



# The Grannytown Gazette

The Newsletter of the Alden Historical Society

716-937-3700

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## 2024 Officers

### President

Susanne Galbraith

### Vice President

Christopher Gust

### Secretary

Elouise DeFilippo

### Treasurer

Sue DeWitt

## 2024 Trustees

Carol Batista

Jane Burke

Elouise DeFilippo

Sue DeWitt

Susanne Galbraith

Christopher Gust

David Henry

Gregory Kent

Renée Nelson

Jennifer Strong

### Archivist

Town and Village Historian

Karen Muchow

### Curator

Kris Rogers

Historical Society Historian

## This Issue Dedicated to Lynda Tucker

The Board of Trustees was deeply saddened by the passing of fellow trustee and friend, Lynda Tucker, on October 2, 2023. Lynda joined the board in November 2015 and volunteered her time and talents in many ways. She was editor of our Grannytown Gazette quarterly newsletter, chair of our membership & publicity committees, helped maintain our web site, and always attended our programs. Our condolences and prayers to Paul and Lynda's family & friends. Lynda enjoyed serving as editor of the Gazette and this issue is dedicated to her memory.



## Happy New Year ~ One Hundred Years Ago...

In 1924, Calvin Coolidge, Babe Ruth, and George Gershwin were all on center stage. Baked ham and icebox cake were crowd-pleasers, and Charles and Dorothy were popular baby names. A Neutrodyne radio receiver cost \$100.00, a gallon of Benjamin Moore paint was \$2.49, and straw hats were \$2.25 apiece.

Calvin Coolidge (R-Massachusetts) was elected to a full term as president of the United States by defeating Democrat John W. Davis. On February 22, President Coolidge delivered the second radio address by a U.S. president from the White House in a coast-to-coast broadcast on 42 radio stations.

J. Edgar Hoover was appointed as the first director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

IBM was initially founded as the Computing, Tabulating & Recording Company (CTR). In 1924, CTR was renamed International Business Machines (IBM) by Thomas J. Watson.

The Ford Motor Company manufactured the 10 millionth Model T Ford.

The Canton Bulldogs were the NFL champs, the Montreal Canadians clinched the Stanley Cup, and the Washington Senators won their first World Series championship. Clarence DeMar won the 28th Boston Marathon, Black Gold was the winning horse in the 50th Kentucky Derby, and Lew Pettijohn won the 12th Indianapolis 500.

Soldier Field, the home of the Chicago Bears NFL team, opened in 1924 as the Municipal Grant Park Stadium. In 1925, the name was changed to Soldier Field as a memorial to soldiers who died in combat.

In 1924, The Plastic Age was a best-selling fiction book, The Thief of Bagdad was a top-grossing film, and It Had to Be You was one of the most popular songs. George Gershwin's piano solo, Rhapsody in Blue, was first performed at the Aeolian Hall in New York City.

Harold Gray's comic strip, Little Orphan Annie, debuted in the New York Daily News, and ran for 86 more years until 2010.

In 1924, the first Macy's Thanksgiving parade took place in New York City.

Consumer products that were launched during 1924 include the Bit-O-Honey candy bar, Butter Brickle, Dum Dums, iodized table salt, Kleenex facial tissues, locking pliers, Marlboro cigarettes, and Wheaties breakfast cereal.



## Message from our President



When I was approached by my neighbor and friend Elli in 2018, and asked to be a Trustee for the Alden Historical Society, I was flattered. I have always held the Alden Historical Society in high regard and am thankful for the Trustees and members volunteering their time. The one thing I never considered is the wonderful friendships I would make in this organization. I knew quite a few Trustees and made the acquaintance of others. Therefore, when a Trustee passes away, not only do we lose a board member, but also a friend.

Within the past few years, we have lost 4 Trustees, all who have contributed so much to our organization.

We are sad with the loss of: Lynda Tucker, Gil Dussault Jr., Clarke Burke and Lawrence (Larry) Kocher. You may be gone, but you will never be forgotten.

~Sue Galbraith

## Annual Meeting & Potluck Dinner



We had an enthusiastic group for our Potluck Dinner and Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, November 9th. After a delicious dinner, Carol Battista, Greg Kent and Jennifer Strong were re-elected to the Society's Board of Trustees and David Henry was newly elected to join the Board. Welcome, David! A short but entertaining program on Classic TV Commercials by Carol and Conrad Borucki concluded the evening.

~Christopher Gust

## Society Receives Erie County Grant

With appreciation and gratitude, we thank Erie County Legislator Frank Todaro and Erie County for awarding the Alden Historical Society a \$5,000 cultural grant this summer that allowed us to purchase a new computer, printer, computer desk, scanning and security equipment for the Heritage Center, which will greater assist with our mission over the next several years to present, preserve and protect the history of our community.

~Christopher Gust





The American Association for State and Local History completed a census of history museums, historical societies and related organizations in 2022. Using a variety of sources, including the IRS, they arrived at the number 21,588. That is more than the number of public libraries (16,607), Starbucks (15,188), McDonald's (13,452) or Walmarts (4,668).

The AASLH discovered that:

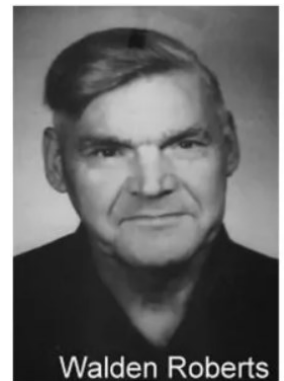
- ◆ There is a historical organization in nearly every community around the country.
- ◆ Engagement with and access to history is imbued with a sense of public purpose. All sorts of organizations, from the largest to the smallest, place community and public benefit at the center of their work.
- ◆ Private non-profit historical organizations are overwhelmingly very, very small. More than 60% reported annual revenue of less than \$50,000.
- ◆ The majority of local historical societies are maintained with few funds and the energy of volunteers.



The Alden Historical Society is one of those 21,588 historical organizations. It was formerly organized April 21, 1965 with the help of Charles Neuman of the Marilla Historical Society and Julia Reinstein of the Cheektowaga Historical Society.

After meeting in various places around the village, the Society found a permanent home at 13213 Broadway when Walden Roberts purchased the Arthur Roberts home in November 1966, and donated it to the Town of Alden for use by the Society. The first meeting was held there the following February, with members advised to bring their own chairs!

The Society was granted a provisional charter by the New York Board of Regents in 1967. The absolute charter was granted in 1970.



Today, as the Alden Historical Society begins its 59th year, the Board of Trustees is reviewing its mission statement and discussing how to better serve the families of Alden. Your ideas for programs and displays are always welcome. Send them to [aldenhistsoc@gmail.com](mailto:aldenhistsoc@gmail.com).

We, as one of the 21,588 historical organizations in the US, want to thank our members, and the Alden community, for your continued support as we work to preserve, present and promote the history of Alden and its people.

~Karen Muchow

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## Welcome New Trustee, David Henry



David has been married to his lovely wife Pam since 1997. They have two beautiful daughters – Becca (Lenoir City, TN) and Catie (Springfield, MO). He grew up in Alden, moved to Massachusetts in 1997, and then moved back to Alden in 2021.

David is a technical trainer in the Fire Alarm Division of Johnson Controls, where he has worked for 35 years. He was a firefighter for 39 years (12 in Alden Fire, 3 in Town Line Fire, and 24 in Westminster, MA, 23 of those years as Lieutenant).

David and Pam are huge Disney fans. He also enjoys doing genealogy research and learning history.

~Elli DeFilippo

## Curator's Corner

A large family radio donated from the Gassman farm sits in the Hamlet room of the Heritage Center. Beginning with the dawn of electricity, many families purchased radios for their families. I recently read an article about what people did in the evening before radio, tv, and the internet. After the dinner chores were completed, the family would gather in the living room. People would play musical instruments and sing together, talk to one another, or read books. Games were played, neighbors would stop by to visit and children played with toys on the floor.

When radio arrived, (about 1920), there were serial shows like the Lone Ranger and variety shows to entertain the family. People depended on the radio for news also, as the newspapers were usually a day behind in their reporting. I personally listened to a recording of the radio broadcast letting the world know about the attack on Pearl Harbor. News was not instantaneous as it is today. I believe that our children would be stunned to have to entertain themselves without computers and TV.



Interestingly, people also went to bed earlier especially in the winter. Nearly everyone rose at dawn or before.

The radio in our center serves as a reminder of days gone by when families actually talked to one another!

~Kris Rogers

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## Century Homes

Would you like to list your home as an Alden Century Home? There are many fine older homes in our Town and Village. If you are interested, please email us for an application at AldenHistSoc@gmail.com or visit our web site at <https://aldenhistoricalsociety.org/features/century-homes>. We have Century House signs available for sale for \$55.

~Sue Galbraith



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## In Memoriam



### Gilbert (Gil) J. Dussault, Jr.

May 9, 1941 – Sept. 15, 2023

Gil had dedicated many years to the Society. He was an active trustee from 2010 to 2022, but in 2022, he had to resign due to declining health. He served as president from 2011-2014, and chaired the fundraising committee.

Gil is survived by his wife Sandy; his children Michelle Dussault, Brian (June) Dussault, and Kristen (Brian) Hudson; grandchildren Kyle and Jenna Kavanagh, Dylan and Anna Dussault, and Jared Poe; great-grandchild Nora Poe; brothers David and Richard (Cory) Dussault; and niece Kristina Mest.



### Lynda K. Tucker

Sept. 3, 1943 – Oct. 2, 2023

Lynda always had a smile on her face, and even when she was housebound in later years, she participated in meetings over the phone. Lynda was a trustee with the society for many years. She also was the editor of the Grannytown Gazette and chairman of the membership and publicity committees.

Lynda is survived by her longtime friend Paul Kowalski; her children Melynda (Charles) Crutts of Simpsonville, SC, Melyn timer Tucker of Buffalo, NY, and Russell Tucker of Akron, NY; grandchildren Jason, Keith, and David Crutts, and Ryan Hoffman.

## October program - WNY National Cemetery Memorial Council



The Society hosted members of the WNY National Cemetery Memorial Council on October 12 to learn more about the National Cemetery in Pembroke and the Wreaths Across America program. Marlene Roll, past Commander of NYVFW and former Director of the Erie County Veterans Service Agency, led the presentation by providing the history of national cemeteries and

the process that led to the establishment of the WNY National Cemetery in Pembroke. Hailey Whitton, representing the Pembroke National Cemetery, brought along an application form for burial and recommended making arrangements ahead of need. Pam Ware of the Daughters of the American Revolution or DAR shared that the DAR is made up of volunteers who participate in ceremonies such as Veterans' Day, Memorial Day, Pearl Harbor Day, etc. The final presenter was Matt Moscato, a teacher at Pembroke High School where he has organized and leads a group of students called the Pembroke Veterans Outreach Club. ~Elli DeFilippo

## November program - Annual Meeting & TV Commercials from the Past

The Society held their annual meeting and pot-luck supper on Thursday, November 9. Following dinner and the Annual Meeting, Conrad and Carol Borucki entertained with a review of television commercials from the past. Attendees were invited to participate by identifying products being advertised after hearing former product slogans. Carol continued by providing a list of products advertisers have used to enhance the appearance of food dishes. Conrad and Carol concluded their presentation by sharing miscellaneous trivia related to products and advertising. ~Elli DeFilippo

## December program – War of 1812 & Our National Anthem



The Society hosted retired teacher Greg Kinal presenting the War of 1812 and its impact on the United States on December 14. Mr. Kinal's presentation included causes of the war, details of the battles, and effects of the war. In discussing the impact of the war, one of the effects that Mr. Kinal mentioned was the creation of the US national anthem, the "Star-Spangled Banner." He shared that witnessing the resilience of the American flag under British artillery bombardment inspired Francis Scott Key to write the lyrics to the anthem. ~Elli DeFilippo

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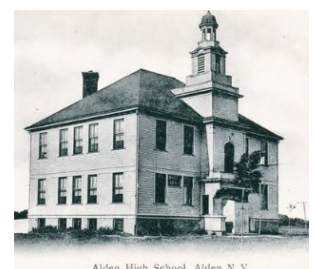
## Upcoming Programs

Programs are held at the Alden Community Center, unless indicated otherwise, and begin at 7 pm.

**January 11:** Alden Town & Village Historian, Karen Muchow, will speak on 208 years of Alden Schools.

**February 8:** Explore Buffalo helps us celebrate Valentine's Day with a special presentation on Buffalo Power Couples Program.

**March 14:** March is Women's History Month and we welcome back Maria Blair of No Illusions Tours for a talk on Buffalo's Famous Women.





## *Heritage Center Closed for Winter Break*



The Heritage Center will not be hosting Open House hours during the months of January, February and March in order to continue inventorying the collection and updating the displays for spring. We appreciated your visits this past year and look forward to showing you something new in April.

If you have questions, please call Town and Village Historian Karen Muchow at 716-937-6400 for answers and appointments.

We hope to see you Saturday, April 6, 2024 during our regular hours from 11 am to 1 pm and the following first and third Saturdays through December .

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## *Donations Received - Thank You!*

### **General donations:**

Alden State Bank

### **Donations in memory of Gil Dussault:**

Susan Swyers

Laura Loehr

Jane Burke

Lawrence and Donna Seymour

Carl and Ann Matthies

Gary White

Elli DeFilippo

J. Suess

Sally & Bill Wedgwood

Ronald & Annette Fitscher

Shirley Kocher

### **Donations in memory of Lynda Tucker:**

Carl and Ann Matthies

Elli DeFilippo

Jane Burke

Chris & Jennifer Gust



### **Donations in response to annual appeal:**

Beverly Nebrich

Rhonda Wieder

Francis & Judith Downhower

Judy O'Neill

Catherine Cyrulik

Richard & Joyce Sojka

Roberts Living Trust

Ronald Folkman

Ann & Matthew Shriver

Chris & Wendy Koelbl

Randy & Debbie Crist

Beryl Small

Michael & Diane Kingswell

Paul & Mary Ellen Werner

Stephen Overton

Ron & Judy Bowman

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## *Board of Trustees Elects Officers for 2024*

The Society held its annual reorganization meeting of the Board of Trustees at the Whistle Stop Inn on December 7th and elected officers for 2024. Re-elected were Sue Galbraith as President and Christopher Gust, Vice President. Sue DeWitt was elected Treasurer and Elli DeFilippo, Secretary. In addition, Kris Rogers was re-appointed Curator and Karen Muchow was re-appointed Archivist. Committees and chairpersons were also reset. The Board looks forward to working together throughout the New Year to fulfill the Society's mission.



***Winter Weather Reminder*** - If Alden schools are closed for inclement weather or school afternoon & evening activities are canceled, the Alden Historical Society's program at the Community Center that evening will also be canceled.

## *Alden Heritage Center*

January 2024

The **Alden Historical Society's** many exhibits are located in the village at the Alden Heritage Center, 13213 Broadway, across from Alden State Bank. The mission of the historical society is to preserve, promote and present the history of Alden and its people.

### HOURS:

The **Alden Heritage Center** is open to the public from 11 AM to 1 PM the first and third Saturday of each month, **EXCEPT during January and February and March.** Tours for individuals and groups may be arranged by calling 716-937-3700 or 716-392-4295.

### MEETINGS:

**Program meetings** are generally held at the Alden Community Center on the second Thursday of the month at 7 PM. Notices will be published in the **Alden Advertiser** in advance of the program. Open to the public, these programs are both informative and interesting, often featuring a guest speaker. You are very welcome to come and share your memories and experiences about the evening's program, followed by an informal social complete with homemade refreshments, as protocols allow. In the event of inclement weather, we will postpone when Alden school activities are closed.

**Trustee meetings** are held at the **Alden Heritage Center** at 7 PM. Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month in February, April, June, August, October and December. Trustee meetings are open to the membership.

### *Grannytown Gazette*, January 2024

Christopher Gust, Editor & Layouts

Contributors:

- Elli DeFilippo
- Sue Galbraith
- Christopher Gust
- Karen Muchow
- Kris Rogers

Special Thanks to Carl Matthies

### *Alden Historical Society 2024 Committees*

- **Membership**
- **Collections**
- **Publicity / Newsletter**
- **Programs / Refreshments**
- **Audit**
- **Buildings & Grounds**
- **Fundraising**
- **Nominating**
- **Budget**
- **Historical Markers / Signs**

Members are welcome to serve on any of our committees  
Contact us at 716-937-3700 or [aldenhistsoc@gmail.com](mailto:aldenhistsoc@gmail.com)

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New members are always welcome. Your support will assure that the Alden Historical Society will continue to grow and prosper for years to come.

Please note: The membership year is April 1 through March 31, with the annual renewal due by April 1.

### WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

#### ANNUAL DUES

Single \$12.00

Couple \$20.00

Family \$25.00

Business \$50.00

Please include your  
Business card

Name.....

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Please make checks payable to Alden Historical Society

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DONATIONS AND MEMORIALS ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

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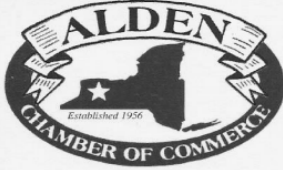
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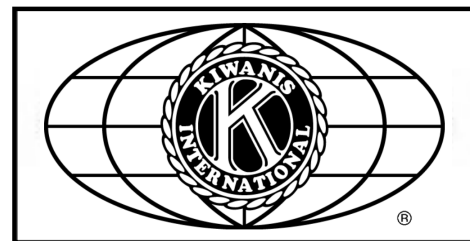
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*MISSION STATEMENT*

The Alden Historical Society, founded in 1965, is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to the preservation, presentation, and promotion of the rich heritage of the Town of Alden.



*Chartered by the Board of Regents  
New York State Education Department*

13213 Broadway St.  
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Find us on: Facebook.com/AldenHistoricalSociety  
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*The Alden Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the support of our membership, the Town of Alden, the Alden community and Erie County.*