

The
**INFORMATION
WINDOW**
of the
Wantagh Preservation Society
PO Box 132, Wantagh, New York
11793

NEXT MEETING FEB 23

Dated material
Change
services
requested

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

February 2010

OFFICERS		TRUSTEES	
President	Tom Watson	Alice Blaustein	Robert Cook
1 st Vice Pres.	Ellen Cook	Jim Colotti	Theresa Donahue
2 nd Vice Pres.	Chris Wendt	Rita Coffey	Rose Kamins
Recording Secretary	Jane Brauer	Ellen Cook	Dick MacMillan
Corresp. Secretary	Dick MacMillan	Joan Mallon	Joshua Soren
Treasurer	Elaine Yarris	Claire Reisert	Alfred Thomson
		Jeffrey Saporito	Thomas Watson
			Chris Wendt
			Sue Wendt
			Elaine Yarris

FEBRUARY 23 MEETING

The January 23 General Meeting will be held in the Community Room of the Wantagh Public Library, at 8:00 P.M. Milton Seltaer, as he has every February for many years, will present a talk on Abraham Lincoln on “Uncle Tom’s Cabin and Harriet Beecher Stowe.” After the talk there will be a refreshment period with informal conversation with the Milton.

Following refreshments, there will be a short business meeting for Society members, with our new Society President, Tom Watson.


NEW PRESIDENT-ELECT

Among the officers who were installed at our November meeting is our new President, Tom Watson. Tom was a member back in 1994, and was assigned by his company to a “temporary” job in Switzerland. He is to be re-assigned to a local position this Spring, and was elected president on the basis of his earlier interest in the society, and his recent work in researching and writing the *Historical Sites in Wantagh* brochure that has turned out to be a “best seller” among Wantagh residents and at the Society’s Yard Sales.

PROGRAMS FOR 2010

Elain Yarris, our Treasurer, who has been working with our Program Director, Ellen Cook, has announced the following schedule for the first months of the 2010 Society meetings:

- March 23 The Underground Railroad on Long Island, with Kathleen Velsor
- April 27 Spies for the Revolution, “The Culper Spies of Setauket”
- May 25 Field Trip to the Levittown History Museum



**Preservation Society
Calendar**

Tuesday, February 23 General Membership Meeting in the Community Room of the Wantagh Public Library, 8:00 P.M.

Tuesday, March 9, 2010: Trustees meeting in the Waiting Room of the Wantagh Museum, 8:00 P.M.

Tuesday, March 23, 2010: General Membership Meeting in the Community Room of the Wantagh Public Library, 8:00 P.M.

TO JOIN OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Addr: _____

_____ ZIP _____


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

MEMBERSHIP DUES

This the first issue of the Information Window for the year 2010 so it seems like a good time to mention that dues for the year 2010 are due now. The coupon above is just waiting to be filled out and mailed in to keep your membership current.

When you fill out the form, be sure to include your e-mail address, so we can send you your copy of the Information Window ahead of the "snail mail" version. If this method is preferred, we may be able to reduce our postage costs for those who are on the internet. 


MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Membership Chair Alice Blaustein reported at February's Trustee Meeting that so far this year 23 members had remembered to pay their dues. She is hopeful that more will be coming in over the next month so that we will have complete membership for the new year. 

The INFORMATION WINDOW

The *Information Window* is a publication of the Wantagh Preservation Society, and is published 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, at (516) 785-3951, or e-mail at rvmacm@aol.com. 

JONES BEACH HISTORY

Dave Sanders, a Licensed Sales Associate with Netter Real Estate, 404 Montauk Highway in West Islip has collected data on the barrier islands of the south shore of Long Island provides these notes on Jones Beach.

Crusty old baymen still refer to the 18-mile barrier island that stretches from Jones Beach to Captree as "the strand." And centuries before there was an Ocean Parkway, it was simply a collection of empty beaches and swampy marshland. In 1695, a Welsh privateer named Maj. Thomas Jones bought thousands of acres from the Indians and used the land as a whaling outpost. Long after Jones' death, people continued to call it Jones Beach. Beside a few hunting shacks, there were no dwellings on the main beach or adjacent islands until 1879, when Henry Livingston built a cottage on Oak Island. Before that, mainland farmers used to drop off cattle at the island to graze the pastures until they were picked up in late fall. But by the turn of the century, the Oak Island steamer was ferrying summer vacationers back and forth to cottages and boarding houses that sprang up at the bustling beach resort.

Even before the Revolutionary War, entrepreneurs harvested the salt hay, sedge and black grass along the island's shores to ship to New York City. The hay was valuable livestock bedding, and early settlers used it to thatch roofs, fill mattresses and mulch crops. While the rest of the country celebrated Labor Day, Long Islanders ushered in the marshing season, when crews of cutters staked their claims and spent days loading the Island's bounty onto hay boats.

The turning point came when Robert Moses, a Connecticut native, became enchanted with the barrier beaches after friends invited him to Babylon in 1922. He rented a cottage in Oak Beach for many years, later moving to Gilgo. Besides turning half of "the strand" by the 1930s into a refuge known as Jones Beach State Park, Moses -- and his parkways -- opened up the summer-only communities of Oak Beach, Gilgo Beach, Captree and others to year-round residents. 