
The Barn Museum News

The Newsletter of the Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society

Bellport, New York 11713

Volume 10 Number 4

December 2008

HOLIDAY BRUNCH

New Date – New Time –
New Idea

Sunday, December 14th, 2008
12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

12 Bell Street
Bellport, New York 11713

* * * * *

Menu

Mimosas and Bloody Marys
Quiches
Glazed Spiral Cut Ham
Mini Bagels and Croissants
Baked French Toast
Fruit Kabob
Coffee/Tea/Water

In keeping with tradition
and the spirit of the season, we
ask that each member bring an

old-fashion ornament (white,
silver, or clear) to decorate the
Christmas tree. The tree,
along with a small number of
antiques, will be auctioned off
during the festivities to benefit
the Historical Society.

If you have any questions,
please call 631 776 7640.

**HAVE A HAPPY AND
SAFE NEW YEAR
2009!!**

**Words of caution from Burma Shave
billboards. Take heed.**

Don't lose your head - to gain a minute,
you need your head - your brains are in it.

Drinking drivers - nothing worse,
they put the quart - before the hearse.

Violets are blue - Roses are pink
on graves of those - who drive and drink.

When 1 + 1 = 1

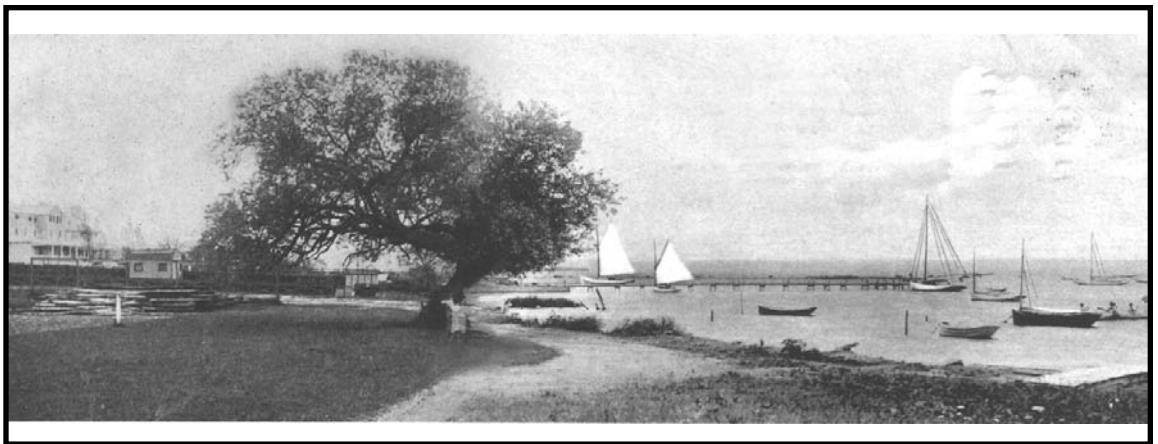
The puzzle – how to make one photograph from two photographs of the old willow tree that stood on Front Street (now Shore Road), one view from east to west and the other from west to east.

My thanks to Stefan Diebel of Crowley, Louisiana, BBHS member and former Bellport resident, who had the solution. He created the composite shown using Adobe Photoshop CS3. He said, “the one photograph (right side) was reversed and resized to approximately match the scale/perspective of the

photograph on the left. Both images were combined using the tree as the common element. Finally, the two photographs were blended together to create a smooth transition.”

The new scene now shows the Goldthwaite Inn on the left, the bench where people would wait for boats in the center next to the tree, and, of course, the sail boats and row boats that dotted the Great South Bay on the right.

Mr. Charles A. Rich’s sketch of the same scene precedes the composite by at least 100 years. It can be seen in the Post-Crowell House.



This and That

This issue includes “a little bit of this and a little bit of that,” which means, just that – comments from readers, follow-ups to articles, and additional information that may have been cut because of space limitations. And, as always, there isn’t room for everything.

The complete articles can be read on the Historical Society website:
www.bbhsmuseum.org.

The 1938 Hurricane

(September 2008, pg 5)

To continue our “hurricane” coverage, here are a few interesting notes from the September 23, 1938 issue of The Advance.

Death

There was only one Bellport death, that of William Akin, Jr., 19, grandson of Paul and Stephanie Bigelow, Thornhedge Road, Bellport. He, with Carl Peterson, an employee of Paul Bigelow, was trying to move Bigelow’s cruiser to Patchogue for safety. Unfortunately the boat had stalled and gone aground on the flats. Both men had life preservers and tried to head for shore. Peterson survived, but Akin died from exhaustion.

Destruction

East Patchogue

* Many of the neatly picturesque row of catalpa trees on the Jesse Hiscox property on South Country Road, East Patchogue, were uprooted.

Brookhaven

* In comparison to the number of trees down, very few houses or buildings were hit. Beaver Dam Road was closed over the creek as the roadbed, with the

(Continued page 4)

SOCIETY ELECTS TRUSTEES – CLASS OF 2012

The Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society is happy to announce the election of Ms. Kate Carmel, Mr. Kenneth Budny, Dr. James Sanford; Dr. Jan Harting-McChesney, Mr. Phil Munson, and Mr. Fran Fosmire as trustees for the 3-year term beginning 2009. Ms Carmel, Mr. Budny, and Dr. Sanford are new to the Board; Dr. Harting-McChesney, Mr. Munson, and Mr. Fosmire are returning trustees. We will learn more about our new Trustees in the March 2009 Newsletter.

... it is pretty amazing what dreams and lots of money can do, isn't it?

From the movie Two Weeks Notice, starring Sandra Bullock and Hugh Grant
www.script-o-rama.com/movie/scripts

The script line says it all. The Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society has lots of dreams and plans for the Society.

Our fund raiser on August 9, 2008 celebrating Dennis Puleston was very successful in moving toward our goals; we still need your help to make all of the Society’s dreams come true.

So, when you are deciding which worthy organization to donate to, please keep the Society in mind. We are preserving the past for you, and we can’t do it without you.

Send your contribution(s) to: Mr. David Cleaves, Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society, PO Box 47, Bellport, New York 11713. Thank you.

Hurricane (Continued from page 3)

- exception of the concrete paving in the middle, was washed away.
- * The locust grove on Mrs. Thomas I. Morrow's property is completely destroyed and the oak grove around Louis Blume's house is in ruins.
 - * George Miller estimates a loss of at least 100 trees including two large evergreens in the family burying grounds.
 - * The wind seems to have hit the corner of South Country Road and Beaver Dam Road with particular force and flattened a whole row of trees on the property of Mrs. James H. Post.
 - * The fire department was called to the foot of Bay Road during the early part of the storm and took several people from their houses by rowboat. The Grover Bishop family, Mrs. A. C. Bishop, Miss McGovern and others were rescued in that fashion.
 - * The William Anderson house on Bay Road is said to be badly damaged by water.

Bellport

- * Justice of the Peace Donald W. Shaw, who is also Bellport's fire chief, busied himself with an axe and saw, along with 40 of his fellow firemen yesterday. Practically everyone of the beautifully tall trees on the Shaw property on South Country Road fell during the storm, causing damage to his home. Every available man in Bellport was hired by the Village Street Department to help clear the roads. Altogether 70 firemen and street workers took part in the job.
- * One of Bellport's oldest pine trees, a very stately one believed to be 200 years old was uprooted on the Marvin property on Brown's Lane and landed on the Marvin home, causing great damage.

- * Bellport's Presbyterian Church [now Methodist] lost half of its weather vane arrow.
- * The Bellport Country Club's entrance way was a scene of desolation after the storm. Several trees fell across the entrance drive, while others, wrecked the fencing around the tennis courts.
- * In Woodland Cemetery, Bellport, two large, beautiful spruce trees were uprooted, falling across several tombstones, including that of R. L. Petty, and across the roadway.
- * The only entrance to Bellport by automobile for several hours after the storm was by way of Station Road, from Robinson Boulevard, then through New Jersey Avenue. Once inside the Village, traveling was difficult. J. H. Ernst, Jr. Of Brown's Lane, could not drive north to the main road from his home, so he drove to the south end of Browns Lane, went through the Shore Road to Livingston Avenue. On the Shore Road he encountered water more than three feet deep, but he came through without trouble except that he had to push a half-dozen loose rowboats out of the way with his car.

Reclamation

The Advance, September 30, 1938

- * At last the electricity has been turned on here, which is quite a treat, since living by candlelight the past week.

The Advance, October 14, 1938

- * The Bellport Village Street Department has begun the task of repairing the bulkhead at the foot of Brown's Lane and along the Shore Road, which had been ruined by the hurricane
- * The Bellport Yacht Club is being rebuilt by Armstrong and Piermann.

THE SYCAMORE TREES OF LIVINGSTON ROAD

*Every Sycamore tree, all of life's little seeds,
oh' I watch them to see what they show,
they show beauty and grace and perfection in
place, what they show me is that growing is slow.*

From *A Stroll in the Park* by Kory A. Buren
(www.poemhunter.com)

After the devastating hurricane of September 21, 1938, the Village Board quickly met on the following day for the “purpose of planning ways and means of rehabilitating the Village after the hurricane.” The Village minutes for October 21, 1938 read that “the Village Office met with the Garden Club to discuss replacement of trees on the streets of the Village and the type of tree was discussed.”

In the meantime, according to Weasel McChesney, Rowland Smith (who lived on the corner of South Street and Station Road) had just been to England and remembered the

many alleys of trees. He suggested that the concept be introduced in Bellport. She continued, “Bellport Lane was eliminated because it had been hit the worst and was already being worked on, and Academy Lane was eliminated because it was too narrow. Livingston Road was chosen because there were few trees on the road.”

The Sycamore tree was no doubt selected because of its tolerance to salt spray. On young trees, the bark is smooth and grey, but it becomes rougher with age and breaks up in scales, exposing the pale-brown to pinkish inner bark. Because of that fact, Madge Greene remembers there was “quite a big ruckus” when the trees were planted. “Villagers felt that, because the bark falls off early, the trees would look messy.”

Santo DiNaro of East Patchogue (born in Bellport) remembers the trees well. His brothers Sal and Tommy worked for the Oak Park Nursery on South Country Road (about where the Oak Park development is now) and Santo remembers them planting the trees. Sal was the landscaper and Tommy was a driver

for the nursery. Unfortunately Tommy, who served as a tail gunner in an Army bomber during WWII, was killed in action in Italy. He would never enjoy the results of his efforts.

The Sycamore trees of Livingston Road are a living landmark in Bellport to be enjoyed by all. We are grateful to those who made it possible.



And Just When you thought you had heard the last of the Toms Family!
Good Bye Old Friend (March 2008, pg 9)

The good news is that our Newsletter is being referenced around the world. I received the following email, via Bellport.com, regarding S.W.S. Toms. - Ginny Waterman

September 9, 2008

Re: Barn Museum News, March 2008 which I read a few weeks ago [on the internet]

Thank you for the interesting information of the Toms family. I have been researching my family tree. I knew Spencer Toms fitted somewhere but was not sure how. The info in the Newsletter was fantastic and filled in a heap of holes for me, but the funny bit came this week when a letter was found in an old house in central London by a cousin of mine. It was taken to Oxford University and transcribed into modern day English; it was from Dr. S.W.S. Toms of Yack on Hudson, phone 135 and was written on July 22, 1928, and what was very interesting was that it was written to a cousin in England who he was about to visit, the main purpose was, his tracing his family history. It is a great pity that he had only one child who he says in the letter was killed in an electrical accident at age 23; that research would be fantastic to have.

Anyway Bellport is now on a growing list of places for me to visit the next time I come to the USA. I found another cousin last year who lives in LA who I had never met, well she is a bit older and babysat me in the UK when

I was three.

Again many thanks; my research on the Bellport/Ontario links continue.

Many thanks, David Toms

Note: Because of the above correspondence, I was able to find a notice of Allen Toms' death. Allen was the nephew of Frances H. Toms, noted Bellport photographer, ca 1905. - Ginny Waterman

Allen Toms, son of Doctor and Mrs. Toms was instantly killed at the Schenectady plant of the General Electric Company last Thursday. The young man was a graduate of Cornell and had taken up electricity. He lost his life while testing apparatus.

Doctor and Mrs. Toms spent many years in Bellport and they have the sincere sympathy of this community in their affliction. The young man was an only child. Funeral services were held at Nyack-on-the-Hudson on Sunday. The Patchogue Advance, May 8, 1924

Do You Know Me?

(March 2006, pg 7)

I was delighted to get a call, about a year ago, from Mr. Cecil Ray Stewart of Tampa, Florida. He said he had read the article on the Internet, and asked if I would like to know something about the Crowell family. Would I! Our interest in this family goes way back, from Florence Crowell's generous gift of home and property to the Society to our collection of Charles H. Paddock Civil War letters and everything in between.

After an hour or more of delightful conversation and taking frantic notes, it comes down to this. (Generation 5) Helen Coye married Charles Harmon Paddock (author of our Civil War letters). They had 5 children, one of which is (Generation 4) Helen Eyer Paddock who married Joseph Dexter Crowell (brother to our benefactors Florence and Ethel Crowell); they had one daughter (Generation 3) Helen Dexter Crowell who married Benjamin Allen; they had one son (Generation 2) Dexter Crowell Allen who married Martha Marie Powers; they had three sons, (Generation 1) Michael Crowell, John Rex, and Thomas Powers. That makes Charles Harmon Paddock the Allen boys' great-great grandfather.

I recently contacted Mr. Stewart, and he put me in touch with Dexter Allen's three sons. Dexter Allen is now deceased.

I am hoping that we can learn a lot more about the family, our Post-Crowell house, and Charles Harmon Paddock. This story has only just begun!

Ingrid Bergman Retrospective (As Time Goes By)

(Special Summer Edition, 2004, pg 1)
This summer (2008), the Museum had a delightful visitor, Mr. David P. Alan, who took the train from New Jersey specifically to visit our Museum. He spent several hours at the Barn Museum, reading about and enjoying our many collections. While commenting on the Ingrid Bergman exhibit, he asked, "do you know the verse to As Time Goes By? The words are as relevant today as they were when they were written by Herman Hupfeld in 1931."

Here is the verse. What do you think?

"This day and age we're living in
Gives cause for apprehension
With speed and new invention
And things like fourth dimension
Yet we get a trifle weary
With Mr. Einstein's theory
So we must get down to earth at times
Relax relieve the tension
And no matter what the progress
Or what may yet be proved
The simple facts of life are such
They cannot be removed."

www.theromantic.com/lovesongs/astimegoesby.htm

Before leaving to catch his train, Mr. Alan gave me his business card which had the Lackawanna Coalition on it. I asked what it was about. He said, "I am an advocate for better rail service, both locally and on Amtrak. I have been to 48 states and seven Canadian provinces, and I have visited many community museums. It is the way I learn about the communities I visit."

"Locally, I have taken day trips to many communities in New Jersey, as well as locations in and around New York City."

He mentioned that he had bought a 7-day commutation ticket on the LIRR, and Bellport was just one of seven day trips he planned for Long Island; Greenport and Southampton were also on his schedule.

Mr. Alan has the right idea. There are so many interesting museums on Long Island. We should make a point to visit them all.

***Clarification of “and Visions of
Gingerbread ... - Miss Lily Hubert”***

(December 2007, pg 5)

The last paragraph on page 5 was unclear. As Mrs. Jones says, “there are so many P.G.s and P.A.s and Jrs and Srs in our family, that sometimes it is difficult to keep them straight.” Mrs. Dorothy Jones was kind enough to replace the paragraph with the following.

“She [Lily Hubert] was born on July 22, 1883 to Philip G. Hubert, Jr. and Anna Haight Holmes, my grandparents. She was one of six children (three died very young). Philip G. Hubert, Jr. [Lily’s father] was a music critic and journalist in New York City. Her grandfather was a renowned architect, known for designing many apartment houses in NYC, including the Chelsea Hotel.”

Mrs. Jones added, “Aunt Lil’s brother, Philip Arthur Hubert was my father.” Also to clarify another point, Dorothy’s grandfather and Charles A. Rich (noted architect) were looking for family homes, not just one as the story implies. And, Mrs. Underhill’s first name is spelled Emilie, not Emily.

And hereeeee’s Ben!

Benjamin Franklin Figurehead

Followup

(June 2006, pg 6)

A postcard of the Benjamin Franklin figurehead was recently found at a Long Island Post Card Show. Unfortunately there is no postmark, but the photograph was taken by Frances H. Toms, Bellport, NY, and that adds to the interest.

As Dick Baldwin mentioned in the article, “The statue stood 7 feet or more tall. Mr. Howell always kept it well painted: coat blue, the waistcoat and knee-length breeches yellow, the stockings white, and what was left of the shoes, black.”



WHAT IS REQUIRED OF A TRUSTEE

The Board of Trustees of the Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society are elected by the membership for a term of three years.

Trustees are expected to attend scheduled board meetings (about 10 per year); attend events and benefits; serve on committees; support the Society financially by contributing to the annual appeal, benefits, and the capital campaign; assist with the recruitment of members and trustees; and be an advocate for the Society and its purposes.

At present there are 15 elected (5 per year) and 3 appointed members on the Board. In addition there are several volunteers who serve the Society in various capacities. It is hoped that a description of each Trustee's responsibilities, which will be covered over the next year, will give a clear insight into what goes into running the organization, and maintaining the buildings and collections of the Museum Complex. It is further hoped that you would like to be a part of the fine work being accomplished by the Board of Trustees.

INTRODUCING OUR TRUSTEES AND VOLUNTEERS WHO WORK TO MAKE THE SOCIETY WORK

TRUSTEES

Robert Duckworth - Director of Museum Exchange Shop

I am responsible for the overall operation of the Exchange Shop. The Shop is open from Labor Day until Christmas, Thursday - Saturday, 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, from Noon until 3:00 p.m., if there is coverage.

The consignments arrive on Wednesday. There are more than over 200 consignors who bring merchandise, sometimes weekly, to supply us with the interesting eclectic assortment which seems to fascinate everyone. After the items are booked into the computer system, they are tagged and displayed for sale. The Shop is constantly being rearranged because of the arrival of new merchandise.

There is a staff of five regular volunteer assistants, namely Jean Pokorny, Weasel McChesney, Carol Chester, Gloria Cummings, Emelia Lynch and Janice Micciche, who are responsible for appraising and putting the items into the inventory system, keeping records of sales, issuing checks to the consignors, paying New York State sales tax, and staffing the Shop with 12 volunteers per week. In addition, we are fortunate in having the expertise of David McChesney and Joe Doran who keep our computer program operating smoothly.

As a volunteer, I spend an average of 15-20 hours a week working on some aspect of the Shop; maintaining and rearranging merchandise so the Shop always looks fresh, calling consignors, answering questions, and physically working at the Shop as needed.

(Continued page 10)

Being the only department of the Society that is open regular hours most of the year, we have become the business center for mail, telephone messages, and people dropping in to find out more about events, etc. We have accepted this responsibility and pass on these requests to the appropriate person(s).

I am also Corresponding Secretary to the BBHS Board of Trustees, serve on the Publicity Committee, and volunteer in different capacities when necessary.

Joseph Doran - Director of Building & Grounds

As Director of Building and Grounds of the BBHS, my position is divided into four sections.

(1) Caretakers. I instruct and monitor all tasks assigned, write yearly performance appraisals, and provide the yearly contract for signing. I also insure that all machinery is functional for use, replace tools as needed, and monitor alarm systems when necessary.

(2) Structures. I am responsible for the constant upkeep in appearance and functionality as to heating, air conditioning, plumbing, and electrical of the eight structures of the Museum Complex. The buildings are: Post-Crowell House, Milk House, Gazebo, Exchange Shop, Barn Museum, Boat House, Brown Building, Blacksmith Shop, and 12 Bell Street.

(3) Curator. I assist the Curator in setting up exhibits, fabricate structures, set up light and displays. I also maintain all

computers, backup files, etc., write computer procedures, and assist in data entry.

(4) Other. I support all committees requiring facility support, maintain the mail label listings, and perform in the trustees position. I estimate that at least 40-60 hours a week are spent on the Museum grounds.

I am also Chairman, Permanent Collections Information Committee and serve on the 12 Bell Street Committee, Computer & Technology Committee, and the Curatorial Committee,

Francis G. Fosmire - Chairman, Mailing Committee

For many years I have been Chairman of the mailing committee. The job requires assembling invitations, response cards, etc. in envelopes, and labeling, stamping, and mailing large mailings. In addition, I am a member of the following committees: 12 Bell Street, Buildings and Grounds, and Finance. I also help as a docent in the Museum when called upon. I have also served as President of the Society twice – from June 2000-June 2003 and from January 2007-December 2007.

Virginia Waterman - Newsletter

The BBHS Newsletter is published four times a year. For the past 3 ½ years I have been responsible for researching, writing, and compiling the information contained in each issue, layout, interaction with the printer, labeling envelopes, and mailing the final product. I also serve on

(Continued page 11)

Trustees (Continued from page 10)

the Membership and Mailing Committees, give tours to visiting groups, and volunteer at the Exchange Shop and Barn Museum.

***Larry Cummings - Trustee ExOfficio;
BBHS Insurance Committee***

The BBHS Insurance Committee presently consists of a chairperson and the Society's Treasurer. It is appropriate for the Treasurer to serve on this committee to maintain a record of all insurance policies, endorsements, premium statements, etc. along with his other financial records.

The Insurance Committee serves the Board in an advisory capacity with respect to three primary areas of interest.

1. To administer a primary insurance program as approved by the Board to protect the Society's interest in the areas of general liability, property damage, worker's compensation, and professional liability. This activity includes maintaining such programs with a broker and insurance companies that are experienced, reliable, competitive, and financially sound.

2. From time to time the Board may consider becoming involved with new programs and/or projects that present risks or hazards not covered by our existing insurance. Under such circumstances the Committee should evaluate these exposures and advise the Board if such undertakings would be insurable and at what cost.

3. The Society has the responsibility of protecting and preserving many artifacts and properties which are irreplaceable and/or too costly to insure. Consequently, the Insurance Committee serves to encourage and support the Board and other committees in providing risk control programs such as fire protection, security, and climate control. Such programs are also beneficial in reducing the cost of our existing insurance.

VOLUNTEERS

Richard Baldwin - Genealogy

Some 30 years ago, I volunteered to "put in order" the many books, documents, Bibles, ephemera, etc., that had accumulated since the founding of the Society and fulfill the purposes of the Society as indicated in its charter: "To gather information concerning the history of Long Island and in particular of Bellport and Brookhaven and acquire and preserve books, manuscripts, articles, etc., relating to the history of this area."

As an amateur genealogist, the first order of business was to start a vertical file containing family information of local families. Genealogical information from the Bibles was transcribed and added to these files. The purchase of printed genealogies by the Society allowed the genealogical material to be enlarged – a continuing, ongoing process.

The Society renovated part of the upper floor of the Brown Building for a library/research room.

(Continued page 12)

Currently, I am cataloging (using the Dewey Classification System) all of the books (about 300), ledgers, documents, historical magazines, etc. held by the Society.

Jean Steele - Doll Collection

I was working in advertising in NYC, when my mother’s friend asked me to create a catalogue to sell reproduction dolls she was making from molds. That is when my interest in dolls began. My hobby soon grew into a business that lasted for 25 years. I was approached by Mrs. Mary Pelletreau to appraise her extensive doll collection. When the dolls were donated to the BBHS in 1993, I appraised the entire Museum doll collection, which then included the 579 dolls donated by Mrs. Pelletreau.

There are several well known and expensive dolls in the Museum collection. Light damages the fabric and handling the dolls without cotton gloves are the dolls’ worst enemies. I visit the Museum occasionally to check on the condition of the dolls and make recommendations as to their care.

**BELLPORT-BROOKHAVEN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
31 Bellport Lane, Bellport, NY 11713
631-286-0888
631-776-7640
www.bbhsmuseum.org

President:	Jan Harting-McChesney
First Vice President:	Carol Bleser
Second Vice President:	Victor Principe
Recording Secretary:	David Cleaves
Corresponding Secretary:	Robert Duckworth
Treasurer:	Jonathan Pokorny
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Archivist:	Margaret Munson
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Dir. Exchange Shop:	Robert Duckworth
Dir. Building & Grounds:	Joseph Doran
Legal Counsel:	Lee Snead
Newsletter:	Ginny Waterman

Trustees: Carol Bleser, David Cleaves, Joseph Doran, Robert Duckworth, Francis Fosmire, Elaine Hendrie, Ed Knowles, Paula Ludlow, Jan Harting-McChesney, Philip Munson, Jonathan Pokorny, Victor Principe, Alonzo Rand, Dorry Tooker, Ginny Waterman
Trustees Ex-Officio: Jean Pokorny, Lawrence Cummings

**Calendar
2008**

December 3 Last day consignments
Taken at Exchange Shop

December 19 Exchange Shop closes

2009

January 20% Sale at Exchange Shop

May Spring bus trip to
Roslyn, NY - Roslyn
Details in March 2009
Newsletter.

May 30 Opening of Museum
Complex

August 15 Gala