



THE YEOMAN

Farmingdale-
Bethpage
Historical Society
www.fbhsli.org

Mildred Johnston, President

James McCullagh, Vice-President

Annual Meeting / Strawberry Festival on Sunday, June 14

The Society's Annual Meeting/Strawberry Festival will be held Sunday afternoon, June 14, at the Dr. Daniel W. Kissam House of the Huntington Historical Society, assembling at or shortly after 1:30 pm. JoAnne Bihary, Society Trustee and Hospitality Chair, will coordinate the traditional late spring dessert, the Strawberry Festival.

The afternoon program will include the report of the Society's Nominating Committee and Election of Officers and Trustees for terms ending October 31, 2009. Our hosts, the Huntington Historical Society, will present a Flag Day segment, as well as tours of the historic 1795 house, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The site is located at 434 Park Avenue, one block south of State Route 25A, in Huntington. A tour of the historic home will be offered to all who attend. A flier with full information on the afternoon's program accompanies this issue of THE YEOMAN.

Please note that pre-registration is required, with June 5 the latest requested response date. Plan now to attend!

Visit to Dominican Heritage Center

An all-day rain did not deter some two dozen Society members on Sunday, May 3, when they accepted an invitation to visit the Dominican Heritage Center of the Dominican Sisters of Amityville. Sr. Mary Erica Burkhardt, O.P., historian of the Amityville congregation, provided the group with a full afternoon, including a visit to St. Albert Chapel, a tour of the Heritage Center, and a presentation on the history of the Amityville branch of the Dominican order, especially the segment of it relating to the Farmingdale area.

This service included staffing Nazareth Trade School, the orphanage for boys (1900-1942), St Rose Industrial School in Melville, and St. Kilian Elementary School, from its opening in 1926 until a lay faculty succeeded the Dominicans in 1985. A social time at the close of the presentation provided additional time to view the historical displays.

Sr. Mary Erica invited the Society to return for an outdoor tour of the complex when the restoration work is completed on the original chapel (1878), a suggestion readily accepted by those who took part.



From Left to Right:
FBHS Trustee Bill Johnston, FBHS President Mildred Johnston, Sr. Mary Erica, O.P., FBHS Members Mildred Corwin, Ann Albertson, and Pat Christiansen. (Photo by Serena Brochu)

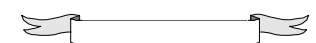


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Happy
Father's
Day!





Village Historian Receives Top State Award

William J. "Bill" Johnston, historian of the Village of Farmingdale, received the Franklin D. Roosevelt Local Government Historian's Professional Achievement Award from Robert Weible, New York State Historian, and the Association of Public Historians of New York State (APHNYS) at a recent meeting in Albany. This highest level statewide award honors lifetime achievement in the practice of public history in New York State. APHNYS is the official organization of the 1,640 local government historians serving the counties, boroughs, cities, towns, and villages of New York State.

The award is named for Franklin D. Roosevelt, the 32nd President, who served with distinction as historian of the Town of Hyde Park, Dutchess County, from 1926 to 1932, including his years as Governor of New York State.

Congratulations, Bill!

Tour Visits Gravesites of Civil War Veterans

Patrick Looney and Serena Carter Brochu led a tour group of 26 members and friends of the Society to the gravesites of 18 Farmingdale Civil War veterans on Sunday afternoon, May 17. Patrick is in the final stages of completing his Eagle Scout project, which has included extensive rehabilitation of several of the gravesites, in addition to research into the role of each of the Farmingdale veterans during the war. Serena has significantly assisted Patrick with her skills, knowledge, and resources in genealogy.

The cemeteries visited were the Lyceum (German Methodist) on Hempstead Turnpike in Bethpage; Bethpage United Methodist (Plainedge Methodist) on Route 107; the Bethpage Cemetery, and the Powell Cemetery, both in Farmingdale.

The trip went well, despite overcast skies and a cool breeze, and the fact that the bus chartered for the tour did not arrive. The resourcefulness of the group salvaged the afternoon with a car-pooling tour. Special thanks must go to Dan Looney for his role in implementing this alternative plan so promptly.

The tour leaders produced an informative booklet which they distributed to participants. As the booklet is still a "work in progress," it will not be available for general distribution until completion.

The Society is indebted to Patrick and Serena for all their work in commemorating the sacrifices made by a gallant group of young Farmingdale men almost 150 years ago.

A Note of Reflection on the Tour of Civil War Veterans' Gravesites

(This message was written by Anne Carter, mother of Serena Carter Brochu, to Mildred Johnston, Society President)

Dear Mildred,

I just wanted to drop you a note to let you know how much I enjoyed the tour (lost school bus notwithstanding!). Both presenters (Patrick and Serena) showed how much effort they put into their research and interest in their subject. Standing at those gravesites and hearing their stories truly put a human face on those men. They were not merely "fighters".... they were our neighbors. They lived, had families, friends, homes, trades, and they helped to lay the foundation of our village. It was a privilege to hear their stories and to remember them.

I hope that Patrick realizes the gift that he gave us. Many thanks!

Love,
Anne



ASCHS Spring Meeting Held in Southampton

The Association of Suffolk County Historical Societies (ASCHS) met Saturday, April 25, for its spring session. The Southampton Historical Center and Research Center was the host organization. The day's activities included a tour of the Rogers Mansion, the museum house of the host society, and a tour of the Parrish Art Museum, led by the curator. The luncheon and business meeting were held at the Four Seasons restaurant.

The summer ASCHS meeting will be held on Saturday, August 1, hosted by the Lindenhurst Historical Society. THE YEOMAN thanks Adrian Post and Barbara Post for representing our Society at the spring meeting in Southampton.

Second Annual Outdoor Art Show Slated for September 12

The Women's Club of Farmingdale will sponsor the second "Art in the Park" outdoor art show and sale on Saturday, September 12, on Farmingdale's Village Green (rain date September 13). Painting, photography, sculptures, watercolors, pastels, and drawings are among the media categories. Applications for entering works of art may be downloaded from the Village website, www.farmingdalevillage.com.

THE YEOMAN proudly notes that the co-chairs of "Art in the Park" are Fran Rotondo and Dolores Cianciabella, both members of our Society.

* * * * *

The following message was delivered at the 45th Annual Founders' Day Dinner on April 21, 2009 by Harrison "Terry" Hunt, president of the Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society, 1973-1975.

It is an honor to be asked to reminisce about the Society on its 45th anniversary - even if it does reconfirm that I'm getting older.

Unlike some historical groups, the Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society was not organized to preserve a specific site.. Rather, it was created in response to the whole-scale changes which were taking place throughout the old Thomas Powell Purchase area.

Back in the '60s, we were more concerned about the future than the past. Open spaces were being gobbled up for development. "Mom and Pop" stores were being displaced by malls and supermarkets, and roads were being widened, taking with them many buildings and trees, and local landmarks ... in the grand scheme, not any places of major historical significance... but the tangible heritage of our communities, the places which gave our towns their distinctive identities.

The older generation of residents, too, was passing away... the parents of the people who I interviewed years later for my history of Bethpage... the people who remembered life here in the decades following the Civil War. The Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society was organized April 12, 1964, to help preserve their reminiscences, and knowledge of the old Farmingdale and Bethpage, which were already changed forever.

It is appropriate that the Society holds this dinner to celebrate its years of service and the memory of those who helped lay its foundations: People like Andre and Jean Hubbard, daughter and son-in-law of Powell descendant and premier local historian Jesse Merritt; Caroline and Frank Klesh, then owners of the Thomas Powell House, and of the pond which was still there; Iris and Alonzo Gibbs, groundbreaking historians of Bethpage and the entire Bethpage Purchase; Orrin Dow, director of the Farmingdale Public Library; Greg Carman Sr., attorney, Town Councilman, Congressman, and now a Federal judge; Louise Fuechsel, a Farmingdale resident whose family ran one of the pickle works in Bethpage more than half a century before; Mabel Schwendler; and Mrs. Khan Musa, all dedicated to the concept that local history was important, and deserved to be preserved and celebrated.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the current members of the Society who joined during that first year and have remained supporters of the group through all these years: Greg Carman Sr., Dorothy Dyson; Jean Hubbard; Robert and Vida Nostrand; Bob and Cathleen Callahan; Bill and Hilda Carman; and Bill and Mildred Johnston.

Best of luck to the Society, and may you all be members for another 45 years!

Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society
TRIP TO NEW YORK TRANSIT MUSEUM
LATE AUGUST 2009

The Long Island Railroad celebrates its 175th anniversary this year, the oldest railroad in America still operating under its original name. In conjunction with this milestone, the New York Transit Museum is sponsoring an exhibit entitled *The Route of the Dashing Commuter: The Long Island Railroad at 175*. The FBHS is planning a trip to the museum for late August.

The NY Transit Museum is housed in the old Court Street station. The special LIRR display includes historic and contemporary photographs, maps, illustrations and objects on loan and from the museum's collection that tell the fascinating story of the railroad and how it contributed to the development of Long Island. The museum also features a variety of realia that tell the history of the New York City transit system from its earliest days to new projects such as the East Side Access, the Second Avenue subway and the extension of the "7" line that will move the transit system forward into the 21st Century. The museum's collection includes vintage wooden elevated cars built in the 1880's as well as subway cars from the 1920's to the 1980's, housed on two tracks on the station's lower level. As a special addition, the museum is featuring a vintage LIRR caboose, the first time a caboose has ever traveled on the NYC subway system. The museum also offers a store with a variety of unique transit related items.

The trip would leave Farmingdale station on the 10:06 am train transferring to the subway for a ride to the Museum. We would have a two hour guided tour and then members would be free to remain in the museum or eat in one of the many restaurants in the area. Members would be free to remain in the city and return to Farmingdale on their own. The cost for the trip would be \$25.00, \$20.00 for seniors. Please note that this trip requires considerable walking and climbing steps from the subway station to the street.

At this time, we are soliciting interest in this event to see if there are sufficient numbers to make the trip worthwhile. The date would be either Saturday August 29 or Sunday August 30. Please clip the coupon below and return it. You may also email Trustee Pierre Lehmuller, pierre32@optonline.net, with questions or comments. **Do not send any money at this time.**

Return to:	
Pierre A. Lehmuller 32 Hunt Place Bethpage NY 11714-6411	
I/We are interested in participating in the trip to the NY Transit Museum. There would be _____ person(s) in our party.	
_____ Name	_____ I/We would prefer a Saturday trip.
_____ Street Address	_____ I/We would prefer a Sunday trip.
_____ Town, State, Zip	
_____ Telephone	

Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society
ANNUAL MEETING/STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL
SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2009

The Annual Meeting and Strawberry Festival of the Society will be held at the Dr. Daniel Kissam House of the Huntington Historical Society, 434 Park Avenue, Huntington, on Sunday, June 14. Attendees are asked to begin assembling at 1:30pm.

JoAnne Bihary, Society Trustee and Hospitality Chair, is coordinating the arrangements for the Strawberry Festival. She asks that you respond by Friday, June 5, if you plan to attend.

Please remember that the FBHS must make a meaningful donation to the host society for the use of their site and the service of their docents, as well as providing refreshments to all our attendees. Kindly keep this in mind when you make your donation.

- REGISTRATION:** Participation in this tour requires advance registration, which is **due by Friday, June 5.**
- DIRECTIONS:** One route is to drive north on NY 110 to Main Street in Huntington (NY Route 25A). Turn right (east) on 25A and drive about five-eighths of a mile, passing Huntington Town Hall (former Huntington High School) on the right. At traffic signal, turn right on Park Avenue (County Route 35) for one block. The Arsenal will be on your right on the Town Green, and Kissam House on your left, at the corner of Park Avenue and Woodhull Street.
- PARKING:** The small parking area at the Kissam House must be limited to those who have handicapped tags, and the Hospitality Committee. On-street parking is recommended on Woodhull Street, alongside the property, which is less busy than Park Avenue. Note: The adjacent house on Woodhull Street is also owned by the HHS. There is an opening in the fence which can be used as a "short-cut" to the backyard of the Kissam House, where we will be assembling.
- WEATHER:** If the weather is unfavorable, the Annual Meeting and the Strawberry Festival will be held in the Barn.
- SEATING:** Please bring sufficient folding lawn chairs to accommodate your party.
- QUESTIONS?** Call 516-249-3099 you have any questions about this FBHS event.

Return to:	
JoAnne Bihary 21 Tudor Road Farmingdale, NY 11735-2235	
Enclosed is a donation of \$_____ payable by check to the Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society for _____ persons for the Annual Meeting/ Strawberry Festival of the Society at the Dr. Daniel Kissam House of the Huntington Historical Society, 434 Park Avenue, Huntington, on Sunday afternoon, June 14, 2009.	
Name _____	<input type="checkbox"/> I/We need a ride to and from Huntington (maximum of two).
Street Address _____	<input type="checkbox"/> I/We can provide a ride for one or two people, to and from Huntington.
Town, State, Zip _____	
Telephone _____	
Others in Party:	



**Farmingdale-Bethpage
Historical Society**

Box 500
Farmingdale, New York 11735

www.fbhsli.org

“We hold fast to the elements that
are dear to us.”
- Jesse Merritt

The Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society was founded at a meeting in historic Powell House, Merritt Road, Farmingdale, on April 12, 1964. It is chartered as an incorporated non-profit educational and cultural organization by the University of the State of New York.

Executive Board

- Mildred Johnston —President; Membership
- James McCullagh—Vice President
- Gail Goldschrafe—Recording Secretary
- Jeanne M. Buck—Corresponding Secretary
- Frank Bondietti—Treasurer; Collections Committee
- JoAnne Bihary—Trustee; Hospitality; Collections Committee
- Serena Brochu—Trustee; Newsletter Editor; Collections Committee
- Nancy Cinque—Trustee
- Eric Goldschrafe—Trustee
- William J. Johnston—Trustee
- JoAnn Krapp—Trustee; Exhibits Coordinator
- Pierre Lehmuller—Trustee
- Dolores McAfee—Trustee
- Seymour Weinstein—Trustee; Website
- Nancy White—Trustee
- Lawrence R. Jorgensen —Ex-Officio Immediate Past President

**Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical
Society**
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