HUNTINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

(JANUARY 1, 2014 TO DECEMBER 31, 2014)

PREPARED FOR

THE 111TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
HUNTINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TO BE HELD JUNE 11, 2015 AT THE ELK'S CLUB
195 MAIN STREET HUNTINGTON, NEW YORK

Huntington Historical Society

Dear Members and Supporters,
2014 was an exciting year for the Society, both internally and externally! This year saw Societal transformations which reinforced our focus on educational programs and the Society's collections and museum preservation. Externally, after a decade of planning, ground was broken at 209 Main Street for the long awaited commencement of the Trade School Restoration and Expansion Project. This monumental undertaking has strengthened the community's faith in the Society's mission pledge to remain the focal point for preserving the ongoing heritage of the Town of Huntington (see story inside for details).

No matter how hard we work everyday, we remain ever aware of our members, supporters and sponsors and their impact on the overall success of our goals. Those of you who assisted HHS this year have proven how you cherish a Society that values community, tradition, history and a sense of place for everyone who has been and who will remain part of the Town of Huntington.

We thank each of you and look forward to a exciting new year in 2015.
Linda Walch, Executive Director

The Society Staff

Assistant Director ~Wendy Andersen
Office Coordinator ~ Maria DeLeo
Archivist ~ Karen Martin
Bookkeeper ~ Joyce Freeman
Librarian ~ Irene Sniffin
Registrar ~ Robin Horn

~ Administrative Volunteers ~
Arthur Sniffin Susan Quinn Carol Lesslie
Mary Lou Brown Eileen Campbell Betty Borst
William Chamberlin Robert Farrell Richard Holliday
Webmaster ~ Thomas Ernst

Our Mission

The Huntington Historical Society is the focal point for preserving the ongoing heritage of the Town of Huntington. We support this mission through public education programs; maintaining museums, collections and a regional research center; promoting the preservation of historic buildings and sites; and by partnering with local and regional institutions.

2014 - Year End Report

The Board of Trustees

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Dean Failey - First Vice President
Richard Reinwald - Second Vice President
Sean Bickoff - Treasurer
Kim Trant - Secretary

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Mathew Fortunato
Robert "Toby" Kissam
Susannah Meinersman
Irene Moore
Dr. Al Sforza
Paul Warbugh

In addition to the hundreds of persons and businesses acknowledged in this report, HHS thanks the following for their support in 2014

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Council Members:
Susan A. Berland
Eugene Cook
Mark Cuthbertson
Tracey A. Edwards

Suffolk County Legislator

Dr. William Spencer

Bethpage Federal Credit Union

HHS is currently located at 2 High Street Huntington, NY 11743 Phone: 631-427-7045 Web: www.huntingtonhistoricalsociety.org

Donations between $25,000 and above
The Estate of Katherine Stevens
Priscilla and Robert Hughes
Beverly and Robert "Toby" Kissam

Donations between $11,000 - $24,000
Robin and Douglas Horn
The Gerry Foundation

Donations between $5,000 - $10,000
Carole and Richard Reinwald
Marie and Dean Failey
Patricia and Thomas Ernst
Elizabeth Borst
Estate of Benjamin F. Kissam
Bethpage Federal Credit Union

Donations between $1,000 - $4,000
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SJS Construction
Huntington Hospital
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Irene and Arthur Sniffin
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Renee and Richard Roelle
Kissam Family Association
Fidelity Investments
Daniel Gale Agency
NYSCA (via Huntington Arts Council)
Applebee's
Carl M. Lawrence, Attorney at Law
Huntington Jeep and Hyundai

Donations between $500 - $900
Lulu & Tony Wang - Shoreline Foundation
Jane and Chris Hansen
Faye and Mathew Fortunato
Susan and Roy Glaser
Panera Bread
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Lee Kilbrith - Prospect Financial Services
Carl Studer and Michele Miroff
Jo-Ann Raia
Danna and Gary Strong
Theresa Schirripa
Aboff's Paints
Chris Jacoby - Citibank
Raymond A. Mascolo, D.D.S.
Judy and Tom Hogan
Friends of Andrew Raia
People's United Bank

2014 Donors

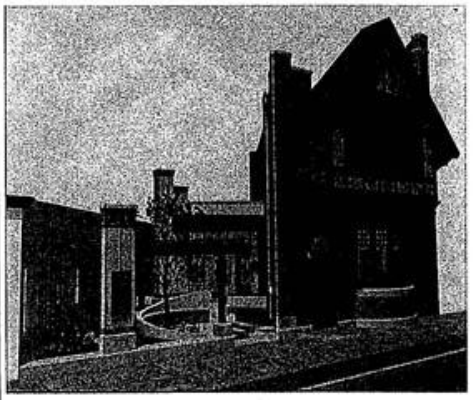
A non-profit organization , particularly one that has been in existence for over 100 years, cherishes the support of private and corporate donors who believe in and support it's mission. With the hundreds of thousands of non-profits in the United States alone, we realize that in order to have supporters like you, we need to continue make our mission goals a viable success. Keeping our objectives current, meeting the changing needs of our community, growing with the changing demographics and never losing sight of EVERY entity who makes the choice to support us.

In 2014, in addition to our Annual Appeal and various fundraisers (see left for those we honor for contributing to those initiatives) we asked an enormous favor of our supporters. We asked you to believe in our goal of preserving history for the future by helping us save the past through the Archives Renovation & Expansion Project. We asked you to understand how the 110 year old Trade School, where the Society has preserved the history of the Town of Huntington for the past 33 years, was in desperate need of renovations to the systems that keep the building operational. We also asked you to understand that as the town grows older, more and more items entrusted to our care must be placed in archival storage so the history would not be lost, and we had completely exhausted every usable inch of archival space. Therefore, after 14 years of planning, the project finally came to fruition this past summer. During the 2014 Annual Appeal, we asked everyone who has supported us previously, or who was new to the Society to consider a donation or pledge to help us reach our goal of raising approximately 1.5 million dollars and since our request, hundreds of you have chosen to support this vital project. Whether you gave $25, $1,000 or more, it was clear you heard our need and decided you would not "Let Your History Fade Away!"

Giving to something that may benefit future recipients is a different form of giving, some may find it less rewarding than giving for a current need. This project is unique in that the building rehabilitation and expansion is a current need, but the overall creation of larger and more efficient archival space will also save the past and benefit future generations who need to know where they came from and who and what came before them. To quote Harriet Beecher Stowe; "*The past, the present and the future are really one: they are today.*"

If you would like to make a contribution to the Archives Renovation & Expansion Project, please contact us at 631-427-7045. You may also make a contribution on our project website, www.savehuntingtonhistory.org.

The Major Contributors to the Archives Renovation & Expansion Project ($1,000 or more) are:



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Sue and Steve Eckers
Borg & Borg Inc. Insurance
Irene and Arthur Sniffin
J.W. Hirschfeld Agency, Inc.
The Gerry Fund

HHS Thanks Those Who Gave in Various Ways In 2014

The *Heritage Circle*

The following persons joined the Huntington Historical Society in 2014 at the highest levels offered for Membership. Our membership is our best example of those who love and support local history and the Society's mission.

Heritage Patron

Beverly & Toby Kissam

Heritage Leader

Robin & Douglas Horn

Heritage Associate

Patricia & Thomas Ernst

Judy & Thomas Hogan

Madeline & Richard Turan

Mary and Robert Walburg

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Hoffman Grayson Architects
Margaret Guardi & Dennis Griffin
The J. W. Hirschfeld Agency
Priscilla & Robert Hughes
Charlotte & Carl Lawrence
Lilian & Nishan Najarian
Irene C. Narollilo
Carole & Richard Reinwald

The 2015 Membership Drive has begun with new levels and Membership incentives. Thank you in advance for your support!

Our Generous Community Partners

The 2014 Evening of Wine Under the Stars was triumphant due to the incredibly generous vendors below. They are all local businesses who donated their time, staff, and products to help HHS make this event a great success!

Mac's Steakhouse

Blind Bat Brewery

Coindre Hall
Mirabelle Private Events

The Culinary Studio
Exquisite Catering

Christopher's Courtyard Cafe

Harbor Beverage Merchants

The Whales Tale
Hideaway on the Half Shell

Ruvo

Old Fields

Vitae
Restaurant · Wine Bar

Crew

Bon Bons Chocolatier

Suburban Eats
Gourmet Grill · Pizza · Calzones

Reinwald's Bakery

Over 300 guests sampled these vendor's food and beverages! It is great publicity and exposure for the vendors, plus HHS markets these vendors through media, print and word of mouth. It's our way of saying thank you for such generous donations. **Please think of these vendors when are dining and shopping. If you or someone you know would like to be a new vendor at this year's event, please contact our office at 631-427-7045.**

If you want people in and around Huntington to know who you are... this is a great way to show them what you're all about!

With Sincere Thanks To Our Members

In Memoriam

HHS acknowledges the loss of exceptional people in 2014 who were special to the Society as steadfast members and volunteers.

Wolfgang Thoma
Dottie Roman
Ida Haus
Louis Avino Jr.
Doris Danzi (staff)

Lifetime Members

Ester Bivona
Alison Brush
Lavinia Buck
Doris Buffett
Donna Cohen
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("A Lifetime Legacy")
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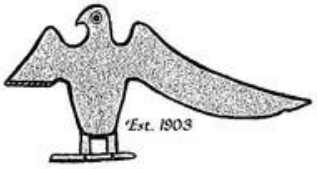
Eloise Woodward
Domie Wurtz
Samuel Yanuck
Denise Yorman
Chris Young
Mandy Youseffi

Thank you all for the time and talent you gave to make 2014 a success!

HHS at a Glance for 2015

February 17, 18, & 19 - 10am to 1pm School Break Children's Programs Call: 631-427-7045 x 404 for details.
March 12 - Lunch & Learn 12pm. Meet the Authors of "Around Huntington Village." 631-427-7045 x 404.
April 7 - "Did You Know…It's Easy to Be Green" Children's Program. 10am to 1pm. 631-427-7045 x 404
April 9 - Lunch & Learn 12pm. Topic: Teddy Roosevelt and Sagamore Hill. 631-427-7045 x 404
April 17 - New Exhibit for the Sesquicentennial celebration of the end of the Civil War. A town-wide kick-off event. Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building (details to follow)
April 18 & 19 - Antiques in April at 434 Park Avenue Huntington, NY 11743 (Kissam House) 10am to 4pm.
April 26 to May 3 - Salt Lake City Genealogy Department Trip. Call: 631-824-6006 for information.
May 3 - Sheep to Shawl (and all Things Spring) Festival. 434 Park Avenue, Huntington, NY 11743. 11am to 4pm.
May 16 - Children's Program Celebrating the "Heroes of Huntington." 631-427-7045 x 404 for information.
June 4 - Huntington Historical Society Annual Membership Meeting (details to follow) Call 631-427-7045 x 401.
June 7 - HHS Spring Festival of Gardens. Call 631-427-7045x 401 for information as the event date nears.
June 13 & 14 - HHS Heritage Fine Art and Crafts Fair (NOTE CHANGE IN TIME OF YEAR!). 434 Park Avenue, Huntington, NY 11743. Call: 631-427-7045 x 404 for details or to inquire about a vendor application.
June 18 - Lunch & Learn 12pm. Meet Author and Journalist, Bill Bleyer with a newly released book on Long Island and the Civil War. Call: 631-427-7045 x 404 for information.
June through October - Tours of the historic Van Wyck-Lefferts Tide Mill. Schedule will be posted.
June through October - Historic "Pub Crawls" of Huntington Village. Schedule will be posted.
June 29 - July 10 - First Session of Passport to the Past HHS Summer Camp
July 13 - July 24 - Second Session of Passport to the Past HHS Summer Camp
July 27 - Aug. 7 - Third Session of Passport to the Past HHS Summer Camp
Aug. 10 - Aug. 13 - NEW "Pee Wee Pioneers" HHS Camp for children ages 5 to 7. For all camps call 631-427-7045 x 404 for information and to register.
September 18 - "An Evening Under the Stars" with HHS. Details will follow.
October 18 - HHS Apple Festival. 434 Park Avenue, Huntington. 12pm to 4pm
December 6 - HHS Holiday Historic House Tour.

Changes may occur in dates/times of events. Please visit our website www.huntingtonhistoricalsociety.org or call the numbers noted above to confirm events. More events/ activities will be listed on our website as they are scheduled.



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Huntington Historical Society Treasurer's Report for 2014

Respectfully submitted by Sean Bickoff, Treasurer

The report represents the financial status of the Huntington Historical Society for the year ending December 31, 2014**. The revenue was $646,930.95 with expenses at $338,431.80.

2014 was a successful year financially for the society. We have met our obligations and continued to expand our programs. This was no easy feat. Extensive help from volunteers and interns has continued to generate very exciting results in producing high quality programs, displaying our buildings/museums, and hosting successful fundraisers for our supporters. The Staff, Board of Trustees and Finance committee, will continue to create interesting and inviting fundraisers to help bridge the ever-present financial gap between revenues and expenses.

We broke ground on the Trade School expansion in 2014 and the cash outlays, which the society has worked so diligently hard to fund, began. Grant reimbursements are well underway and the site development is visible from the street. Our work is not done however. The push to close the funding gap for the Trade School expansion must continue. With less than $100,000 needed to meet our construction budget, the finish line is in sight. With less than $200,000 remaining to fully fund the enhancements, that the building could definitely use, (including a second set of rolling shelving) the Promised Land is also within reach. This expansion will serve to make a welcoming environment for the public to access and use these documents and collections that our Society works so hard to secure and maintain. It will also be a valuable addition to our town and community.

Support and Revenue	$	Expenses	$
Membership	$28,165.00	Membership	$4,744.68
Annual Appeal	$8,985.00	Fundraising &	$25,694.09
Special Events	$108,189.15	Special Events	
Programs	$47,179.77	Programs – (Personnel	$203,756.91
Grants*	$135,556.45	G&A Expenses Included)	
Museum Shop	$25,774.84	Museum Shop	$11,729.26
Donations*	$229,021.93	Building Use:	$69,716.47
Dividends & Interest*	$7,617.30	(Insurance, Fees, sewer tax,	
Publications & Admissions	$996.26	upkeep & repairs included.)	
Rental income	$55,475.25	Restricted Expenditures	$22,790.39
Total Revenue:	$646,930.95	Total Expenses:	$338,431.80

*These items include some temporary and permanently restricted funds.

The society thanks its members and friends fo32r their year round support. While we work towards completing our trade school expansion, preparing for unforeseen challenges or budget cuts, we must continue to ask for your ongoing financial support. Without your support the Huntington Historical Society, in existence for over 100 years, would cease to exist.

** Numbers are not yet fully audited and may require minor revisions within the next 30 days.

Members, volunteers and staff:

2014, what a year; a year of sadness, joy, fear and excitement.

Sadness for the passing of long-time members, volunteers and relatives of both.

Joy because we finally reached an accord with our neighbors on Main Street and broke ground on the long awaited Trade School restoration/expansion project.

Fear of the unknown; can we support the Trade School project, raise the required funds, continue the quality of our programs and fund raisers, all while staff are based in temporary locations?

Achievements have been many! To name just a few: Rentals have been increased both in quantity and revenue, the Museum Shop has become a much needed source of increased revenue, our education/outreach programs have been restored and are growing in spite of reduced financial funding for school trips and non-profits in general, the Society's financial reporting has become more professional year after year, our Lunch and Learn program is consistently sold out. Last but not least, the Board has continued to provide the responsible leadership to move the Society forward into a leadership position in the community. None of this would be possible without the countless hours spent by every Trustee, staff member and volunteer!

A very wise mentor once advised me, "Don't get so involved in the present that you ignore the future." To this end I have identified a number of on- going and future projects/goals. These include the completion of the Trade School project, both physically and financially, the completion and implementation of the new web site, the addition of a part-time registrar and a full- time curator to our staff, and last, but certainly not least, the initiation of a major fund raising campaign, including estate planning assistance, to increase our endowment to the level that it will support a minimum of twenty five per cent of our annual operating budget.

I will be stepping down at the end of the 2014/2015 Board year. I want to thank all of you; members, staff, volunteers, and fellow Board members for your support over the past two years. Please continue your support of the Board and staff so the Society can continue to preserve the history of Huntington.

Gary S. Strong

HUNTINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY OUTREACH REPORT FOR 2014

All outreach objectives were fully met in 2014 and were accomplished in an educational and goal directed approach. The following events were offered to the public.

Tours of the Van Wyck-Lefferts Tide Mill – This collaboration with the Nature Conservancy continues to be very successful. Over 200 people visited the mill in 2014. Tours are currently being planned for 2015. Bob Rubner has been our wonderful tour guide, scheduling tours with the tide and has written a handbook for the visitors to refer to and keep for future reference.

Old Burying Ground Tour – This unique program is a solid form of outreach which gives participants a rare opportunity for an in-depth walking tour of the earliest public cemetery in Huntington, dating back to the 17th century. Students from middle schools and campers from our popular Passport to the Past program, have been given tours of the Old Burying Ground. A definite crowd pleasure for the young and old.

Scouts –Our work with Suffolk County Scouts continues to be productive. Scouts enjoyed programs at the Arsenal and Soldiers and Sailors. We look forward to continuing our proud relationship with the Scouts.

Museum House Tours – Society volunteers kept the Conklin House open on Fridays and Sundays in 2014. The Kissam House was open along with the Arsenal on certain Sundays in the fall. Volunteers provided tours at the Apple Festival, Sheep to Shawl, Wine Tasting, Heritage Fine Arts and Crafts Fair, the Holiday House Tour and Garden Tour and to private tour group bookings. Many thanks to Margaret Guardi for training our volunteers who took an interest in being future docents. Also many thanks Kenneth Quinn for volunteering hiss time at the Arsenal. In 2013 approximately 100 people visited the Conklin House and approximately 500 people visited the Kissam House. Private tours receive excellent feedback.

Private Groups- Over 100 people enjoyed private programs and tours of the Conklin and Kissam Houses. Some groups combined tours with other Society events, such as the Tide Mill Tours, making a day of the Society's history!

Apple Festival -- Held in October, the Society had a terrific feedback from the community as well as those who worked the event. Approximately 1300 people attended. NYSCA funding provided music and sound for the festival by LITMA. Our strong relationship with local businesses continues and allowed us to provide scarecrow making, delicious food, game prize baskets and beautiful seasonal décor along with hayrides on our neighbor's property. The Kissam House was open throughout the day for visitors to learn about and enjoy. Over sixty volunteers donated their time to set up, execute and dismantle the event. This event continues to be a family favorite.

Sheep to Shawl – Held in May, this spring festival continues to be a community favorite. Our collaboration with Hecksher Park Tulip Festival, with shuttle buses between the events, helped bring in approximately 690 people. The local volunteer artisans and crafters expressed their pleasure in working with the Society and the community. Sheep shearing, crafts, games, educational information, food, access to the Museum Shop, music, souvenirs and tours of the Kissam House were the highlights of the event. The Llamas, angora goats, and Posy the pig, generously provided by the Long Island Livestock, Co., helped to make the day fun-filled and memorable.

Heritage Fine Arts and Crafts Fair – This year was very successful with many of the favorite vendors returning for another weekend of selling their incredible crafts. Over 1,000 paying customers came to buy unique gifts, tour the Kissam house, eat delicious food, listen to incredible music and just enjoy a day of fine art and crafts. We had close to 50 vendors set up around the property, under our tents or inside the barn. Many volunteers are needed in order to make this possible. Our young volunteers from summer camp are there for set-up and take down and security is covered during the wee hours of the night. We are looking forward to yet another very successful event in June of 2015.

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Andersen

June 11, 2015

Huntington Historical Society Education Report for 2014

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Andersen, Assistant Director

2014 was another strong year for the Education Department. Our 2014 annual report will address two categories of educational programs:

1. Hands-On Heritage – our educational programs for schools
2. Passport to the Past – our summer camp program for children ages 7 – 12

Approximate total # of school children reached in 2014 – 1,043

Approximate total # of classes reached in 2014 - 50

Approximate total # attendance to Passport to the Past - 42

Total approximate # of children reached in 2014 1,085

The program continued to receive good evaluation ratings completed by teachers at the time of the program. Educators frequently commented how they plan to return to the program with their new classes in the school year. Our program offers a combination of lectures, historic site tours and hands-on archive assimilation they have not received in other field trip environments.

Marketing Activities for the Education Program:

In the current challenging economic environment and with school budgets so tight, field trips are very often on the chopping block to help reduce school tax increases. HHS believes the benefits of the out of school field trip experience are still a vital practice worth pursuing.

- Annual Mailing to Target Schools – Twice a year we send our program postcard to Principals, Educators, or Field Trip Coordinators at 200 area schools explaining the content of our program, its connection with their school curriculum, and pointing them to our web site to view a short video of the program.
- Assistant Director Follow-up: The Assistant Director sent follow-up emails to past attendee educators to encourage program booking.
- Assistant Director, Wendy Andersen, Joan Lowenthal, Pam Williams and Ginny West attended a Harvest Festival at the Lloyd Harbor School to demonstrate butter churning to over 300 hundred children. This is another marketing tool to help promote our field trips to Conklin and Kissam.
- Wendy Andersen also attended a volunteer night at the Northport Library to promote our programs for Volunteers to consider signing up for. At least 2 new volunteers who signed up that night have become active with our society.

Passport to the Past:

Passport to the Past summer camp is for children ages 7 – 12. This program draws campers from the greater Town of Huntington area and enjoys the return of campers year upon year. Three 2-week

sessions are offered at our Kissam property and include a number of field trips and consulting historians and craft persons who teach small specialties to the campers.

HHS was fortunate to have Erika Burke work as our new Camp Director. Olivia Rutigliano also assisted Erika during the busy weeks of camp. Also, the tedious task of threading looms for the campers was completed by Sheila McKenna, a professional weaver from the Paumatuck Weaver's Guild.

Volunteer Camp Counselors (ages 14 – 17) continued to return in 2014, eager to spend a part of their summer back at the Kissam property.

Resource Center and Archives Annual Report Jan. – Dec. 2014

The year 2014 presented challenges for the archives. Faced with uncertainty and delays regarding the construction of the addition and renovations to the Trade School the archives remained closed to researchers as it had been throughout most of 2013.

The archives staff and volunteers continued to prepare the remaining collection material to be moved to the temporary archives location at the former South Huntington Library which had begun in 2013. To protect the valuable and irreplaceable collection items were carefully boxed and wrapped for the move by Huntington Historical Society staff and volunteers. Moving the collection in an organized and pre-planned manner limited reorganization of the material on-site. By June all collections, files, furnishings, etc. had been moved to the temporary location.

Telephone and internet were installed at the new location. It took almost six months to get reliable computer access to our files, email, etc. Eventually only limited access to Past Perfect, the museum cataloging system, could be arranged which would severely limit our ability to catalogue the collection.

Requests for information, research or visitation continued to be received and were handled on a case by case basis. Access to material and space to accommodate researchers was limited.

Staffed only 2 days per week archives volunteers and staff worked with the collection on several projects. A backlog of local newspapers was clipped for local news, events, and people for subject files. We continued to address in-house requests for information. Erika Burke used the archives to research and develop new education programs. In October we were told of a town-wide collaboration on exhibits and programming planned in 2015 for the conclusion of the Civil War. Archives staff and volunteers met with Linda Walch to discuss HHS participation including an exhibit at the SSM building. A theme focusing on the home front was agreed upon. We spent the month of November compiling material and information. Around the same time Paul Warburgh and Linda discussed the anniversary of Huntington Hospital in 2016 and the possibility of HHS setting up an exhibit. Ideas on how to present the information and logistics were discussed. The archives began compiling information and material for the project.

Although we have adapted to our temporary surroundings, we look forward to returning to our expanded new facility.

Respectfully submitted *Karen L. Martin*

Genealogy Workshop Report for 2014

The Genealogy Workshop of the Huntington Historical Society was founded during the bicentennial year, 1976, by a group of individuals interested in seeking information about their ancestors. The group has 10 monthly activities which include local programs or guest speakers who lecture on a variety of subjects dealing with local, state, and national resources and various how-to-do topics. The meetings are attended by members of the society, as well as the local community, and members of other genealogical organizations.

The workshop members receive a monthly newsletter which features local, regional, national and international topics, program announcements, queries and member research contributions. This past year 100 copies of the monthly newsletter were mailed to workshop members plus 30 complimentary copies to institutions and media groups.

The workshop sponsors an annual research trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City which is the largest genealogical research facility in the world. Fifteen individuals led by Art and Irene Sniffin spent from six to twelve days at the Library searching for their ancestors in a variety of American and International Records.

During the year the lectures and activities were as follows:

The January meeting was cancelled due to a major snow storm.

In February Dorothy Dougherty, the Program Specialist at the New York Branch of the National Archives, spoke to us about " NARA – NYC's New Home, Services & Collections."

In March the group shared stories, artifacts, and documents at the "Family, Heirlooms and Treasures" program that was cancelled in January.

In April Arthur Sniffin, Program Chairman spoke about "How to Get Your Children Interested in Their Family History".

In May the annual Research Trip to Salt Lake City...

In June we had our annual family picnic meeting which was followed by shared research experiences.

In September Dorothy Dougherty spoke at the Huntington Public Library about "Using Genealogy Records From the National Archives at New York City".

In October Terry Koch-Bostic's lecture "Could Your Ancestors' Records be Hidden Under A Surname Variation?" was held at the Huntington Public Library.

In November Kathleen McGee's lecture was titled "Fact, Fiction or Fish Tales? Proving Family Stories".

In December our Annual Holiday Party was held at Pumpernickel's Restaurant...

Respectively submitted - Arthur Sniffin – Program Chair

Huntington Historical Society 2014 Annual Report

Exhibits:

***Treasures from the Collection*: This exhibit was held at the Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Building throughout 2014. Featured in the exhibit were: Edward Lange's grisaille watercolor (1881) of the ship "Vandalia" acquired in 2013; a display of Lange's entrepreneurship illustrated by his paintings and photographs of his paintings; the story of the Paulding/Meade families of Huntington as told through the Society's special collection of family letters and papers; and a presentation of the Buffet Family genealogy and how it relates to Huntington and to Warren Buffet. Also on display was the Cary Brown collection of pottery; a circa 1900 photo of Platt's Tavern after it was moved from the Park Avenue location in 1850 to the old pottery site on the harbor; and, George Washington's chair on which he sat while eating at Platt's Tavern.**

***A Small Taste of History:* This exhibit was held in the parlor of the Kissam House from August 2014 through October 1, 2014. We presented a number of small - scale "samples" that were created by craftsmen for traveling displays. These samples allowed the salesmen to show the quality of their workmanship to individual families and to retailers. Among those on exhibit was a beautifully made miniature drop leaf desk. Often it is difficult to distinguish between the samples and actual toys. There was a small dresser with drawers and mirror and a wood steamer trunk either of which could have been a sample or an actual toy. Additionally, in the Kissam dining room the table was set for tea and attended by two mannequins dressed for the 1880s.**

***Victorian Mourning Customs:* This exhibit opened in October 2014 and continued through December. It displayed costumes and accessories in a setting portraying a Victorian wake. A mannequin was laid in a wooden coffin especially made for this exhibit. "Family members" dressed in mourning clothes surrounded the "deceased". Information about the wake process was illustrated through paintings, photographs, samplers, jewelry and talks given by the docents. The purpose of this exhibit was to give the visitor an understanding of how families immortalized the deceased in tasteful and lasting ways.**

Accessioned Donations:
There were 16 donations of 22 items that were accessioned. There were also 4 accessioned groups of clothing including 22 items.
Among these were: a flax wheel made by Ambrose Parish and donated by Kevin and Elaine Kepler; a wooden lap desk/letterbox having been owned by Claude Rogers and donated by Stanley A. Ransom; multiple assorted costumes from Beverly Thomas; a 1940s silk dress donated by Lotus Village (Huntington shop that had loaned items to the Society for our 1960s *The Times They Were A-Changing* exhibit). Also from this shop was a 1967 Bill Blass coat bought and donated by Robin Horn.
There were two 19th century costumes donated by James and Nancy Clous in memory of Nancy's mother, Dorothy Wagner.
Paul White donated a safe that belonged to William McDonald, a well know Manhattan builder; Sally Tomlinson donated a circa 1930s laundry bag from the "Huntington Laundry"; and Anne-Marie Abrahamson donated 5 copper plates from the Bank of Huntington.

There were no de-accessions made in 2014 nor were there any purchases from the Collection Funds.

Collections Committee:
The 2014 committee was comprised of: Toby Kissam, Dean Failey, Larry Leek, Tom and Pat Ernst, Robin Horn, Alice Link, Lilian Najarian and Lauren Brincat.
The majority of the committee's time is always spent on exhibits and conservation of collections but an early 2014 puff back at the Museum Shop necessitated several weeks of hands on cleaning of every item in both the shop and the kitchen.

As always the committee would like to thank the Society's dedicated staff and volunteers. Everyone pitches in and helps with research and "hands on" when needed. We thank Robin Horn for volunteering as Society Registrar recording and accessioning every new donation to the Society's collections.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lilian Najarian
June 11, 2015

New Board Members

Karen Markiewicz

Karen, a Huntington resident for 27 years, is the owner of *The Complete Gardener*, a garden design business. Since 2002, she has served as a chairperson for the Wincoma Association's Beautification Council. Karen has done rescue with the English Springer Spaniel Club of Long Island, and in 2013 she became a rescue coordinator. As one of Huntington Historical Society's busiest volunteers, Karen volunteers for many of the Society's events and is a regular at the Museum Shop. As a member of the Garden Tour Committee, she not only helps with the organizing of the event, but last year's tour featured her garden. She has an avid interest in architecture, artifacts, local history and preservation.

Lorraine Kelley

Lorraine, a retired English teach and current SAT/ACT tutor, has been involved with restoration and preservation for more than forty years. She lives in one of Huntington's Conklin family houses, featured on our *All Things Conklin* historic house tour. Her current home is the third historic home she has owned and restored. Lorraine is an advocate for preserving the historic charm of Huntington Village and her neighborhood, notably leading the fight to save the Hotel Huntington and the carriage houses on the corner of Myrtle Street and East Carver. She has a deep interest in old homes, architecture, and has taken courses in historic preservation. For the last few years, she has served as a docent at both the Conklin and Kissam Houses, and volunteered for numerous Historical Society events.

Karen Markiewicz 2015 Volunteer of the Year

Karen first contacted the Historical Society offering to be a volunteer in 2012, the year of the ***"Saint, Sinner and Salvation"*** House Tour. She requested an assignment in the Castle because she lived nearby.

Shortly after, Karen signed on to work at the **Museum Shop**, and has since been a dedicated every Tuesday afternoon volunteer. She next morphed into **Antiques in April**, spending days, every spring, helping price and arrange the mountains of furniture, and vintage goodies with which Toby fills the barn, and she continues to volunteer for the House Tours.

Karen's reliability and dedication were noticed. She was invited to join the Garden Tour committee.

In April of that year, Karen and the committee previewed a garden. Along the garden path, were burgeoning inch to inch and a half, green things. Karen exclaimed,"Oh, you have a...!" Two steps further brings, "Oh, my god, can't believe a ...!" Karen used their Latin name. The other members of the group were surprised. Had no idea Karen knew anything about plants.

Karen does know plants. She has a garden design business, ***The Complete Gardener.*** What a terrific addition to the Garden Tour Committee.

In 2014, Karen double timed between work and planting and weeding at home, in order to share her lovely garden on the Historical Society Garden Tour. Last fall, a friend's request, for a cottage garden, once again had Karen hustling to finish in time for this year's Garden Tour.

Besides designing, planting, and weeding gardens, spending days setting up the Plant Boutique and selling, the afore mentioned, plants, she has an attribute shared by only a few. Karen is willing to ask for donations and even more difficult; knock on doors to find houses and gardens for the Society's Tours. Not a comfort level for most people

There is one problem with Karen, her last name. We have taken the easy way out, and with her permission, call her Karen Marks. We are determined; if we learned to pronounce SFORZA, and DEMIDOVITCH, we should be able to master MARKIEWICZ.

Karen Markiewicz is a super addition to the Huntington Historical Society. We are delighted she has been chosen one of the Volunteers of the Year for 2015

LINDA DIB

Linda Dib has always loved the Museum Shop, and would often stop by during her visits to Huntington Village. She often mentioned to her husband, Gregory, how much she enjoyed going there and coming home with some lovely treasure. After her retirement in 2007 she noticed a small ad in *The Long Islander* asking for volunteers to work at the Huntington Historical Society's Museum Shop. It did not take her long to decide to volunteer, and she began doing so the second Sunday of the month. Soon after she was also asked to help with consignments on every Tuesday morning.

Linda loves seeing the full spectrum of the Museum Shop's operations, from deciding what objects to accept for consignment, pricing the items along with the consignor, and then seeing how those items eventually sell. It is often surprising to see what items are in demand, which ones are not, the varied clients that come into the shop, and understanding the many clients' needs and wants.

Linda is always a gracious volunteer, often volunteering extra hours at the Museum Shop with her husband when there are main events happening on the Kissam House property. How fortunate the Museum Shop is to have her as a volunteer, and the Huntington Historical Society is proud to honor her for all her positive contributions to the Museum Shop and the Society.

President Award – *Arthur & Irene Sniffin*

The Sniffins. What can one say about the Sniffins? Arthur and Irene have volunteered more than 9,000 hours of their valuable time to the Huntington Historical Society in just the last 12 years! If you are researching your family genealogy and have reached an impasse, Arthur is the "go to" source. If you are doing an archival investigation dealing with the Town of Huntington or its inhabitants and need to be aimed in the right direction, Irene is always ready, willing and able to help.

The Sniffins contribute to the Huntington Historical Society in many ways, are good friends and constant supporters of the Society. For over forty years Irene and Artie have been active members of the society. Irene's first project at the Huntington Historical Society was to create an index to The Long Islander newspaper, the first volume printed in 1977. Eventually four volumes were published covering the years 1839-1862. In 1980 Irene contributed an article, "Newspapers as a Genealogical Resource", to the National Genealogical Society Quarterly. Irene also compiled the weekly looking back articles for The Long Islander, searching through the old issues for interesting articles or news to retell from the past. Upon the retirement of Sally Packard, Irene took over as the society's librarian and oversaw the relocation of the society's archives from the Conklin House to the newly acquired Trade School in 1983. Artie organized the Sewing and Trade School's 100th birthday party in 2005.

With their interest in family history Artie became the founding chairman of the Society's Genealogy Workshop and for over 38 years has been active in its success in sharing and educating those in family history research. Artie also served as a board member and treasurer for Huntington Historical Society in the late 1970s-early 1980s. Artie and Irene are an inseparable pair and a true team. Although Artie may be in the front of the room giving a presentation on family history you know Irene has contributed to the presentation, as well, and is in the back of the room coaching him along. In 1983 the Federation of Genealogical Societies had their first national conference in the northeast for genealogists at Hartford, CT with Artie and Irene coordinating the event attended by over 800 participants. In 2006 Artie would be honored by FGS for his years of contribution and service to the field.

Artie and Irene have been instrumental in coordinating 20 family history seminars and have taught more than 30 family history courses for the Huntington Historical Society. Since 1992 they have lead an annual research trip to the Family History Library, run by the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints in Salt Lake City, for those interested in researching their ancestors.

The above are just are just some highlights of how Irene and Artie have and continue to support Huntington Historical Society and the larger genealogical and archival community.

In recognition of these, and many more contributions to the Society, I am proud to present the President's Award to Arthur and Irene Sniffin.