

THE NEW PORTICO

THE HUNTINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY • FALL 2011

Don't Miss Our Holiday Tour!

Sunday, December 4th: 12 - 4 pm
Conklin House Museum, 2 High Street

The 2011 Historic Holiday House Tour is a chance to "step back in Huntington's history." Held this year on Sunday December 4, the tour will pick up the theme of the current exhibit at the Society's Conklin House Museum Gallery "All Things Conklin," with the inclusion of two other, privately owned houses that had been built for Conklin families. Five private homes, all with a history, will be included in this year's tour which once again is centered at the Society's 1750 David Conklin House Museum where the exhibit celebrating the 100th anniversary of the museum can be visited. Participants can enjoy refreshments in the Conklin barn, visit the period rooms of the Museum and discover the relation-

ships and contributions of the Conklin families who have lived in Huntington since the earliest settlements here in the mid-17th century. The homes on the tour range in age from the mid 18th century to the early 20th century and represent different periods of the

Town's history and architectural styles. Houses built by and lived in by other

historical Huntington families, including the family of Warren Buffett, will be on tour. The Buffett family first settled in Huntington in the late 17th century and descendants farmed land in many parts of the Town of Huntington. The tour also includes a magnificent

c. 1850 house overlooking Cold Spring Harbor, built for Jacob C. Hewlett and given the name "Owls Cote", and a 'country estate cottage' originally built on over 50 acres in the late 1930's. It is a tour that truly represents the different periods in Huntington's history.



This Year's Apple Festival Fun For All

The weather was stunning, the leaves were turning and the crowds came out. The 2011 Apple Festival was the most well attended to date and more than 2,000 people came out to enjoy the spectacular day and support the Huntington Historical Society! Because of the generosity of local businesses and more than 75 volunteers, the event was hugely successful. Folks enjoyed delicious seasonal fare while participating in all the terrific activities we offered: games, crafts, demonstrations of colonial skills; topped off by the Chamber of Darkness, the Pumpkin Patch and Scarecrow Making. Music by the Long Island Traditional Music Association was the perfect back drop for the festival. What a great way to celebrate the season!

This event was made possible, in part, with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts. In Suffolk County the Decentralization Program is administered by The Huntington Arts Council, Inc.



WIN THIS LOVELY PAINTING OF THE 1795 KISSAM HOUSE:

Enter our special raffle fundraiser and you might be the winner of this charming, framed painting by local artist and Society member, Jane Spalholz. Jane derives much of her creative inspiration from her own 1770's home and believes that preserving our nation's historical buildings and sites is a sacred trust. To

enter the raffle for this exclusive painting, call the Society's office at 631-427-7045 ext. 401. Tickets are \$5 each -or- 5 for \$20. The drawing will be held on December 7th and tickets will be available for sale the day of the House Tour.

The Conklin Family Connection: A "Who's Who" of Huntington Names

ALL THINGS CONKLIN is the current exhibit on display at our David Conklin Farmhouse Museum at 2 High Street. The Museum, which was decided to the Society in 1911 by Ella Jennett Conklin Hurd, was officially opened as a house museum in early 1912. The home had been in the Conklin family since being built in the mid 1700's and is a wonderful representation of early colonial architecture. In celebration of these two 100-year anniversaries, the exhibit features items that were either donated by members of the Conklin family and/or are related to the history of the Conklin family in Huntington. John Conklin, who had immigrated from England to Salem, Massachusetts in the 1630's and then migrated to Southold, Long Island in the 1640's, finally settled in Huntington in the 1650's, where two of his children, Timothy and Rebecca, also decided to settle and raise their families. Rebecca married Thomas Brush, who along with his brother Richard also is believed to have come from England and been in Southold before settling in Huntington in the 1650's. "All Things Conklin" traces the history of one of the first families to settle in Huntington after the initial



BLUE AND WHITE COVERLET This double jacquard coverlet made for Maria P. Conklin in 1842 was donated to the Society by Ruth Sammis, the granddaughter of Maria, who was married to Frederick George Sammis



DOUGLASS CONKLIN was a prominent Huntington banker in the late 19th century. His grandfathers were Isaac Conklin and William Douglass

purchase of land in 1653. It identifies the early houses and farms that were settled by the Conklins and their descendants, and features furniture, samplers, coverlets, silver, and other household wares used and donated to the Society by family members. Many of those family members have surnames of other 'first family settlers' in Huntington which include the aforementioned Brush family,

and the Sammis, Gould, Grumman and Scudder families to mention a few. The exhibit depends heavily on the exhaustive genealogical research done by Irene Sniffin, a long time member of the Society who along with her husband Arthur, have been the heads of the Society's Genealogy Workshop. Irene produced a Conklin Family Tree that is partially displayed in the gallery, but in typed, scroll

form is over 47 feet long and includes the names of thousands of Huntington Conklins! Visiting the David Conklin Farm House Museum and Gallery during the next year will offer you a view of life in Huntington over its almost 360 year history. This includes an intimate look at the 18th century farmhouse built and donated by the Conklin family, interpreted with period rooms and filled with authentic treasures. You'll also get to view this special exhibit which highlights the genealogy of the Conklin family and items from their family history, which correlates to the history of the Town of Huntington.

The Conklin House is open for visitors Friday and Sunday from 1 to 4 pm, or by appt. Please call 427-7045, ext. 403 for info.



THE CONKLIN HOUSE MUSEUM Ella Jennett Conklin Hurd decided her family's farm house to be the Huntington Historical Society in 1911.

Time To Turn To History

NATIVE AMERICAN DAY

Sunday, November 20th: 2 to 4 pm

Conklin Barn, 2 High Street

* For Children 7 - 12



You and your child are invited to explore the history and culture of our Native Americans during a delightful afternoon at the Conklin Barn. Learn about their traditions, food and skills, and view authentic artifacts from our collections. Crafts, games and refreshments are included in the \$20 per child cost.

A "Parent" must accompany children and will not be charged. Advance registration is required.

To register or for more information, please call 631-427-7045 ext. 401 or visit our website.

HOLIDAY HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR

Sunday, Dec. 4:
12 noon to 4 pm

Conklin House Museum,
2 High Street

This year's tour features five fascinating homes related to the Conklin, and other prominent Huntington families. Centered at our Conklin House Museum, the Tour includes refreshments as well as admission into the Conklin House and the "All Things Conklin" exhibit. Secure your tickets now for what is fast becoming one of our area's most popular holiday house tours.

Tickets are \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members. Advance reservations are suggested and may be made by calling 631-427-7045, ext. 401 or on our website.



SPECTACULAR TRIP TO THE ITALIAN LAKES AND GREEK ISLANDS

Wednesday, January 11th: 7 pm
Conklin Barn, 2 High Street

The Historical Society is partnering with Collette Vacations to provide the vacation of a lifetime! Join us for an informational meeting on January 11th to learn more about this fabulous trip, scheduled for October, 2012. Take in the breathtaking scenery of the Italian lakes region followed by a splendid 7-night Eastern Mediterranean cruise aboard the Norwegian Cruise Line *Jade*. For more detailed information please visit the Society's web site or Collette Vacations at www.collettevacations.com/link/472724



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

21st Annual Wine Tasting Sparkles

Thank you to everyone who bought tickets, sponsorships, or contributed donations to the 21st annual Evening of Wine Under The Stars! Through your support, the Society was able to raise more than \$30,000 to benefit our house museums, education programs, community festivals, and building and collections' maintenance. Wonderful food, fine wines and delightful weather all contributed to the ambience of the evening which had many folks "dancing under the stars" before the night was over! We owe a very big thank you to the restaurants, vineyards, and wine stores who, through their generous donations, ensured that everyone enjoyed themselves as they went from station- to station sampling the tasty treats and delicious wines. The raffle baskets and silent auction items are always a highlight of our Wine Tasting event, and we'd like to thank all the merchants who contributed items for them -- as the winners went home very happy indeed!



WINE TASTING HONOREES *The children of Captain F Roger Ketcham were recognized this year for the wonderful contributions their father made to the Town of Huntington and its history. From left to right are Claudia Fortunato-Napolitano, the Society's Director of Operations and Captain Ketcham's children: Roger Ketcham, Dale Graves and Kathy Wikowitz.*

Many Thanks To The Evening's Sponsors

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Claudia Fortunato was married to Sean Napolitano during a lovely ceremony at St. Dominic's Chapel in Oyster Bay with a reception following at the Oheka Castle. Our best wishes to you both! Thank you Interns: the Society was very fortunate in having five fabulous, and yes, unpaid, college interns on staff during the past year. Laura Dabrowski spent the spring writing for our e-newsletters and helping out with just about everything! In the summer, four interns were worth their weight in gold. Paulina Campaglia and Aimee Deutsch ensured the success of our Wine Tasting by securing sponsors for the journal, obtaining goodies for the silent auction and raffle baskets, researching restaurants and wine



OCTOBER WEDDING *Claudia Fortunato, the Society's Director of Operations, married Sean Napolitano*

suppliers, and basically coordinating all aspects of the event. Kate Hughes promoted August's Heritage Crafts Fair and handled advertising, press and vendor communication, as

well as flyer distribution all over town. Benjamin Spiegel made sure that both events were included in the Society's e-newsletters and also researched, wrote and designed local history articles. We can't thank these young people enough and wish them much success in the future!

MANY THANKS TO: Engelmann Energy for donating and installing a central air conditioning system in the Museum Shop; Frank Caruso for hooking up the electrical system for the air conditioning; Town of Huntington General Services for doing emergency tree work at the Kissam property after Hurricane Irene; Richard Blohm of Millwood Pest Control for donating services at the Conklin Property.

Local Teen Organizes Rachmaninoff Concert To Fund Historical Marker

Many Long Islanders are quite surprised when they learn that between the years of 1940 and 1941, the famous composer Rachmaninoff spent two summers in the hamlet of Centerport. Living on the Honeyman Estate, a 17-acre parcel of land perched near the end of Little Neck Road. It was here that Rachmaninoff composed the last of his major orchestral compositions, "Symphonic Dances." When Ellie Horn, the daughter of Society volunteer Robin Horn, heard the name Sergei Rachmaninoff mentioned during a party for Historical Society volunteers, she immediately perked

up. Ellie, a freshman at Harborfields High School and a dedicated piano student, told the volunteers that she "loved Rachmaninoff," and couldn't wait to tell her piano teacher,



TENACIOUS TEEN: *Ellie Horn (right) is pictured here with her parents, Doug and Robin Horn (center), and her piano teacher, Isabella Eredita Johnson (far left)*

Isabella Eredita Johnson. Upon hearing the news, Ms. Eredita Johnson agreed with Ellie that some sort of historical marker should be established to recognize the maestro's time in Centerport. Their resolve grew even stronger when they learned from the Huntington Town

Historian, Robert Hughes, that there once had been a sign indicating the Rachmaninoff connection but that it had disappeared many years ago and "its fate is still a mystery." And so, along with the help of her parents, Ellie and Ms. Eredita Johnson arranged for twelve of the best pianists and musicians in the area to donate their time and talent to raise funds for the creation and installation of a new historical marker. Held on September 25th, the concert was a wonderful success and proceeds will be used to install a blue and gold aluminum marker near the location of Rachmaninoff's summer residence on the Little Neck Peninsula, not far from the Vanderbilt Museum. It is Ellie's hope that the marker will now make many more Long Islanders aware that such a magnificent artist and composer once summured in Centerport. Congratulations Ellie for your commitment to the arts in the Huntington area! Bravo!!



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Society Funding At Risk: Response To The Annual Appeal Is Critical

The Town of Huntington, always a steadfast financial contributor to the Historical

Society, currently finds itself unable to provide the same level of support that it has in the past. Unfortunately, this means that in 2012 the Town will cut their contributions to the Society by 50% which will result in a \$30,000 decrease in revenue. This reduction will create an extremely serious problem for the Society as we already operate with a small, part-



THE COST TO REPAIR AND MAINTAIN our five historic properties, as well as conduct education and outreach programs, make up a large part of the Historical society's budget

time staff which, through the help of dedicated volunteers, is able to efficiently run and coordinate the many programs and activities of the Society.

However, with such a drastic cut by the Town, the costs associated with our education programs, exhibits, property maintenance, as well as the administrative needs of our small staff, may increase the risk that in 2012, the Society finds itself "running into the red." It is our hope that you will

consider the value that the Historical Society adds to the quality of life in Huntington when you make your contribution to the Annual Appeal. Your generous support will truly make 2012 a happy new year for all.


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