



# YAPHANK HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

*Historic Yaphank - Where the Past Greet's the Present*

JULY – AUGUST, 2018

**Robert Hawkins House**  
**P.O. Box 111**  
**Yaphank, NY 11980-0111**  
[www.yaphankhistorical.org](http://www.yaphankhistorical.org)

631-924-4803 -Swezey-Avey House  
 Main Office

Meetings: Third Thursday of the  
 Month; 7:30pm, Swezey-Avey House.

**Newsletter Editor: Peggy Judd**

## Inside this issue:

<b>President's Message</b>	... 2
<b>Weeks Legacy Tea Update</b>	... 3
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	...4
<b>Election Information</b>	...5,6

## Board of Directors

President - Robert Kessler  
 Vice President - Olive Archer  
 Treasurer - Audrey Kessler  
 Recording Secretary -  
 Kayann Donaldson  
 Corresponding Secretary -  
 Marie Desch  
 Librarian - Peggy Judd  
 Historian –Tricia Foley  
 Historian Emeritus -  
 Karen Mouzakes  
 Curator - Helen Kalbach  
 2-Yr. Trustee - Kathy Schmidt  
 1-Yr. Trustee - Jim Vavrina &  
 Suzanne Johnson

## Historic House Tours -- Summer Season

Our Historic House Tours begin this month. All three of our restored historic houses, the Hawkins House, the Booth House Museum and the Swezey-Avey House, will be open Sunday afternoons in July (starting July 8<sup>th</sup>) and August from 1:00—4:00pm. Several new exhibits will be on display. We are happy to announce that St. Andrews Church will also be open to visitors on the four following Sunday afternoons ---July 15, July 29, August 12, and August 26.

**St. Andrews Episcopal Church**, circa 1853, also called “Little Susy’s Church”, was built to honor James Huggins Weeks’ granddaughter who died in 1850 at the age of 23 months. This church is an integral part of Yaphank history and part of the Weeks family legacy in our Yaphank history.

The circa 1850 **Hawkins House**, listed on the National Register, is a well-furnished Victorian home. In addition to touring the house, our kitchen display will be *Old Fashioned Kitchen Activity*, and samples of *Victorian Needlework* will be in one of the downstairs parlors. A collection of *Beatrix Potter Figurines* will be on display in the upstairs exhibit room along with information about Beatrix Potter, a famous early 20<sup>th</sup> century children’s author.

The circa 1829 **Booth House Museum**, also listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is the birthplace of Mary Louise Booth and features information about her interesting life and artifacts and documentation illustrating her lifestyle. Among the artifacts on display is a letter to Ms. Booth signed by President Abraham Lincoln, thanking her for her translation services.

At the circa 1843 **Swezey-Avey House**, a Brookhaven Town Historic Landmark, two special exhibits will be on display----*The Weeks Legacy: A Yaphank Story* is in the upstairs exhibit rooms and *Early School Days in Yaphank* will be on display in the front downstairs dining room. Several other rooms have permanent displays and are part of the house tour.



## Letter from the President

For those of you who have not been to the Swezey House Park, you should come visit. The park has been transformed. There is a beautiful handicap-accessible boardwalk from the Swezey House to the spillway along the Lake front. The plantings are in and the sod has been put down. The Town still needs to finish the sun shade and build the bridge over the spillway. They are also going to put more native plants around the fish ladder and the spillway area. Even though it is not complete, the portion that is done is still a beautiful walk. The entire park is full of life. There are mothers with strollers and kids running around. There are fishermen walking to the front of the lake and people carrying their kayaks to the lake to enjoy a day on the water. There is something to do for everyone.

The mini libraries located at the entrance are always being used. There is a children's library and an adult library and they are stocked and maintained by the Friends of the Library; our thanks to them for their generous support.

Longwood School is once again doing their summer program with the kids. Once a week they bring the kids to the Swezey Park and they enjoy a day of fun in the park and in the water. The school has purchased 20 kayaks and 20 paddle boards as well as fishing poles for the kids. Some of the kids have never been in the water before and it is fun just watching them.

In the meantime, we are very busy at the other end of town working on the Homan-Gerard house. The house restoration is nearing completion. We are putting the finishing touches on some trim work, the floors are being sanded in preparation for staining. There are still some doors and shutters to be made and hung and the stair rails are going to be installed in two weeks.

The grading of the property will be done by volunteers. Painting will also be done by volunteers. Painting should be starting by the end of July. **Anyone who wishes to volunteer for the painting, please do not hesitate to call us.**

**Please don't forget our summer tours that start July 8th and every Sunday in July and August from 1pm-4pm. All of our houses will be open and we will have docents in each house. The tours are free of charge.**

*Robert Kessler*

### Welcome New Members

- Marc Dickieson, Crawfordville, FL
- Margaret Malby, Middle Island, NY
- Lori Solensten, Maryland, NY

### & Returning Members

- Fran Goldhorn, Yaphank, NY
- David Clemens, Centerport, NY

**Funds for this newsletter were provided by  
the Suffolk County Legislature,  
3rd Legislative District.  
Thank You !**

## Reminder

Voting for the YHS Board Members will take place at the August General Meeting, Thursday, **August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018**, at the **Swezey-Avey House**. All members in good standing are eligible to cast a vote there. Outstanding dues may also be payable at that meeting. See pages 5 & 6 for full election information, including a Nomination Form.

## Weeks Legacy Tea Update

The happy people pictured below are descendants of the Weeks family, prominent members of our early Yaphank community. They and members of their families were guests of the Society on June 24<sup>th</sup> at the Weeks Legacy Tea. We had a full day of activities planned for our “Weeks guests” that included a tour of St. Andrews Church, the same 1853 church that was built by James Huggins Weeks in memory and honor of his granddaughter that died in infancy. A special guest of honor was Fr. Richard Chapin, long-time chaplain and spiritual leader of St. Andrews Church until his retirement in 1995. Fr. Chapin is known and loved by many Yaphank residents and it was wonderful to see him.

The complete Weeks group numbered close to 35 people and they were joined by 45 additional Society members and guests from our surrounding communities for tea and a Weeks history program presented by Karen Mouzakes, Historian Emeritus. Many of the Weeks descendants had not seen each other for many years and this occasion served as a “family reunion” for them. Lots of time was spent catching up and then sharing memories. All tea guests enjoyed spending time in our Weeks Exhibit rooms, curated by Trish Foley, Historian. And everyone especially appreciated seeing the restored portrait of Miriam Weeks (James H. Weeks’ mother) painted by Wm. Sidney Mount. All in all, the Weeks Legacy Tea was a very successful event. As a result, close to \$1600 was donated to the St. Andrews Church Restoration Fund.

Thanks to all our Board Members and Society members who helped to make this event so successful.



**The Weeks Family Descendants**



**Fr. Richard Chapin and Karen Mouzakes**

## We Need Your Help—Volunteers Needed for the busy Summer Season

If you can donate a few hours on one or two Sunday afternoons in July and/or August, you can welcome visitors to one of our Historic Houses. We have docent documentation for each house which you can refer to during the tour. If you are interested in learning more or want to volunteer, please call Bob Kessler at 631-924-4803. Please leave a message and someone will return your call. Thank you in advance for your support.



*Victorian Harvest Tea --- Reserve Early*

**Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2:00—4:00pm**

**Hawkins House**

**Donation: \$30/Person**

Enjoy an afternoon celebrating the fall season with friends over a cup of tea, scones, tea sandwiches, and pastries.

After tea, visit the Society Gift Shop, always a great way to end a lovely afternoon.

Our Harvest Tea is always a sold-out event, so please reserve early.

For reservations call: **Marie Desch at 631-874-9265.**



**Fall Community Yard Sale at the Hawkins House**

**Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9:00am—4:00pm**

**(rain date, Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>)**

**Please join us—Donation: \$10 per vendor.**

**YAPHANK HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2018**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**July General Meeting**

Thursday, **July 19<sup>st</sup>, 7:30pm**, Swezey-Avey House

Guest speaker will be **Vincent Principe**,  
Author, historian, and past-President of the  
Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society

**Program:** "Creeping Inappropriateness,  
the Battle for Historic Preservation"

Refreshments will follow the program.

**August General Meeting**

Thursday, **August 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm**, Swezey-Avey House

Elections for Historical Society Board Members

See details on page 5.

Voting by members only, but all are welcome to attend.

Refreshments follow the meeting.

**September General Meeting**

Speaker and program to be announced.

**Fall Community Yard Sale**

Saturday, **September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9:00am—4:00pm**

**(rain date Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>)**

**Donation: \$10 per vendor**

Set up on the Hawkins House lawns.

No reservations necessary.

Call 631-924-4803 with questions.

**Victorian Harvest Tea**

Saturday, **October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2:00—4:00pm**, Hawkins House

**Donation: \$30 per person**

**Reservations call: Marie Desch, 631-874-9265**

**Bank of the River Gift Shop at the Hawkins House**

Hours: Thursdays from 12 noon to 4:00pm

(weather permitting)

Phone: 631-924-3401

Keep current with all our events and projects.

Visit our website—**[www.yaphankhistorical.org](http://www.yaphankhistorical.org)**

**YAPHANK HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**2018-2019 BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS**  
**NOMINATIONS FORM**

**PRESIDENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**VICE PRESIDENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TREASURER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CURATOR:** \_\_\_\_\_

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**LIBRARIAN:** \_\_\_\_\_

**3-YEAR TRUSTEE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2-YEAR TRUSTEE: (1 POSITION):** \_\_\_\_\_

**1-YEAR TRUSTEE (2 POSITIONS):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAIL IN YOUR NOMINATIONS FORM BY JULY 30<sup>th</sup>, TO  
YAPHANK HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. BOX 111, YAPHANK, NY 11980**

**OR**

**LEAVE THE FORM IN THE NOMINATIONS BOX, WHICH WILL BE ON THE FRONT PORCH OF  
THE HAWKINS HOUSE BEGINNING JULY 10<sup>th</sup> THROUGH JULY 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION.**

### NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD MEMBER POSITIONS –2018-2019 ELECTIONS

Please use the nomination form on the previous page to nominate those members in good standing whom you wish to fill the offices listed (the list of names is limited to those members living on Long Island). Please return the nominations form by mail to the Yaphank Historical Society, P.O. Box 111, Yaphank, NY 11980-0111, by **July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018**. Or place the form in the Nominations Box on the porch of the Hawkins House. The box will be available beginning **July 10<sup>th</sup>** and will be available through **July 30<sup>th</sup>**. Nominations can also be made from the floor the evening of the elections. The list of eligible members follows below:

Olive Archer	Herb Feigenbaum	Tony Martin	Will Schnakenberg
Brad Agnello	Ted Fleissgarten	Barbara Martin	Diane Schnakenberg
Don Allen	Tricia Foley	Barbara McFadden	Marilyn Schrage
Pat Allen	Betty Fuka	Jeremiah McGiff	Richard Schrage
Stephen Arresto	Carol Gathercole	Dennis McGrath	Harold Scott
Daphne Arresto	Joan Germano	Tracy McGrath	Joan Scott
Nancy Best	JodiAnn Gloede	Kathleen McIntyre	Joe Sferrazza
Paula Bianca	Marie Gocs	Francis McLoughlin	Josie Sferrazza
Judy Bird	Fran Goldhorn	Joann McLoughlin	James Shiminski
Barbara Bosshard	Chris Hanley	Joan Moreland	Thomas Skapinski
Susan Bove	Mary H. Hawkes	John Morris	Thomas Smith
Susan Brigham	Jim Hololob	Betty Morris	Gretchen Specht
Frances Brill	Reagan Hololob	Leona Morson	Luanne Stoeckel
John Broda	Tom Horan	Nick Mouzakes	Stan Sulzynski
JoAnn Broda	Liz Horan	Lillian Muttitt	Jim Szakmary
Diane Cardello	Linda Horn	Joan Nathan	Janet Szakmary
Jane Cardi	Stephen Jamieson	Joan Nelson	Peter Takacs
Dan Catterson	Carolyn Jamieson	George Neyssen	MaryPat Takacs
Jackie Catterson	Suzanne Johnson	Janice North	Judy Talbot
David Clemens	Bob Judd	Eileen Oakes	Anita Timm
Janet Cozza	Peggy Judd	Margaret O'Connell	Chad Trusnovec
John Cozza	Helen Kalbach	Carol O'Leary	Steve Trusnovec
Al Curiale	Robert Kandell	Diane Oliva	Donna Trusnovec
Josephine Curiale	Mary Anne Kandell	Ralf Petersen	Marty VanLith
Kitty Daniels	Andy Kepert	Linda Petersen	Jean Vavrina
Edythe Davis	Bob Kessler	Craig Platt	Jim Vavrina
Frank DePasquale	Audrey Kessler	Kathleen Platt	Pamela Walinchus
Marie Desch	Robert Kessler	Jean Pokorny	John Walker
Barbara DeSilva	Helene Kessler	Leigh Powell	Ginny Waterman
Jean Didamo	Madeline Kinney	JoAnne Powell	Don Watson
John Didamo	MaryLaura Lamont	Reid Powell	Richard Webber
Kayann Donaldson	Al Lane	Beth Pranzo	Florence White
Eugene Dooley	Marianne Lane	Louise Reeves	Evi Wichman
Krista Dooley	John Leister	Christopher Reilly	Sharon Wiesmann
Marianne Douglas	Carol Leister	Lynn Rhodes	Ellen Williams
Mary Downs	Keith Liere	Mark Rhodes	Tom Williams
Camille Dulisse	Margaret Malby	Marjorie Roe	Owen Wister
Charles Dulisse	Robert Mankoff	Martha Ross	Helga Wubker
Peter M. Endriss	Walter Maresco	Wendee Santora	Petrina Zazzaretti
Anna Engelhardt	Susan Maresco	Kathy Schmidt	