



BABYLON VILLAGE MUSEUM



NATHANIEL CONKLIN HOUSE

BABYLON VILLAGE:
WHERE HISTORY IS MADE

2025 Special Edition

HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We all know that Babylon is a lovely place to live. Aside from its picture-perfect setting along the Great South Bay and its quaint homes and streets, did you know that Babylon Village is filled to the brim with history? If you are interested in the many facets of Village history, the Village of Babylon Historical and Preservation Society ("the Historical Society") is an important resource.



The Village of Babylon Historical and Preservation Society was established in 1974 to preserve and share the community's rich history and has operated a local historical museum in the original Babylon Library building since its formation. But the Historical Society is more than stories and artifacts of the past. Please read on to learn about our many upcoming events and programs as well as those that have taken place in the last year.

If you are already a member, then you know what we are talking about - and we thank you for your support and hope that you will take this opportunity to renew your annual membership for 2026. If you're not a member, we hope that you will consider joining and taking advantage of the many exciting exhibits and events that will take place at the Museum and the Conklin House in the coming year. These events and exhibits contribute greatly to the special fabric of life in our community.

The Village of Babylon Historical and Preservation Society

Your donations and support are vital and help support the Historical Society's exhibits and programs.

EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

Are you missing out? These are just some of 2026's upcoming events, as well as those events and celebrations that took place in 2025

Upcoming Events

Speaker Series: Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution

Effective January 1, 2026, Speaker Series presentations will be free to members; non-members will be charged \$5 at the door.

January 25th - What Entertained the Founding Fathers - Robert Viagas

February 22nd - The True Story of the Culper Spy Ring - Bill Blyer

March 21st - Long Island Women During the Revolutionary War - Natalie Naylor

April 26th - "My Betsey" - The Remarkable Wife of Alexander Hamilton - Elizabeth Kahn Kaplan

Special Events:

December 7th 2025: Annual tree lighting followed by traditional wassail bowl celebration

March 7th: Walk the Red Carpet at our Oscar Party for the films of 1960

Upcoming Exhibits:

Cadman Frederick exhibit: The Mogul, the Mayor, and the Millionaire

Celebrating America's 250th

Ongoing programs:

Historic Homes/Circa Boards

The mission of the Historic Homes Committee (HHC) is to research and preserve the history of historic homes and structures in the Village of Babylon; primarily those built before 1929. The Historic Homes Committee also endeavors to educate the public, and homeowners, about the vast amount of local history in and about historic homes and structures in the Village of Babylon. Circa Boards are available for homes that are over 100 years old.

Scholarship

Each year the Historical Society awards a \$1,000 Excellence in Social Studies Scholarship to a local student.

Did you miss out on these events in 2025?

Sunday Speaker Series:

*Right This Way: A History of the Audience - Robert Vigas

*Maritime Smuggling on Long Island - From Pirates to Rumrunners - Bill Blyer

*The Drafting of a Radical Idea - The Declaration of Independence: Tara Rider

*My Camera and Eye: A Creative Journey: Holly Gordon

*The Gilded Age Murder of Stanford White and the Trial of the Century: Marsha Collock

Special Events:

*Oscar Party: It was an Oscar Celebration honoring the best films and performances of 1950. Oscar attire was optional, but there was plenty of bubbly and a good time was had by all.

*Long Island Psychiatric Museum Tour

*Cuban Giants celebration: hot dogs, beer and Cuban Giants swag marking the unveiling of the Suffolk County Sports Hall of Fame sign at Argyle Park

*Bayard Cutting Arboretum Manor House tour

The Benefits of Membership

Effective January 1, 2026 annual and lifetime members are eligible for the following benefits:

- Free or discounted admission for programs and events
- First choice for trips and tours when space is limited
- an invitation to the annual membership meeting and reception
- You will also receive an annual or lifetime membership card in the mail, depending on the level of membership you choose.



Become a member now by either purchasing your membership online or by completing the enclosed application and paying via check.

Online memberships can be paid on our website. Simply scan the QR code to the left or visit us at <https://babylonvillagehistoricalsociety.org/memberships/>.

The Village of Babylon Historical and Preservation Society is a 501(c)(3) organization. All contributions are tax deductible.

Village of Babylon Historical and Preservation Society Board of Trustees:

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Village of Babylon Historical Society Annual Membership Card

Member Name: JOHN DOE
Member Level: INDIVIDUAL
For the Year: 2026



The Conklin House

In the late 18th Century, farmers and builders on the North Shore became aware of a useful resource that was theirs for the taking on the South Shore of the island. That resource was from the salt marshes that grew along the water's edge in what was called South Huntington. They cut and took wagon loads of salt hay back home with them to use as animal bedding, insulation in their homes, and even to stuff mattresses. It was an arduous trip and many stayed overnight here. Saloons and boarding houses sprung up to accommodate them.

In 1989, the house, located at 280 Deer Park Avenue in Babylon Village, was in danger of being torn down. A group of concerned citizens, together with the Village of Babylon, saved the house and it is now owned by the Village of Babylon and is part of the Village of Babylon Historical and Preservation Society.

The House: The rooms in the house depict the various eras the house has seen

The Gardens: The gardens of the Nathaniel Conklin House were designed to reflect the gardens of the Victorian Era. They include roses and perennials that graced many Victorian homes. Additionally, a "kitchen garden" has been added abundant with fruit trees and herbs.

The Barn: Completed in 2002, the barn was built to specifications of an authentic working barn at Old Bethpage Restoration. It is filled with tools and artifacts reflective of Babylon's farming, fishing and hunting history.

House tours are offered on the third Saturday of each month between 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. Tours are free.

Some 2025 Events: Apples and Arts Festival, High Tea at the Conklin House, Dinner for Eight raffle, cooking demonstrations & workshops. Stay tuned for 2026 events.



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Exciting things
are happening at
the Village of
Babylon Historical
and Preservation
Society!