



BABYLON VILLAGE MUSEUM



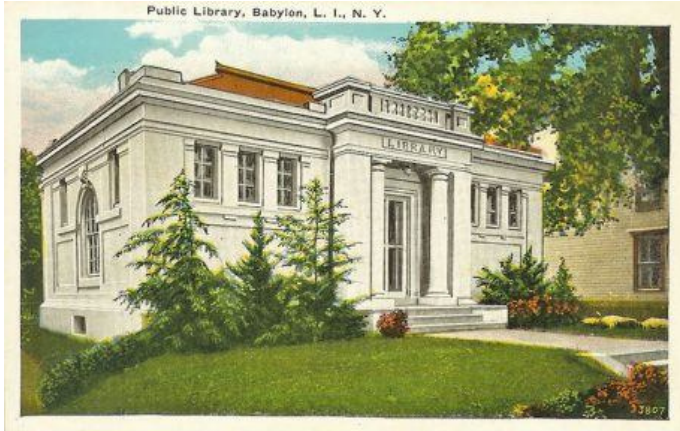
NATHANIEL CONKLIN HOUSE

BABYLON VILLAGE:
WHERE HISTORY IS MADE

Fall and Winter 2024

HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION SOCIETY

117 W. Main St. , Babylon NY 11702
631-669-1756 www.babylonvillagehistoricalsociety.org



Greetings, Friends and Neighbors,

As autumn draws to a close, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on all of the events that have taken place at the Historical Society since our last newsletter. A lot has happened!

First and foremost, we were proud to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Historical Society. On October 20th we celebrated with a well-attended cocktail party and unveiled a new exhibit highlighting the history of the Historical Society. If you haven't seen it yet, we hope you'll drop in and take a look.

Our speaker series presentations continue to draw a great crowd. From clamming on the Great South Bay, to maritime folklore and myth and from classic film history to a tour of Long Island's Gold Coast mansions of the past, visitors were able to enjoy a wide variety of entertaining presentations while engaging in informative discussions.

Of course, the end of autumn and the onset of winter means it's time to get ready for holiday celebrations. On Sunday, December 8th, the annual tree lighting will take place at Argyle Park. This will be followed by our traditional Wassail Bowl celebration at the museum held immediately after the tree lighting. This celebration is free and open to all. Please come join us as we say goodbye to 2024 and look forward to a bright, prosperous and healthy 2025.

Judy Skillen
President

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CELEBRATING OUR 50TH



The Historical Society proudly accepted a proclamation from Mayor Mary E. Adams, as well as words of thanks from Babylon Town Supervisor Rich Schaffer and Suffolk County Legislature's Presiding Officer Kevin McCaffrey. Pictured are Mary Cascone, Gilda Gricka, Mayor Adams, Judy Skillen, Wayne Horsley, Carolyn Romaine, Frank Seibert, Donna Consola, Kevin Conley, Dominic Bencivenga, Sean Goodwin, Rich Schaffer, Kevin McCaffrey.



Visitors enjoy good food and good conversation while exploring the museum

On Sunday, October 20, 2024, the Village of Babylon Historical and Preservation Society celebrated our 50th anniversary!

On September 29, 1974, Mayor Hanse called a meeting of Village residents for the purpose of forming an Historical Society. Those attending were Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Rohl, Ms. Gayle Labenow, Ms. Jeanne Keeshan, Mr. Condy, Mr. Bill Torrey, Mr. Ed Wolfe, and Mr. Ed Leitch. From this group, the present Village of Babylon Historical and Preservation Society was started.

The mission of the Historical Society was to collect and maintain Babylon Village artifacts, display artifacts and to give programs and exhibits of historical importance. From its official opening on October 3, 1977, the museum more than fulfilled its mission and provided a comprehensive look at Babylon's past.

But change comes even to Historical Societies. In 2020 the museum underwent a major renovation. Walls and lighting and other structural matters were totally redone to provide a lighter, brighter and more welcoming and practical way for visitors to enjoy the story of Babylon Village.

In 2020 the Conklin House, Babylon's historic home located on Deer Park Avenue, became a part of the Historical Society. The joining of the two strengthened the mission of the Historical Society to provide residents and visitors with a more complete picture of Babylon Village's rich history.

The museum became not just a repository of the History of the Village, but a place of educational and cultural enrichment.



MORE THAN JUST A BUILDING

The Historical Society is more than just a museum. We are an integral part of the Village. When you walk past the Bayman Statue, or the Robert Moses Statue or the lovely fountain in the front of our building, you are looking at Babylon History being honored and preserved. When you see the marker for the first auto race or the Women's Suffrage Study Club, you are seeing the Historical Society at work, making sure that our Village's history is front and center in the present, not lost to the past.

We look forward to the next 50 years as we tell the story of the Village of Babylon.

**Celebrating Our 50th Anniversary
with the generous support
from our sponsors!**

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The James

BRONZE SPONSORS

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Are you missing out on our speaker series?



Clam Power! On August 24th, Steve Kuhn, who has been clamming for forty years right here on the Great South Bay, shared his stories about his days as a clammer on Long Island. Steve's presentation was a big hit (as was the clam chowder served at the event).

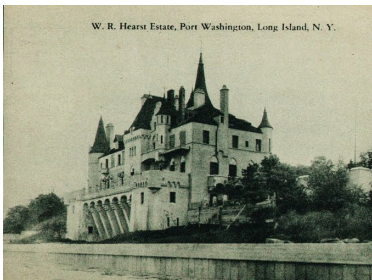
On October 18th and November 8th, film fans took a deep dive into the films of the 1940s. From the war to the homefront, to musicals, comedies and the birth of film noir, the impact and influence of movies offered both an escape and a reflection of the times to the audience.



On October 27th, visitors enjoyed Maritime Folklore & Myths Surrounding New York and Long Island presented by Brooke Franks.



On November 10th, the audience was treated to a visual journey through time to visit some of the most lavish homes ever built as the story of their rise and fall was presented by Richard Panchyk.



The Heroes Fountain at Hawley's Pond ** update **

On September 30th, the first fundraiser for the Heroes Fountain at Hawley's Pond took place and it was a great success. We are deeply grateful to all who made a contribution, with a special thank you to Robert Nicolio and Donna Sesto for their generous hospitality. Because of all our contributors we are on our way to make this tribute to the essential workers who were there for us during the recent pandemic a reality. History is not only a representation of the long ago past, but a commemoration of recent events that should not be forgotten.

Village of Babylon Historical and Preservation Society Board of Trustees:

Judy Skillen, *President*
Wayne Horsley, *Vice President*
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Mary Cascone, *Trustee*
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Karen Petz, *Corresponding Secretary*
George Pozdrec, *Trustee*
Carolyn Romaine, *Trustee*

Marsha Collock, Curator

Conklin House News

Lots of holiday fun happening at the Nathaniel Conklin House!

Saturday, November 16th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Santa Paws is a fun way to kick off the Holidays! Bring your camera and your pet to get your picture taken with Santa. **Please register with Eventbrite under the Nathaniel Conklin House for this event.**

Sunday, November 17th from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Picture Perfect is back. Bring your family and have your holiday photo taken. **Please register with Eventbrite under the Nathaniel Conklin House for this event.**

Thursday, December 5th. Holiday Cookie Contest. Please contact the Conklin House for more information. **Pre-registration is a must at ConklinCookies@gmail.com**

Friday, December 6th from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Christmas at the Conklin House. All are welcome to enjoy the beautifully decorated house, holiday music and cookies from the contest.

Congratulations to Conklin House Volunteer Award winner Megan Noble! Thank you for all you do!



A membership application can be obtained at the museum or on our website at: www.babylonhistoricalsociety.org

Upcoming Events at the Historical Society - Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, December 8, 2024: 4:00 p.m. - Tree Lighting & Wassail Bowl

Annual Christmas Tree lighting at Argyle park, followed by our traditional Wassail Bowl at the museum. BVAC's annual art exhibit will be on display. Free and open to all.

Sunday, January 26, 2025: 2:00 p.m. - Right This Way: a History of the Audience

Author and Playbill editor Robert Viagas' lecture centers on the history of audiences through the ages, packed with popular culture references. Free and open to all.

Friday, February 7, 2025: 7:30 p.m. - You're Invited to an Oscar Party - 1950 Style!

Walk the Red Carpet (Babylon edition) and enjoy the very best of a vintage year. You'll get to cast your ballot for your favorite films and performances of 1950. Speaking of vintage, there will be bubbly and more. Oscar attire is optional. \$10 at door.



from the Village of Babylon Historical and Preservation Society