

Helderbergs Club Restores One-Room Schoolhouse

The Kiwanis Club of the Helderbergs has completed restoration of a one-room schoolhouse in Knox.

The schoolhouse, owned by state Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, was built in the late



John Elberfeld and Homer Warner in front of the nearly finished one-room schoolhouse.

1890's. The school was restored under the guidance of Parks' Historic Sites Restoration Office; the building is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

The foundation, sill plates and floor joists were in such bad shape that the building had to be jacked-up so the foundation could be rebuilt. A club member, Rudy Stempel, owned a sawmill and was able to provide custom sill plates and floor joists.

Another club member, Pauline Williman, attended the school in the 1930's. Her recollections, and those of several other former School #5 students, provided details about the school that were helpful during the restoration. For example, the students were occasionally asked to apply linseed oil to the Douglas fir flooring. Several of the teachers in the early 1900's lived with Pauline's family, so she was able to provide interesting details about the teachers.

To complete the project, the club produced a book about the schoolhouse, "History of a One-room Schoolhouse in Knox, NY", was written by Daniel A. Driscoll. It includes information about the restoration and a summary of inter-



Pauline Williman and Fred Schroeder in the one-room schoolhouse.

views with former students. It also includes a transcript of school board minutes for School District #5 from 1824 thru 1905 along with a description of contemporary historic events (such as the anti-rent wars) to provide context. Copies of the book can be purchased online from Lulu.com; proceeds go to Friends of Thacher State Park.

Kiwanis Wins Rotary Event

On Dec. 4, the Oceanside Kiwanis Club competed in the second annual Oceanside Rotary Art Heyman Memorial Free Throw Challenge.

The Oceanside Rotary Club challenged Kiwanis, the Oceanside Library trustees and an Oceanside Community Facebook group. It was a three-person team for the most free throws made. Each player got five shots.

Oceanside Kiwanis had two teams competing against one from the Rotary Club, one from the Library and one from the Community. We are happy to report that one of the Kiwanis teams was able to take the trophy with five shots, while the other team tied with Rotary with three.

Club Donates Books

The Kiwanis Club of Huntington donated more than 350 new and gently used books to The Huntington Freedom Center Head Start in December.

The Center gives books to the children to take home each week. The children love to read, and the center hopes that the books will help them build their own personal libraries.



The Patchogue Toy Trot features many runners in seasonal costumes.

Toy Trot Collects 800 Toys, Raises Funds

With 850 entrants, impressive times were achieved by competitors in difficult cold and windy race conditions at the annual Santa's Toy Trot sponsored by the Patchogue Kiwanis Club.

The course started and ended at the Shorefront Park in Patchogue. Besides collecting 800 toys for needy children, proceeds were earned for the club's many child service projects. Members of the Patchogue Kiwanis Club managed the event along with many volunteers who helped make the event a great success.