



# GLEN RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

September 2011 Vol. XXXIV No. 1

## THE GASLAMP

**Illuminating Our Past**

[www.glenridgehistory.org](http://www.glenridgehistory.org)



### *President's Letter*



Fall is just around the corner which means we have started planning our next walking tour. This year we are working with the Glen Ridge Shade Tree Commission to present a tour which presents the arboreal history of Glen Ridge along with architectural and cultural history.

Tim Delorm, chair of the commission and noted landscape architect, as well as Betsy Ginsburg, a respected gardener, writer and member of the commission, will join our docents as we walk along the streets of Glen Ridge. We will be looking at the north end of town on this tour, which will take place on Sunday, October 16th. Details will be announced soon so please be sure to check our website and Facebook page for additional information.

For those of you planning to enter our annual Historical Society photo contest, note that we have rearranged the schedule this year. The entries will be accepted early this coming spring and the winners will be announced at our annual

meeting in April 2012. More information will follow so once again check the website and Facebook page for details--and remember that Glen Ridge is particularly photogenic in the fall!

**Karin Robinson**

**Save the Date...**

### **Walking Tour**



**Sunday**

**October 16, 2011**

**Houses and Shade Trees**

**Assisted by Landscape Architect,**

**Tim Delorm**

**And Master Gardener,**

**Betsy Ginsburg**

**Details soon at: [glenridgehistory.org](http://glenridgehistory.org)**

**And on Facebook**

## Be Prepared...

### News from the Town Historian



Boy Scouting in Glen Ridge will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this fall. And while membership in the organization has ebbed and flowed over the past century, it continues to attract local boys to its ranks.

The inauguration of a scouting program in Montclair was the impetus for a similar movement in Glen Ridge. The promoter, Frank Fellows Gray, organized an unofficial troop in Montclair on March 9, 1909, after spending a year at Sir Robert Baden-Powell's legendary scout camp at Brownsea Island, England. The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated eleven months later.

An invitation to scouting in Glen Ridge was offered at Christ Church Sunday school on September 17, 1911. The next week, Troop 1 met at the Glen Ridge Men's Club with 27 boys. Troop 2 followed soon after on January 17, 1912 with 24 boys.

Initial enthusiasm soon waned. There were no organized troop committees, and the adult leadership was beset by resignations. Fraternities in the high school were subtly hostile to uniformed Boy Scouts, and by the end of 1915 there were fewer

than 20 active scouts. Then World War I intervened.

Patriotic fervor inspired many boys to sign up. Troops 3 and 4 were organized in 1917 and the number of scouts topped 100. Wartime duties for scouts were wide-ranging, but canvassing for the Liberty and Victory Loan campaigns was the top priority. The Glen Ridge Boy Scouts raised over \$520,000 and achieved one of the best records in the nation.

In 1920, Nathan C. Price became the first local scout to achieve the rank of Eagle. His father, Luther E. Price, dedicated many years to the movement and wrote several histories of the organization between its inception and 1937.

Over time two more troops would ultimately join the association: Troop 5 in 1931; and Troop 55 in 1970, but by that time Troops 2, 4, and 5 had been eliminated by attrition. Cub Scouts came on board in 1937. Today there are 24 scouts in Troop 55 and 91 cubs in Pack 851.

100 years of memories include Father-Son dinners, scrap paper drives, candy and nut sales, canoeing on the Delaware, treks to Philmont, Thanksgiving baskets, Christmas tree sales, overnights at Gettysburg, Blue & Gold dinners, the Mothers' Association, camping at Glen Gray, Scout Sunday, national Jamboree, rallies in the Glen, merit badge studies, courts of honor, Eagle Scout projects, Pinewood Derby, fun fairs, and the Memorial Day honor guard.

**Sally Meyer**

*The Museum Room is located in the Glen Ridge Congregational Church. To schedule an appointment call Sally Meyer at (973) 239-2674.*

### Officers and Trustees

President	Karin Robinson	Trustee (2013)	Herb Addison
Vice President	Sarge Gardiner	Trustee (2013)	Nelle Jennings
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		Ex-officio - Delegate LHSNJ	Gerry Addison

**Editor's Note...** Readers will no doubt quickly realize that this issue of *The Gaslamp* is larger – six pages instead of the usual four. As in past issues, there is a feature article and this one is on the Historic Preservation Commission by Chair Peter Herrigel; we hope it clarifies what the commission does and what the limits of its jurisdiction are. There is now room for several new items, including an article by Sarge Gardiner on our website that he has completely redesigned with consultant Mark McKinney. Comments and suggestions on the expansion are welcome. **Herb Addison** -- [herb.addison@verizon.net](mailto:herb.addison@verizon.net), or 973-748-5012.

## The Historic Preservation Commission - We're Here to Help

If you are planning a renovation to your house, it is likely that you will have to get approval from the Glen Ridge Historic Preservation Commission (the "HPC"). The HPC assists owners in planning renovations to meet the historic preservation criteria, while at the same time making your historically significant house meet your family's 21<sup>st</sup> century needs. Its existence recognizes that Glen Ridge has a unique architectural heritage, including one of the highest concentrations of pre-WWII homes in New Jersey. Its mission is to sustain that unique architectural heritage.

The HPC strives to make the review process as user-friendly as possible. It meets the first Wednesday of each month and the meetings are open to the public. The members, who are appointed by the Mayor, currently include three architects, a builder, and other members of the community who have a demonstrated an interest in the history of the Borough and in maintaining its architectural character.

The HPC was created in 1987 with almost 80% of Glen Ridge being designated to be within the Historic Preservation District (the "District"). The District includes, among other things, homes and structures, when viewed collectively, that "1) represent a significant period or periods in the architectural and social history of the municipality, and 2) because of their unique character can readily be viewed as an area or neighborhood distinct from surrounding portions of the municipality, or 3) have a unique character resulting from their architectural style." [Code of Ordinances, Title 15.32.030].

The main purposes of the HPC are i) to conserve, protect and enhance any improvements within the historic district, which represent or reflect elements of the Borough's cultural, social, economic, political or architectural history; ii) to stabilize and improve property values; iii) and to assist owners of the property within the District in their efforts to preserve the historic character of the property.

To effectuate these purposes, any home or building within the District must obtain approval from the HPC prior to performing any exterior additions, alterations or new construction (including windows, doors or siding) to the home that can be seen from the

street. The HPC does not have jurisdiction over i) any replacement windows or doors of the same size and location, ii) any alteration to the rear of a structure that is not visible from the street, or iii) any replacement which replicates the appearance of the original structure.

When reviewing applications, the HPC "shall consider the visual compatibility of the proposed addition, alteration, construction or demolition with the structure and surroundings to which it would be visually related." [Code of Ordinances, Title 15.32.200 (E)]. The standards shall "require consideration of, among other matters, the height, scale and proportion of the buildings, compatibility of materials, patterns of visual elements that are consistent from structure to structure, and placement of structures relative to each other." [Code of Ordinances, Title 15.32.200 (F)]. The HPC should also "recognize and permit diversity of stylistic treatments so long as the principle of compatibility is maintained, in keeping with the creative diversity which is essential to the streetscape which forms the justification of the Glen Ridge historic district." [Code of Ordinances, Title 15.32.200 (F)].

At the hearing, the applicant, contractor or architect, should describe the work to be done. The HPC will discuss the application and may have questions for the applicant regarding the project. The application will then be i) approved as submitted, ii) approved with conditions, including subject to further review by a subcommittee, iii) not approved, iv) referred to a subcommittee for further action, or v) withdrawn.

If the application is approved as submitted, the applicant may then obtain a construction permit from the Building Department. If the application is approved but subject to further review and approval by a subcommittee, a subcommittee will be selected. If the subcommittee approves the revisions, the applicant may obtain a construction permit from the Building Department.

If the application is denied, the applicant may appeal the decision to the Planning Board. If the applicant appeals, the Planning Board is not bound by the decision of the HPC, but will decide the application anew. If the Planning Board approves the application, the applicant may then obtain the construction permit.

The HPC is here to help the homeowner strike a balance between maintaining the historic architectural integrity of the house and the effort to meet a family's 21<sup>st</sup> century needs. In return, the HPC asks that people "think historically" when planning a renovation, being sensitive to what the original designer or builder might propose for your 21<sup>st</sup> century home. **Peter Herrigel, Chair HPC**



# GLEN RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## The Society Newly Online

The initial phase of the renovation of the Glen Ridge Historical Society's website is finished. Why did we need to renovate it? Partly because the old site had been hacked and was infected with viruses, but mainly because it provided only basic information about the society and had very limited capabilities.

In creating the new site we wanted to increase the society's access to its extensive archive of historical materials, inform members and the public about its programs and events, and take advantage of digital technologies to present historical information in new ways.

We reviewed the work of several web designers and chose Glen Ridge resident, Mark McKinney, of 4 Story Design who had a proven record with a number of local institutions. The society's board developed an outline for the website's capabilities and we then worked with Mark to refine the working plan.

Mark suggested that we develop a masthead that would appear at the top of every page of the site. Using our extensive collection of both historic and contemporary pictures of Glen Ridge houses and buildings, Mark created a film strip of pictures that would change the images each time a visitor navigated to a new page – emphasizing the variety and quality of Glen Ridge architecture. A sample of the masthead is at the top of this page. The major sections in the website that will appear on the masthead include Home, About, Join, History, Newsletter Archive, Links, and Contact.

With the basic design established, the next major task was to gather historical content that would appear on the different pages of the site. We gathered content from the following sources:

- Images from the very extensive museum room archives that we have begun to scan. These include such basic items of Glen Ridge history as the influential 1909 Nolen

Report that many residents have heard of but probably haven't had the opportunity to read.

- Recent presentations of historical topics given by our Town Historian, Sally Meyer, such as the history of buildings along the south end of Ridgewood Avenue.
- *The Gaslamp* newsletter that regularly features articles about Glen Ridge history.

An additional page was created to allow members to pay annual dues on the web site itself using PayPal™.

We further envision:

- Digitalizing the society's documents including house files.
- Slide shows on historical subjects.
- A digital gift shop of items available for sale.
- Fund raising for special projects.
- Leveraging social media like Facebook to publicize events and programs.
- Interactive historical maps, voiceovers of walking tours, and digital timelines that present information in new and innovative ways.

The future capabilities are exciting to think about and we hope that these features will bring the society and Glen Ridge to the home computers of members – and possible future members – near and far. Suggestions about the site are always welcome.

**Sarge Gardiner**

The website is at: [glenridgehistory.org](http://glenridgehistory.org)

## Privacy Statement

It is the policy of the Glen Ridge Historical Society not to share its membership list with any outside organization. Furthermore, it is the policy of the society not to disclose membership details – including mailing addresses, membership category, amount of dues payments, or e-mail addresses – to members of the society, except for officers and members of the board of trustees.

This is how the policy is administered:

Any outside organization that wishes to send a printed message of possible interest to the membership may request the society to forward its message to its membership. If the society decides that the message is of legitimate interest to its members, it will accept the individual mailing pieces with suitable postage affixed, will affix labels with members' names and addresses, and

will deposit the pieces in the Glen Ridge Post Office.

Any outside organization that wishes to send an e-mail message of possible interest to the membership may request the society to forward their message electronically to its membership. If the society decides that the message is of legitimate interest to its members, it will forward the message to those members who have provided it with their e-mail addresses.

If a current member of the society wishes to communicate by postal mail, or e-mail, with another current member, the society will accept the mail piece with suitable postage affixed, or the e-mail message, and forward it to the current member.

A complete statement of privacy will be posted on the historical society website: [glenridgehistory.org](http://glenridgehistory.org)

## Glen Ridge Historical Society Shop

*Great gifts for yourself and your friends*

Item	Members	Nonmembers
<b>Glen Ridge Centennial Book 1895-1995</b>	<b>\$18.00</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
Illustrated history of Glen Ridge published in 1996 in connection with its Centennial		
<b>Glen Ridge Centennial DVD 1895-1995</b>	<b>\$13.00</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>
Videos and stills from GR history with Town Historian, Sally Meyer, teaching school children		
<b>Glen Ridge Historic District Brochure</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>	<b>\$2.00</b>
Guide to the historic district with text, map and pictures of historic buildings past and present		
<b>Note Cards of Vintage Post Cards (12)</b>	<b>\$13.00</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>
Scenes of the train station, Moffett Mill, Glen and early gazebo, GR School, GR Hall, Men's Club		
<b>Prints of 1906 Maps (framed) Price of each of two</b>	<b>\$225.00*</b>	<b>\$250.00*</b>
Map of North end and map of South end showing lots and owners (from 1906 Mueller Atlas)		
<b>Prints of 1906 Maps (unframed) Price of each of two</b>	<b>\$80.00</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
Map of North end and map of South end showing lots and owners (from 1906 Mueller Atlas)		

To purchase any of these items please send a check with your order to:

Glen Ridge Historical Society  
P.O. Box 164  
Glen Ridge, NJ 07028

\*Please contact Sally Meyer about about delivery arrangements for the framed maps: (973) 239-2674

Or you can order them online at: [glenridgehistory.org](http://glenridgehistory.org)





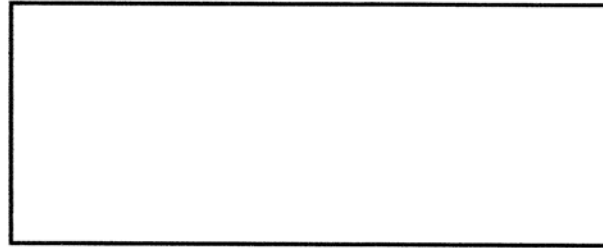
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## ***WALKING TOUR OCTOBER 16, 2011***

### **Coming Events**

Sunday, October 16 - Walking tour of houses and shade trees in the north end of Glen Ridge. The history of some of the borough's most interesting historical house styles as well as a look at the challenges of maintaining our diverse species of shade trees. Organized with the help of Shade Tree Commission Chair, Tim Delorm, and Betsy Ginsburg. Details soon at the Historical Society website [glenridghistory.org](http://glenridghistory.org) and on Facebook.

Thursday, October 13 - Wallkill River Tour. Board the bus in the Lake Mohawk Country Club for a tour of the Lake Mohawk Dam, the Sterling Hill Mining Museum, the Backwards Tunnel, the Franklin Mineral Museum, the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge, and other sites. Tickets \$40. For more information please call Dick Karman at 973-729-7549

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### **News Briefs**

For those interested in historic industrial design, the Morris Museum will present "On the Road: 100 Years of Motorcycles in America" from September 25 to December 4, 2011. If you missed the Guggenheim Museum's motorcycle exhibit a number of years ago - the best attended in its history -- this is your chance for a make-up.

The Museum of Modern Art in New York has a current exhibit called "194X-9/11: American Architects and the City" through January 2, 2012. The exhibition, drawn from its own holdings, shows the work of a variety of architects who took on the urban scale in a spirit of recasting the form and daily experience of the city. Includes work by Mies van der Rohe, Louis Kahn, Paul Rudolph, Rem Koolhaas and OMA, and United Architects.