Historic Yaphank - Where the Past Greets the Present
July, August, September 2019

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 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 1st to August 31st) to a **Calendar Year Membership** (from January 1st to December 31st). Calendar Year Memberships will start in 2020 and will be renewable on an annual basis. All members in good standing on August 31st, 2019, will remain members in good standing through the remainder of this year, ending December 31st, 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 19th, 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 21st, 9:00am—4:00pm @ the Hawkins House*

Donation $10 per vendor.
No reservation necessary.
Yaphank Historical Society Newsletter

Yaphank Historical Society
JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2019
UPCOMING EVENTS

July General Meeting
Thursday, July 18th, 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 15th, 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 19th, 7:30pm, Swezey-Avey House
Speaker and program to be announced.
Refreshments will follow the program.

Fall Community Yard Sale
Saturday, September 21st, 9:00—4:00pm
(Rain date: Sunday, September 22nd)
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 19th, 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

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

Please enroll me as:

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

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 30th, 2019. Or place the form in the Nominations Box on the porch of the Hawkins House. The box will be available beginning July 10th and will be available through July 30th. 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
JudI 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 Tinn
Dan Catterson, Suzanne Johnson, Margaret O’Connell, Chad Trusnovec
Jackie Catterson, Bob Judd, Carol O’Leary, Steve Trusnovec
David Clemens, Peggy Judd, Diane Oliva, Donna Trusnovec
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
Mary Dulisse, Walter Maresco, Martha Ross, Peter M. Endriss
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): ________________________________

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PLEASE MAIL IN YOUR NOMINATIONS FORM BY JULY 30th, 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 10th THROUGH JULY 30th.

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.