



WYCKOFF HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PROGRESS REPORT:
ACTIVITIES / PROGRAMS / EVENTS
January 2018 – December 2020

Exceptional Team Work

As current president, Lynn Groel-Lynch oversees all programs and activities. She is the “glue” that provides and maintains the all-important open communications among board members and those working with the WHS to achieve our agreed goals, deadlines, and budgets. All original board members have worked diligently during these past 36 months to bring the WHS to a level of activity that has not been seen in years – *and* despite COVID-19.

Most recent board members, Gail Scanlan, Melanie Long, and Brian Brunsch have added to the Society’s strength and breadth. Everyone’s experience and expertise will continue to greatly benefit the Society’s future endeavors.

1. WHS General Meeting

- a. **May 2018:** Kick-off meeting after 5 year “hiatus”
- b. 20 +/- attendees
- c. Re-introduction of WHS via PowerPoint presentation
- d. Phonograph presentation and display by Peter Staller
- e. Coordinators: Lynn Groel-Lynch, Rich Lynch, Barbara Petrucelli, Peter Staller, Christopher Puzio, Ginny Bryan, Doris Noerr, and Linda Vreeland

2. Walking Tour

- a. **September 2018**
- b. Walking Tour of Wyckoff Ave stores and buildings: 60 +/- attendees
- c. Docents: Doris Noerr, Peter Staller, Barbara Petrucelli, Rich Lynch and Linda Vreeland
- d. At Heneveld Hall: Lynn Groel-Lynch and Ginny Bryan

3. Antiques Day

- a. **May 18, 2019**
- b. Local residents brought their antiques for appraisal from Antiques Roadshow expert
- c. Well-attended: 40 +/- attendees
- d. Coordinators: Peter Staller, Christopher Puzio, and Ginny Bryan

4. Barbershop Museum

- a. **Restored Summer 2018**
- b. Interior and exterior painted to match original colors
- c. Wood floor stained and ceiling molding installed
- d. Hoosier and long antique table purchased from *A Cheerful Heart*
- e. Items of historical value brought back in for exhibition/display
- f. Six framed photos with text provides history of building
- g. 1905 dress found in bag was restored by curator Phyllis Wickham
- h. **Open House: Dec. 2018** (50+ attendees) and **April 2019** during History Day (70+ attendees) *Note:* The most people ever to walk through the barbershop!
- i. Planters replanted with seasonal flowers year-round
- j. Coordinators: Peter Staller, Linda Vreeland, Rich Lynch, Lynn Groel-Lynch
Allen Panfile, retired contractor painted walls and stained floor

5. Union Cemetery

- a. **2019 – 2020**
- b. Bob Carpenter restored/repared 70 headstones
- c. **October 2019:** Cemetery Tour with info on headstones (100+ attendees)
- d. Power Point presentation on UC activity in Assembly of God Church Hall
Thanks to Pastor Wes Kenyon for allowing the Society to use his Hall and parking lot
- e. Docents: Rich Lynch, Doris Noerr, Melanie Long, and Lynn Groel-Lynch

6. Oratam Awards

- a. **2019 Oratam Award**
 - i. Presented to WHS from Bergen County Historical Society for Union Cemetery work
- b. **2019 Proclamation** received from Township Committee
 - i. WHS recognized for work at Union Cemetery

7. Programs: 2018 - 2020

- a. Attendance for each grew from 30 to 75+
- b. Long Pond Iron Works (Paul Frost)
- c. History of Union Cemetery (Peggy Norris)
- d. Headstone Restoration (Bob Carpenter)
- e. Remembering Wyckoff's Past (Jim Abma, Judy Abma, Rudy Boonstra)
- f. Coordinators: Lynn Groel-Lynch, Rich Lynch and Linda Vreeland

8. Membership

- a. Two town-wide mailings: 2019 and 2020
- b. Increased membership from 0 to 70+
- c. Coordinators: All Board members had input

9. Promotion

- a. **2018 – present**
- b. Created Constant Contact emails. To date 230 emails captured.
Average 57% Open Rate
- c. Member, League of Historical Societies of NJ
- d. Member, NW Bergen History Coalition
- e. Promote activities on Patch.com, Facebook, Instagram, newspapers, and website
- f. Coordinators: Barbara Petrucelli, Gail Scanlan and Linda Vreeland

10. Headstones to Headphones

- a. **October 2020**
- b. Promotes Union Cemetery through Audio Tour via QR codes
- c. Keeps WHS in public eye during COVID-19
- d. Educational outdoor activity to keep within social distancing guidelines
- e. Since announcement on Oct. 20 there have been at least 25 scans of each and 40 for the Introduction alone as this QR code appears on a promotional flyer and HS of NJ email
- f. Flyers distributed to local businesses and is on Barbershop window
- g. Creators/Coordinators: Linda Vreeland, Gail Scanlan, Doris Noerr, and Melanie Long

11. Eagle Scout projects

- a. **2019 and ongoing**
- b. Pathways cleared through cemetery
- c. New stairs on east side of UC for easy access to parking lot
- d. Facelift for main entrance included removal of weeds and restoration of rock wall
- e. Perennial plantings (Melanie Long and Ginny Bryan)
- f. Coordinators: Rich Lynch and Brian Brunsch

12. On-going Activities for 2021 - 2022

- a. Electrify barbershop through fund-raising and grant
- b. Adopt-A-Stone fund-raiser (January/February 2021)
- c. Historic Plaques for Wyckoff resident homes
- d. Bronze historic marker for UC
- e. Restore or replace UC sign across the main path
- f. UC maintenance and clean-ups
- g. Continue Eagle Scout projects
- h. Continue to expand Headstones & Headphones audio tour
- i. New fund-raising ideas, programs and events (2021-2022)