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# The Information Window

## Party Like It's 1899

By Jim Colotti, WPS Trustee

On an affable September afternoon, the Banjo Rascals carted Wantagh back in time on a spirited musical journey. A diverse group of spectators were treated to tunes that ranged from 1890's Ragtime to 1930's Swing to 1970's Rock & Roll.

These Rascals delivered a high-energy performance that included vintage hits like "I'll See You in My Dreams", "It's a Wonderful World", "Hello Dolly", "Big Butter & Egg Man" and "Meet Me in St. Louis". A few of these melodies may not have been familiar to some - and that was part of the afternoon's magic. Young and mature alike were bestowed an atypical experience of old-fashioned songs performed in old-school style.



The feisty Banjo Rascals perform at the Wantagh Museum

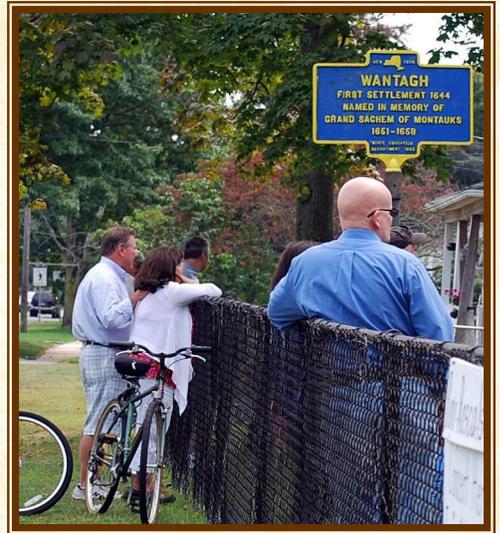


Some in the audience took the term "Swing Music" literally

A solid bass footing was delivered by Mike Weatherly accompanied by the banjo duo of Geri & Jim Rheel and the hearty trumpet of Barry Bryson. At the close of the concert, an unexpected twist took place when Barry's mom grasped the mike and recounted that during World War I her dad, stationed at Lufbery Field, waited with his wife at the Wantagh Station for the train to take them home. The very same Station that their grandson Barry just performed.

The Banjo Rascals have been playing as a band since 1968. Previous venues for this quintet include Lincoln Center, Yankee Stadium and the Javits Center.

A special thanks to the Friends of the Wantagh Library that co-sponsored this musical experience with the WPS. 📖



Even passers-by stopped to enjoy the music

## Wantagh Preservation Society

1700 Wantagh Avenue (Museum Location)

PO Box 132 (Mailing Address)

Wantagh, Long Island, New York 11793

516.826.8767

[museum.wantagh.li](http://museum.wantagh.li)

### Upcoming Events:

- ◆ Trustee Meeting, October 7, 7:30 PM at the Wantagh Museum
- ◆ Community Yard Sale, October 18, 10:00 AM at the Wantagh Museum
- ◆ General Meeting, October 28, 7:00 PM at the Wantagh Library featuring "Haunted Long Island" (please see page 2 for details)
- ◆ Trustee Meeting, November 4, 7:30 PM at the Wantagh Museum
- ◆ General Meeting, November 25, 7:30 PM at the Wantagh Library featuring "Theodore Roosevelt and Sagamore Hill"

## Wantagh Preservation Society

### Elected Officers

*President:* Bob Meagher  
*1st Vice President:* Karen Chowske  
*2nd Vice President:* Bob Cook  
*Recording Secretary:* Tom Watson  
*Corresponding Secretary:* Elaine Yarris  
*Treasurer:* Wayne Wagner

### Appointed Officers

*Curator:* Carol Poulos  
*Newsletter Editor:* Jim Colotti

### Trustees

Ellen Cook  
Joan Mallon  
Claire Reisert  
Joshua Soren  
Mary Wagner

*The Information Window is the official newsletter of the Wantagh Preservation Society, and is published every two months. Please obtain written permission from the individual authors before using material contained in this publication.*

*We hope you enjoy our newsletter. Your comments, ideas and suggestions are welcome!*

[wps@wantagh.li](mailto:wps@wantagh.li)

*A Special Thanks to our friends at*

## Iavarone Brothers

for the donation  
of delicious

## Hot Dogs

at our Autumn Yard Sale!



***Hurry! The Museum  
is open on Sundays 2-4 PM  
but only until November 9.***



***Stop by and see our  
newly renovated  
exhibits!***

## Long Island Ghosts

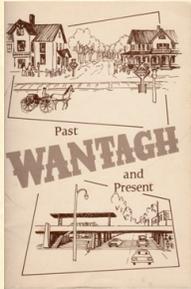
*By Alison Lorch, WPS Member*

Award-winning author and historian Kerriann Flanagan Brosky will present "Ghosts of Long Island, Stories of the Paranormal" at the WPS general meeting on October 28, 7 PM at the Wantagh Library.



Kerriann has investigated many Long Island locations that were suspected of being haunted. Hear fascinating accounts of the paranormal which are woven into Long Island's rich history.

All are welcome, refreshments will be served. 



## Donation Thanks!

By Carol Poulos, WPS Curator

Wantagh Preservation Society would like to express thanks for donations recently received. Helen Levie donated several black & white 8x10 photos of the old Wantagh station, railroad tracks and Wantagh & Railroad Avenue intersection. She also donated a photo cube with a copy of a drawing of old Merrick Road and a copy of the book "Wantagh Past & Present", 2nd Edition, reprinted in 1976. This book is a wonderful source of information about Wantagh history and was written by Social Studies teachers from the Wantagh School District. It was used in the 7th grade.



Connie Buckingham, a former Wantagh resident, donated a working 1923 Victor Victrola record player and old records. The donation was made in memory of her grandparents, Caterina & Vincenti Lamaro of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, who purchased it and used in their home.

Our president, Bob Meagher donated a 1953 copy of the By-Laws of the Forest City Community Association, a program from the dinner-dance held in May 1953 to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the Association, and a postcard of the swimming pool and recreation area. Bob grew up in the Forest City area of Wantagh and his parents were members of the Community Association.



Jim Hiltonsmith donated a CD of a 1967 interview with his great aunt, Mabel Wilmarth. She spoke about her memories of Wantagh/Ridgewood in the late 1880s. He also allowed us to scan his collection of Wantagh photos, 277 images in all!

Mrs. Lillian Bryson donated a collection of articles, a menu and assorted items relating to the Wantagh Hotel. She also gave us a 1930's postal scale. 📖

## Renovation of a Historical Sign

By Tom Watson, WPS Trustee

Christian Wendt recently painted the old rusty Robert Jackson historical sign as part of his Eagle Scout project. The newly renovated sign is located on the east side of Wantagh Avenue - just a bit south of King Kullen. 📖

### Join or Renew Your Membership for 2014!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ New  Renew   
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Membership Level:  Individual \$15  Family \$25  
 Friend \$35  Patron \$50  Fellow \$100

I'd like to help with:

- Gardening & Planting
- Hosting museum on a Sunday
- Publication & Newsletter
- General Meeting Planning
- Construction
- Special Event Planning
- Restoration
- Publicity

Please Make Checks Payable To:

Wantagh Preservation Society PO 132 Wantagh, NY 11793

Christian patiently paints the Robert Jackson sign

The newly renovated sign as it now proudly stands on Wantagh Avenue



Support your community!



Join the WPS today!  
 Fill out the form, or click/scan the QR code.

## Coming Soon: Autumn Community Yard Sale!

*By Bob Cook, Second Vice President*

The Wantagh Preservation Society is again holding an “Autumn Community Yard Sale,” to be held on Saturday, 2014 October 18, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM (rain date is Sunday, October 19).

All vendors must complete the application below and send it with a check made out to the Wantagh Preservation Society in advance of the event. Vendors who have not pre-registered will not be accepted the day of the event. If you have sale articles but do not wish to rent space, you may donate them to the Preservation Society table.

Publicity for the Autumn Community Yard Sale will be carried in local newspapers and posters will be displayed around the community. The Autumn Community Yard Sale is held on the grounds of the Wantagh Museum, on the west side of Wantagh Avenue, opposite Emeric Avenue, between Sunrise Highway and the Southern State Parkway.

Vendor set-up time is from 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM, and cars being driven onto the grounds to deliver merchandise must be left in the rented \$35 space. Please note that you will not be able to drive a car onto the museum grounds and then drive out after unloading. All cars must be left in a \$35 space. You must leave your car on the Museum grounds until the end of the sale. Vendors provide their own tables and must remove their unsold items and refuse after the sale. They also agree not to leave before the normal closing hour of 4:00 PM.

The rental fee for one space with car that is approximately ten feet wide is \$35.00 and an additional space is \$25.00 (\$35.00 if an additional car is to be left in a space). Spaces vary in depth and the amount of shade, and will be assigned on a “first come, first served” basis. There are no space reservations in advance. No refunds will be made except for rejections. All vendors must send in their application form and check in advance of the event. Again, vendors who have not pre-registered will not be accepted the day of the event.

Merchandise of all sorts, including old and new items, crafts and antiques are acceptable. No food or beverage can be sold by vendors. Merchandise must be displayed on tables or on the ground behind the white space markers and within the rented areas. While personal radios are acceptable, there shall be no public address systems.

For more information about the rain date on Sunday, October 19, call the Yard Sale Chair Person, Elaine Yarris at (516) 785-0761 or email Elaine at [elainetybooks@optonline.net](mailto:elainetybooks@optonline.net). 

### 2014 “Autumn Community ” Application Form

Applications will be accepted as long as space permits. Arrival time is 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM. No food or beverage can be sold by vendors. Vendors must supply their own tables. Vendors must remove their unsold items and refuse. In the event of a rain cancellation on the rain date no refunds will be issued. If you agree with these terms, submit the form below with your check, payable to “Wantagh Preservation Society” and mail to PO Box 132, Wantagh, NY 11793-0132.

Name: (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of \$35 Spaces: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of \$25 Spaces: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ (contact for future events)

Amount Enclosed @ \$35.00 per space w/ car and \$25.00 per additional space: \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to remain until closing time, 4:00 PM Signature: \_\_\_\_\_