

Larchmont Ledger

December 2008 - Volume 9, Issue 12

History in the Making After Election Day

By Lorraine Thomas Sherman

Yes, Election Day is over, but Kate Kelly of Larchmont, historian and author, has her eyes and ears attuned as she collects nuggets of information for her next book, currently in the works, which will be devoted to the history of medicine. She also is a blogger for the Huffington Post, writing on political items.

In her last book, *Election Day: An American Holiday, An American History*, Kelly concentrated on stories and anecdotes relating to the voting process throughout the nation's past, noting such things as the fact that trickery during campaigns, exaggeration, etc., is nothing new. An unflagging interest in learning has enabled her to tackle many topics over the years, and she has had books published on everything from time management, macular degeneration, and parenting, to safety issues in a more and more dangerous world.

An entertaining and knowledgeable speaker, Kelly has been holding forth about the voting process at various forums for the past year. Since her informative talks are delivered in a very accessible manner, her expertise can be appreciated by both children and adults. She started out by speaking to students,



Kate Kelly

and then moved on to talk to adults at libraries, Rotary Clubs, different community gatherings, religious and retirement groups, such as Beth El Synagogue Center of New Rochelle's retirement meetings..

"I first started speaking on this topic and crafted a presentation when I was a

guest speaker talking to students at the Hommocks Middle School. Then I began addressing adult groups on how campaigning and the voting method have changed. People are just fascinated."

"We do live in the greatest country in the world," she states, "and it is important to tell people. It was not clear how the country was going to go this election, and whether people would be pleased, and so it was heartening to see them out in the street, and it was exciting to see us taking back our belief in government. That is so important. It is very nice when surgical tools rather than sharp rocks are used. People have been wonderful. They don't talk with me about the candidates or politics; they are invested in the country. Questions about the Electoral College, whether changes can be made, why we do not have more days to vote... they like to be able to talk to me. The transition of power is what is being discussed."

Already, Kelly is looking down the road to future contests, and will be primed and ready for whatever campaigning lies ahead. The clarity with which she discusses events and her practical outlook engage the audience wherever she speaks.