Volunteer Spotlight

This year’s Hancock-Harms Award winner, Natalie Worthington and her daughter Kylie are familiar faces around both the farm and the office! This dynamic duo tend to our feathered, wooly, and furry friends through both good weather and bad. As well as helping collect donations for various events throughout the year, Natalie spearheads and leads our large children’s tent at the Heritage Country Fair. Her leadership is invaluable in keeping the area running smoothly, as well keeping it neat and orderly!

Thank you to our Business Patron Members!

2019
Borella’s Wholesale Nursery
Boy Scout Pack 340
Enspire Design Group
GSE Dynamics, Inc.
Hirsch Fuels
LI Lipo Freeze
North Country Dental Care
Smithtown Community Band

2020 ANNUAL MEETING

On Friday, January 31st, the Smithtown Historical Society hosted its annual Member’s meeting. We kicked off the evening around 5:30 pm with a potluck dinner in the Brush Barn. At 6:30, a short business meeting was held to bring everyone up to date on all the new projects that the Society has been working on. We had a brief review of the past year and asked for any member input for future plans/events within the Society.

The reelections of 2 board members, Tom Hancock and Richard Grzetic, were motioned, seconded, and accepted so they may each continue their terms of service. Kathy Albrecht, Mary Ellen McCrossen, and Richard Smith were elected to the Board of Trustees for new terms of service.

The Society also announced and introduced this year’s Heritage Ball Honorees. The Partnership in History Award will be presented to Charles Reichert for his support to the Historical Society; the Cornelia Stewart Smith Butler Community Service Award will be presented to Vincent Puleo, Town Clerk for the Town of Smithtown; the Anna Blydenburgh Award will be awarded to Joe Winters of Winter Brothers; and the Rockwell Award will be presented to Joan Harris for her dedication to volunteering at the Society.

Every year the Society also recognizes its volunteers by selecting a volunteer for their dedication and selfless service to the Society. This year’s Hancock-Harms Award (named after two longtime volunteers, Tom Hancock and Ethel Harms) honored Natalie Worthington. We thank her for always supporting and contributing to the Society in every possible way!
Dear Friends:

We hope that you and your families are healthy. The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting all organizations, including our own, but we are confident that will be able to get through this with your help and participation.

There will be many lessons learned from this pandemic. Hopefully, we will have learned to slow down and appreciate what we often take for granted in our hectic lives, enjoy our time with our loved ones and learn to move forward with the “new normal”.

We will have to take extra steps to keep ourselves healthy and safe. We are going to take care of not only ourselves but also people around us and our community. This pandemic has compelled us to adopt new technology and new ideas to be able to endure.

We hope that you were able to join us for our Annual Meeting in January, as we announced our 2020 Heritage Ball Honorees. The Partnership in History Award for this year will be presented to Charles Reichert, for his support to the Historical Society; Anna Blydenburgh Award will be presented to Joe Winters; the Cornelia Stewart Smith Butler Community Service Award will be presented to Vincent Puleo; and the Rockwell Award will be presented to Joan Harris, for her unconditional help and support.

2019 was an exciting year for us at the Society. Our success this past year would not have been possible without the support of our local government and our dedicated board members. When New York State is “un paused,” I urge everyone to visit our grounds to see and enjoy the progress the Historical Society has made.

The Society is the custodian of our history and the lessons we have learned. We will persevere with innovative ideas to engage you and our community. We will hold more outdoor events in the fresh air to relieve some of the anxieties our members may have. We will invest in disinfection, personal protective equipment, and sanitizers for people to use when they visit our grounds. We will also utilize new technology for future programming, for example online programs, apps on smart phones, and remote classes will all be included in our ongoing list of public programing events.

As summer approaches, we hope to reopen the oldest of our properties, the restored Obadiah Smith House, ca. 1700. We look forward to all the new events, and I hope to see everyone soon.

Thank you again for all your support.

Executive Director,
Priya Kapoor
We are always fortunate at SHS to have various groups and community members helping to preserve and maintain our acreage and buildings. Throughout 2019 we had a number of Eagle Scout projects, community volunteers and even corporate groups come on site to do work for us. Below are some projects that were completed.

**Caleb Smith House Clean Up & Beautification**
done by Boy Scout Troop 301

**Zebra Technologies (local business)** Building a tractor gate for one of our fields

**Greg Roman Troop 365 Eagle Scout Project**
Information Booth/Welcome Center - can be moved and used throughout the property for festivals and events

In total, 14 large scale projects were completed on our properties throughout 2019.

Keep your eyes peeled as you walk the grounds and you will see the improvements and the upgrades that make our hidden gem even more spectacular.

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**CURATORS CORNER**

We are highlighting some fun artifacts from our museum collection. Our museum is housed in the Caleb Smith House located on North Country Rd adjacent to the Smithtown Library. The Caleb Smith House holds not only our Collections, and Exhibit space, but the office of our Curator is here as well. With several Interns working with the Curator each semester, the Caleb Smith House is always full of activity.

Below are photos of a few of the Victorian Fans that we have. While fans of course had a practical purpose in the Victorian age, they were also used as a means of communication. See below for the Language of the Fan.

Do you think you could remember all of these?!

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**The Language of the Fan**

I desire your acquaintance………. Carry fan in left hand in front of face
I wish to speak to you……………Close fan
Follow me………………………… Carry fan in right hand in front of face
Wait for me…………………....Open fan wide
You are too willing…………… Carry fan in right hand
I see you………………………….. Hold handle to hips
We are watching………………….Twist fan in left hand
I love you…………………………Draw fan across the cheek
I love another……………………..Twist fan in right hand
Yes………………………………………….. Rest fan on right cheek
No…………………………………………….... Rest fan on left cheek
I wish to get rid of you………………Place fan on left ear
I hate you!……………..………………Draw fan through the hand
I’m sorry!………………….......Draw fan across the eyes
You are cruel…………………..……Open and shut fan several times
I am engaged…………….....Fan very quickly
I am married………………….Fan slowly
We will be friends………………....Drop the fan

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**EXHIBIT UPDATE:**

*Dining In & Dining Out in Smithtown* is the next exhibition opening in our museum at the Caleb Smith House! (Date still TBD) The exhibition will look at how the local food culture has evolved from its agricultural roots to now, and how these changes connected to the larger changes happening in our nation. 3D objects and ephemera will help tell the story of Smithtown’s early beginnings of farming and shell fishing, while also showing objects from the restaurants and inns that became popular with the rise of commercial industry. The exhibit will also look at home traditions that center around food including gardening and preserving to hosting dinner parties. Join our email list to get updates on when the exhibit will open! info@smithtownhistorical.org
HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

The Smithtown Historical Society helped kick off the 2019 holiday season for the community with two festive family favorite events. First on Friday, December 6th, we hosted our annual Holiday Luncheon in the Frank Brush Barn. This year marked the 58th year of this treasured holiday tradition. As always, it was a delightful afternoon with great food catered by Elegant Eating, gracious community relations, and generous support for the continued preservation of our historic buildings. After dining, guests bought raffle tickets to win one of the beautiful Community Wreath Contest entries or one of the many festive holiday prizes donated by local merchants and Smithtown Historical Society supporters. There was also a boutique for gourmet treats, decorations and gift items.

The spirit of the season carried over into Saturday, December 7th, celebrating the annual Heritage Country Christmas. Live music performed by the Smithtown Community Band, Long Island Blue Grass Group, Paul Antonios as well as Sampawan’s Creek set the tone of the day. Santa greeted kids, young and old, in the Farmhouse, a shadow puppet show brought “Twas The Night Before Christmas” to life and Lionel trains mesmerized guests as they looped on their track. At the center of the festivities was the popular Community Wreath Contest. Guests had the opportunity to view and vote on a selection of 17 unique entries. At the end of the evening each wreath was auctioned off in a drawing to raise funds for the Historical Society. The Best in Show was awarded to Marti McMahon’s wreath.

We congratulate all the winners and thank all participants for their contributions.

CHILI BOWL CONTEST

On Friday, February 28th, the Smithtown Historical Society hosted its 4th annual Chili Bowl Contest. The event was a great success! Food is always a large part of any social gathering, and this event was no different! There were 10 submissions this year and the event attracted almost 60 attendants.

Chili was judged by the guests who attended this event. First prize winner was a tie between reigning champion Mayte Giraski and Marti McMahon; Runner-up was Phillip Martin and 3rd place went to Kate Wurtzel.

We congratulate all the winners and thank all participants for their contributions.

IN GRATITUDE

The Smithtown Historical Society is fortunate to have contributions from many sources and greatly appreciates each donation.

We thank the following individuals & businesses for their contributions:

- Kathy Albrecht
- American Roadside
- Ancient Order of Hibernians
- Don & Joanna Betts
- Breslawski Family
- Butera's of Smithtown
- Carrabbas Italian Grill
- Joan & John Carro
- Bill & Eileen Caulfield
- Clancy Can, Inc
- Crazy Crepe Cafe
- Damiansos Realty
- Ken Donato
- The Donnelly Family
- Elegant Eating
- The Farino Family
- Faraday's of Smithtown
- Tom Hancock
- Gail Hessel
- Hirsch Fuels
- Councilwoman Lisa Inzerillo
- Kings Park Meat Market
- M.E. Sanders
- Mancini Architecture
- Helen Matuz
- Jerry & Pat Melvin
- Marguerite Micciche
- Millennium Diner
- Diane & Jim Motherway
- Nardy Honda Smithtown
- Nino's Deli
- Norman Keil Nurseries
- Old Street Restaurant & Bar
- Carole Palmer
- People's United Bank
- Peter Popovich
- Reliable Office Solutions
- The Schaefer Agency
- Schoolhouse Remodeling
- SCOPE Education Services
- Lisa Scott
- Shop Rite Hauppauge
- Maureen & George Smilow
- Smithtown Chamber of Commerce
- Smithtown Children's Foundation
- St Catherine of Siena Medical Center
- St James Funeral Home
- St Johnland Nursing Center
- Stella & William Valentine
- Sterling National Bank
- Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea
- Synergy Wealth Strategies
- Michael Tangle
- Watermill Caterers
- Waves Salon & Spa
- Smithtown Supervisor Ed Wehrheim
- Williams & Williams Insurance
- Winter Brothers
- John Zollo

The Smithtown Historical Society wishes to thank the Smithtown Community for its continued support!
As our Mission dictates, Education is one of the main tasks we focus on here at SHS throughout the year. This includes of course our School Programs which allow us to reach thousands of students from across Long Island through our on site field trips, Outreach programs and Scout programs.

While the 2019-2020 was sadly cut short, we still managed to reach almost 2,000 students and bring our Outreach program to 2 new schools this year - Mills Pond Elementary School in St James, and Albany Ave Elementary School in Farmingdale. The 4th grade students who take part in our Outreach get aspects of 2 on site field trips - our Tavern Program and our Life on the Farm Program. They also get to make and bring home several hands on items just like the students who come to our site do.

We also welcomed a new staff Educator, Michael Klein, a Commack resident who has a background in IT and photography, and has settled in nicely to our programs, bringing a fresh perspective to what we do here.

**EDUCATION UPDATE**

Students learning how to dip candles from Educator Margie Grabowski at Mills Pond Elementary School in St James

Mike Klein in costume in our Tavern building.

The Tavern based field trip is our most popular field trip program.

The Tavern based field trip is our most popular field trip program.

Quill & Ink writing sample from our Tavern Program

Students working with Flax in the Farmhouse Program

**Scholarship Awarded**

The Smithtown Historical Society is proud to continue to support junior year students in the Township of Smithtown with an opportunity to win a $1,000.00 scholarship. The Mildred Smith Historical Essay Scholarship Contest is open to all 11th graders in attendance at Commack, Hauppauge, Kings Park, Smithtown East & West High Schools, as well as at The Knox School and Smithtown Christian School.

The scholarship recipient for 2019 was Joseph Muscarella, a now senior at Smithtown East. Joe was on the Varsity Football team and has been recognized as a scholar athlete. He was also a member of Athlete’s Helping Athletes, an organization that mentors and helps younger students manage school and sports, and a member of the Leadership Club. In addition Joe volunteers with the youth football league.

Joseph has received his acceptance to SUNY Cortland and plans to major in Physical Education.

**13TH ANNUAL MILDRED SMITH HISTORICAL ESSAY CONTEST ANNOUNCED FOR 2020**

Every year, the Smithtown Historical Society offers junior year students in the Township of Smithtown an opportunity to win a $1,000 scholarship. The Mildred Smith Historical Essay Contest, a scholarship award, is open to all 11th graders in attendance at Commack, Hauppauge, Kings Park, Smithtown East & West High Schools, as well as at The Knox School and Smithtown Christian School.

Mildred Smith was an original founder of the Smithtown Historical Society and its first President. She possessed an intense passion for the history of Smithtown and was a great friend and supporter of the Society. The Smithtown Historical Society is proud to honor her through this annual essay contest and hopes that the spirit of Ms. Smith will live on in the devotion and hard work of students submitting essays for consideration.

The Annual Mildred Smith Historical Essay Scholarship Contest is in its thirteenth year. The essay prompt for 2020 is:

Tell the story of a school within the Township that you have either attended in the past or currently attend. Give a brief history of the school, and discuss either its traditions or what makes your school special or unique.

The deadline for submissions has been extended until July 10th, 2020 up until 5 pm in the Smithtown Historical Society’s headquarters at the Roseneath Cottage, 239 Middle Country Road, Smithtown, New York 11787. Submissions can also be mailed or emailed to info@smithtownhistorical.org For more detailed information regarding the rules and regulations pertaining to the contest, please visit the Society’s website at www.smithtownhistorical.org and go to the Education tab.