

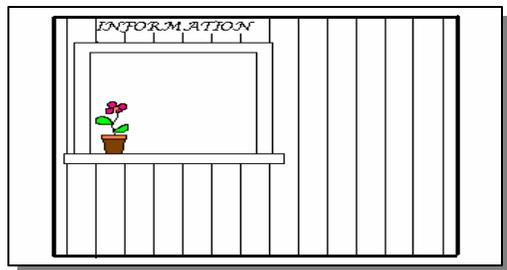
# INFORMATION WINDOW

of the  
**WANTAGH PRESERVATION SOCIETY**  
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January, 2007

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## OFFICERS

President	Jeff Saporito
1st Vice Pres.	Joshua Soren
2nd Vice Pres.	Ellen Cook
Recording Secy	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	

## JANUARY 23 MEETING

Our January 23 meeting will be held in the Community Room of the Wantagh Public Library at 8:00 o'clock. We will start with a short business meeting and adjourn for the program. The program itself had not been selected, but will be announced at the time of the meeting. Then we'll all enjoy comments and discussion, coffee and desserts.

If you'd like to help with the refreshments, please call Ellen Cook at (516) 785-0739. 📖

## WALKING TOUR OF WANTAGH

Trustee Zack Brauer and former trustee Tom Watson reported at the last Trustees meeting that they are preparing a summary of Wantagh historical sites. They plan to present it in the form of a Walking Tour, with a path laid out so that a "pilgrim" can visit and view the sites in a systematic pattern.

At this point, the path extends from the St. John of Jerusalem Church in North Wantagh to the former High Hill colony at Jones Beach! With the required meanders, it may well be too long for casual walking. The solution will probably be to break it up into several "one day" walk sections to make it more manageable. Zack and Tom hope to have a draft version ready for trial by early Summer, and plan ultimately to have a printed booklet describing the walks. 📖

## NEW OFFICERS FOR 2007

At the November 28 Membership Meeting, the six officers for the 2007 season, and five trustees 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; Dick 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. 📖



## Preservation Society Calendar

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

**Tuesday, February 20:** Trustee Meeting in the Wantagh Museum waiting room, 8:00 P.M.

**Tuesday, February 27:** Membership Meeting at the Wantagh Library, 8:00 P.M. 📖

# THE INFORMATION WINDOW

OF THE WANTAGH PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Page 2

January 2007



## TO JOIN, OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP

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

Circle one:      Indiv. \$10    Family \$20  
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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.

Note that the dues have increased with this issue of the Information Window. The benefits of being a Society member are just as great as ever, though. 

## MUSEUM CLOSED FOR WINTER

The Wantagh Museum is closed for the Winter season – group tours of the museum will still be possible by special reservation, though. The Museum and the Railroad Car, Jamaica, will be re-opened in the Spring, on April 22, with Sunday hours from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

If you would like to volunteer as a host for an afternoon, 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. 

## WANTAGH ANNUAL

Volume V, 1961

*Excerpt from a booklet published by Thomas B. Land in Freeport, New York, and distributed in Wantagh. It contains articles of local interest to Wantagh, as well as ads for local businesses.* 

## JERUSALEM ROAD TOOK NAME OF OLD QUAKER VILLAGE HERE

Unlike most South Shore communities, Wantagh had its earliest settlements in an area far north of the waterfront. Quakers chose the earliest home sites in 1654 on Wantagh Avenue near Jerusalem Road. [Wantagh Avenue at that time was "Jerusalem Avenue," and Jerusalem Road is now "North Jerusalem Road."] Paths between their dwellings eventually became highways, many of which are still in existence.

It took many years – and the building of the Long Island Railroad's Montauk Division – to develop what has since become the heart of Wantagh.

Going back further into history we find that in 1643 a group of pioneers from Connecticut traded with the Indians' leader, known as Wantagh, for much of the land that now constitutes Nassau County. The Dutch in New Amsterdam and later the new British rulers confirmed this transaction.

Long before the Quakers (Society of Friends) dared to meet openly, as they were a persecuted people, they had secret gatherings in private homes, barns and cellars. In 1827 the Society of Friends, at a meeting in Jericho, resolved to build "a meeting house in Jerusalem to be 34 feet by 28 feet and 14 posts at a cost of \$965."

This is the Quaker Meeting House on Wantagh Avenue, at Twin Lane – now part of the First Baptist Church property, a short distance south of Southern State Parkway.

One of the few early homes remaining today is the Jackson family homestead, designated by a State Highway sign on Wantagh Avenue's west side near Island Road. Legend attributes to this dwelling a romance, in which Jane Jackson, daughter of the homesteader, eloped one night with John Althouse, a Hessian soldier. 