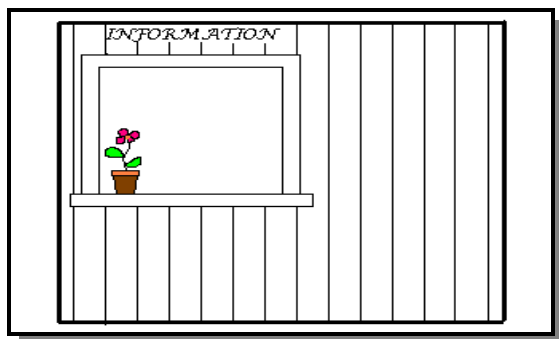


# The INFORMATION WINDOW of the WANTAGH PRESERVATION

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Mailing label

January 2006

## OFFICERS

President	Jeff Saporito
1st Vice Pres	Josh Soren
2nd Vice Pres	Larry Elliot
Recording Sec	Elaine Yarris
Corresp. Sec	Dick MacMillan
Treasurer	Harry Strole

## TRUSTEES

Alice Blaustein  
Rita Coffee  
Ellen Cook  
Georgia Cotsonas  
Theresa Donahue  
Mary Ege  
Larry Elliot  
Rose Kamins  
Dick MacMillan  
Grace MacMillan  
Frank McKenna  
Claire Reisert  
Jeffrey Saporito  
Harry Strole  
Joshua Soren  
Alfred Thomson  
Donald Warner  
Elaine Yarris

## JANUARY 24 MEETING

The January 24 Meeting of the Wantagh Preservation Society will be held at 8:00 P.M. in the general-purpose room of the Wantagh Library, on Park Avenue in “downtown” Wantagh. The Meeting will feature a talk on “The History of Levittown, New York,” by Paul Manton, Vice-President of the Levittown Historical Society. Levittown is a case history of planned development to take commercial advantage of the housing shortage following World War II, and the changes in style as the area developed.

We will begin with a short business meeting to account for the activities of the Society since the last meeting, and then adjourn for Mr. Manton’s talk. After the Meeting, coffee, tea and seasonal desserts will be served by our hostess, Ellen Cook. There will be ample time for chatting with Mr. Manton and members of the Society, and enjoyment of the refreshments.

This is the beginning of a new regime in the Refreshment Committee, with Ellen Cook taking over from Theresa Donohue. Theresa has chaired the Committee for a number of years now, and we thank her for many seasons of delicious refreshments. Here’s a chance to tell Ellen how nice her new table looks, and tell Theresa how things used to be better in the olden days!

If you’d like to help with refreshments, you can call Ellen Cook at (516) 785-0739. There’s always a need for more cookies, brownies and other good things to eat. 📖

## WPS ON THE WEB

Those of you who use the internet for keeping up with what’s going on in town will appreciate the local web site, [www.wantagh.li](http://www.wantagh.li). There’s all the stuff you’d expect – information from Wantagh organizations, all levels of government, commercial and business activities and even more.

To find out the latest about the Preservation Society, under “Community” or “Activities,” click on “Wantagh Preservation Society,” or “Wantagh Museum” and then on “Information Window” to read current news or check up on earlier copies of the Information Window. 📖



## Preservation Society Calendar

**Tuesday, January 24:** Membership Meeting at the Wantagh Library, 8:00 P.M.

**Tuesday, February 21:** Trustees Meeting in the waiting room of the Wantagh Museum, 8:00 P.M.

**Tuesday, February 28:** Membership Meeting at the Wantagh Library, 8:00 P.M.

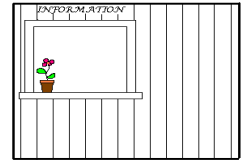
**Tuesday, March 21:** Trustees Meeting in the waiting room of the Wantagh Museum, 8:00 P.M. 📖

# THE INFORMATION WINDOW

OF THE WANTAGH PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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January 2006



## TO JOIN, OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Addr. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ZIP+4 \_\_\_\_\_


Phone \_\_\_\_\_ New  Renewal

Circle one:            Indiv. \$6    Family \$12  
                  Friend \$25    Patron \$50    Fellow \$100


Send to: Wantagh Preservation Society  
P O Box 132, Wantagh, New York 11793

## MUSEUM CLOSED FOR SEASON


The Wantagh Museum is now closed for the winter. When warmer weather permits more comfortable visits we'll start our summer schedule, and will be open from 2 to 4 Sunday afternoons. As they say, "Watch this space."

We do need more volunteers to host the museum. If you would like to volunteer as a host in the spring, call Donald Warner at (516) 826-6631, and he will be glad to pencil you into the schedule. 

## MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE

Check the subscription date on the mailing label on the front side of your Information Window. If your membership is like mine, it you'll see numbers on the top line ending in "06Jan." This means your (and my) membership expires in 2006, in January. No problem, though – it is possible to join or to renew your membership in the Wantagh Preservation Society for the 2006 year. Just select a membership level, fill out the form on this page and mail it with your check. 

## THE INFORMATION WINDOW

The *Information Window* is a publication of the Wantagh Preservation Society, and is published preceding its monthly Membership Meetings. The Editor is Dick MacMillan, (516) 785-3951. 

## REBUTTAL TO "IN THE BEGINNING"

*The November Information Window article on the beginnings of Long Islands' history invoked a brisk response from one of our Society members, George Dawson. Here's how he set us straight:*

Nov. 25, 2005

Mr. Dick MacMillan, Editor  
THE INFORMATION WINDOW  
Wantagh Preservation Society  
Box 132, Wantagh, NY 11793

Dear Mr. MacMillan:

The item "... IN THE BEGINNING" in the November issue is interesting but perpetuates the myth that Manhattan Island was purchased from the Indians in 1626 for \$24.

First, the United States dollar did not exist in 1626. According to Peter Jansen Schagen, an official of the West India Company in Amsterdam, Manhattan was purchased for a number of items (such as tools, cloth, kettles, and trinkets.) Schagen's source of information was news relayed by people who had just returned from America. He estimated the value of the items to be 60 guilders, and reported this to the States-General in The Hague in November of 1626.

It was not until some time in the 1880's that someone estimated the dollar value of the items as being \$24. Needless to say, the United States dollar in the 1880's had a purchasing power that was very different from the purchasing power of the dollar today. So even if the \$24 estimate was accurate when it was first promulgated, it would have to be revised today to account for inflation.

Another factor to be taken into account is that the Indians at that time did not have the same concept of land ownership that we have. It is probable that the Indians did not think they were selling the island, but just granting the Dutch the right to use it

Sincerely,

*George*