



The YEOMAN

FARMINGDALE-
BETHPAGE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
www.fbhsli.org

Mildred Johnston, President

James McCullagh, Vice President

ELIZABETH KAHN KAPLAN SPEAKS FEBRUARY 26 ON "GREAT AMERICAN ART"

Elizabeth Kahn Kaplan, the noted author, writer, and lecturer, will present "*Great American Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art*" at a program of the Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society on Sunday, February 26, 2012. The session will be held at 2pm at the Farmingdale Public Library, 116 Merritts Road.

Mrs. Kaplan, the former director of education for the Three Village Historical Society on Long Island, will take her audience in her illustrated presentation through various periods of American art at the treasure-house that is the Metropolitan Museum, including Colonial Portraits, the Revolution, the Hudson River School, the Civil War, and other notable phases of American art. Guests will see many favorites from the Met's world-renowned collection, including the magnificent Millmore Memorial, *Death Staying the Hand of the Sculptor*, created by Daniel Chester French in 1893. Beloved paintings include works by Winslow Homer, Mary Cassatt, and John Singer Sargent, among others. A highlight will be a new image of the iconic *Washington Crossing the Delaware*. It has been restored to its original glory after conservation and cleaning, and is newly housed in a re-creation of the frame in which the monumental painting was first displayed more than 150 years ago - a magnificent gold frame topped by a giant American Eagle.

Since Mrs. Kaplan first spoke to the FBHS seven years ago, she has returned almost annually to large and enthusiastic audiences. Her past topics have included "*Washington Crossing the Delaware: The Story Behind The Painting*", *George Washington's Long Island Spy Ring*", and "*America's Nine First Ladies from New York State*". An authority on the work of William Sidney Mount, she has also lectured and co-edited a book on that Long Island artist of the 19th century.

This presentation is part of the FBHS Winter Lecture Series, which concludes on Sunday, March 25, 2012. These programs are free and open to the public. Further information is available at www.fbhsli.org.

MID- WINTER EDITION

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EDITH LORING FULLERTON PROGRAM SUNDAY, MARCH 15

The name and achievements of Hal Fullerton are familiar to many who are interested in Long Island history. For thirty years he was a publicist for the Long Island Rail Road, 1897 to 1927, and he is remembered for proving through two experimental farms that Long Island had great potential agriculturally. He also staged many events to bring national attention to the Island and the LIRR, such as Charles "Mile-A-Minute" Murphy's world speed record on a bicycle near Farmingdale in 1899. But what about his wife, Edith Loring Fullerton?

Attend the Society's program on Sunday, March 25, at 2pm at the Farmingdale Public Library to learn about this amazing lady as Dr. Natalie Naylor speaks on "*Edith Loring Fullerton, Equal Partner of Hal Fullerton*". When Theodore Roosevelt visited one of the experimental farms, whom do you think drove him around in the touring car?

Dr. Naylor, president of the Nassau County Historical Society, is generally considered the "dean" of the Long Island historical community. She is a professor emerita of Hofstra University and the retired director of the Long Island Studies Institute, in addition to serving in a leadership role in several other historical organizations. "*The YEOMAN*" notes with pride that Dr. Naylor is a longtime member of the FBHS.

March is Women's History Month. Learn more about an outstanding Long Island woman who was truly "ahead of her time", Edith Loring Fullerton, on Sunday, March 25, 2012.

- Bill Johnston

CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION AT FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE

Farmingdale State College is proudly commemorating its one-hundredth anniversary in 2012. Former and current students and staff members as well as area residents are invited to take part in a number of centennial events.

One such event is the centennial exhibition "*Historical Perspectives*" in which one can visually experience the college's rich history as Long Island's oldest public institution of higher learning. Photographs and artifacts will be displayed emphasizing FSC's beginnings in 1912 as an agricultural college and the transition into a comprehensive college of applied sciences and technologies.

The exhibition will be open Friday, February 10 through Friday, March 9 in the Memorial Gallery in Nathan Hale Hall on the FSC campus, between the hours of 9am to 4pm. The exhibition will open with a welcome from President W. Hubert Keen and an Alumni Panel program at 5:30pm on February 9 to which FSC alumni are invited.

Admission is free and the galley is accessible for those with mobility impairments. For additional information, call 631-420-6118 or 631-420-2181

- Bill Johnston



BETHPAGE CEMETERY TRANSCRIPTION PROJECT

The Bethpage Cemetery, located on Quaker Meeting House Road in Farmingdale, is one of one-hundred twenty-six abandoned cemeteries in the Town of Oyster Bay. The owners of this cemetery have long since disbanded and this cemetery is considered to be abandoned.

Our cemeteries provide us with a great deal of history! They tell us more about how people lived rather than how they died. They tell us who lived here, and when coupled with historical records, can provide us with a greater understanding of our community. Per the transcription of Bethpage Cemetery performed by William Eardley in 1898, the oldest burial dates back to 1832. Imagine what Farmingdale was like back then!

A second transcription of the cemetery was performed in recent years by the late Arthur Kranz, a long-time FBHS member. The FBHS would like to expand upon the work performed by Messrs. Eardley and Kranz by creating a current manifest of the cemetery, complete with headstone transcriptions, photos, GPS co-ordinates of the plots, and a map of the cemetery. The goal would be to make this information available to researchers, amateur and professional- young and old, via the FBHS website as well as in paper form.

While this work will surely be painstaking, it is necessary. Numerous headstones are becoming illegible due to long-term exposure to the elements, particularly if made from marble or sandstone. At some point in the not-too-distant future, inscriptions on some of the stones will be gone forever. It is up to us to preserve what we can.

However, what is needed, above all, to ensure the success of this project, is you! Members and friends of the FBHS are needed to identify the location of headstones, log inscriptions, take digital photos and GPS co-ordinates, and devise a map of the cemetery. Additionally, if anyone has any information regarding the background of the cemetery itself, we would like very much to hear from you.

More specific planning of this project will take place during the winter months. Weather permitting, we may be able to commence the actual work in the cemetery during the late winter months. We foresee most of the work being done in the spring of 2012.

Continued on Page 4



BETHPAGE CEMETERY TRANSCRIPTION PROJECT (cont'd)

If you, or a friend, are interested in participating in this project, please sign up at one of the FBHS's winter lecture meetings, or contact Serena Brochu at 516-694-0707, or e-mail scarbro9@verizon.net. You may also sign up by sending an e-mail to info@fbhsl.org. Please indicate the task you would most like to perform. The time commitment can be a few hours or a few days- it's up to you! Thank you for your support!

- Serena Brochu

PUBLIC HISTORIANS OF NYS MEET ON LI APRIL 23 - 25

Official Historians of New York State's counties, cities, boroughs, towns, and villages will meet at their annual conference this spring on Long Island. The Association of Public Historians of New York State (APHNYS) will gather Monday, April 23 to Wednesday, April 25 at the Hyatt Regency Long Island (formerly the "Wind Watch"), 1717 Motor Parkway, Hauppauge. The previous APHNYS state conference on Long Island was in 2003.

Presentations will be on numerous topics, many on phases of New York State history, but others on skills.

Those interested in learning more about APHNYS, which offers affiliate membership to non-appointed individuals, or possible attendance at the conference are invited to visit aphnys.org

- Bill Johnston

CHERRY PIE DRAWING SET FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

A February tradition of the Farmingdale- Bethpage Historical Society begun several years ago will be continued during the program of February 26. A gourmet cherry pie will be awarded to an attendee selected in a drawing. The tradition relates to the birthday of President George Washington, February 22, once observed as a Federal holiday. Presidents' Day replaced it in 1971 under the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. The new holiday falls between February 15 and 21, on the third Monday, never on Washington's birthday anniversary! The cherry connection, of course, recalls the apocryphal tale of young George cutting down a cherry tree, related in a biography of Washington by Parson Mason Weems.

Additionally, not to leave out President Abraham Lincoln's birthday- also celebrated on President's Day- a jar of shiny Lincoln's head pennies will follow in the drawing for the cherry pie, so hang on to your ticket!

Tickets are given out as you enter the meeting room, so make sure you get yours when you walk in- YOU could be the winner of this year's cherry pie!

Bill Johnston & JoAnne Bihary



"BATTLE FOR NEW YORK" ENJOYED BY ALL

The FBHS wishes to thank guest speaker Barnet Schechter for his presentation on January 22. This interesting and well-delivered lecture recounted the actions of Gen. Washington and Gen. Howe, and the strategic battle in Brooklyn and New York City. Mr. Schechter also took time to answer many questions and talk to the guests after the lecture. Thanks are also due to the generous members who contributed baked goods and support to the hospitality table. The "goodies" were attractive and delicious, and the support was very much appreciated. Hospitality Chair JoAnne Bihary thanks members Rose Marie Tiedemann, Rhoda Schwartz, JoAnn Krapp, Madeleine Bondiotti, Pat and Don Christiansen, Nancy White, Bob Deignan, Joe Carosella, Pierre Lehmueller, and Gail and Eric Goldschrafe. Thanks to these members our hospitality at the programs is acquiring quite a reputation!

- JoAnne Bihary

MEMBER SUGGESTIONS FOR PROGRAMS

We would like to hear from our members regarding suggested topics for programs. Topics should be relative to or associated with New York State, Long Island, or local-area history. What aspects of our history would you like to know more about? Is there anything you are particularly interested in? Please let us know using the tear-off sheet below. We look forward to hearing from you!!

PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS

I (We) would like to see a program on the following subject(s):

Name (optional) _____

Tear-off sheets may be given to JoAnne Bihary or Eric Goldschrafe at the next program or sent to Eric at 32 Columbia St., Farmingdale, NY 11735-2606



The
**Farmingdale-Bethpage
Historical Society**

Presents

Great American Art
at the
**Metropolitan
Museum of Art**

An illustrated lecture by

Elizabeth Kahn Kaplan

Sunday, February 26 at 2:00pm

Farmingdale Public Library

116 Merritts Road, Farmingdale

This program is presented *free* to the public as a community service
by the Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society
Refreshments and Social Hour after the program

DOOR PRIZES: CHERRY PIE and PENNY JAR

For more information visit our web site at www.fbhsli.org



Box 500, Farmingdale, NY 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 the 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.

FBHS EXECUTIVE BOARD

Mildred Johnston - President, Membership

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**Farmingdale - Bethpage
Historical Society**

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