

The  
**INFORMATION  
WINDOW**  
of the  
Wantagh Preservation Society  
PO Box 132, Wantagh, New York  
11793

**NEXT MEETING NOV 23**

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November 2010

OFFICERS	
President	Tom Watson
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.	Ellen Cook
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.	Chris Wendt
Recording Secretary	Jane Brauer
Corresp. Secretary	Dick MacMillan
Treasurer	Elaine Yarris

TRUSTEES			
Alice Blaustein	Theresa Donahue	Jeffrey Saporito	Chris Wendt
Jim Colotti	Dick MacMillan	Joshua Soren	Sue Wendt
Ellen Cook	Joan Mallon	Al Thomson	Elaine Yarris
Robert Cook	Claire Reisert	Thomas Watson	

**NOVEMBER 23 MEETING**

Our November 23 Membership Meeting will be held at 8:00 P.M. in the general purpose room of the Wantagh Public Library. Our speaker will be long-time Society member Joshua Soren, who will describe the community of High Hill Beach, which was located near what is now parking lot 6 of Jones Beach State Park.

After the meeting, our refreshment committee will provide coffee and other good things; if you'd like to help with donations of cookies or cake, call Theresa Donahue at (516) 221-2152. 📖

**ANNUAL CAROL SING**

The society's annual carol sing is scheduled for Sunday, December 12 at 2:00 P.M. All are invited for an afternoon get-together to sing Christmas carols and Chanukah songs to the accompaniment of Al Thomson's keyboard.

We'll finish off the celebration with hot cocoa and cookies in the holiday-decorated Museum waiting room. This is a fine quiet occasion to greet our friends and enjoy the spirit of the season.


Bring your friends (and enemies that you'd like to convert to friends) and have a ball. 📖

**NEW OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES**

Officers and Trustees elected at the October meeting of the Board of Trustees will be installed following Mr. Soren's talk. The four trustees are Bob Cook, Josh Soren, Bob Meagher and Al Thomson.

The new officers are:

President:	Tom Watson
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President:	Chris Wendt
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President:	Bob Cook
Recording Secretary:	Elaine Yarris
Corresp. Secretary:	Dick MacMillan
Treasurer:	Joshua Soren



**Preservation Society  
Calendar**

**Tuesday, November 23, 2010:** Membership meeting in the Wantagh Library, 8:00 P.M

**Sunday, December 12, 2010:** Carol Sing on the platform of the Wantagh Museum Station.

**Tuesday, January 11, 2010:** Trustees Meeting in the Waiting Room of the Wantagh Museum, 8:00 P.M.

**Tuesday, January 25, 2011:** Membership meeting in the Wantagh Library, 8:00 P.M. 📖

**TO JOIN OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP**

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

Addr: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ New  Renew

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one:            Indiv. \$10    Family \$20  
                  Friend \$30    Patron \$50    Fellow \$100

I'd like to help with:             Gardening and planting  
 General Meeting planning     Publication and newsletter  
 Special Event planning         Publicity  
 Construction                     Hosting museum on a Sunday  
 Restoration                      Other \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to Wantagh Preservation Society  
P O Box 132, WANTAGH, NY 11793

**SLAVES AND SEAMANS**

In the early days of the development of Long Island, slavery was an accepted way of gathering the labor force required for good living. Following the first settlers from New England, the arrival of the Quakers began to change local attitudes. Here in Wantagh (of course, it was called Jerusalem then), the Seamans and Jacksons took up this change.

On Wantagh Avenue, the home of the John Jackson Family still stands. Jackson and his bride, Elizabeth Seaman, operated a lumber mill that became the place of work for many freed slaves between 1770 and 1830. Those freed men and women established a community known as *The Brush* where escaping slaves came to find safety and work.


In Westbury, the Westbury Meeting House stands today on the south corner of Jericho Turnpike and Post Avenue, the third on this site. It was here that, in 1775, Elias Hicks spoke and convinced the members of Westbury to liberate their slaves.

Built in 1695 on what is currently Post Road in Westbury is *The Old Place*, which was originally the house of Gideon Seaman, a Quaker who aided Elias Hicks with manumission of slaves. Through a series of marriages, the home later was owned by the Hicks family and was used as a stop on the Underground Railroad. Groups of escaping slaves were taken from New York City by wagon and given shelter until they could be transported to boats on the Long Island Sound.


In Roslyn, built in 1701, the *Roslyn Grist Mill* was owned by the Seaman Family. Converted to a tea house in 1916 and now the focus of restoration efforts, the mill is also believed to have served as a departure point for escaping slaves.

One Wantagh remnant of the Underground Railroad is a vertical ladder concealed inside a small closet located on the first floor in Wantagh's 1829 Quaker Meeting House. This leads up to a few steps hidden in the ceiling, which open into the attic of the building. This area, with its concealed entrance, could easily have been used by a sympathetic congregation to accommodate escaped southern slaves.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES**

We're always ready to accept your new membership or renewal. When you fill out the form, be sure to include your e-mail address, so we can send you your e-copy of the Information Window ahead of the "snail mail" version ... and 'X' any of the "I'd like to help" boxes that match your style. 

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

After a late start this year, memberships have been coming in at a record level. We hope that each of our current members will reach out to neighbors and invite them to join as well. 

**The INFORMATION WINDOW**

The *Information Window* is a publication of the Wantagh Preservation Society, and is published preceding its monthly Membership Meetings.

It is also available on-line at [www.wantagh.li](http://www.wantagh.li) along with the Society's event program and all sorts of good things connected with Wantagh.

You are invited to submit articles on items of local historical interest. The editor is Dick MacMillan, at (516) 785-3951, or e-mail at [rvmacm@aol.com](mailto:rvmacm@aol.com). 