



# YAPHANK HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2019

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

## Historic House Tours – Summer Season

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

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

**Newsletter Editor: Peggy Judd**

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### 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 –Suzanne Johnson
- Historian Emeritus -  
Karen Mouzakes
- Curator - Helen Kalbach
- Honorary Lifetime Board Member -  
Kathy Schmidt
- 3-Yr. Trustee - Jim Vavrina
- 2-Yr. Trustee - Kitty Daniels &  
Tricia Foley
- 1-Yr. Trustee - Tom Skapinski &  
Gary Scherpich

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 and August from 1:00—4:00pm. Several new exhibits will be on display.

The circa 1850 **Hawkins House**, listed on the National Register, is a well-furnished Victorian home. In addition to touring both floors of the home, there will be a special kitchen display of Victorian-era kitchen tools and equipment and the upstairs exhibit room will feature *Victorian Demitasse China*.

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 displays of artifacts and documentation illustrating her lifestyle. Among the artifacts is a letter to Ms. Booth signed by President Abraham Lincoln, thanking her for her translation services.

At the circa 1843 **Swezey-Avey House**, designated a Brookhaven Town Historic Landmark, period-appropriate artifacts are found in many of the rooms. A special exhibit, *The Legacy of Leslie Marchant* curated by Tricia Foley, will be on display in one of the upstairs exhibit rooms. Both permanent exhibits, the *Weeks Legacy: A Yaphank Story* and the *Kovarik Collection*, will be part of the tour.



## Volunteers Needed for the busy Summer Season

If you can donate a few hours on one or two of the Sunday afternoons in July and/or August, you can welcome visitors to one of our Historic Houses. We have docent information for each house which you can refer to during the tour. If you are interested in learning more or want to volunteer, please call **Tom Skapinski** at **631-732-1825**. Thank you in advance for your support.

## Letter from the President

Society members have been busy cleaning our historic houses, getting them ready for our summer house tours. The Hawkins House, Booth House and the Swezey-Avey House are getting a good cleaning from top to bottom. This year we were able to re-finish the floors in the Hawkins House. We hired Jeremiah McGiff to tackle this project and as usual he did a great job. The floors had not been touched since the mid 80's, and he brought them back to life. Having "new" floors gives our house a whole new appearance.

We are on track to have the grand opening of the Homan-Gerard House in the early Fall. We still have some pieces of furniture to purchase and other pieces need restoration. These final touches are part of restoration efforts and will continue through the end of the year. We still have some painting to do on the exterior and some touch up on the interior. The property also needs to be graded and cleaned up.

The Swezey House Park is looking better than ever. Brookhaven Town has done a lot of new planting and the grounds are well maintained by the Town and the Yaphank Historical Society. There are always groups of adults and children enjoying this space. With the summer weather finally here, we can expect even more visitors.

Soon we will be having the Longwood Schools Day Camp children visiting the park. This is a great program sponsored by the Longwood Schools and run by Shan Dillon and Paul Infranco. There are at least 160 children and they rotate them to the park in groups of forty. The kids are of all age groups and they really enjoy the park. They go kayaking, paddle boarding, fishing and they also go swimming. The Society opens the Swezey House for the kids and they enjoy the displays that we put out for them. The displays include the history of the Swezey House and Mills as well as the history of the lakes and how they were formed. They also enjoy displays on the fish, turtles and the birds that call Willow Lake home. We love this program.

This summer we are also getting a butterfly garden on the grounds. It is being planned and constructed by a Girl Scout who is doing the project to earn her Gold Award (this is the Girl Scout equivalent of a Boy Scout Eagle Scout Award). She has drawn up quite an ambitious project and it will be a great addition to our beautiful park.

Over the years we have used the Sheriffs' SLAP (Sheriff Labor Assistance Program) Program to do many of the projects in our community. They have built fences, helped us to restore homes, painted the fences and the houses and, in general, helped us to grow and take care of our community. One of the Corrections Officers is retiring and I just want to say **thank you to Jim Tucciarone** for all he has done for us and our community. HAPPY RETIREMENT JIM.

*Robert Kessler*

### Welcome New Members

- Kenneth Wiesmann, Yaphank, NY
- Michael Caid, Yaphank, NY
- Gloria Canino, Middle Island, NY

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

### Renewal Dues Reminder

Your membership is important to us. Dues are currently payable for the Yaphank Historical Society 2018-2019 membership year. Please see member types and dues rates on page 4. Please include your current email address when you send in your dues. We look forward to hearing from you soon. If you have already submitted your dues, your payment is much appreciated, thank you.

**Please note: Change to Yaphank Historical Society Membership Year**

At the April 2019 Executive Board Meeting, it was unanimously voted to change from the current **Fiscal Year Membership** (based on the Society fiscal year of September 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>) to a **Calendar Year Membership** (from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>). Calendar Year Memberships will start in 2020 and will be renewable on an annual basis. All members in good standing on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019, will remain members in good standing through the remainder of this year, ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. This change was in response to many member comments and we hope that the change will be beneficial to all.

**New Exhibit This Year — The Legacy of Leslie Marchant**

Born on Main Street in Yaphank in 1892, Leslie R. Marchant was the son of Judge Frederick P. Marchant and his wife Ada. Leslie attended the local elementary school in Yaphank and went on to high school in Patchogue. As a young man, he worked on the construction of Camp Upton during WWI and at the Radio Corporation of America (RCA) on the building of the radio towers in Rocky Point. With this early experience behind him, he then went into the building business in his own name. Marchant went on to build churches and schools, post offices, and community centers; he was the “go-to” builder of his time. From Bellport High School to the Stony Brook Crescent, Marchant was commissioned to build structures which have lasted in an enduring and familiar American vernacular. Many of his homes and buildings still grace the historic district of Yaphank.

This exhibit, curated by Tricia Foley, will feature Marchant’s work, family and life and will also display memorabilia donated by Yaphank resident, Gary Ralph.



Views of the Stony Brook Crescent



*Harvest Victorian Tea - - - Sold Out*

Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2:00—4:00pm

Hawkins House

Donation: \$35 per person

We are sorry if you were unable to make a reservation for this Tea. Date and details about our Spring Victorian Tea (coming in April 2020) will be published in the next Newsletter and on our website.



**Fall Community Yard Sale**

Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:00am—4:00pm @ the Hawkins House

(rain date, Sunday September 22<sup>nd</sup>)

Donation \$10 per vendor.

No reservation necessary.

**YAPHANK HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2019**  
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**July General Meeting**

Thursday, **July 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm**, Swezey-Avey House  
 Guest Speaker will be **Noel Gish**, Educator, teacher and lecturer on topics in Long Island history.

**Program: "Penny Postcard View of Long Island"**

Refreshments will follow the program.

**Yaphank Historic House Tours**

**July and August, Sunday afternoons, 1:00—4:00pm.**

Hawkins House, Booth House Museum, and Swezey-Avey House. Docents will be on hand for tours and to answer questions.

**August General Meeting**

Thursday, **August 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm**, Swezey-Avey House

Elections for Historical Society Board Members

See details on pages 5 and 6. Voting by members only, but all are welcome to attend.

Refreshments will follow the program.

**September General Meeting**

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

Speaker and program to be announced.

Refreshments will follow the program.

**Fall Community Yard Sale**

Saturday, **September 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:00—4:00pm**

**(Rain date: Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>)**

**Donation: \$10 per vendor.**

Set up on the Hawkins House lawns.

No reservations necessary.

Call 631-924-4803 with questions.

**Coming Later This Fall**

**Grand Opening Ceremony ---Homan-Gerard House**

We will be celebrating the successful restoration of this wonderful historic home which played an important role in Yaphank's early history.

**Watch for the date and details on our website.**

**Victorian Harvest Tea**

Saturday, **October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2:00—4:00pm**, Hawkins House

**This event is SOLD OUT.**

Date and details about our Spring Victorian Tea will be published in the next Newsletter and on our website.

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

**Hours: Thursday Afternoons, 12:00-4:00pm**

**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**  
**P.O. Box 111**  
**Yaphank, New York 11980-0111**

Please enroll me as:

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>( ) Active Member</b>       | <b>\$20.00/person - \$17.50/Senior Citizen (62+)</b> |
|                                | <b>\$25.00/couple - \$22.50/Senior Couple (62+)</b>  |
| <b>( ) Contributing Member</b> | <b>\$50.00</b>                                       |
| <b>( ) Life Member</b>         | <b>\$100.00/person - \$75.00/Senior (62+)</b>        |
| <b>( ) Patron Member</b>       | <b>\$300.00</b>                                      |
| <b>( ) Benefactor Member</b>   | <b>\$500.00</b>                                      |

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

## NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD MEMBER POSITIONS –2020 ELECTIONS

Please use the nomination form on the following 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>, 2019**. 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	Anna Engelhardt	Tony Martin	Gary Scherpich
Brad Agnello	Herb Feigenbaum	Barbara Martin	Kathy Schmidt
Don Allen	Ted Fleissgarten	Barbara McFadden	Will Schnakenberg
Pat Allen	Tricia Foley	Jeremiah McGiff	Diane Schnakenberg
Stephen Arresto	Betty Fuka	Whitney McGill	Marilyn Schrage
Daphne Arresto	Carol Gathercole	Dennis McGrath	Richard Schrage
Nancy Best	Joan Germano	Tracy McGrath	Harold Scott
Paula Bianca	JodiAnn Gloede	Kathleen McIntyre	Joan Scott
Judl Bird	Marie Gocs	Ryan Moore	Joe Sferrazza
Barbara Bosshard	Fran Goldhorn	John Morris	James Shiminski
Susan Bove	Chris Hanley	Betty Morris	Thomas Skapinski
Susan Brigham	Mary H. Hawkes	Nick Mouzakes	Thomas Smith
Frances Brill	Jim Hololob	Mary Jean Murphy	Gretchen Specht
John Broda	Reagan Hololob	Lillian Muttitt	Luanne Stoeckel
JoAnn Broda	Tom Horan	Joan Nathan	Stan Sulzynski
Michael Caid	Liz Horan	Joan Nelson	Jim Szakmary
Gloria Canino	Linda Horn	George Neyssen	Janet Szakmary
Diane Cardello	Stephen Jamieson	Janice North	Judy Talbot
Jane Cardi	Carolyn Jamieson	Eileen Oakes	Anita Timm
Dan Catterson	Suzanne Johnson	Margaret O'Connell	Chad Trusnovac
Jackie Catterson	Bob Judd	Carol O'Leary	Steve Trusnovac
David Clemens	Peggy Judd	Diane Oliva	Donna Trusnovac
Janet Cozza	Helen Kalbach	Coleen Pecorella	Marty VanLith
John Cozza	Robert Kandell	Ralf Petersen	Jean Vavrina
Al Curiale	Mary Anne Kandell	Linda Petersen	Jim Vavrina
Josephine Curiale	Andy Kepert	Craig Platt	Pamela Walinchus
Kitty Daniels	Bob Kessler	Kathleen Platt	John Walker
Edythe Davis	Audrey Kessler	Dorothy Potts	Ginny Waterman
Frank DePasquale	Robert Kessler	Fred Potts	Don Watson
Marie Desch	Helene Kessler	Leigh Powell	Richard Webber
Barbara DeSilva	Madeline Kinney	JoAnne Powell	Florence White
Jean Didamo	MaryLaura Lamont	Reid Powell	Evi Wichman
John Didamo	Al Lane	Beth Pranzo	Kenneth Wiesmann
Kayann Donaldson	Marianne Lane	Louise Reeves	Ellen Williams
Eugene Dooley	John Leister	Christopher Reilly	Tom Williams
Krista Dooley	Carol Leister	Gary Rempel	Owen Wister
Maryanne Douglas	Keith Liere	Lynn Rhodes	Helga Wubker
Mary Downs	Margaret Malloy	Mark Rhodes	Petrina Zazzaretti
Camille Dulisse	Robert Mankoff	Marjorie Roe	
Charles Dulisse	Walter Maresco	Martha Ross	
Peter M. Endriss	Susan Maresco	Wendee Santora	

**YAPHANK HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**2020 BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS**  
**NOMINATIONS FORM**

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

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

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

**HISTORIAN:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**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.**

**Reminder**

Voting for the YHS Board Members will take place at the August General Meeting, Thursday, August 15, 2019, 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.