

**Huntington Historical Society
209 Main Street
Huntington, NY 11743**

**MINUTES AND ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE 2008
ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON
JUNE 7, 2009
At the Dr. Daniel W. Kissam House**

MISSION: The Huntington Historical Society is the focal point for preserving the ongoing heritage of the Town of Huntington. We support this mission through public education programs, maintaining museums, collections and a regional research center; promoting the preservation of historic buildings and sites; and by partnering with local and regional institutions.

CALL TO ORDER:

The 105th Annual Meeting of the Huntington Historical Society was called to order at 3:10 P.M. by Board President. Kevin Arloff.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

It was moved, seconded, and approved by voice vote that minutes of the 104th Annual Meeting be approved as presented.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

1. Call to Order
2. Acceptance of Minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting

3. Review the activities of the society over the past year
4. Elect Trustees for the class of 2012
5. Present the 2008 Volunteers o the Year Award
6. Recognize the Trustees who have completed their terms in office
7. Conduct such other business as may legally be considered by the membership

2008 Board of Trustees

Kevin Arloff – President

Steve Scialdone – 1st Vice-President

Michael Ulrich – 2nd Vice-President

Patricia Ernst – Co-Treasurer

Lilian Najarian – Co-Treasurer

Pat Molloy – Secretary

David Clemens|

Marie Failey

Margaret R. Guardi

Robert “Toby” Kissam

Michael Lichtenstein

Jim Savalli

Danna Strong

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TREASURER’S REPORT was presented by Lilian Najarian, co-treasurer. She reported that expenditures for Fiscal Year 2008 outpaced income by \$44,000. The rising cost of building maintenance and utilities coupled with the severe economic downturn made it difficult to achieve a balanced budget for the year. The society continued to oversee the funds that have been set up by our generous donors and the interest and dividends from these funds enabled the society to continue to maintain and preserve our collections. Copies of the complete Treasurer’s report for 2008 are available for member review at the Main Office. (Copy attached)

Copies of the complete audit report for fiscal year 2008 are also available for member review at the Main Office during normal business hours.

ARCHIVES, OUTREACH, EDUCATION, GENEALOGY WORKSHOP and COLLECTIONS reports were handed out, but in the interest of brevity, were not formally presented. Copies of these reports are available to all interested parties at the Main Office during normal business hours. (Copies attached)

THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL CONTRIBUTORS

2008 was a productive year for the Huntington Historical Society. We would like to recognize those individuals, families and businesses that have donated money and/or services, sponsored events and joined the Society's Heritage Circle in 2008. Cumulative contributions are grouped in monetary categories designated by the five centuries of the Town of Huntington's history and are in alphabetical order.

DONORS

21ST Century: \$4,000 plus: Robert & Priscilla Hughes, The Thomson Corporation

20th Century: \$2,000-3,999: Max & Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, Robert & Beverly Kissam

19th Century: \$1,000-1,999: Rufus Langhans Fund, Katherine Stevens

18th Century: \$500-999: Pat & Tom Ernst, Dean & Marie Failey, Mathew & Faye Fortunato, Jane Graham and Larry Potter, NYS Council of the Arts: In Suffolk County the Decentralization Program is Administered by the Huntington Arts Council, Mr. & Mrs. Carl Lawrence, Lilian & Nishan Najarian, Susan & Robert Quinn, Irene & Arthur Sniffen

17th Century: \$250-499: Community National Bank, Peter & Francis Connell, Patrick & Joy Molloy, Saladino Family, Dr. Al & Barbara Sforza

SPONSORS

20TH Century: \$2,000-3,999: Astoria Federal Savings, Huntington Jeep Chrysler & Hyundai, Renaissance Gourmet, Charles Schwab

19th Century: \$1,000-1,999: Robert & Priscilla Hughes, Gary Melius & Oheka Castle

18th Century: \$500-999: Aboff's, Applebee's, Fidelity, Fuocco Group, Huntington Rotary, Kissam Family Association, Kiwanis Club of Huntington, Northshore Kitchens, Rotary Club of Huntington, Signature Properties

17th Century: \$250-499: Bank of Smithtown, Centerport Antiques & Etceteras, Coach Realtors, Daniel Gale-Sotheby's International Realty, DANU Restaurant, M.A. Connell Funeral Homes, Epoch 5 Marketing, Fabric Mill, Flynn Aire (Robert Von Hagen), J.W. Hirschfeld, Image Arts, Historic Construction Management Corp., Ital Marble Design Center, LDI Color Toolbox, Main Street Home & Design, Meehan Oil, Prudential-Douglas Elliman Real Estate (Tony Donnino), Scott Sammis, TMI Builders

IN KIND DONATIONS

A&R Tent Rentals, James Aliperti & Sons, Ariana, Banfi Vineyards, Bartlett Tree Experts, Black & Blue Seafood & Chophouse, Bon Bons Chocolatier, Brooklyn Brewery, James E. Campbell, Copenhagen Bakery, Electronix Systems Control Alarms, Fashion & Flowers, Roberto Ferin, Finnegan's, Flower Petaler, Donna & Bruce Grant (One Glass at a Time), Skip Hartmann, Huntington Coach Transportation, Huntington Homemakers, Juice Box, Marken Music, Mediavilla Orchards, 34 New Street, Pancho Villa's, Quetzaalcoatl, Reinwald's Bakery, Richter's Orchards, Rookies, Shoreline Beverages, Smoking Sloe's, Starbucks, Toast, Barbara Valeri, Village Connection (Jim Savalli)

HERITAGE CIRCLE MEMBERS:

Heritage Benefactor: Arlin Jorge

Heritage Leader: Douglas C. & Robin K. Horn, Robert & Beverly Kissam

Heritage Associate: Pat & Tom Ernst, Mr. & Mrs. Carl Lawrence

Heritage Friend: Francis Miller Connell, Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Ladd, Lilian & Nishan Najarian, Rosalind Resnick, Scott Yanuck (Laurel Environmental)

The Huntington Historical Society thanks all of our members, sponsors, donors, staff and volunteers for their contributions in 2008.

The Huntington Historical Society is tax exempt under the section 501 © (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

In order to better balance the budget for Fiscal Year 2009, and in an effort to continue to support our mission within present Budget constraints, the Board of Trustees has temporarily eliminated the paid position of Executive Director. Mr. Robert "Toby" Kissam, whose term as trustee ended in June 2000, has volunteered to serve as Executive Coordinator on a part time basis to assist with day-to-day office management and pursuit of grants.

Mr. Kissam presented an abbreviated Director's report emphasizing our need to present our message to the public. As stated, a large part of this effort is our exhibitions. In fiscal 2008 the Society had exhibits at the Huntington and Northport Libraries, the Kissam House and Barn, the Conklin House, the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building, and a flag exhibit in conjunction with the Bethpage and Farmingdale Historic Society.

Mr. Kissam pointed out that the Society's largest fundraiser, our Wine Tasting, will be held on Friday, September 11th, and encouraged all to support this event. In closing, Mr. Kissam reiterated the need for an even higher level of volunteer and financial support of all members to help the Society support our Mission.

NOMINATING: The following nominees were presented for the Class of 2012:

Carl Lawrence *
Michael Lichtenstein*
Mathew Fortunato*
Lynette Hammond
Lawrence W. Leek
Katherine Stevens

*= had been completing partial terms of previous Trustees as per By-Laws

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR AWARDS:

Education and Outreach – Patricia Keany (awarded posthumously) and accepted by Mike Keany

Library/Archives – Carol Lesslie

Museum Shop – Marge Enders

OUTGOING TRUSTEES and AWARDS:

Robert “Toby” Kissam was presented a certificate in recognition of his two terms as trustee and thousands of volunteer hours.

Kevin Arloff was presented a plaque and gavel in recognition of his two terms as Trustee including three years as President.

SLATE OF OFFICERS 2009-2010: Proposed slate was as follows:

Carl Lawrence – President

Steve Scialdone – 1st Vice-President

Michael Ullrich – 2nd Vice-President

Patricia Ernst – Co-Treasurer

Lilian Najarian - Co-Treasurer

Marie Failey – Secretary

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no new business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The Annual Meeting was formally adjourned at 3:45 P.M.

**Treasurer’s
Lilian Najarian, co-treasurer**

This report represents the financial status of the Huntington Historical Society for the year ending December 31, 2008. The support and revenue for 2008 was \$325,020 with expenses at \$369,477. I am pleased to report that our preliminary Audit Report indicates that we have ended the year “in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the USA.” There will be three copies of the preliminary “Financial Statements and Independent Auditors’ Report for December 31, 2007 and 2008” available for viewing at today’s Annual Meeting. The report will also be available for viewing at our main office at the Trade School. If you would like to have a personal copy, please request such by calling our main office.

Some major sources of operating revenue were as follows:

1. A grant from the Town of Huntington: \$55,000.
2. A grant sponsored by New York State Assemblyman Andrew Raia: \$1,000.
3. Net income from membership: \$19,921.
4. Rental income: \$45,080.
5. Net income from fundraising and special events: \$60,552.
6. Museum Shop income: \$21,357.
7. Educational programs for children and adults: \$58,102.

Some major sources of income from government, organizations and foundations for support of specific programs and events were:

1. A grant sponsored by New York State Senator John Flanagan for educational programming: \$10,000.
2. A grant from the New York State Council of Arts for music for Apple and Sheep to Shawl Festivals: \$650.
3. Support from Astoria Federal Savings for support of the Apple Festival and the Holiday Historic House Tour: \$2,500.
4. A grant from The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation for shelving for our collections: \$2,500.
5. Support from the Kiwanis Club of Huntington for two disadvantaged children to attend our *Passport to the Past* summer camp: \$570.
6. A grant from County Legislator Jon Cooper \$2,450 for storage equipment of our painting collection.

On the expense side, we continued our struggle to keep up with rising costs of building maintenance and utilities for the upkeep of our five beautiful historic buildings. These buildings are jewels in the heart of this historic town. It is our continuing privilege and mission to preserve our town's heritage. But, this mission is very costly. With the downturn of the economy in 2008, our ability to be funded for much of this cost as

well as funding for our programs has seen a dramatic turn for the worse. It has become increasingly difficult to find government and foundations to grant us support.

Funds:

The society continues to oversee the funds that have been set up by our generous donors. It is with the interest and dividends from these funds that we are able to acquire artifacts as well as to maintain and preserve our collections. The market's decline has had a negative impact on the income from these investments.

In order to better preserve the principal of these funds in this economy, the finance committee, with the approval of the board, placed the endowed principal of these funds into CDs (valued at year end at \$375,000), mutual funds (valued at year end at \$45,584) and cash/money market funds (valued at year end at \$69,687). Interest that has accrued, and is available to be used for their restricted purposes, has been placed in separate bank accounts with Astoria Federal bank. The combined funds in those accounts, at year end, were valued at: \$57,490.89.

Funds that we maintain are:

1. Archives Building Fund: established for additional archives and collections storage space.
2. Endowment Fund: income is used to provide general operating support.
3. Seymour J. Hirschfeld Memorial Fund: net income for maintenance and enhancement of the photographic collection.
4. Joel H. Cohen Fund: net income for acquiring historical artifacts relating to the Town of Huntington.
5. Thomas Powell Fund: net income to acquire items relating to Family history.
6. Rufus Langhans Fund: to be used in connection with the library.
7. Agnes K. Packard Fund: net income to be used for archives and library.
8. The Kissam Family Fund: restricted to the care, improvement and interpretation of the Kissam House property.
9. The Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building Fund: restricted to the care, improvement and interpretation of the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building.

The Board of Trustees, the staff and the volunteers work very hard to keep our costs down, yet still fulfill our mission to the community. I wish to thank all of them for their commitment to our shared goals.

OUTREACH REPORT 2008

Cathi Horowitz

2008 was a productive and successful year for Education Outreach. This could not be accomplished without all of the wonderful volunteers who so generously donate their time to programs, festivals, house tours, events, fund raisers and outreach programs. Larry Leek's continued contribution and support has been outstanding. The Education Department Committee: JoAnn Alario-Paulsen, Monica Manner, Virginia West, Cathi Horowitz, Danna Strong, Alison Seman and Pat Ernst worked collaboratively in all things Education. The Education Department as a whole worked collectively toward outstanding programming in both school and after school programs.

2008 Conklin House Lecture Series:

A special lecture was presented by Rex Metcalf entitled "African Americans in Huntington's History" in recognition of Black History Month. The Spring and Fall Lecture Series consisted of: "Medicine From the Revolution Through the Civil War" by Harrison Hunt, "Elias Pelletreau: Long Island Silversmith and Entrepreneur" by Dean Failey, "The History of Jones Beach" by John Hanc, "West Egg & the Slender Riotous Island" by Dr. Natalie Naylor, "1958: The Year Huntington Became a Suburb" by Claudia Fortunato, "Ghosts of Long Island, Stories of the Paranormal Volume II" by Kerriann Flanagan Brosky and "Your Grandmothers Handwritten Cookbooks of Long Ago" by Dr. Alice Ross. Approximately 215 people attended the Lecture Series in 2008. This Series continues to provide lectures of local historic significance and receives positive feedback from the membership and general public.

Tours – Van Wyck-Lefferts Tide Mill:

Due to work necessary at the Mill, Tide Mill tours were limited in 2008. Approximately 25 people attended. Open communication continues between the Education Outreach Coordinator and the Nature Conservancy in an effort to continue the tours when work at Mill Cove is complete.

House Tours:

The Conklin House was open when possible three days per week and by appointment. Nine volunteers contributed their time so that the house could be open. Volunteers provided tours of both Conklin and Kissam Houses for the Museum Challenge, Holiday House Tour, Wine Tasting and ASHS meeting. All of these tours were extremely well received. Outreach provided execution of the holiday decorations for the Holiday House Tour.

Volunteer Luncheon:

In August 2008 a Volunteer Luncheon was executed at the Conklin Barn in recognition of the valuable work that the Society volunteers provided throughout the year. Approximately fifty volunteers attended the event.

Library Program:

A new after school colonial history program was created and presented to children at the Northport/East Northport Public Library in 2008. It incorporated information regarding life along with crafts and butter making. Approximately twenty children attended the program. This program was well received by children, parents and library staff. Outreach plans to continue promoting it in the future.

Native American Day:

A new weekend children's program entitled Native American Day was created and executed in 2008. The program incorporated information about the lives of Native Americans in Huntington long ago. The program was researched and presented by the committee: Virginia West, JoAnn Alario Paulsen, Monica Manner, Pat Ernst, Dr. Al Sforza and Rex Metcalf. The format included a power point presentation, Native American crafts and music. Fifteen volunteers donated their time in order to properly execute it. This program was attended by approximately thirty children and was extremely well received by both children and parents.

Scouts & Private Programs:

Approximately 70 scouts enjoyed after school programs at the Conklin House. Approximately 195 adults enjoyed private group tours of both Kissam & Conklin Houses combined. In addition to small and individual private tours, larger groups included the Rocky Point Historical Society,

the Smithtown Historical Society, The Visiting Nurse Service & Hospice of Suffolk County, the Huntington Public Library, and the Plandome Woman's Club.

Cadet Gold Badges were completed by Ashleigh Taylor and Lauren McDonough. These badges included authentic colonial costumes and were supervised by Monica Manner and Cathi Horowitz. Fifty Two volunteer hours were necessary to complete this badge. Monica Manner supervised the sewing portion of the badge through every step and provided an equal amount of volunteer hours. A ceremony was held in January in recognition of this accomplishment.

2007 Sheep To Shawl Festival:

All format goals for the Sheep To Shawl Festival were met. Over one thousand people attended the event. NYSCA funding provided music and sound for the festival by LITMA. The Society collaborated with the South Huntington Public Library, The Long Island Craft Guild and The Long Island Basket Guild along with many other crafters and artisans who made this event a success. Over fifty volunteers donated their time to set up, execute and dismantle the event. The Festival provided sheep shearing, textile demonstrations, crafts and educational information about life long ago which fits well into our mission. The Kissam House remained open throughout the day for visitors learn about and enjoy. The Sheep To Shawl Festival continues extremely well received by the community thereby being very successful outreach.

2008 Apple Festival:

All format goals for the Apple Festival were met. Over eleven hundred people attended the event. Mid to late October continues to be the perfect time for this event. NYSCA funding provided music and sound for the festival by LITMA. Square dancing was taught and enjoyed throughout the day. Our strong relationship with local businesses allowed us to provide scarecrow making, delicious food, game prize baskets and beautiful seasonal décor. Our continued harvest theme provided traditional demonstrations such as candle making, quilting, bread making, butter churning and silver smithing. The Kissam House was open throughout the day for visitors to learn about and enjoy. Over sixty volunteers donated their time to set up, execute and dismantle the event. This event continues to be a family favorite and has created a following within the community. The educational aspect of this event fits

well into our mission. The Apple Festival has enjoyed increased attendance over the last few years and continues to be extremely successful outreach.

Resource Center and Archives Annual Report Jan. – Dec. 2008
Karen Martin

Throughout 2008 the Archives of the Huntington Historical Society continued to serve the needs of its members, the public, and the Society itself. Whether helping the beginning family historian or the experienced researcher we find we often learn as much as we give.

Those of us involved with the archives and the organization as a whole should be proud and honored to know that in recognition of American Archives Month, October 20, 2008 was named Huntington Historical Society Day in Suffolk County by Judith A. Pascale, Suffolk County Clerk. The proclamation states that “The Huntington Historical Society is dedicated to maintaining the unique history of Suffolk County and continues efforts to raise public awareness of the documentary resources it preserves for the public’s use. Huntington Historical Society preserves archival collections documenting the history of Huntington and demonstrates the importance of archival records to every segment of society.”

The Society’s archival collections were featured in the Fall 2008 issue of *New York Archives* published by the Archives Partnership Trust. An article by renowned genealogist Meldon J. Wolfgang III entitled “A Matter of Grave Necessity” highlighted the Society’s collection of records relating to the Lockwood Marble Works, a local tombstone and memorial business in the 1800s. The article looked at the records for the valuable information they hold not only for the genealogist, but also the local, business or social historian.

All this would not be possible without the dedication of our archives volunteers Richard Holliday, Barbara LaMonica, Carol Lesslie, Helen Mahoney, Sue Quinn, and Arthur Sniffin and staff members Irene Sniffin (Librarian and Genealogist) and Karen Martin (Archivist). Volunteers assist with projects related to exhibitions or collections, processing of collection materials, photographs, or indexing. Richard Holliday answered requests from those out of the area needing assistance with

family history research. The archives provided research, materials and images for the society's events throughout the year. Staff and volunteers attended and represented the archives at various seminars and workshops all of which expand our visibility to a larger audience and further educate ourselves on issues related to archives and collections.

The archives provided assistance to over 185 persons during the year either in person, by phone, letter or email. The majority of these people were conducting genealogical research while others were interested in the history of their home or business (consulting maps and photographs) or a specific aspect of local history. We also assisted several local organizations and schools with material and research on the history of their organization or for an upcoming exhibit. Most of the people who came into the archives to conduct research were from Huntington or other areas of Long Island, while others came from such places as California, the Carolinas, New England, and New Jersey. The archives continued to work with the Suffolk County Cooperative Library System by providing additional microfilm of *The Long Islander* to be scanned for their ongoing newspaper digitization project "Suffolk Historic Newspapers" available on the web.

As the collections continue to grow we are still faced with the continuing lack of space for collections and the time to properly process this material.

2008 EDUCATION REPORT

Wendy Andersen

The year 2008 brought with it yet another successful and productive endeavor for the education programs. These programs could not achieve such success had it not been for the dedication and assistance demonstrated by the volunteers who unselfishly donated countless hours by helping with the preparation for, execution of, the closing of each and every program. In 2008 approximately 1,351 students attended Hands on Heritage programs presented at the Conklin and Kissam properties and also at their schools. These programs were extremely well-received by students and teachers.

During the year of 2008, Alison expanded the mailing list, spreading information about the programs to the surrounding local schools and educators. Cathi Horowitz played an important role in supplying donated wool for the Kissam program. Our summer camp, Passport to the Past's Final Frolic was featured on Newsday's website and new toy artifacts were added to the school program.. Renewed interests in the Revolutionary War Re-enactor program thanks to Tom Stolfi.

The Passport to the Past program was successful and productive in 2008. The camp director, Alison Seman, presented the hands-on and interactive program. Many high school and college students participated in the program as volunteers, working in the capacities of counselors, helping to make the program as engaging as possible for the campers. The Kiwanis family services collaborated to allow two children to attend the Passport to the Past program. The Society received strong, positive feedback from the children and parents. An example from a survey sent out to the parents: "My 7 1/2 year old daughter loved the program. She would definitely return to the program and we will definitely recommend it." "Brynn loved all aspects of your program. I liked that there were so many hands on activities. The cooking days were great, too. She can't wait for next summer."

Approximate total # of school children reached in 2008: 1,351
Approximate total # of classes reached in 2008: 63
Approximate total # attendance to Passport to the Past: 47
Total approximate children reached in 2008: 1,398

The Education Department greatly appreciates all the education volunteers who truly make up the foundation of each and every program. The Department would also like to thank the education committee for its dedication towards ensuring that the education programs continue to enlighten both students' and teachers' lives with the history of the Conklin and Kissam families and that of the time in which they lived.

Genealogy Workshop-2008 Report

Arthur Sniffin

Wed. Jan 23 7PM Conklin Barn
Family Heirlooms & Treasures

Members described objects (artifacts, documents, letters, photographs, or other treasures) that provide a link or special activity of one of their ancestors.

Wed. Feb. 28 7PM Conklin Barn

Speaker-Arthur Sniffin-Former Field Archivist for Cornell University

Topic-*The New York State Historical Documents Inventory: Hidden Treasures in New York Repositories*. He provided an overview of the program that surveyed over 1700 repositories in New York State.

Sat. March 15 8AM to 5PM at Stony Brook University

The Genealogy Federation of Long Island (the Huntington Historical Society is an Active Member) Presented a Seminar:

ROOTS 3: Where to Begin, and How to Continue:

Wed. March 26 7PM Huntington Public Library Auditorium

Speaker-David Concar-Suffolk Cooperative Library System Newspaper Project Coordinator

Topic-*Before the Telephone, TV, and Computers, NEWSPAPERS were the Source of Information*. He discussed the Suffolk County Historic Newspaper Project and the New York State Newspaper Project.

Sunday April 27 to Sunday May 4

Annual Research Trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

Wed. May 28 7PM Conklin Barn

Speaker-Elizabeth Call, Reference Librarian at the Brooklyn Historical Society Topic-*Genealogical Research at the Brooklyn Historical Society*.

She discussed collections at the Library of the Society, formerly called the Long Island Historical Society, and some specific collections about Brooklyn.

Wed. June 25 6:30PM Conklin Barn

Speaker-Robert Hughes, Town Historian

Topic-*Restoration of The Old Burying Ground*

Wed. September 24 7PM Huntington Public Library-Meeting Room

Speaker-Joseph T. Gleason, Senior Investigator and Director of Administration, Education and Archives.

Topic-*Unearthing Buried Treasure: The Family History Records of The George Sim Johnston Archives of The New York Society of the Prevention of Cruelty to Children- Their Scope, Content and How to Access Them*.

Wed. Oct. 22 7PM Conklin Barn

Speaker-Robert T. Farrell, Author of *Our Veterans Brave and Noble*.

*Topic-Huntington's Civil War Veterans, a Journey of Discovery:
A review of the Documents, Newspapers and Internet Sites Utilized to
Create a Genealogy for over 1,300 men.*

Wed. Nov. 19 7PM Conklin Barn

Speaker-Ned Smith, Librarian of the Suffolk County Historical
Society.

*Topic-The Genealogical Resources at the Suffolk County
Historical Society Research Library.*

Wed. Dec. 17 6:30 PM Conklin Barn

Speakers- Workshop Members

Event-Holiday Party, followed by Sharing Memories of our Past