The INKWELL

Fall 2008

Newsletter of the Webutuck Country Schoolhouse Association

Delicious Food, Great Music and Good Friends…

Schoolhouse Picnic 2008 was the Best!

The candidates for Best Pie of the Harlem Valley

First thing that Saturday morning the pies began to arrive...carried by their proud bakers to the Harlem Valley Chamber of Commerce Pie Contest Table.

The contest was a close one! The best pies in the Harlem Valley were displayed for all to see – and later taste. Fans (seen in the background) waited patiently for the pies to be cut and judged, and the delicious pieces sold to the hungry on-lookers.

The winner? Joan Ross of Amenia, who generously shares her recipe for "Joan's Apple Sour Cream & Pecan Pie"with us (see page 2). Judy Carlson's entry took second place, and Sally Carroll's was third place.

Watch for information on coming events! www.IndianRockSchoolhouse.com

Joan's Apple Sour Cream and Pecan Pie

Double crust pastry for 9 or 10 inch pie

7 to 8 large pie apples
1 cup sour cream
1/2 cup sugar
3 tbsp. flour
1 tsp. vanilla

Pecan topper:
1/2 cup crushed or chopped pecans
a bit of sugar and cinnamon to taste

Directions:

Place sliced and peeled apples into a bottom pastry-lined 10-inch pie pan.

Mix together sour cream, sugar, flour, and vanilla until combined well. Pour over apples evenly.

Mix together pecans, sugar and cinnamon and sprinkle evenly over sour cream mixture.

Put on top crust; crimp edges to seal, and vent pie in several places.

Decorate top crust with some whole pecans if desired.

Bake in oven at 375°F about one hour, or until apples are tender. Cool to room temperature.

Serve at room temperature or well chilled.

Hint: Ice cream goes great with this pie!

Information on English as a Second Language was available at the Millerton Presbyterian Church table... Señora Kaplan was on hand with brochures and sombreros. Also available: classes in Spanish as a second language.

The youngest fireman shows up to help. The Amenia Fire Company demonstrated their equipment and hose techniques for the children.

REMEMBER:

January 1st, 2009 is our Universal Dues Date! Join Indian Rock Schoolhouse Association then.

Margie O'Brien finishes the Amenia Library story hour with a smile and a song.

Mac Litishin plays a solo with our favorite band – Ed McGhee & Friends.

Free Popcorn!
Thanks, Bank of Millbrook!

The excitement of the shoe game in the "kid Olympics" run by Ellen Walsh, Dan Sheehan and many assistants.

PHOTOS BY
JUDY CARLSON &
DONNA KONKOLICS

The most beautiful birthday cake – and the most delicious – was a gift from Freshtown, Amenia. The sweet-tooth crowd nearly ate the whole thing, after admiring the decorating talents of Freshtown cake lady Maryanne Judson.

Author! Author!

John Quinn's take on the 2008 Picnic & Community Day

It was only fitting that Community Day in Amenia shared top billing with the 150th birthday of Indian Rock School at this year's Schoolhouse Picnic.

Ever since the first picnic in 2002 the participation of town groups has grown steadily. At the beginning it was the stand-bys of the Amenia Fire Company, the Historical Society, the Lions Club, the Amenia library and the lively country music of Ed McGhee and his "friends."

Year-to-year new features have been added: Margie O'Brien's youngster sing-along, the windup of the Lion's Walk for Juvenile Diabetes, the pie-contest of the area Chamber of Commerce and the local trades people and churches of both Millerton and Amenia participating in the fair.

The midway of vendor tents this year included the Millbrook Bank's popcorn wagon and bright balloons for children given out by Salisbury Bank. For the first time, the picnic included "Kid Olympics" – old fashioned games like tug-o-war and three-legged race. Quilters from the senior lunch group in South Amenia were there. The steady flow of visitors throughout the lovely September day made for a truly memorable community celebration.

Another notable picnic event was the benefit sale and book-signing of "Memories from a Country Schoolhouse" – the recollections of pupils and teachers of some two dozen one-room schools in Amenia and North East. Thanks to a roster of generous benefactors, publishing costs were underwritten and the receipts of the book sale all went to the Schoolhouse treasury.

Some people at the picnic asked, "Now that the schoolhouse is restored and the grounds are landscaped, what do you need money for?" It was explained, "The year-long programs that will make this a living museum – schoolhouse visits by both youngsters and seniors, trunk shows, Arbor Day observances and gardens make the Indian Rock School a meaningful landmark for Amenia."

In brief remarks at the Indian Rock 2008 Picnic, John Quinn thanked Maureen Rooney and Ann Linden for all they did in publishing *Memories from a Country Schoolhouse:* "Without their talents and tireless efforts the book never would have seen the light of day."

Quinn continued, "And if a book is to be judged by its cover, you couldn't have a better one than the charming painting of the Indian Rock School by Tilly Strauss and her young Kildonan artists."

John Quinn autographed more than $1,500 worth books the day of the picnic. Many of his friends and fans stopped by to have a word with him, coming from as far as Kent, Salisbury, Pawling, and even Lakewood, New Jersey.

Salisbury Bank & Trust president John Perotti stops to have his book signed while chatting with John Quinn.

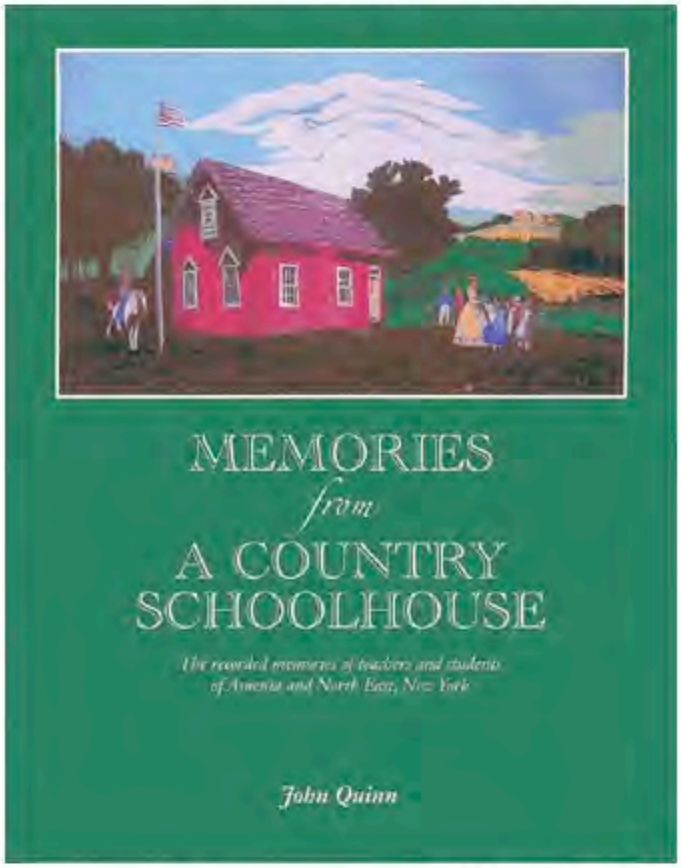
MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Dec. 7th, 2008

AMENIA HOLIDAY OF LIGHTS

The Schoolhouse Association
and the
Amenia Historical Society
will host a gala

OPEN HOUSE & BOOK SIGNING

at the office of
Havens Real Estate • 3300 Route 343
right across from the tree lighting
at Fountain Square



Have your Christmas presents – ***"Memories from a Country Schoolhouse"*** – autographed by the now-famous author, John Quinn.

FREE COCOA provided by Larry Havens

FREE CHRISTMAS COOKIES
provided by the renowned bakers of the Amenia Historical Society

Buy other important books also!

"From the Kitchens of Amenia"	$10
"The Amenia Baseball Book"	$10
"The Early History of Amenia"	$12

and assorted Amenia postcards!

The Quinn Book and the Amenia Cookbook
are available NOW at the following:

Oblong Books, Millerton
Merritt Books, Millbrook
Rooney Design, Amenia
Havens Real Estate, Amenia

or by contacting IndianRockSchool@aol.com

The Tower Hill School used wax candles and homemade ornaments on its Christmas tree.

Illustration above from
"Rural Life in the Hudson River Valley," *Ginny Augerson, Editor*

Indian Rock Schoolhouse
Association
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Abraham Lincoln (Norm Cayea) reads the proclamation honoring Indian Rock and John Quinn. (Hand injury due to an altercation at the Lincoln-Douglas presidential debate.)

"Let it be known by all assembled here today that Indian Rock Schoolhouse is 150 years old. The one-room school first appeared on the maps of Amenia in 1858, even before I ran for President of the United States of America.

May it also be known that many good citizens of the fine town of Amenia and in the whole of Dutchess County – even nearby Connecticut – contributed to the effort of restoring the school and bringing children and adults here again.

And in light of those accomplishments we recognize and congratulate our friend, the esteemed John Quinn. He researched and wrote many articles about one-room schoolhouses in the Webutuck District for the newspapers from 2001 to 2003, and now has collected them into a fine book entitled "Memories from a Country Schoolhouse" for all of us. Three cheers for John Quinn!"

Check out our blog at: www.indianrockschool.blogspot.com