



# Southold Historical Society NEWSLETTER

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

A respite.

Though winter may sometimes be cold and bleak, things slow down enough here in the office that just for a few moments we can think about the past year, our successes and failures, and what we need to get done in the new year. It is a time for looking towards the future as well as the past.

And it was quite a year. From new books to a brand new building, every committee was busily ensuring that the Society's many activities, programs, and events would come off without a hitch. The Education of Youth committee doubled up this year while moving programs to the fall; Treasure Exchange retailed the heck out of Main Road; and the Lighthouse muddled through a difficult and somber season.

So much of what we do each year requires the help of many dedicated supporters. Our thanks go out to the superb volunteers and committee chairs who make each year at the Society move along with such ease.

Geoffrey K. Fleming  
Director

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Why there is no "Annual Appeal" this year:

To our many loyal supporters, the typical "Annual Appeal" offers the opportunity to provide general support to the Society. We appreciate that support. We also recognize that times are a bit financially challenging and did not want to "hit you twice" in this holiday season.

Therefore, in September, we sent out a quality brochure entitled "Celebrating & Preserving Our Past", a fund raiser with a specific purpose: to fund the purchase and improvement of the nearby former Capt. Sherburne Beckwith Store (more recently: the Gillispie Real Estate office).

This building will become a much needed outstanding exhibition space (Gallery Space) for the society. **THIS REPLACES OUR ANNUAL APPEAL.** You will NOT be receiving a separate request for funds in that name this year.

While we deeply appreciate the significant contributions made by all Trustees and several generous individuals (the September brochure emphasized contributions of \$250

*President's Corner continues*

## OUR NEW BUILDING

All of our supporters received information on the Society's acquisition of the very historic Beckwith Store, also known as the Hartranft Studio Building. Constructed in the 1860s, it has been a landmark along Main Road ever since. The acquisition was a strategic one, providing new exhibition space that will allow greater programming to occur for the first time in over half a decade.

The preservation of this building is an important step towards making Main Road more inviting for visitors and locals alike. If you have not already made a donation in support of the project, we hope you will consider doing so. Every dollar counts, so please contribute today!



*President's Corner continued*

and naming opportunities), it is important that we also receive support from the larger society. Just as "many hands make light work", many smaller contributions can together provide meaningful support for this important venture. From my view, I would rather support a specific purpose such as "exhibition space" rather than a general one. Please consider offering a contribution of \$200, \$100 or whatever you feel you can to make this fundraiser a success. If you have lost or mislaid the pledge card, simply call the office and ask for one or just send a check with a note "for new Gallery Space", and include your return address so we can send a thank you and notation of contribution for your tax records.

From both myself and the Board of Trustees, I offer you thanks for your consideration of this important venture and wish you both a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday Season. Your historical society is enthusiastically taking steps to improve our image in the community and to display the wonderful collections we possess. We appreciate your support.

John E. Barnes  
President



*Southold Historical Society 2011*

*Candlelight Tour*



**Bainbridge Internship** We are now accepting applications for the 2012 Bainbridge Internship. The Bainbridge Memorial Internship honors former board member and supporter of the Historical Society, Mildred Bainbridge (1907-1992). Born in Brooklyn, Mildred Bainbridge was the daughter of Ella and Henry C. Bainbridge Jr. The Bainbridge family were the proprietors of Charles T. Bainbridge & Co., founded in 1867, who were noted for their artists materials, including "Bainbridge Board." At the time of Mildred Bainbridge's death in 1992 she left her large estate, valued at several million dollars, to a variety of charities on the North Fork, including the Southold Historical Society. The Society honors her generous gift through the annual awarding of the internship in her name. Rules and applications are available at the Society office.

**Planned Giving** Consider Planned Giving: You can become a part of the Southold Historical Society's legacy by including the Society in your estate plans. Giving opportunities include outright bequests of cash, securities or property. We recommend that you discuss your estate plans with your own legal and financial advisors. Kindly notify the Society at 765-5500 if you are considering a bequest or if you have any other questions. Planned Giving is fundamental to the long-term success of the Society.

## From the Collections

Southold is filled with many interesting stories, and occasionally we get lucky and find some that are connected to tangible items. In 1817, the USS Ohio was built in the New York and launched on May 30, 1820. In 1838, the ship acted as the flag ship under Commodore Isaac Hull in the Mediterranean. Later the Ohio sailed in Naval squadrons in the Gulf of Mexico and Pacific Ocean. It was removed from the Naval Register in 1883 and sold to Isaac Snow of Rockland, ME. Snow in turn sold the ship to a group of investors from Greenport and the Ohio was towed to Greenport Harbor. The ship was stripped and the hull was slated to be salvaged for copper. The hull was then towed to Conklin's Point, and was loaded with dynamite and oil. A crowd gathered to watch the demolition. Robert Corey who lit the oil, miscalculated the speed of the explosion and was killed when an iron bolt hit him in the back of the head. The remains of the wreck were abandoned in the aftermath of Corey's death. In the 1960's a group of divers rediscovered the remains of the Ohio and obtained permission to salvage what was left of the ship, which were mostly nails and bolts. Four of the nails from the ship were recently donated to the Society for display at the Horton Point Lighthouse, providing us a tangible link to the tragic blast of the USS Ohio. The figurehead from the USS Ohio was also salvaged and is today on display in a pavilion overlooking Stony Brook Harbor.



## Horton Point Lighthouse



The summer at the lighthouse was darkened considerably when we lost lighthouse co-chair **Anne Schwiebert** (1941-2011). Anne was devoted to the lighthouse and never failed to be interested in nearly every aspect of its operation, whether it be gift shop sales or the positioning of new cases and labels. Few of us can be as devoted to the many things in our lives as Anne was to the success of the lighthouse. We will miss her smile, humor, and the devotion she showed to one of the most distinctive landmarks in our town.

## From the Archives

As you probably know, surnames can come in various variations of one spelling or another. Just recently there was a Swayze surname request. The Swayze name the patron was actually interested in was Swezey. Checking our card catalog listings proved beneficial. The Society has a copy of a typed transcription of the will of John Swayze of Southold, dated May 20, 1692, in our archives. The document mentions property that sounds like it included a farm being bequeathed to John Swayze's family, and this intrigued the patron. The spelling of the last name in our document copy proved to be significant enough to be helpful even though it wasn't Swezey. A copy was sent as is usually the case for requests, and patron was pleased. I was delighted to be able to offer assistance. One never knows what one may find here. You're welcome to come visit me and discover for yourself. My hours are Tuesdays from 9-3. I can be reached at the historical society archives either by e-mail: [southoldresearch@gmail.com](mailto:southoldresearch@gmail.com) or by calling the office telephone number, 765-5500. – Dan McCarthy

## 2012 - Upcoming Events & Programs

**JANUARY 30, 5:00 pm – ANNUAL MEETING** – The Society's annual meeting will be held at Founder's Landing at the end of Hobart Lane, Southold. Join us for our annual elections, great food courtesy of Walter Jackson, and a special presentation.

**MARCH 14, 6:30 pm – POT LUCK SUPPER** – Jen's Main Street Grill will once again host this fun winter activity where you never know what delicacy will wander through the door.

**APRIL 12, 12:00 pm-8:00 pm - APRIL SHOWERS DINNER** – The Soundview restaurant will host this annual kick-off event. Choice of chicken or fish will be available, as will 50-50 raffle tickets.

**Members of the Society are invited to attend meetings of the Association of Suffolk County Historical Societies (ASCHS) quarterly meetings.** For more information, contact Peg Murphy at 765-3598. The next meeting will take place on January 28 at Southampton Historical Society.

## The Treasure Exchange

Closing for the Holidays on December 17th, will re-open January 14th on Saturdays through March. Opening full time beginning April 3, 2012.

## Shop Discount

Members usually receive 10% off in our museum shop. Beginning December 15th and through December 23rd, take an additional 10% (20 % total) off any purchase totaling \$50 or more. There are great books, children's items, and holiday decorations waiting for you!

## Email Address

We will be sending more and more announcements via email, so we need to have an email address on file for each member. Kindly contact the society with one or more email addresses so we may keep you up to date on Society activities. Thank you!

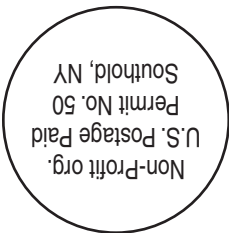


# Preserving & Promoting Southold's History

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

www.southoldhistoricalsociety.org  
 sohissoc@optonline.net  
 Fax 631-765-8510  
 631-765-5500

54325 Main Road  
 P.O. Box 1  
 Southold, NY 11971



## Southold Historical Society

### Officers and Trustees 2012

President.....John Barnes  
 1st Vice President.....Michael Lastoria  
 2nd Vice President.....Melissa Andruski  
 Treasurer.....Lee Cleary  
 Assistant Treasurer.....Joan Latham  
 Secretary.....Chris Wruck

Michael Braverman	Maureen Ostermann
Rudolph Bruer IV	Mel Phaff
Constance "Tippy" Case	Judith Phinney
Lois Cunliffe	Jennifer Raymond
Helen Didriksen	Ann Ristuccia
Larry Jungblut	Ron Rossi

### Staff

Director.....Geoffrey Fleming  
 Office Manager.....Deanna Witte-Walker  
 Collections Manager....Amy Folk  
 Archives Assistant.....Dan McCarthy  
 Office Assistant.....Walter Jackson

**Next deadline for the newsletter:  
 March 15th 2012, for  
 April, May, and June 2011**

**The Society Office will be CLOSED –  
 January 16th & February 20th.**