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Southold Historical Museum

PROMOTING INTEREST IN AND EDUCATION ABOUT THE HISTORY OF SOUTHOLD

From the President

Education. We keep history alive, interesting and current for you.

Not only do we educate about our very early history but we educate about more current history as well. There is a permanent exhibit in the Thomas Moore house about enslaved people in Southold, and this summer there was an exhibit on the roaring twenties in the ACB house. Coming soon will be an exhibit on farming and immigrants in our town.

A column for our newsletter called the "Collections Corner" was started in late 2019 featuring an item from our collections almost weekly. New to our educational effort, a column called "History as You Like It" was started. Articles, both historical and anecdotal, written by published authors appear in this column.

Even our scavenger hunt this spring focused on finding historical items around town. Teams of families and neighbors all joined in the hunt. By popular demand, there will be another one so stay tuned.

Our "Education of Youth" and "Step Back in History" programs for grade school children take place in the spring and fall. Docents are available for you to tour the Maple Lane Complex and the Nautical Museum at Horton Point Lighthouse on weekends during the summer. Of course, we also have our archives in the Prince Building on Main Road available for research by appointment.

Our museum has so much to offer. Please visit us on social media and on our website for more complete information.

Happy holidays to all,

Janet W. Lauer

From the Executive Director

It is that season when we begin to reflect on the past year and on the things for which we are grateful. I am so thankful for the love of family and friends and for life's many rewards. As a museum, we have much to be grateful for as well. Though it looks like we will be living with COVID-19 for a long time, we have been successful this year with a combination of virtual and in-person events. Plus, we are ending the year with a bunch of activities that bring us together as a community.

Thank you for your continued support as, together, we strive to embrace new and as well as time-tested ways to fulfill the mission to promote interest in and educate about our local history. We are beholden to our many members, volunteers, staff, board, and donors. Together, we look back at 2021 with appreciation and look forward to 2022 with anticipation.

We are sending our warm wishes to you for a healthy and happy holiday season. We look forward to seeing you "virtually" at the Annual Meeting on January 24 where we will review the past year, elect new board members, and vote to amend the by-laws.

All the best,

Dianna Witte-Walker

PS - Please be on the lookout for your membership renewal notice which will come via the mail shortly after the annual meeting. We want you back!



David Rothman and Albert Einstein, 1939

Collections Corner

One of our Collections Corner's featured Howell's Drug Store which is part of today's Einstein Square. Here, we feature a bit more about Albert Einstein's time on the North Fork.

A couple of years ago, Einstein Square was dedicated as the open area adjacent to the building as well. Why Einstein Square, you ask?

In 1939, Albert Einstein (1879-1955) walked in off the street into Rothman's Department Store looking for a pair of sandals (or as David Rothman mistakenly thought he was asking for "sundials"). Einstein had left Germany during a time when Jews were threatened. He summered on what was then called Old Cove Rd in Nassau Point in 1937, 1938 and 1939. The summer of 1939 is famous, as it was from the house in Nassau Point that Einstein signed the letter written to President Franklin D. Roosevelt regarding the scientific project that the Germans were believed to be working on. In response to this letter, the Manhattan Project was set into motion, and the first atomic bomb was developed.

Einstein did indeed purchase sandals at Rothman's Department Store, women's size 11 says the story. He is wearing them in the photos taken of him with David Rothman strolling Nassau Point. Einstein spent many musical evenings with David and other musicians and summers sailing on his boat, the Tineff (which means junk in Yiddish). His love of this area is documented in a collection of letters written in his hand, copies of which are held by Southold Historical Museum.

HISTORY AS YOU LIKE IT!



Corn Pounder Headstone featured front center.

The "History as You Like It" column is a new history-based column with periodic selections written by our Museum Education Committee. Some articles have a creative flair. Other writers employ a document-based approach with notes and references. It depends on the style of the writer. All of the articles have a connection to Southold and are meant to spark interest in our local history!

Corn Pounder Headstone or My Ears are Pounding!

Among the grave markers in the three acre Willow Hill Cemetery, is one that stands out. Not because it's the tallest or most elaborate, but because of its uniqueness.

A samp mortar made from granite marks the resting place of octogenarian Cutchogue farmer, horse-trainer, and auctioneer Charles F. Smith. His name is engraved in the stone with his birth and death dates, 1840-1924, and can be found in the southeast section of the cemetery.

It is the very one Mr. Smith used on his own farm. A bowl-like depression is carved out where the corn to be cracked was placed. A weighted pounder or pestle was then used to crush the corn into cornmeal.

In his weekly 1898 Long Island Traveler installments, "Hobbles with the Old Traveler Boys," J. Horton Case wrote that the samp mortar was an institution in those days, and it was said (though he couldn't vouch for its truth) that their Saturday afternoon clattering could be heard along the Connecticut shore.

In his will, Mr. Smith requested the stone mortar be used as his headstone, but placed upside down. However, his surviving family members decided the stone should rest with the hollowed out portion as the top of the headstone, so that when it rains, the hollow fills with water and serves as a birdbath!

By Melissa Andruski

SAVE THE DATE



- Holiday Social at the home of Joan Latham. Sunday, December 19 from 3-5pm. \$50 per person. Please RSVP by December 10th by calling Rachel at 631-384-6294 or by emailing info@southoldhistorical.org.
- Annual Meeting: For members January 24th at 2pm via Zoom. More information about how to register will be coming in the mail along with slate of nominees and notice about bylaws revision.
- Potluck Supper - More information to come.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership renewals will be mailed in late January/early February. You will notice a few small changes. For years, people have questioned whether we have a dual or family membership. To clarify things, we have made the adjustment. We now are offering the \$35 level as a single membership, and the \$50 level as a family membership (2 adults and their minor children). Of course, as usual, we are also offering higher levels for those who wish to offer even more support.

What Are We Up to at SHM?



Board members and immediate Education of Youth committee members gathered in honor of Peggy Murphy.

MISSION RELATED AND COMMUNITY EFFORTS

- Collections Corner - We have continued to run our Collections Corner pieces in our weekly blasts and featured on our website.
- Education of Youth - Peggy Murphy has retired from the committee. Board members and immediate Education of Youth committee members hosted a small gathering in her honor. Southold Historical Museum presented Peggy with a plaque and a lifetime Membership to thank her for her dedication and service to the museum. Cheryle Amara has stepped up to continue in the tradition. Education of Youth programs are planned for Spring of 2022 for this school year.
- Virtual Lecture Series - look for more information about a virtual lecture series that is being planned by the Executive Director.
- 10 Squared - There is still time to purchase. Don't have access to a computer? Ask a friend to pull it up. It is both a visual treat and an opportunity to purchase fine local art at reasonable price - all while supporting the museum. They make a great holiday gift!

ANNUAL APPEAL

By now, you should have received the Annual Appeal Letter. Thank you to everyone who has already donated. Year-end donations help to sustain us through the winter.



What Have We Been Up to at SHM? (continued)

FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

- Wine by the Vines - Wine by the Vines made a fall 2021 comeback! Over 50 members and guest attended the Wine by the Vines event at Pellegrini Vineyards. It was a beautiful day to celebrate the fall harvest and enjoy time with friends.
- Summer Socials returned and were hosted at the homes of generous board members and volunteers. The sold out events were a success! Don't forget about the Holiday Social, there is still time to purchase tickets!
- Summer Raffle - The annual raffle sales we extraordinary! Congratulations to our winners, Kathy Chamberlain (Caroline Bell Painting), Patrizia Zanaboni (\$800 cash), Anthony Stulsky (Wall Quilt made by Tippy Case), Yvonne Varano (Heating Oil donated by Peconic Energy). Many thanks to the donors and supporters!
- Come Shop at the Prince Building - The Museum Gift Shop will be open M - F from 10am -2pm and on Saturdays through December 18, 11am-3pm. Can't make it to the shop? Visit the online shop on our website. The Treasure Exchange is open from Thurs. - Sat. from 10am -4pm All of the merchandise being offered has been donated, so that all proceeds are retained by the museum. Looking to donate items for our shop? For a list of items we are seeking, please visit the Treasure Exchange page on our museum's website.



A NOTE FOR OUR SUPPORTERS

We feel the need to let you know that Southold Historical Museum is **NOT** part of the Southold Town Government. We are a private non-profit (501c3), with no involvement in Southold Town politics and no Southold Town tax support. We are sustained by the contributions of private citizens of the community - like you. We have worked very hard to maintain a positive reputation in the community and hope that this will serve to clarify our non-profit status. Again, Southold Historical Museum is 100% independent of Southold Town government.

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

Southold Historical Museum wishes you a joyous holiday season! We hope that you relax and enjoy coloring this page.
If you would like to submit your work, please mail to Southold Historical Museum, PO Box 1, Southold, NY 11971.

**COMPLETED COLORING PAGES WILL BE ENTERED FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A \$25 AMAZON GIFT CARD
DONATED BY PECONIC ENERGY CORP.**



Southold Historical Museum

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T: 631-765-5500

E: info@southoldhistorical.org

W: www.southoldhistorical.org

Museum Office: Mon. - Fri. 10am - 2pm

Museum Gift Shop: Mon. - Fri. 10am - 2pm, also Saturday December 4, 11, & 18 from 11am - 3pm

Treasure Exchange: Thurs. - Sat. 10am - 4pm through December 18, 2021 (Closed January & February)

(Donations accepted Wed. - Fri. 10am - 2pm)

The Museum Office will be closed December 24, 2021 - January 1, 2022.



Board of Trustees

- Janet Larsen, President
- Elizabeth Barratt, 1st Vice President
- Paul Edelson, 2nd Vice President
- Jay Cardwell, Treasurer
- Sara Evans, Asst. Treasurer
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- John Barnes
- Caroline MacArthur
- Rosemary McKinley
- Joel Reitman
- Larry Rubin
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- Mickey St John
- Barbara Strokoff
- Richard Vessa



Staff

- Deanna Witte-Walker, Executive Director
- Amy K. Folk, Manager of Collections
- Rachel J. Johnson, Museum Administrator
- Walter R. Jackson, Office Assistant
- Ed Forte, Bookkeeper
- Kristen Matejka, Marketing Liaison



Barbara Poliwoda 631-335-1878 and Ken Poliwoda 631-379-6046