



THE YEOMAN

Farmingdale-
Bethpage
Historical Society
www.fbhsli.org

Mildred Johnston, President

James McCullagh, Vice-President

“Early Years of Farmingdale State College” at Village Hall, May 4

Dr. Frank J. Cavaoli, retired professor of history at Farmingdale State College, will speak on "The Early Years of Farmingdale State College" at a meeting of the Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society on Tuesday evening, May 4. The program will be held in the Board Room of Farmingdale's Village Hall, 361 Main Street, beginning at 7:30 pm.

Dr. Cavaoli will focus on what has been termed the "foundation years" of the college, namely the directorships of Albert H. Johnson (1913-1923) and Halsey B. Knapp (1923-1956).

The speaker has been selected to write the official history of the school which will observe its centennial in 2012. Plan now to be present as this distinguished historian relates the formative period of history for Farmingdale State, Long Island's oldest public college.

Penn Station Centennial Program a Successful Dual Effort

Rail historians David Morrison and Pierre Lehmuller provided a most informative presentation at the March 21 program of the Society on the topic of the 100th anniversary of Penn Station. The well-planned program was a cooperative masterpiece, as the presenters seamlessly covered not only the building of the station itself, but also the related infrastructure such as the rail tunnels beneath the Hudson and East Rivers, Sunnyside Yards in Queens, and the Hell Gate Route to New England with its great bridge from Queens to the Bronx. The presentation also related the razing of the station's superstructure in the mid-1960s and the current effort to convert the Farley Post Office into a rail station.

The meeting, which concluded the 2009-2010 Winter Lecture Series, was held on the first full day of spring. Hospitality Chair Joanne Bihary reflected this beautifully on the serving tables with attractive displays of forsythia, the Village of Farmingdale's official flower.



Mid-Spring
2010

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Save the Date!

**The Society's Annual Meeting and Elections, followed by
the Strawberry Festival, will be held on Sunday, June 6,
2010 on the Farmingdale Village Green.**



Nominating Committee Formed to Develop Slate

A Nominating Committee has been named to develop a slate of nominees for those offices with terms which expire this October 31. The Society's By-Laws call for the Nominating Committee to be composed of three persons from the executive board and two from general membership.

President Mildred Johnston has named executive board members Serena Brochu, Gail Goldschrafe, and Pierre Lehmuller; Anne Carter and Donald Christiansen from the general membership have also agreed to serve. Mr. Lehmuller is chair of the Nominating Committee.

The slate resulting from the committee's work will be voted upon at the Annual Meeting in early June. Those members interested in a leadership role in the Society, either for themselves or another member, are encouraged to speak to a member of the Nominating Committee promptly.

Historical Notes From Around Long Island

*Rail historian David Morrison updated attendees at the March 21 FBHS meeting on the status of the bicycle on which Charles "Mile-A-Minute" Murphy set the world one-mile record near Farmingdale on June 30, 1899. The Suffolk County Historical Society made an offer to the Springfield (Mass.) Museum, in whose collection the bicycle resides. The Town of Babylon made a somewhat higher counter-offer which was also rejected by the museum's executive board. The 15-member board has since tabled consideration of deaccessioning the bicycle for the present.

*David Morrison also shared information on a project of the Hicksville Historical Society to restore the eagle statue at Hicksville LIRR station. The eagle was placed there in 1965 after being removed from Penn Station during the process of razing the superstructure of the Manhattan landmark. The years of weathering have not been kind to the great bird, especially its beak.

*Robert and Priscilla Hancock, members of the FBHS, will be the honorees at the Distinguished Citizen Award Dinner of the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Bay Shore on May 20. Bob, current president of the Bay Shore Historical Society, and Priscilla will be honored for their many years of dedicated service to the BSHS and to the community.

*The Town of Oyster Bay Historical Commission presented a plaque to Supervisor John Venditto and the Town Board on March 23 honoring the memory of the late Town Historian Dorothy Horton McGee. Miss McGee, historian from 1967 until her death in 2003, formed the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission in the early 1970s, and organized many events commemorating the Revolution and other historical anniversaries through her long tenure. John E. Hammond, the current Town Historian, made the presentation at the ceremony in Town Hall.

Executive Board Meetings

The next meeting of the officers and trustees of the Society will be on Thursday, May 6, 2010 at 7pm at the Farmingdale Public Library in the conference room near the Reference Desk. The meetings will follow the traditional first, non-holiday Thursday of the month schedule. Subsequent meeting date will be: June 3, 2010. Members are reminded that they are always welcome to sit in on meetings of the executive board and, with prior arrangement with the president, to address the Board on matters of concern. Please be advised that due to renovation work in the Farmingdale Public Library, the meeting location may be subject to change. Notice of any such change will be posted in a future edition of THE YEOMAN and the Society's website, www.fbhsli.org.



In Memoriam: Saul I. Barth

Saul I. Barth passed away on March 4, 2010. Saul, a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 516, was awarded the Purple Heart in World War II. Saul took great pleasure in attending veterans' reunions and conferences. He was also a longtime member of the Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society who seldom missed the winter lecture series sessions or the spring and fall dinners.

He is survived by his daughter Sandra Thomson, two granddaughters, two nieces, and one nephew. He was predeceased by his wife Violet and his son William Alan Barth.

Saul's funeral service was held at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, where he was a member for fifty years. Interment took place at Long Island National Cemetery.

The Society extends sincere sympathy to Saul's family on his passing. He truly was one of "the greatest generation."

In Memoriam: Dorothy M. Dyson

Dorothy M. Dyson, a charter member of the Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society, passed away on, March 26, 2010 in Saratoga Springs, New York, at age 96. Mrs. Dyson, a native of the Chicago area, had relocated to New York to study nursing at Brooklyn Hospital, where she earned her Registered Nurse certification. She continued her studies at Teachers College of Columbia University where she earned her bachelor's degree and qualified for a "nurse-teacher" certification. In 1940-1941 she served as a stewardess on American Airlines in the days when flight attendants were required to have RN certificates.

In 1940 Dorothy married Fred Dyson, who passed away in 2007, after a marriage of 67 years. Fred and Dorothy moved to Farmingdale in 1944, and she began service as a nurse-teacher at Main Street School, Farmingdale, in 1953. When Northside School opened in 1961, Mrs. Dyson became the nurse-teacher there, serving until her retirement in 1975. Her service to the community continued long after her retirement, including as a charter member and longtime board member of the Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society, the AAUW, the Women's Club of Farmingdale, the Early Flyers Club, the Salvation Army, and the Episcopal Church Women of St. Thomas Church. Among numerous service awards, Mrs. Dyson was the recipient of Farmingdale's "Citizen of the Year Award" in 1979. Mr. and Mrs. Dyson moved to a retirement home in Saratoga Springs, New York in 2002.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 17, at Woodland Commons, Saratoga Springs.

The Society extends deepest sympathy to daughters Barbara Westerberg, Jo-Ellen Martino, and Juliette Swartz, and son Robert Dyson, and their families on their loss.

The family has asked that memorial gifts may be made to the Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Farmingdale, or Bethesda Episcopal Church, Saratoga Springs.

[A considerably fuller obituary of Mrs. Dyson's distinguished life is available on-line at THE SARATOGIAN, (www.saratogian.com) issue of April 2, 2010]





**Farmingdale-Bethpage
Historical Society**

Box 500
Farmingdale, New York 11735
www.fbhsli.org

“We hold fast to the elements that
are dear to us.”
- Jesse Merritt

The Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society was founded at a meeting in historic Powell House, Merritt Road, Farmingdale, on April 12, 1964. It is chartered as an incorporated non-profit educational and cultural organization by the University of the State of New York.

Executive Board

- Mildred Johnston - President; Membership
- James McCullagh - Vice President
- Gail Goldschrafe - Recording Secretary
- Madeline Bondiotti - Corresponding Secretary
- Frank Bondiotti - Treasurer; Collections Committee
- JoAnne Bihary - Trustee; Hospitality; Collections Committee
- Serena Brochu - Trustee; Newsletter Editor; Collections Committee
- Joseph Carosella, Sr. - Trustee
- Nancy Cinque - Trustee
- Eric Goldschrafe - Trustee
- Harrison Hunt - Trustee
- William J. Johnston - Trustee
- JoAnn Krapp - Trustee; Exhibits Coordinator
- Pierre Lehmueller - Trustee
- Seymour Weinstein - Trustee; Website
- Nancy White - Trustee
- Lawrence R. Jorgensen - Ex-Officio Immediate Past President

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