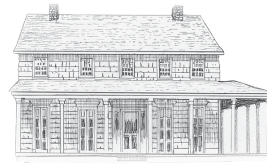




BABYLON VILLAGE MUSEUM



NATHANIEL CONKLIN HOUSE

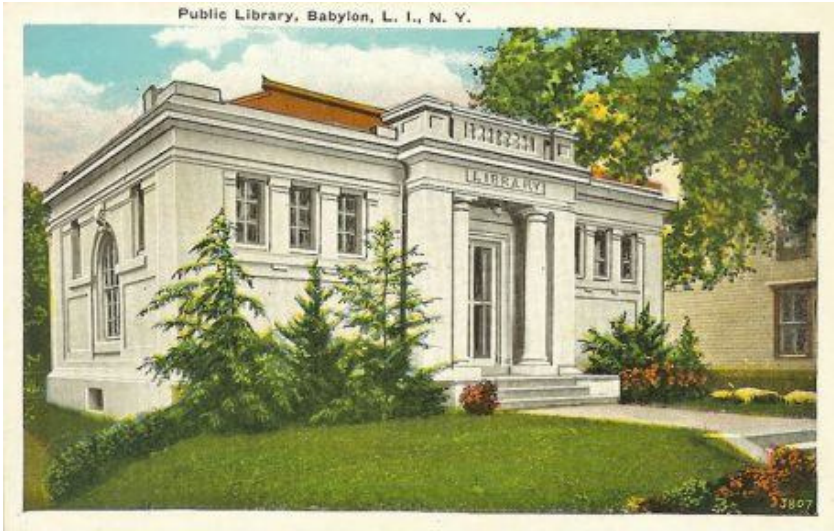
BABYLON VILLAGE:
WHERE HISTORY IS MADE

Spring 2026

HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION SOCIETY

117 W. Main Street, Babylon NY 11702

631-669-1756 www.babylonvillagehistoricalsociety.org



Inside this
newsletter

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

2026 has certainly started off in a challenging way! The bitter winter weather kept us indoors and hopefully warm and cozy. But, spring is on the horizon and we look forward to lots of activities at the Historical Society as the year unfolds.

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Accordingly, the Historical Society has planned a lecture lineup honoring and highlighting this landmark date.

We have already enjoyed interesting presentations from Bill Bleyer about the Culper Spy Ring and Natalie Naylor about the support of American women during the Revolution. More interesting lectures, exhibits and tours are on tap.

As Babylon Village starts to thaw out, please feel free to stop by the Museum or the Conklin House. We'd love to see you!

Judy Skiffen
President

Washington's
Culper Spy Ring

Remembering
the Ladies: Long
Island Women
During the
Revolutionary
War

250th News

Become a
Member

Conklin House
News

Upcoming
Events

SPOTLIGHT ON AMERICA'S 250TH



On Sunday, March 8th retired Newsday reporter and historian Bill Bleyer gave a compelling presentation about George Washington's Culper Spy Ring.

Bleyer detailed the important role played by Long Island patriots during the Revolution and also debunked a lot of misinformation that has circulated about those patriot spies. Many of the legends that have been handed down are not always based in truth but make for good stories. Bleyer set the record straight on all accounts.

On Saturday, March 21st, celebrating both America's 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and Women's History Month, historian and professor emeritus at Hofstra University Natalie Naylor provided rare insight into the role of Long Island women during the Revolutionary War during her presentation entitled "Remembering the Ladies."

While not usually on the front lines wielding a musket, Ms. Naylor provided ample proof that Patriot women played a crucial and largely unsung role in America's fight for independence. By telling their stories of domestic courage, Ms. Naylor illustrated that not all revolutions are fought on the battlefield.



Memberships Help Us Grow!



Effective January 1, 2026 annual and lifetime members are eligible for free or discounted admission for programs and events, first choice for trips and tours when space is limited, and an invitation to the annual membership meeting and reception. Become a member now by completing the application found on our website and paying via check.

Memberships can also be paid online at our website. Simply scan the above QR code 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.

The Long Island 250th Anniversary Passport Book

The year 2026 marks the 250th Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence—a milestone that invites us to rediscover America's origins and the stories that shaped our nation. To commemorate this historic occasion, the Suffolk County 250th Commemorative Planning Committee has created a special 250th Passport Book. This keepsake book invites residents and visitors alike to explore Long Island's Revolutionary War sites, 18th-century landmarks, special exhibits, and events in Suffolk and Nassau counties.



Travel through Long Island's historic towns, visit participating museums and heritage sites throughout 2026, and collect a unique commemorative stamp at each stop. When complete, your passport becomes both a personal souvenir and a symbol of America's 250th Anniversary.

This book is available for purchase at the Museum for \$9. Don't forget to get it stamped at the Museum and at the Conklin House!

Village of Babylon Historical and Preservation Society Board of Trustees:

Judy Skillen, President
Wayne Horsley, Vice President
Donna Consola, Treasurer
Gilda Gricka, Recording Secretary
Karen Petz, Corresponding Secretary
Mary Cascone, Trustee
Marsha Collock, Trustee, Curator
Kevin Conley, Trustee
Steve Loudon, Trustee
George Pozderec, Trustee
Carolyn Romaine, Trustee



On March 24th, lucky attendees were treated to delicious samplings and cooking and purchasing tips from The Babylon Meat Market's Lenny Popp (pictured here with Historical Society Trustee and Conklin House Steering Committee member Karen Petz).

Conklin House News

The Nathaniel Conklin House is looking forward to a busy spring. Up first is the annual *Dinner for 8* fundraiser on April 11th.

Next will be the Sean Goodwin Memorial event to be held on April 25th from 2 - 4 p.m. This celebration is open to the public and is the result of a collaboration between the Conklin House, the Historical Society, The Babylon Beautification Society and the Village of Babylon.

Finally, the Conklin House will be hosting their afternoon tea on May 17th. Tickets for this event will soon be available, so please visit the Conklin House Facebook page for details about this popular event.



HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION SOCIETY
 P.O. Box 484 Babylon, NY 11702

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Permit # 106
 Babylon, NY 11702

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

PRIVATE TOUR OF RAYNHAM HALL, OYSTER BAY – APRIL 12 @ 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

\$8. Reservations required and can be made by calling 631-796-1016, Space is limited. Explore 300 years of espionage, trade, and labor. Learn how the Townsends of Oyster Bay were crucial in planning and carrying out the American Revolution. Must provide your own transportation.

2nd Annual Oscar Party - NEW DATE – APRIL 18th @ 7:30 PM

Join us for Oscar Night 1960 style. Members \$10 each/Non-Members \$20 each Walk the red carpet and enjoy the best of a vintage year in film. Oscar attire is optional. Refreshments will be served. Reservation are a must! To reserve a seat please call 631-669-1756 and leave a message.

“MY BETSEY”: THE REMARKABLE WIFE OF ALEXANDER HAMILTON – ELIZABETH KAHN KAPLAN APRIL 26 @ 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Elizabeth Schuyler and Alexander Hamilton came from widely different family backgrounds, yet their marriage was a great success. She lived for 50 more years as a widow. Learn all about her amazing life. Free for BVHS Members, \$5 for non-members.



This publication is fully or partially funded by Suffolk County