

The  
**INFORMATION  
WINDOW**

of the  
Wantagh Preservation Society  
PO Box 132, Wantagh, New York 11793

Dated material

Change  
services  
requested

**NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
WANTAGH NY  
PERMIT No 100**

September, 2008

**OFFICERS**

President	Joshua Soren
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.	Jeff Saporito
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.	Ellen Cook
Recording Secretary	Chris Wendt
Corresp. Secretary	Robert Cook
Treasurer	Elaine Yarris


**TRUSTEES**

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


**SEPTEMBER 23 MEETING**

The September 23 Membership Meeting of the Society will be a history lecture on Jones Beach State Park. Our guest speaker will be John Hanc, contributing editor for Newsday. Mr. Hanc will speak about his recently published book, "Jones Beach, an Illustrated History."

Jones Beach opened on August 4, 1929. In the years since, it has attracted more than 500 million visitors. In his illustrated book, John Hanc explores the traditions, institutions, controversies and characters of this seaside resort, now a State Historic Landmark.

The meeting will begin with a short business meeting, followed by Mr. Hanc's talk. Afterward, there will be a period for questions and answers, and at the end, there will be refreshments for all to enjoy. If you'd like to help with the refreshments, call Theresa Donahue at (516) 785-0735. 

**WELCOME BACK**

After a fine Summer hiatus, the Preservation Society is beginning its Fall Season. There are all sorts of activities planned, and you are invited to share them. The first event, of course is the Autumn Yard Sale, next Saturday on the Museum Grounds. We plan to have good weather (but you can call 516-826-8767 to find out whether it is a rain day.) Just read each issue of the Information Window to keep informed. 

**AUTUMN YARD SALE**


The most exciting event this season will be our Autumn Yard Sale, on September 27, from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. on our Wantagh Avenue Museum Grounds.

It will follow the format we have used for a number of years, with many vendors displaying all sorts of wares for us to enjoy ... and buy to take home for further enjoyment. The weather will be great of course, and a good time is guaranteed for all.

There is reasonably good street parking near the Museum, but please be considerate of our neighbors, who like to be able to get their cars out on the road, too.

In addition to all the excitement of the Sale, there are interesting exhibits in the old Wantagh Railroad Station and in the Parlor Car, "Jamaica," parked on the rails out front. And don't forget to peek into the old Wantagh Post Office, being restored on the north side of the Grounds. It's not open yet, but you can marvel at how much postal service was crammed into such a small space.

In addition to the excitement and food for thought, we will also provide real food, to sustain you through the day; chili and hot dogs, cakes and cookies, and hot and cold drinks to help wash them down.

Come to see what's on display, and stay to have a great day! 

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

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

Here's one of the stories in the recently published "Historical Sites of Wantagh," now available at the Wantagh Preservation Society meetings:

WANTAGH'S VANISHING BLACK COMMUNITY

Wantagh's black community was established soon after the end of the Revolutionary War in the late 1780s and 1790s when white founding families of Jerusalem, including the Jacksons, freed their slaves. The Jacksons and other local Quaker families were opposed to slavery, and subsequently purchased additional slaves in order to free them. Many of these newly liberated people decided to settle in what was then known as Jerusalem.

Jerusalem became an established stop on the Underground Railroad, which brought some of the South's escaped black slaves to freedom in the North. Many of these people also decided to remain in Wantagh, further increasing the community's black population.

One apparent remnant of the Underground Railroad is a 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 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.

The Quakers and other white residents also provided land to the freed slaves, in an area of Wantagh covered with pine, oak and scrub oak trees, which became known as The Brush.

TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP

Check the expiration date on the mailing label on the front side of your Information Window. There should be the note, "Dues paid to Jan '09," or later. If not, just select a membership level, fill out the form above, and mail it with your check.

MAIL LABEL CORRECTIONS

The new mail labels used for the first time on the last Information Window, remarkably enough, had a few errors. Two of our readers kindly phoned in changes, which are now in place.

We also made corrections in the Dues paid til ... entries, with the aid of the Society's Corresponding Secretary, Membership Chair and the Treasurer! It is still entirely possible that there are other errors still lurking. Please check your label to make sure that everything is to your liking, and give the editor a ring at (516) 785-3951 to make it better.

The INFORMATION WINDOW

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

It is also available on-line at 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, (516) 785-3951.

Preservation Society Calendar

Saturday, September 27. Autumn Yard Sale, 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. (Rain date on September 28)

Tuesday, October 21. Trustees Meeting in the Museum waiting room, 8:00 P.M. (Election of Officers)

Tuesday, October 28 Membership Meeting in the Community Room of the Wantagh Library, 8:00 P.M.

Tuesday, November 18. Trustees Meeting in the Museum waiting room, 8:00 P.M.