PHOTO & GRAPHICS EDITOR

Barbara DeAngelo

WEBMASTER

Blake D. Rappaport

CONTRIBUTORS

William Beck

George F. Calvi

Mary Lichtenberg

Gary S. Rappaport, Esq.

Robert Reid

Troy Roberts

VILLAGE BOARD LIAISON

Craig Weitz

Although every attempt is made to maintain accuracy in the newsletter, the editor and the Society assume no responsibility for errors. They also reserve the right to edit where necessary.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Hello! And welcome to the Fall 2021 edition of The Beacon, a publication of the Ardsley Historical Society. This issue is dedicated to the late Barbara Novich, a longtime member, and Executive Board Member of the Ardsley Historical Society.



Though we have quite an assortment of articles for you, I would be remiss if mention was not made of the wonderful tours held in October as part of the Ardsley quasiquicentennial celebrations, or 125th Anniversary of Incorporation as a Village. Robert Pellegrino, Village Historian, and Historical Society President Peter Marcus conducted a series of very informative tours around the community, citing existing and former sites of historic interest. Their efforts were ably assisted by Library Board member Rosemarie Marcus and our own Webmaster, Blake Rappaport. By all accounts, the tours were universally deemed a success. Moreover, they were a delightful outdoor departure from the Zoom Cocoon we have all endured these past 18 months owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As previously mentioned, our first offering is a warm tribute to Barbara Novich and her achievements in the community. Following is a compilation of reminiscences of a few of our former fire chiefs including Bill Beck, Bob Reid, and Troy Roberts. Next is an update of an article by the late Mary Lichtenberg about a long lost (and now recovered!) World War II plaque. On its heels is an excellent report by Gary Rappaport and his findings about founding father, Alexander Hamilton, and his family. Rounding out the newsletter is Gary Rappaport's continuing series "The First Amendment at the Ardsley Schoolhouse Gate – Part Three" and finally, an appreciation for departing Executive Board members Joann D'Emilio and Mary Keehan.

Also, the members of the Ardsley Historical Society wish to extend a very warm welcome to incoming Village Manager Joseph Cerretani who commences his own history with Ardsley on November 22!

George Calvi

ONE BUSY LADY – REMEMBERING BARBARA NOVICH

By George F. Calvi

The year was 1990. The month was early April. I quietly slipped into the board room of the old Ardsley Village Hall and sat on one of the available folding chairs. The people on the dais were locked in a debate amongst themselves, and the fire chief was doing his best to explain why retrofitting fire sprinklers in commercial buildings was a good thing. Most of those in attendance seemed to be an assortment of business owners of every creed and ethnicity, and there was no doubt about it, they were all against the fire sprinkler proposal. And in the midst of it all was a lanky fellow with eyeglasses maneuvering a television camera. I learned his name was Chet.

I took copious notes as furiously as possible trying to keep up with the rapid dialogue. A woman with reddish brown hair, and eyeglasses slowly approached me, and inquired, “Are you with the press?” “No,” I responded, “I’m trying to decide whether or not to interview for the job of village manager.” She assured me, “It’s not always this way.” “What a relief!” I replied, “And thank you for that assurance!” The woman was Barbara Novich, spouse of the aforementioned cameraman, and as a cafe owner once quipped to a certain police captain as they strolled down an airport’s wet tarmac in Vichy-governed Morocco, it was the beginning of a beautiful friendship, one that lasted for nearly three decades.

To be perfectly candid working with Barbara could be challenging. No, she was always challenging. She was a perfectionist, and perfectionists, by nature, are known to be challenging. Or as Jerry Seinfeld is prone to say, “Not that there is anything wrong with that.” They often hold a unique vision, and if you veer ever so slightly from that vision, they do their best to get you back on the straight and narrow. As many in the community know, Barbara loved flowers. She loved all kinds of flowers, with the unique exception of calla lilies, as her son, Adam, shared with me recently. The old village hall is long gone but some of you may remember the colorful flowerbeds of impatiens she used to plant above the white retaining wall adjacent to the parking lot. When fully in bloom those flower beds were a sight to behold -- red, white, violet – in all kinds of patterns. They were a work of art, conceived by Barbara, designed by Barbara, and often physically planted by Barbara, with the able assistance of her loyal working companion Hassan

Pathan, who always reminded me when Barbara and I had a difference of opinion, “Remember, she is a very good lady.”

As creative as she was, she was also a realist. Some of you may recall that there used to be a planter between the eastbound and westbound lanes of Ashford Avenue near the intersection across from Silliman Park. It was a raised planter constructed of wooden railroad ties and Barbara loved to plant red geraniums in it. It was a very welcome sight as one entered the village. The top level of the planter was almost even with the height of a motorist sitting in one’s car and he or she could enjoy the view of these magnificent geraniums while they waited for the light to change. One day, Barbara in her little red car found herself in that lane waiting for the light to change when to her horror she saw a burly arm stick out of the window of the car in front of her and grab several of the geranium plants, roots and all, and speed away! Barbara made a beeline to my office and related to me the crime she had just witnessed. Together we agreed that perhaps a planter at that location wasn’t such a great idea after all, and we agreed to abandon it. It was getting old and splintery anyway, and in need of serious repair. Bottom line, no one was going to be stealing geraniums from the Village of Ardsley anymore! We made sure of that!

Barbara was also a very busy woman. One day she strolled into my office. Nobody knocked on doors in those days. In fact, I used to have an oval ceramic plaque on the wall, “Welcome to Grand Central Terminal.” But I digress. She strolled in, plopped herself in to the chair in front of my desk, and announced, “George, I need a housewife!” Looking up from my keyboard not quite certain what I had just heard, I inquired, “What did you just say?” She repeated, “I need a housewife!” She then went on to explain that she had made so many commitments to so many volunteer activities around the village, she really needed someone to perform the tasks that needed to be accomplished at home. Well, I cannot bear witness as to what she decided to do about household chores, but I can certainly attest to the fact she was one busy woman.

I know she had been a founding member of the Historical Society, and that she was still very active when I arrived because she was always looking for

the perfect spot to leave a supply of AHS calendars in village hall. As I mentioned earlier, she was a member of the CATV committee. Not just any member, but a founding member of the group as well that brought the first live telecasts of village board meetings along with her husband, Chet, Steve Greenbaum, and Jane Levine, not forgetting to mention the grant money she helped secure to buy all the equipment and the huge cabinet to store it all in, that local craftsman and volunteer firefighter Chuck Munson built. And we cannot forget that Barbara along with her son, Bruce, designed the wonderful state of the art sound studio we now have in village hall which resulted in her name and Bruce’s joining the other village officials on the dedication plaque in the lobby of the new village hall.

Along with Louise Giusti, Dottie Kaufman, Theresa DeStefano, and Trustees Linda Pohlman and Dan Kelly, Barbara was on the Recycling Committee that got the curbside recycling pickup program off the ground, helped secure a grant for new recycling bins, and designed the first recycling schedule calendar in 1991.

Barbara participated in many other committees too many to enumerate here. But there was one group she took particular pride in and that was the Ardsley Garden Club. As I said earlier, Barbara loved flowers, and she particularly liked to enter flower displays in the annual competitions at St. Barnabas Episcopal church. It was a really big deal for her. She finally persuaded me to attend one year, and I have to say I was quite impressed with all I saw. I even witnessed a certain future village official in attendance who was being awarded the prize for best front yard. Her name should be familiar to all of you these days – Mayor Nancy Kaboolian.

Barbara had many interests. She loved sushi. How did I know? I just happened to stumble upon her sitting at the sushi counter one day at a local establishment all by her lonesome, kibbitzing with the sushi chef, pointing to this and that. She looked like she was enjoying herself, and at peace with the world. I didn’t dare break the spell.

She liked opera. One day she and Chet invited my new wife and I as their guests at a double-billed performance of *I Pagliacci* and *La Cavalleria Rusticana* at the Metropolitan Opera House at Lincoln Center. It was a first for me, and an introduction to some wonderful music I had never really paid much attention to prior.

Last but not least, Barbara was a mother, and she was very proud of her sons Bruce, Neil, and Adam. She didn’t have to tell me that, but she did manage to slip their names into conversation often enough, and why not? Isn’t that what proud mothers do?

[Editor’s Note: We lost Barbara Alice Novich on April 5, 2021 at the age of 95.]



TALES OF THE FIRE CHIEFS

Compiled by George F. Calvi

Sometime ago I sent out a request to several of the former Ardsley Volunteer Fire Chiefs who in my estimation represent a vast swath of the history of the department during my tenure as Village Manager. I asked them to provide me with examples of their experience as Fire Chief, particularly their challenges, their accomplishments, even their disappointments. I also asked for them to cite why they became a volunteer fire fighter in the first place. Not all could heed the call, but fortunately a few did. In their own words, here are their stories.



THE BILL BECK YEARS: 1989-1991

I joined the Ardsley Fire Department in 1971 with Ed Mulvey and Vinny Piscitelli. We were called the Three Musketeers. Shortly after we joined there was a series of large fires and we were told that we were getting lots of real hands-on experience. Some jokingly asked if we were responsible. As a child, and from the first day I joined the Ardsley Fire Department, I wanted to become a Fire Chief. Therefore, I worked very hard. I took lots of state-sponsored courses and did extra work in and around the fire house. I rarely missed a captain's night, a monthly drill, or monthly meeting.

Fire department and ambulance members responded to their respective houses because of the loud air whistles that blasted. In the beginning I actually mistakenly responded to many ambulance calls because I did not know the different whistle signals. When this happened, I'd drive home when I saw the call was not for the fire department. I tried learning how to drive the fire trucks and work their pumps. I had a problem driving them as they were all manual transmission. Today all the fire trucks are automatic. One night, during a Village Board Meeting, while I was backing the truck up into its bay, the ladder that hung past the back of the truck hit the building. I was told that those in the Board Room did not know what happened. Luckily, there was no damage, but after that, I did little driving and I never became a Motor Pump Operator (MPO). However, I still was able to become a captain, the first not to be an MPO. Since then, the rule changed and all members wanting to be an officer have to be an MPO first.

I responded to some major fires over my over 50 years with the department. There were several house fires and accidents I witnessed where, unfortunately, lives were lost. The Selecto warehouse fire burned for days, and cranes were needed to lift and pull things apart so we could extinguish the fire. Of course, there was the Village Hall basement fire that we stopped in its tracks. Had we not, a new fire house would have been built sooner.

During my tenure as Fire Chief, I worked hard, along with others, to convince the Village Board to allow a vote to be taken to see if the homeowners would be willing to increase their taxes to provide the Ardsley Fire Department with funds for a Service Award Program



for the volunteer fire fighters. It was overwhelmingly approved by the residents while I was Chief or shortly thereafter. As Chief I also worked on changing the Village's fire codes so that it would include having mandatory fire sprinklers in new construction and in a building addition of more than 50% of remodeling including schools and churches. There was a lot of opposition but a less strict fire code than I was pushing for did pass after I was Chief.

Lastly, I wish to state that although there were other Jewish members in Volunteer Engine Company No. 1, perhaps even a Jewish Captain, I am certain I was the first Jewish Fire Chief and Adam Novich was the second several years later.

[Editor's Note 1: William Beck and his wife, Eleanor, reside in San Diego, California. Both are retired New York City School teachers. He served as Fire Chief of the Ardsley Volunteer Department, officially known as Ardsley Engine Company No.1, from 1989 through 1991. During his tenure, and upon my arrival in 1990, the Village introduced computers and the first detailed line-item budget to replace the brief several page document which for the most part listed only personnel and non-personnel items for each department. As always, change generates some disagreement, and the fire department was no exception. Although Bill and I got along very well, as he will attest, he and I and Village Treasurer Marion DeMaio held many lengthy challenging discussions as to what monies could be drawn from what line item, and more importantly, when they could be drawn. Of course, it all worked out in the end. - GFC]

[Editor's Note 2: According to AFD record-keeper, James Macri, in addition to Beck, Piscitelli, and Mulvey, the following firefighters also joined the Engine Company in 1971: Fred Bauckman, Jimmy Noone, Lou Filomena, John Marsek, and himself. - GFC]

THE ROBERT REID YEARS: 1993-1995

I joined the Ardsley Fire Department on March 3, 1975 to join my brother, Alex, and my younger brother, Richard, who was a member of the Ardsley Junior Fire Department. What I couldn't have known was that a few short days later on March 5, 1975, village residents Charles Benidix and his daughter, Mary, would be lost due to injuries suffered in a house fire on Wildwood Lane. The fire would rock the sleepy little Village of Ardsley along with the members of its fire department.

Another structure fire which affected me deeply was when an employee was killed in March 1985 during a fire at the The Selecto Corp; coincidentally, also my own place of employment at the time. I drove the first Engine into the scene — Engine 165, a 1979 Mack, and the newest apparatus at the time. The warehouse was a total loss and the fire department was on scene for several days for overhaul.

Not many fires occurred in Ardsley during my term as Chief 1993-1995, but we did respond to the Children's Village fire in 1994 in Dobbs Ferry. One highlight of my term was the purchase of a high-tech computerized Decon Washing Machine which we were able to attain thanks to the help of Village Manager George Calvi. Firefighters were enabled to properly clean their expensive turnout gear from potentially toxic contaminants for the first time. Twenty-five years later, that machine is still being used, making the \$5,000.00 cost a very good expenditure! It has always been an honor to represent the Ardsley Fire Department any time I could!

[Editor's Note: Robert Reid, or Bobby, as I have always fondly addressed him outside of official functions, is retired and currently resides nearby in Elmsford. During Robert Reid's tenure the first discussions regarding affordable housing for volunteer fire fighters commenced with the establishment of a committee. These discussions, on and off over the years, ultimately evolved into the development of workforce housing legislation in the Village Code, and ultimately the construction of the affordable housing project at Louis Pascone Lane on the former site of the Water Wheel Restaurant.]

THE TROY ROBERTS YEARS: 1995-1997

As a kid growing up in Pleasantville, NY my neighbor next door was the Fire Chief in town. I would see him run off to calls with the lights and sirens and thought it was very exciting. My father was not able to volunteer due to his work commitments. As a result, I never had any other exposure to the Fire Department while there. After moving to Ardsley in 1972 my neighbor across the street, Chuck Larm, was the Fire Chief in Ardsley. Once again, I was exposed to the excitement of him rushing off to calls in his vehicle.

I soon learned that there was a Junior Fire Corps in the Ardsley Fire Department. In March of 1977, at the age of 15, and largely on a whim, I joined the Ardsley Fire Department Junior Corps. I thoroughly enjoyed the training and camaraderie at the firehouse. In April of 1980, after turning 18, I joined the regular Fire Department in Ardsley. I continued my training and rose through the ranks to become an Assistant Chief in April of 1991. Shortly thereafter, in August of 1991, I gave up my corporate career in Engineering to join the NYC Fire Department. I made this change because of the satisfaction I got from putting out fires and knowing that I was serving my community. By joining the FDNY I would be getting the best firefighting training and experience possible which I brought back to the Ardsley Fire Department.

I became the Chief of Department in Ardsley in April of 1995. I was the first Junior Corps member to reach this position. The Department was constantly evolving and as with my predecessors we always strived to improve the Department. My first goal was to upgrade our radio communications by purchasing more portable radios so that additional members would be able to communicate at fires. Along with the portable radios we also purchased new radios for our apparatus to further improve our communications.

In 1996, the Ardsley Fire Department celebrated its 100th Anniversary and I was proud to be serving as Chief for this tremendous milestone. Many hours of hard work went into planning the events for that year. We held the Annual Westchester County Volunteer Firemen's Association Convention and Parade which was an enormous task. Forty or so Fire Companies from around Westchester County participated in this 3-day event. We also sponsored the Carnival and Fireworks for the residents which was held during the weekend of the Convention and Parade. It was great to see every member of the Fire Department pitch in to make these events the great success that they were.

With all these events being planned and executed the Department still had to continue with the routine training necessary to keep our skills sharp. We had to keep focus on our mission of providing excellent service to the residents of Ardsley. I was very pleased at the hard work that we put into training. I like to think that my experience in the FDNY helped in that respect. I tried to bring the important lessons that I learned fighting fires in the South Bronx to our firefighters.

My only disappointment during my tenure as Chief was that we had no significant fires to put out in Ardsley, to test all the training we had



done. I know this to be a good thing for the residents, but firefighters like to practice their craft in real situations, and this is where they get the best experience. We did however go to neighboring Departments while I was Chief to assist at large fires. Most notable of these fires was a fire at the Hackley School in Tarrytown where we operated for many hours.

One other accomplishment that started while I was Chief was the planning for a new firehouse. In 1997 we commissioned a study of the conditions in our aging firehouse. This study confirmed that we needed a larger, more modern firehouse to house our apparatus and members. Apparatus had grown larger over the years and barely fit into our cramped quarters. This study laid the groundwork for discussion and planning for a new firehouse. After leaving as Chief I continued as Chairman of the committee to push for the construction of a new firehouse. It took almost 10 years, but in the end, we got our new firehouse!

[Editor's Note: Troy Roberts still resides in his childhood home on Wilmoth Avenue along with his life partner Judi. Having just celebrated his 30th anniversary with the FDNY, he is currently a Lieutenant in the FDNY Marine Division, and the President of the FDNY Football Bravest; a team he has been a member of for the past 25 years].

ANOTHER UNSOLVED MYSTERY IN ARDSLEY

By Mary Lichtenberg; Updated by George Calvi

We have here a reprint of an article written and presented in Spring 2000 by the late Mary Lichtenberg, President of the Ardsley Historical Society. Thereafter, we present a brief conclusion to the mystery.

“ON WHAT WAS THEN KNOWN AS ARMISTICE DAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1954, a Memorial Park was dedicated to the former students of Ardsley High School who lost their lives in World War II. The site was the Ardsley High School, now known as Ashford Court Condominium.

The idea for the park was proposed by the Honor Society in approximately 1952. The memorial consisted of a permanent drinking fountain (torch shaped) containing a bronze plaque on which the names of the honored dead were inscribed. Surrounding the fountains were benches and shrubs. Graded gardens were planned, and students could sit on the benches for a moment of quiet contemplation or have committee meetings in these lovely surroundings.

The Board of Education gave its approval and solicitations for funds began. Letters were sent to parents informing them of these intentions and contributions were received from the PTA, Ardsley Engine Company No. 1, the American Legion, the Lions Club, Civic Associations, the First National Bank of Ardsley, the Chamber of Commerce, various Civic Organizations, and others. Some of the parents, who were able to, attended the dedication ceremony along with Village dignitaries, relatives and friends of the honorees. The school children also attended.

At the dedication ceremony, the Ardsley High School Band played at the beginning and at the end of the program. The 1953 president of the Honor Society, David Purdy, welcomed everyone, and James McWhirter, Post Commander of the American Legion conducted the presentation and raising of the flag of the United States. [He was accompanied by Alex Cudney, George McHenry, Harry DeNike, and Thomas Wilmoth, all representing the Color Guard.] The Honor Guard were members of the

seventh grade: Jan Anthony, Don Clarke, Bruce Cook, Nelson Hoy, and George Ramin. Trumpeters were Glen Koors and Kenneth Yocis. Miss Helen Robbie, teacher and advisor to the Honor Society, spoke on the history of the park, and Principal A. W. Silliman spoke on the significance of the occasion.

Honor Society Secretary Elizabeth Waldemar read the Honor List and the Honor Guard unveiled the fountain plaque. Music teacher Michael Vincent led the singing of the Star-Spangled Banner.

Now comes the mystery . . .

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FOUNTAIN? NO ONE SEEMS TO KNOW OR REMEMBER!

When the present Middle School was built, fountain was supposed to be transferred there, but it never was. Fred and Patty Arone investigated its whereabouts, with no success. They asked Highway Department Foreman Louis Pascone who remembered the fountain, but didn't know what happened to it. They also asked the high school custodian to check the storage areas to see if it might be there, but it was not. Fred himself had been at the dedication ceremony. So, like the original World War II Honor Roll which was located at the Legion Park bus stop, it is gone but not forgotten.”

And so, it was forgotten until a series of events that commenced on April 28, 2021. During a ZOOM meeting, Ardsley Historical Society President Peter Marcus accompanied by yours truly met with Schools Superintendent Dr. Ryan Schoenfeld and the three building principals. Marcus had reached out to the school to provide an overview of the society's available resources and archives, as well as to establish a working relationship for future cooperative activities. The meeting went very well, and much enthusiasm was exhibited by all parties. We later learned that after the meeting, Dr. Schoenfeld asked a veteran custodian if there are any historical items that might be stored somewhere in the school. The custodian came across an old

marker with the names of soldiers in the high school safe. Dr. Schoenfeld sent a photo to Marcus via email. Lo and behold, it seemed it was the very plaque that was dedicated and attached to the fountain back in 1954. Thanks to correspondence and old photos provided by both Steve Wittenberg and Rob Pellegrino, we confirmed it was the real McCoy!

How it ever ended up in the safe of the high school we may never know, but thank goodness it wasn't destroyed or spirited away when the school building was abandoned, or when it was converted into condominiums. As for the drinking fountain, no clue whatsoever. It's probably lost to the sands of time, or perhaps sitting in someone's backyard or basement as is the fate of so many items when buildings are abandoned. I'm thinking of the iconic and intricately designed metal gazebo that mysteriously disappeared from the grounds of the Waterwheel Restaurant a few short days after the fire put it out of business permanently in the early 1990s. So, what's next? Peter Marcus plans to suggest to the schools superintendent that the plaque be re-affixed to some form of monument and that a small memorial park be created for it perhaps on the current high school commons, along with a proper re-dedication ceremony. Thus, there may be yet a satisfying sequel to this story in some future edition of The Beacon!

[Editor's Note: A version of the plaque story was also reported on by former Editor Theresa DeStefano in the autumn of 2012. At that time, she listed the names of all the fallen soldiers. They are Howard R. Secor, George H. Hauptman, Jr., Daniel R. Geis, David W. Longmuir, Angelo L. Delmerico, Edward J. Lynn, Jr., Robert L. Kakerbeck, Fred C. Baker, James B. Mackenzie, Kenneth D. Wood, George B. Kreutz, Charles E. Duryea, Robert E. Bunch, Jr., and Thomas F. Mack, Jr. Additional research for the update portion of this story was provided by Rob Pellegrino and Steven Wittenberg. Mary Lichtenberg, a past president and charter member of the Ardsley Historical Society, and her husband, Floyd, Library Board President and Co-Chairperson of the 1996 Centennial Steering Committee, were giants in our community. Consummate volunteers, for many years they donated an incredible number of hours on behalf of the people of Ardsley. Sadly, we lost Floyd in 2004, and Mary in 2017. - GFC]

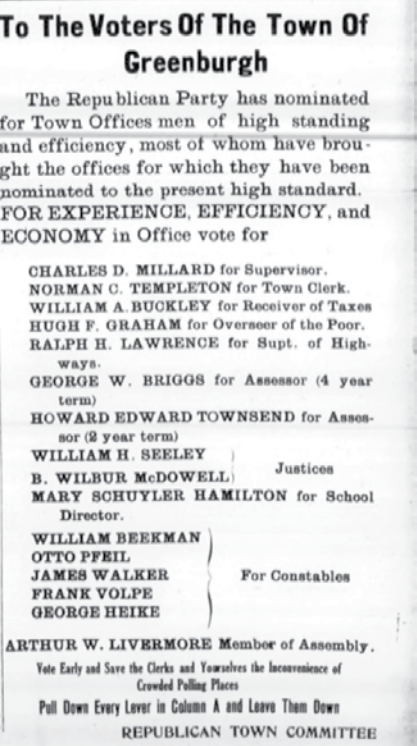
WHERE IS OUR ALEXANDER HAMILTON?

By Gary S. Rappaport, Esq.

A century ago, on a Friday evening in late October 1920, in anticipation of the upcoming presidential election between Republican candidates Warren Harding and Calvin Coolidge and Democratic candidates James Cox and Franklin D. Roosevelt, Ardsley hosted a mass gathering of local Republicans, likely including Mary Schuyler Hamilton, vice-chair of the Greenburgh Republican Party and great-great-granddaughter of American statesman and Founding Father, Alexander Hamilton. Schuyler Hamilton was also a direct descendant of American Revolutionary War General Philip Schuyler (Alexander Hamilton married his daughter Elizabeth Schuyler in 1780 at her family’s Albany, New York mansion). Harding and Coolidge won in a landslide in the first presidential election granting women the right to vote under the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution.

Born in Brooklyn in 1870, Schuyler Hamilton moved to Elmsford when she was five years old. During and after a 40-year career as a teacher and educator in New York City, she was the preeminent member of many patriotic and historical societies. Schuyler Hamilton lectured frequently on constitutional, American, and local history on behalf of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Westchester County Historical Society, and the Tarrytown and Elmsford historical societies. The founders of the Westchester County Historical Society included John Jay 2nd, grandson of the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Gen. Alexander Hamilton, Jr., a son of Alexander Hamilton (and a great-great uncle of Miss Hamilton) of Tarrytown, and Newbold Morris, whose ancestor was Lewis Morris, Westchester County's only signer of the Declaration of Independence.

In 1921, Schuyler Hamilton was elected Greenburgh’s School Director, an unpaid position that gave general direction to local educators and scholars in the Town of Greenburgh. When seeking



the position, she appeared on a slate of Greenburgh Republicans including Ardsley’s B. Wilbur McDowell, who ran for Town Justice, and Ralph H. Lawrence, who sought election to the office of Superintendent of Highways. On McDowell’s 75th birthday (in 1955), the park on Heatherdell Road in Ardsley, which is the home of the Ardsley Little League, was named for him in tribute to his half-century of public service in Ardsley and Greenburgh.

Her gracious Hamilton family residence on Valley Road in Elmsford, a location of much entertaining and renowned for its gardens, was adorned with priceless treasures of Americana collected over nearly two centuries. In 1929, on the 175th anniversary of the founding of Columbia College, she loaned numerous unpublished letters written by Alexander Hamilton, a 1777 graduate of King’s College (Columbia’s predecessor), as part of an exhibit honoring her great-great-grandfather.

A grand dame of Westchester society, a close friend of John D. Rockefeller, Sr., of nearby Pocantico Hills (where she served as the Principal of the Pocantico School which has enjoyed a long association with the Rockefeller family), and an active member of the Greenburgh Republican party, in 1938, she gave the principal address on the 150th anniversary of the Dutch Reformed Church in Elmsford (one of the oldest religious edifices in Westchester which traced its origins to 1788) where her father, John Cornelius Leon Hamilton (1842-1919) (a great grandson of Alexander Hamilton)— who served as a 1st Lieutenant in the 3rd New York Heavy Artillery during the Civil War — was an elder. Notably, as Mary’s great grandfather John Cornelius had married Angeline Romer, she also descended from the Romer family, one of Westchester’s oldest, whose historic “Romer-Van Tassel House” (which, according to the Town of Greenburgh’s property card, was built originally in the 17th century) is located at 2021 Saw Mill River Road which lies between Elmsford and Ardsley. For many years, the house was occupied by

the esteemed New York State Assemblyman Richard Brodsky, a 1964 graduate of Ardsley High School who represented Ardsley in Albany for 27 years (he passed away from Covid-19 in 2020).

In 1940, Schuyler Hamilton led an effort by independent voters in Elmsford to create a fusion party of Republicans and Democrats to create a non-partisan form of local government in the Village of Elmsford to “end the bickering.” In 2006, Ardsley’s Democratic Mayor Jay Leon and Elmsford’s Republican Mayor Robert Williams renewed this idea of municipal cooperation when the Ardsley Public Library entered into an inter-municipal agreement allowing Elmsford residents the right to become card holding members of its library.

As a relative of Alexander Hamilton, Schuyler Hamilton was frequently called on to officiate at numerous events celebrating American history and of course, her famous ancestor. For example, in 1923, she unveiled the bust of Alexander Hamilton at the Hall of Fame for Great Americans, an outdoor sculpture gallery, at New York University’s former campus in the Bronx.¹ As explained by Hall of Fame scholar Sheila Gerami:

“The period between the Civil War and World War I was the first great age of public art in the United States. Outdoor sculptures were a part of a larger attempt to construct a didactic environment where shared American ideals could inspire and uplift citizens. It was within this climate that Dr. Henry MacCracken, Chancellor of New York University from 1891-1910, conceived the Hall of Fame for Great Americans as part of a City Beautiful campus designed by Stanford White in the Bronx. The memorial officially opened in 1901 and belongs to a public art tradition defined by nineteenth-century values that emerged after the Civil War. This tradition emphasized patriotism and good citizenship, coupled with a veneration of heroes prompted by the sacrifices of the war. The Hall of Fame was realized over the course of the twentieth century; it was the country’s first hall of fame and a unique institution on a college campus.”²

Dr. Gerami informed the author the Hall of Fame’s eligibility rules were changed for Hamilton’s installation as previously an inductee had to be native-born while Hamilton was born on the island of Nevis in the West Indies. In 2017, the busts of Confederate Generals Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee (whose sculpture was installed on the same day as Hamilton’s) were removed on the orders of

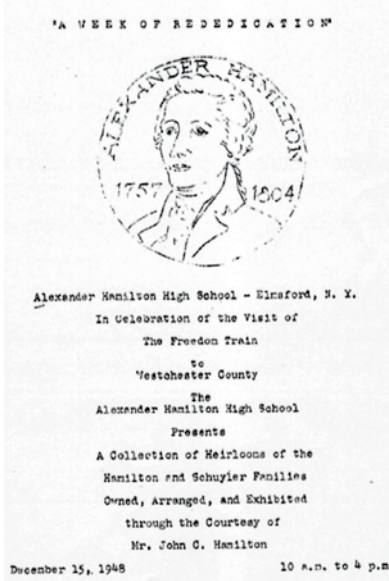
then-Governor Andrew Cuomo after civil unrest in August 2017 in Charlottesville, Virginia at the “Unite the Right” rally of white supremacists.

In 1933, Schuyler Hamilton spoke on “Early American History” at the 100th anniversary of the Zion Episcopal Church in Dobbs Ferry, the first Episcopal Church in Greenburgh, which was instrumental in the founding St. Barnabas Chapel (now Church) in Ardsley.



While driving past the Elmsford’s (Dutch) Reformed Church and Cemetery on frequent trips to the FedEx Ground Center in Elmsford off Saw Mill River Road (as I, like many others, shipped various items found while cleaning out closets during the pandemic), I noticed a sign on the building mentioning the Elmsford Historical Society. I found an email address on the Village of Elmsford’s website for the Elmsford Historic Committee and heard back from Debra Williams responding to my inquiry why in 1929, Elmsford had named its high school after Alexander Hamilton. Ms. Williams provided me with a program from December 15, 1948, entitled “A Week of Rededication,” describing Elmsford’s celebration at Alexander Hamilton High School of the arrival in Westchester County of the Freedom Train, “a seven-car train that traveled across the forty-eight United States from September 1947 until January 1949...dedicated to the history of American democracy and contain[ing] some of the country’s most priceless historical documents.”

The Freedom Train’s displays included an original copy of the Magna Carta, written in 1215, as the first



guarantee of the individual Rights of Englishmen that the king could not deny. The initially sanctioned racial segregation of the entrance lines to the Freedom Train in southern cities was the subject of a powerfully critical 1947 poem by Langston Hughes which provides in part:

I hope there ain't no Jim Crow on the Freedom Train,
No back door entrance to the Freedom Train,
No sign FOR COLORED on the Freedom Train,
No WHITE FOLKS ONLY on the Freedom Train.
I'm gonna check up.
I'm gonna check up on this Freedom Train.³



Freedom Train at White Plains Rail Station (December 22, 1948)

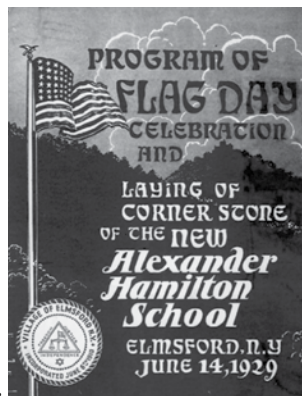
Cities like Birmingham, Alabama, that insisted on segregated entrance lines, were skipped over.

The 1947-1949 Freedom Train was conceived as an opportunity for the American public “to reflect on the meaning of American citizenship at a time when the nation was finding a new and central role in world affairs. Americans had experienced a decade of pre-war economic Depression. They made sacrifices in foreign lands throughout World War II. They were entering an age of post-war prosperity with opportunities unknown in all of human history. Some in the national government believed Americans should pause and reflect, to experience a ‘rededication’ to the principles that founded their country.”

When Elmsford planned to build its new school building 1929, it was proposed the school be named for its most prominent citizen, Mary Schuyler Hamilton. Although honored by the request, she modestly suggested naming it for her great-great-grandfather. Notably, none of the high schools in Greenburgh’s five other incorporated villages or its unincorporated areas (i.e., Edgemont and Greenburgh Central) are named after a person—only Elmsford’s. The current Ardsley High School was built in 1958, the year its School District Superintendent Arthur W. Silliman retired after 36 years of service. While Ardsley’s then new Junior-Senior high school was to be named for Silliman, this did not occur for

undetermined reasons. Miss Hamilton was the guest of honor at the laying of the cornerstone of Elmsford’s new school which was held on Flag Day, June 14, 1929.⁴

In conjunction with the Freedom Train’s arrival in White Plains in 1948 and the week-long Rededication, Mary’s brother, John Church Hamilton, loaned numerous Hamilton and Schuyler family heirlooms for public viewing at Alexander Hamilton High School including the hourglass owned by Alexander Hamilton.



In January 1932, on the second anniversary of the building of Alexander Hamilton High School, Schuyler Hamilton shared the stage with Eleanor Roosevelt, the wife of New York State Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt, who gave a speech entitled, “The Individual’s Responsibility to His Government.” Nearly 30 years later, President John F. Kennedy, in his January 20, 1961, Inaugural Address, reiterated this theme in these inspirational words which are engraved on his tombstone in Arlington National Cemetery:

“And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.”

Interestingly, and what others have posited is another formulation of Kennedy’s stirring call to civic action, in his 1936 acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention, Franklin D. Roosevelt observed,

“To some generations much is given. Of other generations much is expected. This generation of Americans has a rendezvous with destiny.”

Schuyler Hamilton died in 1941 at age 71. She was cremated at Hartsdale’s Ferncliff Cemetery (which her obituary stated to be in Ardsley, NY), and her ashes were interred in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery marked by an unadorned and somewhat neglected marker seemingly containing the remains of her brother John (d. 1953) and his wife Gladys (d. 1981).

In 1949, New York State Governor Thomas Dewey commissioned New York’s own version of the Freedom Train to educate its residents on the State’s contribution to freedom. When the New York Freedom Train stopped in Yonkers, Ardsley public school students were scheduled to go onboard on October 19.⁵

The titanic Broadway success of *Hamilton, An American Musical* has led to an extensive interest in Hamilton and the Schuyler family he married into. Hamilton’s renewed popularity reportedly spared removal of his portrait from the \$10 bill (only one of two denominations of US currency not featuring an American President, the other being Benjamin Franklin on the \$100 bill). However, not all of the attention has been positive. A recent *New York Times* article discusses a new historical study published by the Schuyler Mansion Historic Site in Albany asserting Hamilton purchased slaves from the slave-owning Schuyler family.⁶ A scholarly rebuttal to the contention Hamilton was an enslaver appears on the “Alexander Hamilton and Slavery” link on the website of the Alexander Hamilton Awareness Society, an organization dedicated to increasing awareness about the life and legacy of Alexander Hamilton.⁷

In his magisterial Hamilton biography, which gave rise to the critically acclaimed Broadway musical, author Ron Chernow describes Hamilton as not only a fervent abolitionist but “a messenger from a future we now inhabit.”⁸

Chernow’s *Hamilton* is dedicated to his late wife Valerie (nee Stearn) and reads “TO VALERIE, best of wives and best of women,” an encomium borrowed from the letter Alexander Hamilton wrote to his wife Elizabeth Schuyler on the night before his duel with Aaron Burr.⁹ According to her online 2006 obituary in *The New York Sun*, Valerie Chernow taught French and Spanish in the Ardsley School District before being hired as a language instructor at the New York City College of Technology. Her picture in Ardsley High School’s 1967 yearbook (the “Ardsleyan”) accompanies this article.

Following his fatal encounter with Aaron Burr on the morning of July 11, 1804, at Weehawken, New Jersey, given his position as the nation’s first Secretary of the Treasury and founder of The Bank of New



York, Alexander Hamilton was fittingly buried in the Trinity Churchyard in lower Manhattan’s old financial district at the intersection of Broadway and Wall Street. The text of the 1948 Rededication program ends with the following observation:

There office workers and tourists daily look down on the simple stone marking the last resting place of this man who played so important a role in the building of our great nation. On the simple monument one may read — The patriot of incorruptible integrity; the soldier of approved valor; the statesman of consummate wisdom...

The monument’s inscription prophetically ends with “Whose TALENTS and VIRTUES will be admired Long after this MARBLE shall have mouldered into DUST.” In a 1922 speech before the Hamilton Club, then-Vice President Coolidge proclaimed that “when America ceases to remember [Hamilton’s] greatness, America will be no longer great.”¹⁰



The inaugural 2021 edition of *The New Yorker* magazine contained a single article by Pulitzer Prize-winning author and journalist Lawrence Wright analyzing America’s calamitous response to the coronavirus pandemic.¹¹ Toward the end of his piece, Wright describes the experience of National Security Advisor Matthew Pottinger:

Pottinger’s White House experience has made him acutely aware of what he calls “the fading art of leadership.” It’s not a failure of one party or another; it’s more of a generational decline of good judgment. You need broad-minded leaders who know how to hold people accountable, who know how to delegate, who know a good chain of command, and know how to make hard judgments.

In response to former President Trump’s reaction to an angry mob of his supporters breaching the US Capitol on January 6, 2021, during the counting of the Electoral College votes, Pottinger resigned.

As federal investigators looked into alleged Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election, former President Donald Trump reportedly asked, “Where is my Roy Cohn?”¹² However, with a divided nation confronting the deadly threat of the Covid-19 pandemic, perhaps he should have asked:

“Where is my Alexander Hamilton?”



THE FIRST AMENDMENT AT THE ARDSLEY SCHOOLHOUSE GATE – Part Three

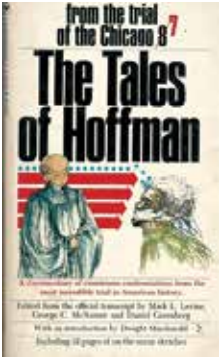
By Gary S. Rappaport, Esq.

“Money doesn’t talk, it swears”ⁱ



John Martin Johnston (“Jack”) chaired White & Case’s litigation department. As an “in Memoriam” section of the Princeton University Alumni weekly explained: “His studies [at Princeton Class of 1945] were interrupted by distinguished and courageous service in the European theater during WWII. Jack was awarded the Silver Star for rescuing two members of his platoon from a minefield. Tragically, during the course of the rescue, he lost both legs. Returning to Princeton and then to Columbia Law School, he taught himself to walk on two artificial legs and eventually managed to walk with only a cane into his late 70s.”

Newly minted White & Case attorney, Mark Levine, was scheduled to assist Johnston in the litigation brought by The Ardsley Four against Ardsley’s Board of Education over the one-page “Join the Conspiracy” flyer. However, Levine had a few conflicts of interest. Not only was he philosophically supportive of the Ardsley students and equally outraged about the conduct of the trial, but in one of those “truth is stranger than fiction” moments, he had just finished editing his first book (displayed right) (having the creative title of “*Tales of Hoffman*” referencing both defendant Abbie Hoffman and Judge Julius Hoffman who presided) containing portions of the transcripts of the Chicago 7 trial.ⁱⁱ



behavior. They threw objects and shouted obscenities, prompting Judge MacMahon to have them handcuffed, shackled and gagged so that the trial could proceed. Many judges still view his action as a precedent that has enabled them to establish control in unruly courtrooms.”^{iv}

Of course, the efforts of Levine and his co-authors to publicize the injustice taking place in a Chicago courtroom paralleled the actions of the Ardsley Four. As a result, Levine was relieved of the assignment.^v The task of second chairing the case with Johnston fell to another newly hired White & Case attorney, Raymond Vickers. Vickers had recently returned from Australia where he had been on a Fulbright Fellowship secured while at Harvard Law School.^{vi} While this was essentially the only litigation Vickers would handle in his long and distinguished corporate legal career, first at White & Case and later at Skadden Arps, he preternaturally recalled the case’s details with uncanny precision and a novelistic flair despite a hiatus of fifty years.

As he explained in a lengthy email to the author: “At the time, I was called into Jack Johnston’s and told that he was expecting a group of school board members from a school in the suburbs. The meeting had been requested by a partner of Arthur Young (as it then was) who was a [school] board member. Arthur Young [AY], at the time, was a major client of W[hite] & C[ase]. Ordinarily, the firm would have had no interest in the case except for the request of the Arthur Young partner. Jack was skeptical that the firm should be involved and, while we

waited, he discussed how he planned to get us out of the case without offending the AY partner. ‘When the group arrived, they explained the case’s basic facts and what the issues were from their perspective. As I recall, the students had been disciplined somehow, and a suit had been brought to quash the discipline. The Board needed to respond to this suit. Jack encouraged them in very strong terms to seek a compromise, say permitting posting requests for donations on a bulletin board to be subsequently concluded off of school premises, and others. He made it clear he was not happy with their unwillingness to seek a compromise. I think it was in a sidebar that the AY partner disclosed to us that the school board attorney had prepared a brief that the AY partner found to be unpersuasive and worse to make the board members appear unthinking conservative bullies. It included statements about the students being unpatriotic and that democracy might be in danger if they were not punished. As the meeting proceeded, it was clear that the Board was not backing down. The AY partner wanted the firm involved if for no other reason than to put up a reasonable case as someone independent of Ardsley’s internal interests. My recollection is that, unlike his fellow board members, he seemed indifferent to the possible outcome. He just wanted to ensure that the matter was handled professionally.

‘After the group left, Jack said to me, get in the library and see what you can find. The hearing, as I recall, was either the next day or the day after. I know that I spent most of the night in the library. I read the cases on button wearing and similar expressions of view. I found most of the cases going the wrong way from my perspective. And then I came upon a reference to the Regent’s rules. I can’t remember whether in a case or some other source and reading through them found the rule prohibiting solicitation of money on school grounds. Eureka, I said. This is not a first amendment case. This is just a case about money-grubbing by one group of students from another group. The memorandum of law then pretty much wrote itself. However, I still had to make the case that the rule was reasonably intended to provide a safe and secure environment for students and thus within the Regent’s administrative authority.

‘On our way to the hearing, Jack asked me a few questions about the memorandum of law {written by Vickers} and was generally annoyed at being involved.” The motion to prevent the Ardsley School Board from threatening The Ardsley Four with expulsion for violating the Regent’s Rule by circulating the “Join the Conspiracy” flyer came before United States Southern

District Judge Edward Cochrane McLean (1903-1972), a Republican, who had been nominated to the bench in 1962 by President Kennedy. “At the hearing, the lawyer from the NYCLU began his opening statement and got out a few lines about the importance of first amendment rights for students and so forth, when he was cut off by the judge who with a smile said that he could well imagine what was coming and would save counsel’s time having to say it. And with the same smile, he said, let’s hear what the respondents (the Ardsley Board of Education) have to say. Jack rose to his feet and approached the rostrum with his cane, accompanied by the muffled clank, clank of his prosthetics. He addressed the judge in an even tone: My name is John M. Johnston. I am a partner in the firm of White & Case and represent the respondents in this case. And with that, his voice went up at least one octave, and becoming red in the face, he said, your honor, I don’t know what these students are trying to prove, and went on to capture in outraged tones a few lines from the memorandum of law. As he began, the smile on the judge’s face disappeared, and you could see his realization that what he thought was going to be a bit of a joke of a case was suddenly very serious. He fairly quickly shut Jack down and said he would take the matter under advisement. ‘And we were out of there.

‘It took me a while to get my jaw off the floor. I was stunned by Jack’s angry-sounding, outraged demeanor, knowing as I did how he viewed the equities in the case. But it clearly had been very effective and lent a solemnity and importance to the proceedings that until then had been missing. It was my first-hand view of how a seasoned litigator could assume a persona to make a difference. I was always concerned that the students or their lawyer would point out that there were perhaps many instances of fundraising on campus sanctioned by the authorities, such as for homecoming preparations or bake sales for worthy causes and that the point would be made that the solicitation at issue was being prohibited because of its implied political speech, and thus bring the case back within the penumbra of the first amendment. I was ready to argue that all of these other fundraising activities had a close tie with other recognized educational activities and thus were different in kind and did not need the Regent’s rule protection. But as far as I know, the issue never came up.” In a subsequent conversation, Vickers pointed out that Johnston wore his Silver Star at the hearing and added, “Back then, people knew what it meant.”^{vii}

October 30, 1969
[Pursuant to an order by the Court, Defendant Seale has again been strapped into a chair in an attempt to silence his outbursts]
Mr. Weinglass: If your Honor please, the buckles on the leather strap holding Mr. Seale’s hand is digging into his hand and he appears to be trying to free his hand from that pressure. Could he be assisted?
The Court: If the Marshal has concluded that he needs assistance, of course. . . .
Mr. Kunstler: Your Honor, are we going to stop this medieval torture that is going on in this courtroom? I think this is a disgrace.
Mr. Rubin: This guy is putting his elbow in Bobby’s mouth and it wasn’t necessary at all.
Mr. Kunstler: This is no longer a court of order, your Honor, this is a medieval torture chamber. It is a disgrace.

New York Times’ Chicago reporter Anthony Lukas made them realize how outlandish the Chicago 7 trial was, compelling them to let more people know about it by obtaining and publishing the trial’s transcripts. As shown on the cover of Levine’s book and central to the text of the “Join the Conspiracy” flyer, the chaining to a chair and the placing of a gag in the mouth of defendant Bobby Seale by Judge Hoffman (see accompanying page 63 from the portion of the Levine’s *The Tales of Hoffman* of the transcript) was a galvanizing injustice for The Ardsley Four. However, this extreme measure was not unprecedented. The obituary of Southern District Federal Judge Lloyd F. McMahon notes: “In 1961 Judge MacMahon presided over the conviction of the Bonanno crime family boss Carmine Galante and many other defendants in a drug-trafficking case. The trial was marked by the defendants’ outrageous

The District Court’s Opinion

Judge McLean's opinion first addressed whether the broad constitutional protections announced in Tinker applied and how he saw the overall merits of The Ardsley Four’s assertion the School Board’s threat of disciplinary action was trampling their First Amendment claims:

"Plaintiffs place their main reliance on Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District. The Supreme Court there held that the school officials had violated the students' First Amendment rights by forbidding them to wear black armbands in silent protest against the Vietnam war.” After stating that the First Amendment means what it says, the Court said in relevant part:

"We properly read it to permit reasonable regulation of speech-connected activities in carefully restricted circumstances. Fund solicitation by students on school premises was not in any way involved in Tinker. I have found no other case concerned with it.

The Regents' rule was promulgated in 1923. Presumably the sort of student unrest so prevalent today would have been beyond the comprehension of the Regents of fifty years ago. Although there is no evidence on the subject in the present record, it seems safe to assume that the rule was not intended to prevent the exercise of free speech by students or by anyone else. The purpose would appear to have been to protect school children from annoyance at the hands of solicitors eager, for one reason or cause or another, to induce them to part with their pocket money. To my mind, it seems an eminently reasonable regulation.”^{viii}

In other words, McLean had entirely accepted Vickers' arguments. The lofty paeans to freedom of speech contained in Barnette and Tinker were locked out at the schoolhouse gate by a nearly 50-year-old Regents’ rule prohibiting fund solicitation even though there was no evidence of any disruption of or material interference with school activities at Ardsley High School.

Nevertheless, the District Court’s decision denying the students’ request for an injunction against the Ardsley School Board’s disciplinary threats was not final. Although on February 8, 1970, the jury had reached a verdict in the trial of the Chicago 7, the legal rancor in Ardsley over the one-page flyer would continue as The Ardsley Four appealed McLean’s decision to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit which sat a few floors upstairs from the McLean’s Foley Square courtroom.

“Where Is Our Alexander Hamilton” End Notes

1. “Busts Are Unveiled in Hall of Fame,” The New York Times (May 23, 1923), 8.

2. Gerami, Sheila, "The Hall of Fame for Great Americans: The Evolution of a Forgotten Memorial" (2015). CUNY Academic Works.

3. http://org.coloradomesa.edu/~blaga/421/Freedom_Train.html Coincidentally, “The Journey of Reconciliation” also called the “First Freedom Ride,” a form of nonviolent direct action to challenge state segregation laws on interstate buses in the Southern United States, took place in 1947. During a two-week bus trip, African Americans sat in front, white Americans sat in back, or sometimes side-by-side, all in violation of current state laws which required passengers to practice segregated seating in buses.

4. Newspaper accounts from September 1953 announced the opening Ardsley's new elementary school (now known as Concord Road) on Alexander Hamilton Avenue. The street was so named as Hamilton had commanded New York's light infantry during the 1781 Philipsburgh encampment, the longest of the American Revolutionary War, in present day Ardsley.

5. The Herald Statesman (October 18, 1949)

6. “Alexander Hamilton, Enslaver? New Research Says Yes,” The New York Times (November 9, 2020)

7. Alexander Hamilton Awareness Society <https://the-aha-society.com>

8. Alexander Hamilton (New York: The Penguin Press, 2004), 20

9. “From Alexander Hamilton to Elizabeth Hamilton, [4 July 1804],” Founders Online, National Archives, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Hamilton/01-26-02-0001-0248> [Original source: The Papers of Alexander Hamilton, vol. 26, 1 May 1802–23 October 1804, Additional Documents 1774–1799, Addenda and Errata, ed. Harold C. Syrett. New York: Columbia University Press, 1979, p. 293.]

10. The Price of Freedom: Speeches and Addresses by Calvin Coolidge, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1924, p. 101.

11. The Plague Year: The mistakes and the struggles behind America’s coronavirus tragedy. (January 4-11, 2021)

12. It was basically a plea for an aggressive attorney. Roy Cohn was Donald Trump’s personal lawyer and was known for his open ruthlessness and complete disregard for ethics” (Transcript, Sacha Pfeiffer’s interview with director Matt Tyrnauer about his documentary, Where’s My Roy Cohn? NPR, October 13, 2019). See also, “If Trump is today’s Aaron Burr, who will be our Alexander Hamilton?” “Burr’s character and lack of principle led Hamilton to support his own bitter political enemy <https://www.rinocracy.com/2016/05/18/blog-no-99-donald-trump-as-aaron-burr-where-is-alexander-hamilton-when-we-need-him/>

“The First Amendment at the Ardsley Schoolhouse Gate” End Notes

i. Bob Dylan, It’s Alright, Ma (“I’m Only Bleeding”), Stanza 17, Line 4. Composed in 1964 and considered one of Dylan’s most ambitious songs, it appears on his fifth studio album Bringing It All Back Home (released on Columbia Records on March 22, 1965). In addition to the quoted verse, the song contains some of Dylan’s most famous lyrics and images: “He not busy being born / Is busy dying; It’s easy to see without looking too far / That not much is really sacred; But even the president of the United States / Sometimes must have to stand naked.” Dylan was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2016.

ii. The Tales of Hoffmann is also a French opera which premiered in Paris in 1881. Levine’s book was reissued in 2020 as “The Trial of the Chicago 7: The Official Transcript” in connection with Aaron Sorkin’s Netflix film of the same name. However, it is only a transcript of the more notorious portions of the trial.

iii. Lukas subsequently published his own insightful book on the Chicago 7 trial: The Barnyard Epithet And Other Obscenities — Notes on the Chicago Conspiracy Trial. (Harper & Row 1970)

iv. The New York Times (April 9, 1989)

v. In July 2021, in a fascinating interview on the podcast Future Hindsight, Levine related how the edited transcripts were both obtained and published together with commentary on their use in the Sorkin film, little known details about the Chicago 7 trial, and its relevance to today and how the edited trial transcripts were in bookstores eleven days after the trial ended <https://www.futurehindsight.com/episode/the-chicago-7-mark-l-levine/>

vi. Curiously, Vickers is named in the acknowledgments section of Levine’s “The Tales of Hoffman.”

vii. The Silver Star is the third-highest military decoration for valor in combat and is typically awarded for actions over a short-term and may be earned for specific acts in combat. Notably the hearing was held only fifteen years after the end of World War II and seven years after the end of the Korean War. A year after the court appearance, in one of the most dramatic and heartrending moments in American history, approximately 700 Vietnam War Veterans Against the War (VVAW) tossed their Silver Stars, Purple Hearts, and other military commendations over a fence in front of the US Capitol as part of a series of events by the VVAW over four days in April 1971 seeking to end the Vietnam War.

viii. <https://www.leagle.com/decision/19701371324supp104711172> (May 8, 1970)

Join Us!

Dear Friends,
We need your support and so we are sending you this complimentary newsletter, The Beacon, in the hope that you will show that support by becoming a member of the Ardsley Historical Society, using the form below.

Our ability to meet the costs of continuing to produce our annual calendar, newsletters, and programs, and maintaining and expanding our archives and website, truly depends upon your help. All our efforts are in service of a higher goal - to deepen the sense of a shared belonging and purpose that has always marked the area encompassed by the Ardsley School District.

If you join, you will also receive this year’s calendar which includes photos from our archives. In addition to continuing the expensive and time-consuming task of completing the digital inventory of our collection of thousands of items, we are also continuing to improve our website (www.ardsleyhistoricalsociety.org). We have also completed a digitization project for Arthur Silliman’s 3-volume work, *A Short, Informal History of Ardsley, N.Y.* All members are able to access the book from the Archives page of our website.

As always, members receive our newsletters as well as our calendar, and receive email reminders of the dates and topics of our historical programs. Ideas for our newsletters and future programs are always welcomed, as are volunteers who wish to join in helping us in our efforts. We all enjoy hearing from you and do our best to answer your questions, whether they be about your old home, a classmate of long ago who might be found in our collection of Ardsleyan Yearbooks reaching back to 1926, life in the Ardsley area throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, or other topics. Please know that if you take the moment to support us, it will be deeply appreciated. Your suggestions and questions can be emailed to us at info@ardsleyhistoricalsociety.org. You can also call 914-393-3222 and speak directly to our Society’s President, Peter Marcus. You can become a member via the Membership page of our website using your credit card or you can mail us a check using the form below.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Your annual membership enables the Ardsley Historical Society to preserve Ardsley’s history and cultural past, provide educational, research and scholarship opportunities for the Ardsley School District community, allows us to sponsor programs on local, state and national history, and helps us maintain, grow and digitalize our archives. You can now pay by credit or debit card, in addition to payment by check. See FAQs on the website regarding membership. If you have any questions, please phone us at 914-393-3222 or email membership@ardsleyhistoricalsociety.org. The Ardsley Historical Society, founded in 1982, is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

MEMBERSHIP TYPE ☐ New ☐ Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ e-mail _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior	\$12	<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor.....	\$50
	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/> Business.....	\$50
	<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$100
	<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to make an additional donation to the Ardsley Historical society in the amount of \$_____			

Please make your check payable to the ARDSLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY and return with this form to: **Ardsley Historical Society, P.O. Box 523, Ardsley, NY 10502-0523** or for credit card payments, please visit our website www.ardsleyhistoricalsociety.org

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

An Appreciation Farewell and Thank You to **MARY KEEHAN AND JOANN D'EMILIO**

By George F. Calvi



Mary Keehan

Since the last issue of The Beacon two of our highly valued Executive Board members informed AHS President, Peter Marcus their intentions not to continue on the board: Mary Keehan and Joann D'Emilio.

Mary is ending a busy 14-year tenure during which she chaired the membership committee, and had been a driving force in securing renewals especially among the seniors. As Marcus noted, she could always be counted on to handle the refreshments for our in-person programs. And if you have ever tasted her delightful Irish soda bread you know what we are talking about!

Joann has been responsible since the Fall of 2015 for updating our Facebook page by adding all our scheduled events as well as other activities and photographs. In her role as Village Trustee, Joann had been our organization's primary interface with the Village Board. Incidentally, Joann decided not to run for Village Trustee again this year citing her increasingly busy legal career.

Thank you so much Joann and Mary for all you've done for the historical society. You will be greatly missed by all!



Joann D'Emilio