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# Southold Historical Society

PROMOTING INTEREST IN AND EDUCATION ABOUT THE HISTORY OF SOUTHOLD

## From the President

Welcome 2021! We wish you and your families a much happier and healthy year. We also look forward to your continuing support and interest in Southold Historical Society.

Last year, Covid brought us huge challenges. Since we could not gather together, how could we continue to operate? The answer: Develop new paths, go virtual, go on social media, use Zoom! We did and were hugely successful.

We expect to have a fantastic 2021 with summer socials and a few "wine in the vines" events. By early July, we hope to open the complex with larger events and exhibits as the Covid numbers decline.

More historical information will be included on our website along with new, exciting fundraisers. Please visit our sites and read the newsletters to find out about our current and new initiatives.

Stay tuned and above all, stay well.

Janet W. Larsen

## From the Executive Director

Welcome to the New Year! Here at the museum, our fiscal year is January 1, to December 31. But our Annual Meeting and election of new trustees take place on the last Monday of January. So the year still feels quite new.

We are looking forward to working with the new and returning trustees as well as working with you - our dedicated volunteers and members. Though we do not know exactly how the year ahead will develop, we have begun to plan more programs and activities with consideration of the pandemic. Be prepared to pack your windbreaker, sunscreen, lawn chair, etc. as we plan more small-group and outdoor activities. Additionally, we hope you will continue to support our newly-implemented virtual programs.

As always, we welcome your ideas and suggestions. Please feel free to give a ring or drop a line.

Deanna Witte-Walker



## Collections Corner: Facebook Fan Favorite

This image was featured in our Collections Corner and smashed our previous record by almost 1,000 views. It was by far our most popular post with almost **7,000** views on Facebook!

Although the door has been moved a few times and there have been some changes to the façade, this building is fairly recognizable. It is the current North Fork Table and Inn. After its time as the Sunrise Hotel, this second empire building became the Southold Inn. The owner Dom Zito sold it in 1975 to Robert and Christine Hascoat who turned it into La Gazelle. It then became Coeur Des Vignes owned by George, Donna Marie and Arie Pavlou. In most recent years, the building has been owned by and operated as the popular North Fork Table and Inn.

### DID YOU KNOW?



**IN THE YEAR 2020, WE HAD 11,857  
UNIQUE VISITORS TO OUR  
WEBSITE AND 64,217 PAGE VIEWS!**

## Collections Corner: Artist Highlight



More than a century separates the painter Wendy Prellwitz from her great-grandparents, artists Henry and Edith Mitchell Prellwitz, who were key among the founders of the "Peconic School." Wendy works in their studios in Peconic and lives in High House, the home they once shared, high on a bluff overlooking Peconic Bay. One can easily sense that she feels informed and inspired by them both. Like her forbearers, Peconic is the place where she continues to evolve as an artist. Thanks to a careful typescript written by her grandfather, Edwin Prellwitz, we today know of the comings and goings of many of the original artists who settled on the North Fork.

Growing up in Pittsburgh, Wendy painted and drew constantly. She attended Rhode Island School of Design and went on to become an architect in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Yet somehow the art of her great-grandparents and the lure of Peconic were always in her mind. She and her father, retired engineer Sam Prellwitz, realized that the studios housed an unknown treasure-trove of paintings by Henry and Edith. Wendy promoted the "discovery," resulting in exhibits of these previously hidden works, at The Museums at Stony Brook (now Long Island Museum) and the Spanierman Gallery in NYC.

Wendy Prellwitz paints outdoors and in Henry's studio, inspired by her great-grandparents' palettes and visions. Not content to record just what she sees, Wendy is constantly thinking about the qualities of light and hue, of movement and of stillness. Inevitably, many of Henry and Edith's subjects – docks, boats, fields, and the area's unique light – are echoed in her work. Yet Wendy is a thoroughly modern artist, creating strong and expressive landscapes that reach toward abstraction. Water is a preoccupation. She reveres "its impermanence yet endurance ... the sea's cyclical certainty of rise and fall, and the vast, boundless quality of an infinite beyond."



"The Munsters" visit Pinecrest Dunes, Southold.

## Collections Corner Featured Items List

If you missed any of our Collections Corner highlights, please check out our website for past posts! Here are a few items that we have featured over the past few months.

- A Famous Family Visits: The Munsters actors visit Pinecrest Dunes Camp.
- Vintage Mouse Trap.
- D&B Fruit Farm, Southold, L.I. New York.
- Harvesting Wheat, 1946.
- Cochituate Bank of Boston, M.A. 5 dollar bill.
- Southold Town Dog License Tag, 1908.
- Ladies Duster, 1910.
- Vintage Sausage Stuffer.
- Henry Fitz, Jr., Daguerreotype.
- Rug Shuttle used for sealing potato bags.

## What Have We Been Up to at SHS?



A picture of storage at the Henry and Caroline Elfers Collections Center.

### MISSION RELATED AND COMMUNITY EFFORTS

- This past year saw the completion of the Henry and Caroline Elfers Collections Center. This converted residence now houses a large portion of the museum's collection in a climate controlled setting as well as a small gallery with ADA access. You might recall that the building's HVAC system was converted a few years ago with funding from a grant through the Robert D. L. Gardiner Foundation. Additionally, Helen Didriksen presented a gift to the Society a short while before her death to fund the interior construction alterations. The new collections center bears the name of her parents, Henry and Caroline Elfers per her wishes. We look forward to the ease of the pandemic when we can welcome people into the Center. As you probably recall, years ago, this building had been named the Pettit Center in honor of the tireless work of Bob Pettit. Not to worry, Bob's name lives on at the Pettit Annex, adjacent to the Reichert Family barn.
- We continue to feature highlights from the Society's collection, as well as featuring local artists from Southold. You can follow this via our weekly eBlast, our website, or on Facebook and Instagram.



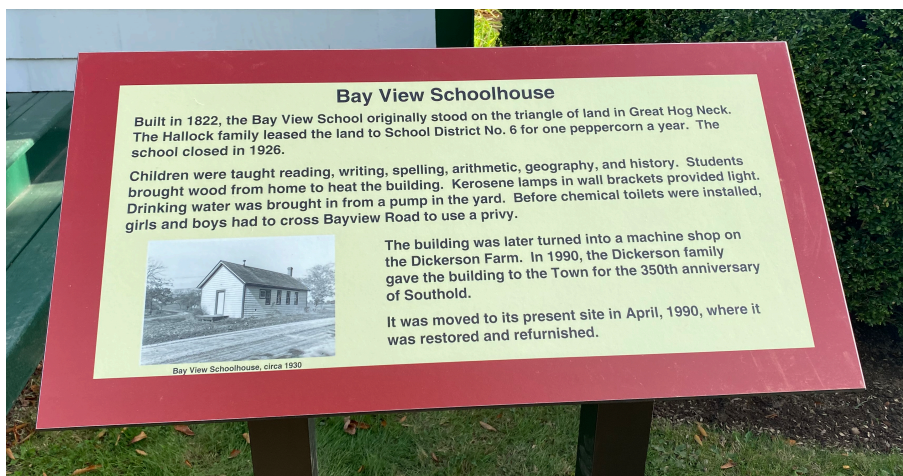
# What Have We Been Up to at SHS? (continued)

## MISSION RELATED AND COMMUNITY EFFORTS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

- The Whale House Virtual Program. Another program that began in 2020 was the whale house virtual learning program. Seeing the need to offer programs to schools who cannot visit, a group of volunteers started working on a virtual program on the whale house, which is adjacent to the lighthouse. Work continues on this program. We hope we will be able to offer the program during this time when schools are limiting their field trips. The Step Back in History Committee is "on the ready." However, school field trips are not likely in the near future, so virtual learning programs can both help fill the gap as well as hopefully serve as a supplement to the tried and true programs in the future. Won't it be great to be able to offer the full Step Back in History Program and the virtual Whale House Program?
- Scavenger Hunt Coming Soon! We are planning an exhilarating and engaging event with the Scavenger Hunt app Goose Chase! Goose Chase is an app that you can download on your smartphone. The scavenger hunt will be a twist on the classic...riddles, puzzles, questions, creative check-ins and games. It will be an exciting way to get your friends and family outdoors and moving all while learning about Southold Town! Perfect for all ages!
- The Exhibition Committee has been busy throughout the pandemic. In addition to expanding the "Slavery in Southold" exhibit, efforts are being made to enhance the signage both in the Reichert Family Barn and on the Maple Lane Complex. Whether indoors or out, there is much to learn at the Museum.

## FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

- Coming Soon: Online Silent Auction. Stay tuned for this exciting, upcoming fundraiser with fantastic prizes up for auction!
- SOLD OUT! In less than 4 days this event sold out! Held on Thursday, February 11, 2021, "Dinner for Two" by Maroni Southold, offered ticket holders a heat and serve meal of a meatball hero for two to enjoy with their valentine while also supporting their local history museum. Thank you to Maroni Southold who donated their goods and service so that all proceeds benefited Southold Historical Society!
- 10 Squared Art Exhibition and Sale: The winter art sale entitled "North Fork in Winter" was as popular as ever. The sale was held online from November 15 - December 15 with almost 50 pieces of artwork submitted. The first day saw a flurry of sales with over 30 pieces of art sold! Look for another 10 Squared Art Exhibition and Sale in late Spring.



Pictured to the Left:

This is an image of the interpretive sign outside the Bay View Schoolhouse at the Southold Historical Society Maple Lane Complex. Visit the Maple Lane Complex to see all of the descriptive signs.



# What Have We Been Up to at SHS? (continued)

## BUILDING AND GROUNDS EFFORTS

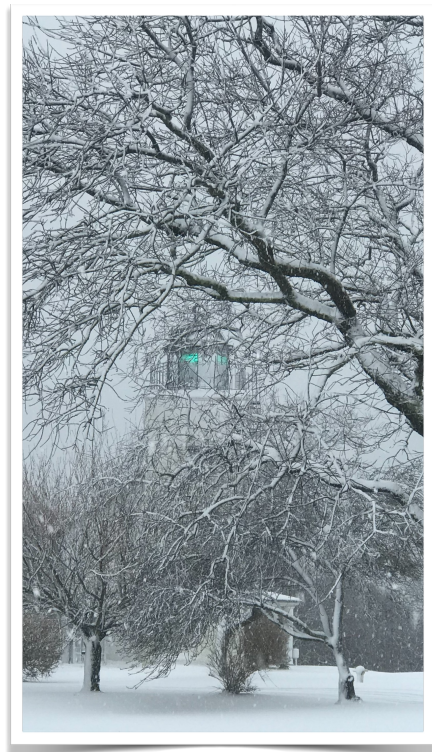
- Brick Garden Update: As of publication, most bricks have been installed in the brick garden at the Maple Lane Complex. Plans are in the works for the rescheduled dedication ceremony in late spring. Look for an announcement via email and social media with the date and time.

Pictured Right:

The Brick Garden at the Maple Lane Complex.



# Winter Storm Orlena Created a Winter Wonderland at SHS Museum Complex!



Pictured Left: Horton Point Lighthouse shines brightly through the snowy sky. Photo Credit: Darlene Siracusano. Pictured Above: A blanket of snow surrounds the Ann Currie-Bell house at the Museum Complex. Photo Credit: Dorothy Phillips.

## Calling All Graphic Designers!

Southold Historical Society is proud to announce that it is undergoing a rebranding campaign. This past June, the Society launched its new website. This winter, the Society is hosting a Logo Contest to redesign its logo. This summer, the museum will be announcing an updated name and revealing the new artwork.

Artists and designers are invited to submit a design for the Logo Contest between now and March 31, 2021. The design should represent the rich history of Southold and the vibrancy of the community.

There is a \$500 prize for the winning design. Entrants must be of sufficient legal age and standing to enter into a contract with Southold Historical Museum. Visit our website [www.southoldhistorical.org](http://www.southoldhistorical.org) for official contest rules and how to enter.

Southold Historical Society is proud to announce that it is undergoing a rebranding campaign. Artists and designers are invited to submit a design for the Logo Contest between now and March 31, 2021. There is \$500 cash prize. To learn more visit our website!

**IMAGINE,  
DESIGN,  
WIN.**

**\$500  
cash  
prize!**

## Members Are Special!

By now, you should have received a letter from our Membership Chair, Susi Young, asking you to renew your membership for 2021. We realize that you are asked to give many times throughout the year, but membership renewal is somewhat different. We consider Southold Historical Society members to be a very special component of the museum. You support the museum financially, yes. This is very much needed and much appreciated. However, you do even more than that. As a member, you believe in the mission of Southold Historical Society to promote interest in and education about the rich history of Southold. You help to preserve the objects and documents that reveal that history. You help ensure that we will both remember our ancestors and learn from their trials and efforts. You help to share this knowledge and enthusiasm with the community, including the youth who we hope will continue to value our shared history for the future.

At this time, will you kindly consider renewing your membership (if you have not already)? Perhaps you might even recruit a friend to become a member too? You are a vital part of the organization, and we couldn't do it without you!

# SHS Newsletter Puzzle

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## SHS Word Scramble

Try your hand at this TRICKY word scramble based on the content of this newsletter. Send in your completed sheet for a chance to win a \$25 Amazon gift card donated by Peconic Energy Corp.!

- BKCRI DNGERA \_\_\_\_\_
- GOLO ONSCTET \_\_\_\_\_
- RARGDEINNB \_\_\_\_\_
- CHSA EIZPR \_\_\_\_\_
- IENTWR \_\_\_\_\_
- UMMESU \_\_\_\_\_
- OLTCCCELINO \_\_\_\_\_
- VRESANGCE NHUT \_\_\_\_\_
- AANNUL TGNMIEE \_\_\_\_\_
- WONS \_\_\_\_\_
- SIATRT \_\_\_\_\_
- LHTUSOOD \_\_\_\_\_
- TLIRVUA \_\_\_\_\_
- RAT \_\_\_\_\_
- SYOIHRT \_\_\_\_\_
- MZOO \_\_\_\_\_
- FNGRDAIUISN \_\_\_\_\_

For a chance to win a \$25 gift card, mail your completed Word Scramble to:  
Southold Historical Society, P.O. Box 1, Southold, NY 11971



*welcome*  
**SOUTHOLD HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

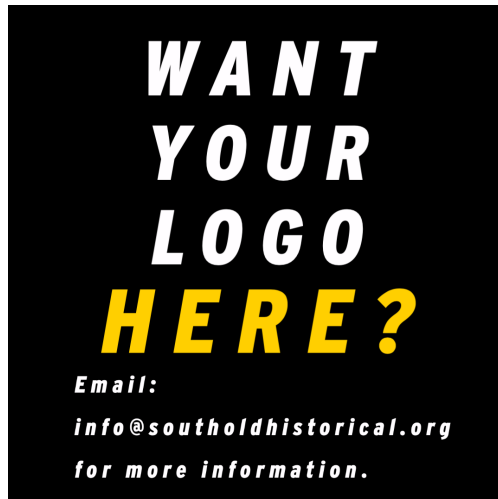
Welcome to our new and returning members of the Southold Historical Society Board of Trustees. Herb Adler, Jr., Rosemary McKinley, and Richard Vessa were elected to serve another term as trustees. Joel Reitman, who served as a trustee several years ago, was elected as a trustee. Elected alongside him was Larry Rubin who is a brand new in the role. Each of these trustees has unique talent, experience, and enthusiasm which they bring to the board. We are appreciative of their dedication and look forward working together.

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 Elizabeth Barratt  
*1st Vice President*  
 Paul Edelson  
*2nd Vice President*  
 Jay Cardwell  
*Treasurer*  
 Sara Evans  
*Assistant Treasurer*  
 Margaret "Lee" Cleary  
*Secretary*

Herb Adler, Jr.  
 John Barnes  
 Caroline MacArthur  
 Rosemary McKinley  
 Joel Reitman  
 Larry Rubin  
 Marie Scalia  
 Mickey St John  
 Barbara Strokoff  
 Richard Vessa  
*Trustees*

*2021 Business Sponsors*



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*Southold Historical Society*

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 Rachel Johnson  
*Office Administrator*  
 Walter Jackson  
*Office Assistant*  
 Ed Forte  
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