On Friday, January 29th, the Smithtown Historical Society hosted its annual Member’s meeting. This was a historic occasion in and of itself, as the 2021 meeting was entirely virtual! Board members, staff, and members joined a Zoom meeting to discuss future plans and briefly review the past year.

The reelectors of 3 board members, David Bauer, Eileen Caulfield, and Brian Clancy were motioned, seconded, and accepted so they may each continue their terms of service. Joan Harris was elected to the Board of Trustees for a new term of service.

The Society also announced and introduced this year’s Heritage Ball Honorees. The Partnership in History Award will be presented to Jennifer Paley and David Ambro of The Smithtown News for their support to the Historical Society; the Cornelia Stewart Smith Butler Community Service Award will be presented to Thomas Lohmann, Town of Smithtown Councilman; and the Rockwell Award will be presented to Myra Naseem for her dedication to volunteering at the Society.

There were also some changes made to the Society’s Executive Board, with Ken Donato stepping up as President, Maureen Smilow as Vice President, and Eileen Caulfield as Secretary.
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends:

Happy New Year everybody!

Hopefully as this new year unfolds we can get some normalcy back in our lives again after that difficult year of 2020.

Thank you to our outgoing President Kathryn Tusa for serving on our Board of Trustees successfully for 4 years. I wish Kathy the best of luck in the future and hope she will continue to visit us at our future events.

Much appreciation to our fellow Board member Walter Scott whose term has expired. Thank you Wally for your service and best wishes to you in the future.

I look forward to working with our newest Board member Joan Harris. I have known Joan for many years. She will be a great addition to our team. Welcome to the Board Joan!

We are very fortunate to have Priya Kapoor as our Director. She has brought us to a much better place than where we were 4 years ago. With Priya and our Office Manager Victoria Del Vento handling the day-to-day operations at the cottage, we are constantly moving forward with keeping things running efficiently, making good financial decisions and coming up with new ideas that keep the Community interested in visiting our buildings and properties.

My theme this year is "Let's keep the momentum going"! I anticipate that once the pandemic is finally over, we will be able to fully open up to the public for our scheduled events. I look forward to seeing more of our general membership getting involved with volunteering and supporting us. It is not hard work, just a commitment for a few hours working with others as part of a team. It will give you a great feeling of accomplishment that you were here contributing to the success of the Smithtown Historical Society and being a part of that.

As we get into the new year, please continue to visit us on social media and our Facebook page where upcoming events will be announced. Once gain, Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Kenneth Donato
Looking Forward...

Irish Luck on the Farm
239 Middle Country Rd, Smithtown, NY | 631.265.6768 | Smithtownhistorical.org

Saturday March 13th | 11AM-2PM

Celebrate Irish Heritage with a day on the farm—walk through petting zoo, traditional Irish step dancing performance, limerick contest, and fun for all ages

Rockwell Farm
239 E Main St
Smithtown, NY 11787
Sponsored by:

Info at 631.265.6768
$5 per person, tickets available on EVENTTRITE.COM
Registration is suggested

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

The Smithtown Historical Society helped kick off the 2020 holiday season for the community with a festive family favorite events. At the center of the festivities was the newest addition to the Society’s grounds, a brightly lit and beautifully decorated Christmas tree that will continue to grow in coming years! Thank you to all the participants, volunteers, community members, and sponsors for helping us bring the holiday spirit to town!

14TH 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 fourteenth year. The essay prompt for 2021 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, 2021 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.
ON THE FARM...

We welcome Diana Schneider as our new Farm Manager!

Diana has been involved in volunteering with animal rescues for over 45 years, as a foster and adoption coordinator at local rescues, a volunteer mentor and liaison at animal shelters, and a social media coordinator for a Facebook page dedicated to showcasing shelter animals.

Diana has also served as Vice-President of a therapy dog organization, a role which focused on coordinating volunteers and their dogs for therapy visits, enforcing safety protocols, and planning fundraising events.

If you are a frequent Sweetbriar Nature Center, Diana might be a familiar face from there as she also cares for the animals in their barn area!

Diana can be regularly found around our farm taking care of our four-legged and winged friends; if you come down to the farm and see her be sure to say hello!

Also new to the Farm is Beans (right), a new friend and companion to our bunny Bugs!

The chicks we received in April 2020 are now full grown, and look a bit different as well!