

# TWO FOR ONE\*

## January 31<sup>st</sup> Tea with Henri

Tea with Henri will be our eleventh winter tea. Do you remember our first – A Chocolate Tea? This event is a popular respite for the winter blahs. Each year we scour our brains for a new theme. As we were planning, Thea Costabile commented “it’s so much fun because each year it is a different idea and I love to see how it develops throughout.”

We hope you bought your ticket early. Word has it that tickets are going fast. When Esther Jollan called that she was sold out after only having tickets for four days, we almost fainted but we’re very happy because it means you like what we are doing. That is the best!!



[Henri Charpentier at Café de Paris in Chicago, early 1940's](#)

When I wrote about [Downton Abbey](#) and its Crêpes Suzettes a few months ago, I made the acquaintance of the purported creator of said crêpes, Henri Charpentier for the first time and I was smitten. I wanted to pick up his autobiography after reading the story of the birth of the dessert that took place at the table of the future King of England. True or not (would they really let a 15 year old, no matter how precocious he may be, serve England's Prince Regent?), it was a great story that you want to believe because he is so adorable.

Source: [Lost post remembered](#) blog spot

This year we will have the added benefit of John Bishop’s Art exhibit which will still be on display during our event. However, Henri will greet you as you come in. We know everyone will have a **bon temps**.

The tea will continue our yearlong focus on Henri. He is one of the first celebrity chefs and given credit for Crêpes Suzettes. We will feature Crêpes Susie.

As we explore his life it is historical fun to read about people. We often know one thing and learn other things – events and people which can rankle families and cause rifts among and between people. Our famous exhortation – Stay tuned!

\*Two issues this time.

## **RETRO 2016**

History is fluid. As such we are constantly searching for ways to make each of our activities timely and interesting. We have had the opportunity to meet with both East Rockaway and Lynbrook fourth grade teachers, school principals and also with Dr, Melissa Burak, Lynbrook Superintendent. Why? You have all heard about Common Core, educational reform and on and on and on. When Betsy Davison was here, she kept us on our toes so that we could include many of the new educational ideas and methods that New York State was promoting.

Jessica Ryan a dynamic teacher at Waverly Park, has stepped up to the plate. Pat McGivern and Bob Sympson had the opportunity to visit one of her classes right before Christmas break. It was different and it gave them both insight into how we might bring a different approach to some aspect of the RETRO.

We are in the process of now exploring the possibilities of revamping and giving a facelift to some of our work. It will take time and it will take creativity but we can certainly entertain new options.

**This picture on the next page was taken several years ago. Stephanie Maddalone a volunteer worked with the students and discussed the concept of artifacts using a Loving Cup awarded at a horse race which took place on a race course on Driving Cross now a street in Lynbrook. Stephanie is pointing out the street on an early Lynbrook map. Art Mattson owns the cup.**



Some ideas will be scratched, some changed, some turned back to the classroom teacher and some maintained. We might even consider doing a run through for members so that they would see what a great production we have in the RETRO and what a great job our volunteers do to make this effective for almost twenty years.

Just to remind you, we started with Mary Gipson, Gloria Christiano, Sister Ruthanne of St. Raymond's, Nola Bocci of West End and Bob Sympon. Indeed, we have met and are considering renovations.

**BUT IT IS A CONSENSUS – WE WILL NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS IF WE HOPE TO MAKE CHANGES. ARE YOU THERE?**

# HERITAGE NEWS

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF EAST ROCKAWAY & LYNBROOK

Volume 18 Issue 3

NOVEMBER 2015

## HAVE A GRAND PEEK –

November 22<sup>nd</sup> 660 Scranton Avenue  
3:00 p.m.



### *Photographer Donald Krendel*

As you are aware HSERL had been awarded a \$1000 grant for the development and installation of an historic marker. You were invited to join us at the installation.

You should know that this is the introduction of a year long project to learn about Henri Charpentier. Bob Symson has initiated this. He has been in touch with relatives. Several Charpentier grandchildren joined us. Henri's life is intriguing. It is fun to do this kind of research. You look for something and wowie all of a sudden you find something quite unexpected. We hope that we will be historically accurate in this presentation. As you know

everyone's life has a closet which they would prefer to either keep closed or maybe just a bit ajar. Bob in his research has touched base with many individuals.

One person of significance is Jean-Michel LeMarie, Musee director at Contes Musee, Contes France. He has been most helpful. His Museum had just opened an Henri exhibit. The material he has sent us is a good deal in French. Kindy he said he could have it translated.

Ed Oberst & Elise Charpentier-Lane, Henri's grandchildren, have made stellar contributions of photos and history.

One of our members remembered when she lived on Scranton and played not with the Charpentier children but with those of Helene Sloan, in front of whose house the sign resides. She had hoped to bring her father to the exhibit. He is a memembr of the Davison family.



### **Photographer Donald Krendel**

**The Charpentier Family members. Helene Sloan, Mayor Bruno Romano, Assemblymen Brian Curran and Todd Kaminsky**

**A SPOT OF SPACE—MEMEBERSHIP DUES / BOX 351 / EAST ROCKAWAY, NY 11518-0351???**



We attended a Lynbrook village meeting when Art gave his presentation and invitation to the Mayor and Village Trustees for the wonderful **Bristol Mexico** commemoration. Village Administrator, John Girodano came up to Bob and gave him this memorabilia. He had previously said he would have it for us. *Voila* there it was! There will be an exhibit at the Lynbrook Library and this will be on display.

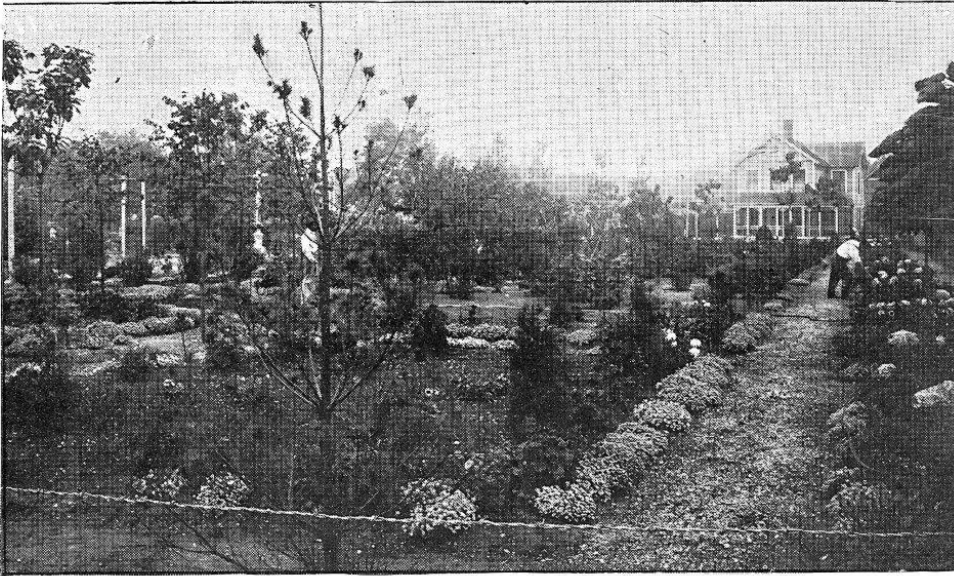
The installation of the roadside marker opened an interesting history. The two classic scenes from the first decade of the last century of the Original Henri Restaurant on Scranton personify an era of elegance and beauty. It is very easy to understand why important personages would come from New York City to dine in the aura of sophistication and country. Henri was a MASTER salesman. He most certainly believed in himself. He had a *joie de vivre* and was very proud of his work and himself.

As in most circumstances there is always another tale behind the scenes of a story. Who was in the kitchen? Who did the nitty gritty work as Henri greeted his guests. He was a great raconteur and enjoyed the audience his stories brought. Legend has it that his wife Filomene did a great deal of the participation and work in his epicurian endeavors. But today we celebrate Henri not Filomene.

Henri has many personalities. We want to stress ambiance which his restaurant personified. When it began people would come from New York City to dine in East Rockaway /Lynbrook. People like Sarah Bernhardt. Theodore Roosevelt, the French Consul, Diamond Jim Brady

among others. It is difficult to draw comparisons with personages of today but no doubt some of you will be able to do so. Henri was a MASTER salesman.

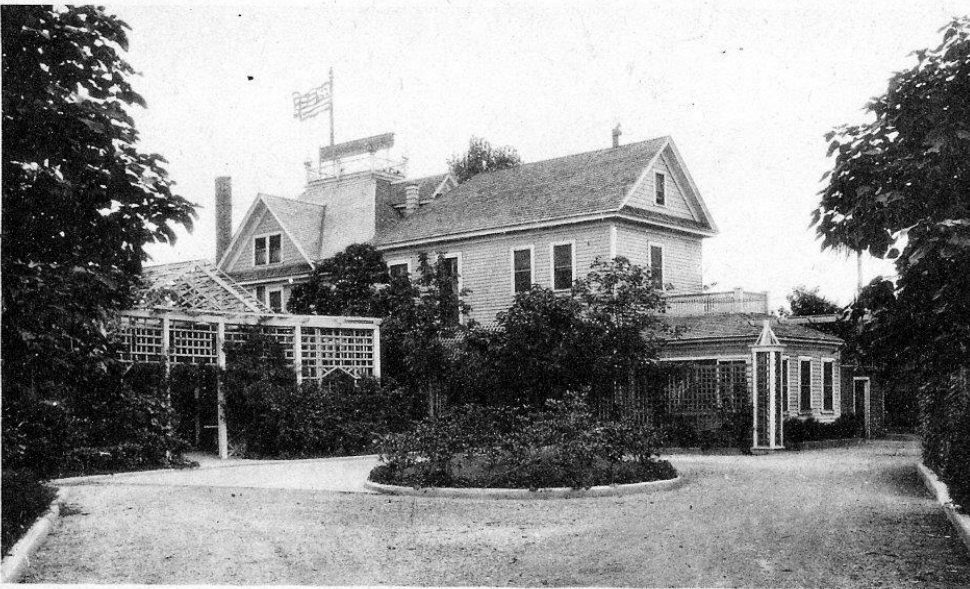
## The Original Henri Restaurant



Tel. 759 Lynbrook, L. I.

PARK OF HOTEL HENRI

Lynbrook, Long Island, N. Y.



*Original Henri Restaurant, Lynbrook, N. Y. (Tel. Lynbrook 759)*

## ?? A Cricket Spider, Grab the Bug Bomb – Nov. 1st



Not at all. Do you remember when we introduced our 2016 Lynbrook Heritage Scholar Jeremy Tierney?

Jeremy is interested at this moment in a military career. This interest was segued into a scholar project on veterans who are interred a Rockville Cemetery.

Art Mattson, Village Historian and HSERL Director volunteered to share with Jeremy his research on the Cemetery. Jeremy, with the help of his mom, has explored the cemetery and has found 11 graves which they feel should receive special attention. Art feels that there might be as many as 40 graves but they are not necessarily located in the spot where the records indicate or their markers may have been lost. Suffice to say, Jeremy has found 11. Next step, enter modern technology. It is not a Cricket Spider but rather a highly sophisticated drone driven by professional photographer Donald Krendel.

Donald took some pictures which it is hoped Jeremy may use in his final report. While it would be wonderful to go into a detailed explanation of how drones work and how this particular one was able to hover over the graves and get shots from above, we won't.



**Donald Krendel, Jeremy Tierney, Lisa Tierney**

An aside, but an important reminder. We thank Nancy Wolfsohn for all her effort on behalf of our Scholar Program. At our Garage Sale we raised the funds for this major event. We thank everyone who worked and everyone who donated. Madeline Pearson was another person who worked throughout this event. STAY TUNED for a future announcements!!

# OCTOBER 24<sup>TH</sup>



(Picture Nancy Wolfsohn)

***Mayor Francis Murray, Rockville Centre, Andrew Healy, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Assemblyman Brian Curran, Lynbrook Mayor William Hendrick at the commemoration of the installation of the Bristol Monument. Art Mattson is in the background explaining one of the Plaques.***

## **THE NETWORK IS STILL ALIVE...**

Dear Patricia,

I have an old wood boat that I think was made by Elwood Sprague at the Mill River Boat Works East Rockaway in 1920. Does the Historical Society have any records for the Mill River Boat Works? In 1917 Elwood Sprague had a PO Box 420 in Lynbrook.

Your help is appreciated.  
Sincerely,  
John Weiss



## **Completes Life Boat For Long Beach**

—If HD—MILL RIVER Company  
The Mill River Boat Works at  
East Rockaway' has just completed  
a large life boat for the City of  
Long Beach. The boat will be date,  
delivered sometime this week.

A small cruiser with a 40-horse  
power motor is being constructed for  
E. E. McCartney of Rockville Centre.

The force has also started work a »5.000 auxiliary boat, which will  
become the property of Elwood  
Bit-ague, proprietor of the boat  
works.

A number of repair jobs also are underway.

*I believe Frank Torre put this plea from Mr. Weiss on FACEBOOK. If you have any information  
please let us know. We love to network.*



# AND

Have we all not seen pictures like this? Is the cut out a former lover ? A spurned romantic? A competitor or? A picture for a locket? No one knows. This is one of several pictures sent to us by Christine Mahoney Elsner. There are number of pictures mostly from Marion Street. This picture is one of 1938 cheerleaders at Marion Street. It piqued our curiosity.

We have several of these and as we do research on other topics the feeling is one of such a bloom of youth. Where will they be after high school graduation?



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

<b>January 31, 2016</b>	<b>Tea with Henri</b>	<b>Lynbrook Library</b>
<b>February 7, 2016</b>	<b>Tea with Henri</b>	<b>SNOW DATE</b>
<b>April 17, 2016 - April 22, 2016</b>	<b>Henri Charpentier Exposition and Reception</b>	<b>Lynbrook Library</b>
<b>TBA</b>	<b>Several Speaker Programs</b>	

**We are so pleased to recognize the following NEW MEMBERS:**

**Christine Mahoney Elsner.  
Hon Richard & Mrs. Holly Bilello**

**WELCOME!!**

**Ed. P. Sympson, PhD**  
[psympson@optonline.net](mailto:psympson@optonline.net)







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