

THE NEW PORTICO

THE HUNTINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY • SUMMER 2010

Summer's in full swing...

Heritage Crafts Fair Comes to Kissam

Mark your calendars! On August 21st from 10am - 5pm the Society will present a unique Heritage Crafts Fair on the grounds of the Kissam House Museum. Join us as over 25 superbly talented artisans and crafters gather and present their work for sale on the lawn of the Kissam House property. Browse and shop through booths filled with a large range of creations spanning pottery, mosaics, stained glass, jewelry, mixed media, felting, photography, hand crafted soaps, fine art, candles, textiles and more. You can learn more about these wonder-



TALENTED ARTISANS AND UNIQUE CRAFTS: *One-of-a-kind creations and the artists who make them will be on display and on sale during our fabulous Heritage Crafts Fair at the Kissam House Museum on August 21st. Watch as crafters demonstrate their talents in pottery, fine art, textiles, jewelry and more. The entry fee is \$5 per person and children under 5 are free.*

ful crafts from the demonstrators who will be on hand, as well as a face painter whose artful designs will delight your children. Tour the historic Kissam House Museum where you will discover a fascinating exhibit of nineteenth century party clothes taken directly from our extensive costume collections. Of special interest and on display for this event only, you will find a treasured exhibit of historic Huntington pottery located in the Kissam Barn. Stop by our Museum Shop and peruse antiques, collectibles and unusual finds. Round out your day with cool refreshments and a stroll past our beautiful traditional gardens. This lovely leisurely event is a perfect fit for the last days of summer. The entrance fee for this event is \$5.00 per person and children under twelve are free. *Identify yourself as a Society member and receive \$1.00 off the admission price to the Fair.



September's Wine Tasting Sure to Please

20th Annual Wine Tasting * Friday, September 10th * 7 to 11 pm

Kissam House Museum, 434 Park Avenue Honored Guest: Mary Alice Meinersman

Preparations for this year's 20th anniversary, "An Evening of Wine Under the Stars," are in high gear and this is one event you truly don't want to miss! Wine Wave will be returning to serve a fine array of Italian wines for the second year, and Castello Banfi will be bringing their acclaimed Italian wines for the third year in a row. Local hotspots such as Joanina, Black & Blue Seafood Chophouse, Mascali, and Rookie's Sports Club will also be returning and serving up their delectable treats. And for the first time, Blue Point Brewery will be providing all the beer for the night. The committee is also busy assembling wonderful

raffle baskets and silent auction prizes with treasures and gift certificates from many of Huntington's fine stores and restaurants. So mark your calendars now, invite your friends, buy your tickets and join us for this fabulous fall tradition! Tickets are already on sale: \$50 for HHS members, \$60 for non-members, and \$75 at the door (if available). They may be ordered on our website via PayPal or by calling Maria at 631-427-7045, ext. 401. If you purchase a table of ten for \$500, you can be assured that one will be reserved for you and your friends. Sponsorships are available at many levels, so please call or email: cfortunato@huntingtonhistoricalsociety.org

Our Volunteers of the Year

The 2009 Volunteers of the Year Awards were honored June 6th during the Society's 106th Annual Meeting at the Kissam House Museum. Each volunteer was presented with a certificate of appreciation acknowledging their contributions and commitment to the Society as well as a bouquet of flowers. Their names will be added to the permanent "Volunteers of the Year" plaque which hangs in our Trade School building.

Kathy Bartone has been one of the Society's most consistently active volunteers for the past ten years. An invaluable asset to our school programs, Kathy's love of children and the style with which she interacts with them, makes her a perfect teacher. Whether creating an image of life during colonial times at our Kissam or Conklin Houses, or working in the barn carding wool, making stencils or "churning" butter, Kathy excels. She has volunteered at every society event for the last ten years in costume, and in good weather or bad, has worked diligently during our Festivals making yarn dolls, pinch pots, and puppets. Kathy makes a point of learning the details of every exhibit so that she can present them properly to visitors and during our Holiday House Tour and Annual Wine Tasting, she makes life in the



OUR HONOREES (from l to r): **Richard Holliday, Kathy Bartone and Robin Horn.** We are pleased to recognize the enthusiasm and talents of these wonderful volunteers.

Museum Houses come alive. We are most fortunate to have her as a friend and volunteer.

Richard Holliday has served as Chairman of the Genealogy Workshop since 1996 and also represents the Genealogy Workshop of the HHS on the board of the Genealogy Federation of Long Island. In this position, Richard volunteers to lecture on Genealogy at public libraries and donates his honorarium to the Society. In addition, Richard volunteers every Wednesday in the Resource Center and Archives and he also volunteers

his time to sort and index projects that provide free information to anyone searching for vital record information from New York City and Long Island Governments. Most recently he has been indexing naturalization records of state and federal agencies. Richard has also served as site coordinator for the past two Family History Seminars run by the Genealogy Federation of Long Island. We thank Richard for his sincere dedication to the Society.

Robin Horn first began volunteering with the Society when she joined the "Ladies of the Attic" and contributed her research and artistic skills to documenting and photographing our antique costumes for entry into our museum software program. After joining the Collections Committee, Robin was responsible for obtaining four child mannequins and several historically correct wigs for displaying our costumes, and she skillfully hand colored a number of antique lithographs for our Antiques Show -- all of which sold like hotcakes. In 2008, Robin learned the art of accessioning artifacts and is now our volunteer registrar. We also thank her for painting the fabulous trompe-l'oeil window which may be seen in our new exhibit: "From House Calls to Hospitals." We are so fortunate to have Robin on board with us.



It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's Captain Marvel...ous!

You may remember that, early in the last century, there was a super hero, Captain Marvel, who was chosen by a wizard to do good. Whenever the unassuming Billy Batson spoke the wizard's name, SHAZAM, there was a lightning flash and Billy became Captain Marvel in cape, red tights with a lightning bolt on the chest and super powers. Well, our volunteer Executive Coordinator, Toby Kissam,

is our *Captain Marvel...ous.* Robin Horn's cartoon shows our own super hero flying over our historic buildings, battling the forces of evil. Toby does everything: from running the office and finances, to designing and building our exhibits, down to baking bread at the festivals. Toby is indispensable to the Society. Thank you! Thank you Toby!

State Grant to Support Archives Expansion

Government award will combine with matching funds for new addition

Governor Patterson has announced that the Huntington Historical Society will receive a \$400,000 grant to restore the Trade School building and construct a sympathetic addition to provide additional storage capacity for its ever-growing archival collection. The grant will be matched by funds previously raised for this project—including funds raised pursuant to a challenge grant issued by Doris Buffett Bryant in 1999.

Since its founding in 1903, the Huntington Historical Society has been in the forefront in preserving Long Island's history. Over the century of its existence, the Society has acquired an extensive collection of archival material dating from the Town's founding in the seventeenth century through the twentieth century. The collection is housed in the 1905 Trade School Building, one of four National Register properties owned by the historical society.

The Society acquired the Trade School building in 1982 after the Town con-

solidated its offices into a new Town Hall. The Society moved its administrative offices and resource center from cramped quarters in one of its house museums to the Trade School Building in 1983. At that time, the building provided enough space for

to such an extent that the exhibit space had to be sacrificed. Now after the continued growth of the archives collection, the two floors devoted to the resource center are not enough. Construction of a 2,300 square foot addition will more than double

at grade on Gerard Street on the north side of the building. The addition would be set back 13' from the front façade of the Trade School building so as to not obscure the front portion of the side façade, which features decorative elements. In other words, the impact on the architectural and historic character of the existing building would be minimized.

The lower level of the addition would provide state-of-the-art climate controlled archival storage space with rolling shelving to maximize capacity. The Main Street level would serve as the reading room in which researchers would do their work. This

room, unlike the current building, would be made accessible to wheelchair users and would allow ADA access to the main floor of the existing building. The sketch shows one option for the addition.

Thank you to Robert Hughes, Huntington Town Historian, for providing this article to the newsletter.



ARCHITECT'S RENDERING OF PROPOSED DESIGN: A \$400,000 grant from New York State will allow the Society to construct an addition to its c.1905 Trade School building for its extensive collection of historical papers, maps, books, Town documents and more. This is just one architect's idea for the proposed addition which will take several years of planning and construction, and will double the current available space for archival storage.

the administrative offices on the top floor, new exhibit space on the Main Street level and the resource center (which includes extensive archives of historic materials dating to the Town's establishment in 1653) on the lower level. Within ten years, however, the archival collection in the resource center had grown

the space available for preservation of the archival collection without adversely impacting the architecture or historic character of the existing building. As currently envisioned, the proposed addition would be two stories: one exiting on Main Street (Route 25A) on the south side of the building while the floor below would be

Fall: A Perfect Time to Celebrate Huntington

Mark your calendars and enjoy these exclusive HHS events!



20TH ANNUAL
WINE TASTING AT
THE KISSAM HOUSE

Friday, September 10: 7 to 11 pm
Kissam House Museum
434 Park Avenue

Enjoy fine wines, Blue Point Brewery beer, tours of the Kissam House and culinary delights as we toast our Guest of Honor, Mary Alice Meinersman of Bon Bons Chocolatier. Tickets are now on sale: call 427-7045, ext. 401 to order.

Our Current Exhibit...

"FROM HOUSE CALLS TO HOSPITALS

Conklin House Museum
2 High Street

Discover the history of health care in Huntington as you step back in time and right into the actual Doctor's office of Dr. Samuel Teich, a family-physician who practiced medicine in Huntington Station from 1940 into the '80s.

The exhibit is open on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays from 1 to 4 pm. However, please call the office at 427-7045 ext 401 to verify that a docent is available on the day you wish to visit.



BARN FOR RENT:
The Conklin Barn, 2 High Street,
Huntington Village

Need a meeting place? A party place? We have just the space for you! The historic Conklin Barn in the heart of Huntington (on the corner of New York Avenue and High Street) could be just what you're looking for. The barn can

accommodate up to 50 people, is air conditioned, heated, has a restroom, tables and chairs, and is wheel chair accessible. Does this special place seem right to you? Call 427-7045, ext. 401 and get details from Maria.

Conklin House Lecture Series

For all lectures, please reserve at 631-427-7045, ext. 403.

HHS Members: Free. Public: \$5

"LEVITTOWN: THE WAY WE WERE"

Thursday, September 16th: 2 pm

Refreshments: 1:30 pm

Susan Duncan offers an interesting and nostalgic look at one of America's first true suburbs.

"FAMILIES OF OLD LONG ISLAND AND THEIR RESTING PLACES"

Thursday, October 21: 2 pm

Refreshments: 1:30 pm

A fascinating account of the families who first settled on Long Island and where their family plots are located today. Presented by Karen Buxton.

"COLD SPRING HARBOR HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGNATIONS: Preservation and Designation Guidelines"

Thursday, November 18th: 2 pm

Refreshments: 1:30 pm

Huntington Town Historian, Robert Hughes, presents this informative lecture for local residents.

All lectures are held at the Conklin House and Barn, 2 High Street, Huntington Village



APPLE FESTIVAL*

Sunday, October 17: 12 to 4 pm

Kissam House Museum

434 Park Avenue

Celebrate the apple harvest and autumn's rich bounty with family fun on the grounds of the Kissam House. Games, colonial music, apple treats, scarecrow making and historic demonstrations are just a few of the wonderful activities scheduled for this popular fall festival.

* This event is made possible in part with public funds from the NY State Council on the Arts. In Suffolk County the Decentralization Program is administered by The Huntington Arts Council, Inc. in partnership with the Suffolk Consortium of Arts Councils.

HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR

Sunday, December 5: 12 to 4 pm

Mark your calendars now for this fabulous event. Tickets are \$30. Call 631-427-7045, ext. 401 to order.



The Huntington Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the Town of Huntington for its financial support.

In the tradition of Huntington Historical Society meetings of the past, the 2010 Annual Meeting was treated to a talk by a local historian/writer Edwin "Ted" Burrows. Dr. Burrows, who lives in Northport, is Distinguished Professor of History at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York. He is the co-author of *Gotham: A History of New York City until 1898*, which won the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for History and has received numerous other awards. Dr. Burrows spoke on his most recent publication *Forgotten Patriots: The Untold Story of American Prisoners During the Revolutionary War*. The audience of 70-plus members enjoyed Dr. Burrows's thorough and delightful presentation, and then partook in a wonderful light supper provided by the Board of Trustees of the Society. Our Sheep to Shawl



ABOVE: Edwin "Ted" Burrows, co-author of the 1999 Pulitzer Prize in History for the book, "*Gotham: A History of New York City until 1898*" was the featured speaker during this year's Annual Meeting.

Festival on May 2nd set records for attendance, and luckily, 87 degrees was not a hindrance. The enthusiastic crowd had a grand time. We

are especially grateful for the generous donations from our sponsors which made this fun event possible: Huntington Marine Services, Inc., The J.W. Hirschfeld Agency, Inc., Shoreline Beverage, Millwood Pest Control, The Knitting Corner, and Bachman. The Heritage Antiques Show on May 23rd was a very successful major fund raiser for the Society and we are most appreciative of the sponsor support from Essential Elements, Inc., Main Street Florist, Nursery and Landscaping, Sunrise Outdoor Advertising, Inc., Big Bear Pizzelli, Jakes Island Outpost, North Shore Radiation Therapy, and Millwood Pest Control. When you patronize these wonderful sponsors, please thank them for their generosity and for their part in supporting the Huntington Historical Society.

Changing Roles and New Trustees

Thank you to our outgoing Co-Treasurers and Vice President/Secretary

During the HHS's 106th Annual Meeting on June 6th, 2010, the Board of Trustees honored three outgoing trustees in recognition of their six consecutive years of service on the Board. Lillian Najarian and Patricia Ernst served as Co-Treasurers for five of their six years and Steve Scialdone served alternately, for six years, as 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President and Secretary. Although no longer on the Board, Lillian and Pat will continue to serve on the Collections and Finance Committees as well as their permanent jobs as "*Ladies of the Attic*." Steve will continue to serve on the Buildings and Grounds Committee. He will always be the Society's #1 sheep herder (think Sheep to Shawl) and, when needed, will continue to serve as our in-house Santa Claus. Elected to the Board, for the Class of 2013, are four newcomers, two returning trustees, one second term trustee, and one



LEFT: Robert "Toby" Kissam (center) acknowledges the contributions of the Society's outgoing Board members: Steve Scialdone (far left) and Lillian Najarian and Patricia Ernst (far right), as Toby's wife Beverly (to the left of him) looks on.

appointment. New to the Board are: Lucie Blohm, Kimberly Schutte, Kim Trant, and Susannah Meinersman. Returning to the Board, after a several year absence, are: Gary Strong and Dr. Al Sforza. Re-elected for a second, three year term is: Marie Failey. And, returning to the Board as an appointment to fulfill an unexpired term is Mathew Fortunato. We are very

happy to welcome so many people who have a passion for preserving the past by actively involving their time and energy in the role of Trustee for a very vibrant Historical Society.

If you, or someone you know, are interested in volunteering or joining the Society in some capacity, please call Maria at 427-7045, ext.401 to see how you can help!



209 Main Street
Huntington, NY 11743-6993

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

A Doctor and By-gone Era Remembered

Medical Care in Huntington Feted at the "From House Calls to Hospitals" Opening

During the opening reception for our current exhibit, "From House Calls to Hospitals," the Conklin House property held a reunion of sorts as residents of Huntington came together to remember a doctor, an institution and a "lost" village. While enjoying refreshments, visitors were treated to two panel discussions: one remembering the excellent health care provided by Dr. Teich of Huntington Station and the other doctors that served the community, and the second panel, a discussion of the Village of Huntington Station where three generations of the Teich family lived, worked and went to school. The "village" which grew up around the train station placed there in 1868 was largely demolished by 1968 and the history of that village, as well as plans for its revitalization, were part of that discussion.

More than 100 visitors viewed the exhibit which re-creates the doctor's office that Dr. Teich installed in his home/office on New York Avenue in 1940 and used until he retired in 1985. Many had personal memories of this beloved physician, while others helped identify the doctors and nurses in the Huntington Hospital staff photographs taken during the 1930's, 40's & 50's.

"To an old friend a doctor who delivered my 3 girls. Love to honor you this day at the Museum."

To Dr. Sam whose legacy of compassion, humor, warmth and intelligence lives on through his kids

A LOVED AND WELL-RESPECTED DOCTOR Touching sentiments written in the visitor's log at the Conklin Museum express local resident's admiration for the man they called "Dr. Sam," who practiced medicine in the Huntington Station area from 1940 to 1985.

The exhibit is open to the public on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays from 1 to 4 pm. However, please call the office at 427-7045 ext 401 to verify that we have a volunteer docent available on the day you wish to visit. You may also call Cathi Horowitz at ext. 403 to arrange a private tour of the exhibit and Conklin House on other days.

Call us by phone: 631 - 427 - 7045, ext. 401