



See page 3 on
becoming a
member!

The Information Window

50th Anniversary Celebration

By Carol Poulos, Second Vice President

The Wantagh Preservation Society held a celebration on September 24th to commemorate its 50th year. As we look back, this is a good time to reflect on our founder, Margaret Davis Aiken (please see her photo on page 2) and those who were responsible for saving our historic 1885 railroad station. If not for their hard work, the building would have been gone and the museum would not be here today.

Margaret Aiken spoke to fundraisers in the 1960's, early in the project to set up the old station as a museum. Her opening remarks were as follows:

"Thank you all for letting me come to talk to you today. I'm always happy to explain to people how a perfectly sane person can become involved in a crazy project like moving a railroad station up the street!

I've traveled a lot & lived a lot of places, and have always sketched & painted wherever I've been. I've always fallen in love with my surroundings; simple things – old houses appeal to me. In the last 20 years of my life on Long Island, I've grown fond of and have sketched quite a few hundred old houses in this area.


It's heartbreaking to see an old building which you love and respect crumble and disappear through neglect, vandals, fire or simply the march of progress. I got so I was running around a few years ago trying to capture the spirit of a hundred years or tone of life in a sketch.

Suddenly the knowledge that the old Wantagh RR Depot was to be demolished unless someone decided to find a use for it inspired a few friends – mainly artists like myself – and we had a couple of meetings with the Garden Club ladies who cared that we had a new attractive park, as well as a few politically oriented ladies who understood that politicians are useful to help you get things done.

At this point I still had no intention of heading an organization – I could supply inspiration, but know-how and leadership were two qualities I left to others.

My friend, Elaine Lichtenstein, whose husband is one of our school principals, wrote letters to Senator Speno, Ralph Caso, Congressmen Tenzor & Wydler, and we got answers, interest & support."

Margaret and her group, referred to by locals as Margy and her Steamrollers, were advised by the LIRR that they could have the station, but it could not stay where it was. They needed to find a suitable site for the building. They followed the advice they were given, and worked tirelessly. Things slowly started to fall into place. In September 1966, the station was moved from Railroad Avenue up north to its new home at 1700 Wantagh Avenue.

Restoration was still to be done but this was the beginning of our society. Please see page 2 for a photograph of Margaret Aiken and page 4 for photographs of the celebration. 



*Wantagh Train Station at its Original
Location on Railroad Avenue*



*Wantagh Train Station Being Moved
Up Wantagh Avenue*



*Wantagh Train Station Being
Positioned on the Museum Grounds*

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ General Meeting, November 22, 7:00 PM at Wantagh Museum, featuring the lecture "Penn Station" by John Turkeli



Join us for
Hot Cocoa
& Cookies!
**Sunday
December 11
2 to 4 PM**
All are invited!
FREE!

See page 3 for more details.

Wantagh Preservation Society

1700 Wantagh Avenue (Museum Location)

PO Box 132 (Mailing Address)

Wantagh, Long Island, New York 11793

516.826.8767

museum.wantagh.li

Wantagh Preservation Society

Elected Officers

President: Karen Chowske
1st Vice President: Bob Meagher
2nd Vice President: Carol Poulos
Recording Secretary: Wayne Wagner
Corresponding Secretary: Mary Wagner
Treasurer: Tom Watson

Appointed Officers

Curator: Carol Poulos
Newsletter Editor: Jim Colotti

Trustees

Bob Cook
Ellen Cook
Joan Mallon
Claire Reisert
Joshua Soren
Mary Wagner
Elaine Yarris

The Information Window is the official newsletter of the Wantagh Preservation Society, and is published approximately six times each year. Please obtain written permission from the individual authors before using material contained in this publication.

We hope you enjoy our newsletter. Your comments, ideas and suggestions are welcome!

wps@wantagh.li



Margaret Aiken, founder of the WPS, at the Wantagh Museum - Circa 1966

**Museum
is now closed
until the spring**



**More renovations
are
underway!**

Attention: Professional Photographers

Whether it be spring, summer, fall or winter, the grounds of the Wantagh Museum provide a scenic venue for professional photographers. However, a Photography Permit is required for all professional photographers that use the museum grounds.



The permit fee is only \$50 per hour (an additional fee of \$25 applies for access to the train observation deck). Your fees provide an important source of revenue for our Museum and helps us maintain its beauty that you depend on.

During your photo shoot, the museum grounds remain open to others and there can be no reservations of any particular area. However, residents that visit the museum have always been courteous.



Photography cannot take place before 10 AM or after dusk. Permits are rain or shine.

An approved permit must be presented during the shoot upon request. To apply for a permit, please scan or click the QR code.

Thank you for your support and for helping us maintain the grounds of the Wantagh Museum. 📖

Wantagh Preservation Society

Holiday Open House

The Wantagh Preservation Society will be teaming with the Wantagh Chamber of Commerce to host a fun-filled Holiday Open House on Sunday, December 11th from 2:00 to 4:00 PM at the Wantagh Museum, 1700 Wantagh Avenue.

Enjoy live holiday music performed by Wantagh High School students, creamy piping-hot chocolate and a variety of festive cookies. Don't forget to bring your camera to capture all the excitement with Santa who will be ready to take note of your Christmas gift wish list.

This event is free of charge and all are invited. 📖



The Holiday Open House is one of those rare occasions where mothers might say "it's OK to play on the railroad tracks"



Santa will be at the Holiday open House to take Christmas gift requests from all!



Wantagh High School students performing at a recent Holiday Open House

We Need You! Join or Renew Your Membership in 2017!

Name: _____
 Street: _____
 Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ New ☐ Renew ☐
 Email: _____

I'd like to help with:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening & Planting | <input type="checkbox"/> General Meeting Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hosting museum on a Sunday | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Event Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Publication & Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | | | |

Check Membership Level: ☐ Individual \$15 ☐ Family \$25 ☐ Friend \$35 ☐ Patron \$50 ☐ Fellow \$100

Please Make Checks Payable To: Wantagh Preservation Society PO Box 132 Wantagh, NY 11793

"Preservation with a Purpose."

Wantagh Preservation Society's 50th Anniversary Celebration



Photo captions (clockwise from the upper left): Bob Meagher welcomes all in attendance, Karen Chowske accepts a WPS citation from Assemblyman David McDonough (left) and Legislator Steve Rhoads (right), Miss Wantagh Court performs, residents enjoying the celebration, guests visiting the newly-renovated Jamaica Parlor Car, Boy Scout Troop 96 on the Jamaica observation deck, Elaine Yarris skillfully displays cupcakes for an expectant crowd, and Fred Parola addresses the group.

