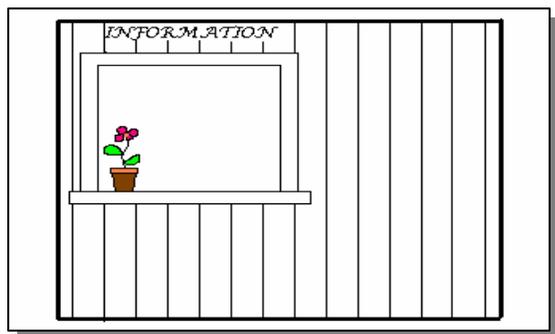


# The INFORMATION WINDOW of the WANTAGH PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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December, 2006

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## OFFICERS

President	Jeff Saporito
1st Vice Pres.	Josh Soren
2nd Vice Pres.	Ellen Cook
Recording Sec'y	Elaine Yarris
Corresp. Secy	Dick MacMillan
Treasurer	Harry Strole

## TRUSTEES

Alice Blaustein	Robert Cook	Rose Kamins	Claire Reiser	Alfred Thomson
Rita Coffey	Georgia Cotsonas	Dick MacMillan	Jeffrey Saporito	Sue Wendt
Ellen Cook	Theresa Donahue	Grace MacMillan	Harry Strole	Elaine Yarris
	Mary Ege	Frank McKenna	Joshua Soren	

## CAROL SING ON DECEMBER 10

Everyone is invited to join us at 2:00 P.M. on December 10 for our annual Carol Sing at the Wantagh Museum. We'll sing all sorts of Christmas Carols and Hanukkah Songs to celebrate the Holiday Season. WPS Trustee Al Thomson will accompany us on the keyboard, and we will expect folks to join in, singing with full harmony and enough energy to keep warm.

After the singing, we'll all go into the Museum to enjoy fellowship, cookies and hot chocolate. That's probably the best part of all. 📖

## NEW OFFICERS FOR 2007

At the November 28 Membership Meeting, the officers for the 2007 season and one trustee for the class of 2008 and four trustees for the class of 2011, were sworn in by Nassau County Representative Dave Denenberg.

The new officers are Jeff Saporito, president; Joshua Soren, first vice-president; Ellen Cook, second vice-president; Elaine Yarris, recording secretary; Richard MacMillan, corresponding secretary; and Harry Strole, treasurer.

The new trustee for the class of 2008 is Sue Wendt, and the four trustees for the class of 2011 are Alice Blaustein, Zack Brauer, Georgia Cotsonas and Grace MacMillan.

We congratulate all these special people, and wish them well in their service to the Society. 📖

## PINK LADIES IN THE PAST

Wantagh was among 21 South Shore villages that organized "Pink Ladies" – ongoing volunteers at South Nassau Communities Hospital in Oceanside. These women usually spent one day a week at this non-profit medical center, aiding the nursing and administrative staffs. They were identified by their pink outfits as they performed their jobs at the hospital.

In the Wantagh Museum waiting room, there's a new exhibit with more details of this program, which lasted from 1950 to 1960. There's even a "Pink Lady" uniform worn by Sara DeLong, one of the volunteers from Wantagh, who was also one of the Charter Members of the Wantagh Preservation Society.

Sara's sister, Vera Coron (1925 - 1987) focussed on local fundraising for the hospital's expansion and improvements, often chairing committees 📖



## Preservation Society Calendar

**Sunday, December 10:** Preservation Society Carol Sing, at the Wantagh Museum, 2:00 P.M.

**Sunday, January 18:** Trustee Meeting in the Wantagh Museum waiting room, 8:00 P.M.

**Tuesday, January 23:** Membership Meeting at the Wantagh Library, 8:00 P.M. 📖

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OF THE WANTAGH PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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## TO JOIN, OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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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

## MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE

Check the subscription date on the mailing label on the front side of your Information Window. If you see numbers on the top line ending in "06Jan." or earlier, this means your membership expired in 2006, in January or earlier. Just select a membership level, fill out the form on this page and mail it with your check.

As a special incentive, note that the board of trustees plans to raise our dues levels in 2007, so the sooner the better 

## MUSEUM CLOSES FOR WINTER

The Wantagh Museum will close for the Winter season on December 10, after the Carol Sing. Group tours of the museum will still be possible by special reservation, though. The Museum and the Railroad Car, Jamaica, will be re-opened next Spring, on April 22, with hours from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

If you would like to volunteer as a host next Spring, call Claire Reisert at (516) 785-1309, and she will be glad to pencil you into the schedule. 

## THE INFORMATION WINDOW

The *Information Window* is a publication of the Wantagh Preservation Society, and is published preceding its monthly Membership Meetings. You are invited to submit short articles on items of local historical interest. The Editor is Dick MacMillan, (516) 785-3951. 

## BIRDSALL JAMES' STORY

*Birdsall Post James (1886 - 1973) experienced much of the growth of the farming village of Jerusalem into the residential complex that Wantagh is today. Here is a part of his essay on his experiences in Seaford and Wantagh, which he wrote about 1970.*

I was born in north Wantagh on Garners Avenue, which is Gardiners Avenue now. I was born on a farm called Jerusalem then half-way between Jerusalem Road [now called North Jerusalem Road] and Fulton Avenue or Hempstead Turnpike.

I went to school on Jerusalem Road. The School had only one room and we had to walk over a stile. In the wintertime we had a stove at one end of the school, like they had in the stores down in Wantagh. The boys that were big enough had to go out each day and saw wood, which the farmers supplied.

We also had a farm of 35 acres in Seaford Harbor, which belonged to my father's aunt. We had to drive down to the farm and back again at night, which was about three or four miles. It was nothing but wild plains and the nearest house was a half mile away. Once a week there was a man who would come to the house with a wagon full of goods to sell. His wares included groceries and dry goods. We made reckoning of him coming to get candy. You could get penny candy, which was large enough to last all day.

When you wanted a doctor you had to hitch up a horse and drive either to Wantagh or Hicksville. The doctor would have to do the same to get to a patient.

There was only one store in Wantagh, Fussell Brothers, and they sold everything.

When I was married a while I worked for a baker in Wantagh and had to get there at 3:30 A.M. to feed horses and load my wagon for the baker route. The place was where the drug store is now, just north of the Long Island Railroad. 