



The Shelter Island Historical Society *Newsletter Fall 2009*



The following are excerpts from an article written by Carol Kammen for *History News: The Magazine of the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH)*

We share this with you as we strive to continue to serve the people of Shelter Island; to preserve precious artifacts, and to honor the community and volunteers who help us uphold our mission statement in these difficult times.

“In 1936, according to figures from AASLH, there were 583 history museums, historic houses, associations, societies and organizations in the United States. Today there are thousands of history organizations in the country. A well functioning historical organization requires goals, thoughtfulness, staff, and money to operate. And it needs to have the means for self-promotion and a clear idea of what it stands for. It needs strong connections with people in the surrounding area.



Director Louise Green with archivists Jean Dickerson and Phyllis Wallace, accepting a Proclamation from the Suffolk County Clerk Judith Pascale, honoring their outstanding volunteer archival work.

The most important consideration must be how an organization, museum, historic house, or other history site can best serve the community, how it incorporates the community into its thinking, planning and programming. The answer is



A Shelter Island 4th grade class gives a big *huzzah!* after a visit back to the 18th century.

not going to be easy to determine, and it must not be made without community involvement. To my mind, it is a question that should be asked in public, not worried about only in boardrooms, as if the future of a history organization was only the concern of those who currently run it.

However chartered, a history organization is a *public trust*. A change in focus, a new direction, or the closing should be the concern of everyone, and the public should know what is happening and why.

Continued on next page

AASLH Continued

We have done a great deal of community education on a volunteer basis so that what local history agencies do is often taken for granted, as if their contribution is expected but never seen as having a serious effort behind them.

This is why organizations call the local historians to speak without much notice or thought of payment, and why people expect their own interests to be supported by archival materials without consideration to the cost.


Yet our organizations could not exist if someone (volunteer or paid) did not collect and organize, maintain and exhibit, or plan and tend the public's need for history exhibits, programs, or even answers to questions. These do not just magically happen. There is effort involved even if we only consider the maintenance of an archive, the storage of artifacts, the answering of questions. Needed now is thoughtful discussion, clearly stated goals and intentions, collaboration with other organizations, and real and meaningful connections with the community around us.

What history has to offer is what the public needs and seeks. Strong organizations prevail in preserving and presenting a community's history and culture. We will be judged on how we manage to navigate through these challenging times.

Carol Kammen is a senior lecturer in history at Cornell University

Shelter Island Historical Society

Preserving Yesterday ... Today ... for Tomorrow



Annual Fall Harvest Festival

2009 "Historical Cash Raffle"

Only 300 Tickets Available \$100 Per Ticket

1st Prize	\$9,000 or 30% of tickets sold	<p>Drawing: 3:30 p.m., Oct. 11, 2009 at the Annual Fall Harvest Festival</p> <p>Attendance Not Necessary to Win Ticket Needed to Claim Prize</p>
2nd Prize	\$3,000 or 10% of tickets sold	
3rd Prize	\$2,400 or 8% of tickets sold	
4th Prize	\$1,800 or 6% of tickets sold	
5th Prize	\$1,600 or 4% of tickets sold	
6th Prize	\$ 600 or 2% of tickets sold	
7th Prize	2 tickets to <i>One Enchanted Evening</i>	

This year the *Annual Fall Harvest Festival* will take place on Sunday, October 11th. We are introducing a new and important feature to this community event. It is "The Historical Cash Raffle"! The raffle offers seven chances for you to win cash or two tickets to the Society's popular *One Enchanted Evening*. The raffle tickets are available at Havens House and from Society Board Members around the island.



Event Sponsors

**Karen & Sam Seymour
Amanda Russekoff
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**FALL
HARVEST
FESTIVAL!!**

Calendar of Events ~ 2009

Oct. 11

Fall Harvest Festival

Bill Seeberg, Chairman.

A favorite community event!

12:00 until 4:00 p.m. Rain or Shine

\$5.00 Adults \$3.00 Children

Oct. 16

Annual Dinner Meeting

Janalyn Travis-Messer, Chairperson

Enjoy a dinner selection and historical presentation.

6:00 p.m. Cocktails 6:30 p.m. Dinner, at the Pridwin

Dec. 5

Voices from the Vault

Carol Galligan, Chairman.

Times to be announced...



Contact
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Shelter Island 2010 Calendars are here! Filled with a collection of 12 beautiful full color vintage postcards from our archival vault! \$17.00 ... Available at Havens House and the Fall Harvest Festival!

Sponsored by Penelope Moore, Licensed Associate Broker



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The Southhold Chapter of the D.A.R. visited Havens House in September, hosted by Joy Bausman and Jean Dickerson. A tour of the historic house was provided by Curator Beverlea Walz, dressed in period clothing.



The photo above is from a Masked Ball held July 22, 1921 at Shelter Island House.... we thought it might provide you with a few ideas for Halloween! Pictured above : Front row, L-R Eleanor Rose, John Engelsted, Doris Hanlon, Anna Richardson, Juliana and George Behringer. Second Row: Mrs. Dewar, Mr. and Mrs. Hanlon, Mr. and Mrs. Rettberg, Mrs. Bachman, Mrs. Roe, Miss Vincent, Miss Kennelly. Third Row: Mrs. Englested, Mr. & Mrs. Rose, Mr. Kellar, Miss Augustine, Mr. Blendermann, Mr. E Kusch, Mrs. Blenderman, "Uncle Sam Mr. Dewar", Mr. H. Kusch, Mr. Guertler, Mr. Roe, Mr. Bachman. Rear: "Molly", Mr. Schauffle, Mr. R Windeler, Mr. Bescher, Mrs. Kellar, Mr. and Mrs. Behringer, Mr. and Mrs. Smith.



Halloween Penny Postcards

The United States Post Office began issuing pre-stamped postal cards in 1873 and it held a monopoly until 1898. The first postcard in the United States was created in 1893 to advertise the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Shortly thereafter the United States government, via the United States Post Office Department, allowed printers to publish a 1-cent postcard (the "Penny Postcard").





Ed Conrad, Bob Tybaert, Trio Johnston, Raymond Case, Alfred Tuthill and Chick Dickens with their Thanksgiving bounty circa 1930.

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