



# THE YEOMAN

Farmingdale-  
Bethpage  
Historical Society

Lawrence R. Jorgensen, President

Mildred Johnston, Vice-President

## Celebrating Theodore Roosevelt's 150th Birthday Anniversary October 25-27

The Oyster Bay area will have a three-day commemoration of President Theodore Roosevelt's 150th birthday anniversary from Saturday to Monday, October 25-27.

On Saturday the 25th, a parade will take place in Oyster Bay hamlet, beginning at 1pm. South Street (Route 106) forms the chief parade route.

On Sunday and Monday (26th and 27th), the celebration will focus on Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, the home of President Roosevelt from 1887 until his death in 1919. On Sunday, the site will host Family Fair Day, with activities for both children and adults. On Monday, TR's actual birth date in 1858, the Birthday Celebration will be held with a patriotic theme. The United States Navy Band will participate both days. There will be no admission fee either day.

Additional information is available by calling 516-922-4788, or visiting [www.nps.gov/sahi](http://www.nps.gov/sahi).

## Installation Dinner Set For Tuesday, October 21

The 2008 Installation Dinner of the Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society will be held at the Verona Ristorante, 1255 Melville Road, Farmingdale, on Tuesday, October 21. The social time will begin at 6:30pm, with dinner at 7pm.

Trustee Nancy White is chairing the dinner arrangements once more. She has an enviable record of successful dinner programs for the Society over the years.

Dr. Aristides Scoufelis of Farmingdale State College's Department of History, Economics, and Politics will speak on the life and times of Theodore Roosevelt following the dinner. The address of Dr. Scoufelis, a member of the Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society, is especially timely in light of the 150th anniversary of the birth of the 26th President six days later on October 27th.

A flier with additional details on the dinner accompanies this issue of THE YEOMAN. Join us on October 21 for a pleasant evening of history, good food, and warm fellowship!

## Officers, Trustees to be Inducted at Installation Dinner

The officers and trustees elected or re-elected at the Annual Meeting on June 8 will be officially inducted to office at the Installation Dinner on October 21. These members are: Mildred Johnston - President; James McCullagh - Vice-President; Frank Bondietti, - Treasurer; Nancy Cinque, William Johnston, Seymour Weinstein, Nancy White - Trustees.

(Officers' terms extend through October 31, 2010; trustees' terms extend through October 31, 2011.)

October  
2008

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## On this day in history...

- **10/4/1957** - The Soviet Union launches *Sputnik*.
- **10/5/1947** - President Truman makes the first televised presidential address.
- **10/12/1492** - Columbus reaches the New World.
- **10/14/1947** - Chuck Yeager breaks the sound barrier.
- **10/17/1931** - Al Capone is sentenced for tax evasion.
- **10/18/1695** - Thomas Powell purchases a 15 square mile tract of land known as the Bethpage Purchase.
- **10/22/1962** - Cuban Missile Crisis.
- **10/23/1971** - Disney World opens.
- **10/24/1901** - First barrel ride down Niagara Falls.
- **10/27/1954** - Marilyn Monroe and Joe DiMaggio divorce.
- **10/28/1965** - Gateway Arch in St. Louis completed.
- **10/30/1938** - *War of the Worlds* panics millions.
- **10/31/1892** - *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* published.

Source:

- [www.history.com](http://www.history.com)

## "Vanderbilt Cup Races" Program Sunday, November 16

A century ago on Long Island, the Vanderbilt Cup Races were a major annual event. Held from 1904 to 1910, and sponsored by William "Willie K" Vanderbilt, the auto races were held on public roads and streets. More than a half million people watched each of the races in the final years, at a time when Nassau County's population was 60,000!

Learn much more about this fascinating phase of Long Island history when Howard Kroplick, historian and author, speaks to the Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society on Sunday, November 16, at 2pm at the Farmingdale Public Library.

Save the date now, and invite a friend or relative to join you!

## Republic Airport Plays Role in Airmail's 90th Anniversary

Three vintage aircraft took off from Republic Airport, East Farmingdale, on Wednesday, September 10, on a flight replicating the original flight path of the transcontinental mail route on the 90th anniversary of the beginning of U.S. airmail service. With stops at 15 original airports on the transcontinental route to San Francisco, the flight plan called for six days, similar to the 1918 schedule.

Republic Airport, which began operation in 1927, served as the starting point of the reenactment in place of Hazelhurst Field, which is now part of the Roosevelt Field Mall. The three aircraft flying in the 90th anniversary commemoration were a 1928 Boeing 40C, a 1927 Stearman C3B, and a 1930 Stearman Speedwell.

The infrastructure created by the U.S. Post Office in those early days of airmail service, consisting of radio navigation stations, beacons, towers, and lights, paved the way for air transport companies to begin carrying passengers as well as mail by the late 1920s.

## Huntington Society to Host Next ASCHS Meeting

The Huntington Historical Society, along with Town Clerk Jo-Ann Raia and Town Historian Robert Hughes, will present "Historic Huntington" at the autumn meeting of the Association of Suffolk County Historical Societies (ASCHS) on Saturday, October 25, of which the FBHS is a member society.

Registration will take place at the John J. Flanagan memorial Activity Center. Bus tours will leave from there which will visit the Town Clerk's Archives, the Colonial Arsenal, Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building, the Town Historian's Office, the Daniel W. Kissam House (1795), and the David Conklin House and Museum (1750). Luncheon and the business meeting will be held at the Huntington Crescent Club.

FBHS members interested in additional information and/or registration details should call Mildred Johnston at 516-249-3099.

## Website Suggestions and Volunteers Wanted

FBHS is actively working on developing a new website. The Website Committee is seeking suggestions for topics of interest and volunteers to assist in writing content for the website. Please contact Seymour Weinstein at [qwerty1633@optonline.net](mailto:qwerty1633@optonline.net).



## **Dorothy Dyson, Charter Member, Reaches 95th Birthday**

THE YEOMAN extends congratulations and best wishes to Mrs. Dorothy Dyson on reaching her 95th birthday on September 29. Dorothy, along with her late husband of 67 years, Fred, were charter members of the Society. They lived in Farmingdale for 57 years until moving to Saratoga Springs, New York in 2002. Dorothy received numerous awards during her Farmingdale years for exemplary community service. She and Fred, who passed away on October 22, 2007, were longtime FBHS Board members.



## **In Memoriam: Abraham Spector**

Abraham Spector, a member of the Society since 1976 and a longtime trustee, passed away on August 21, 2008. Born in Tel Aviv, Israel, then the British Mandate Palestine, Abe's family came to the United States two years later. He was educated in the New York City schools and City College of New York.

Abe served in the U.S. Army in the European Theater during World War 2, surviving many months of combat including the Battle of the Bulge. Prior to deployment, he attended Providence College as an Army student, and after discharge, Washington University in St. Louis. It was there he met and married Dorothy. They moved from St. Louis to Long Island, where Abe worked as an engineer in the field of aviation electronics at Fairchild, Airborne, and Loral. In 1953, he began work with Grumman, where he remained until his retirement in 1988. As a quality control inspector, he earned a reputation for his uncompromising standard of excellence for which all Grumman aircraft were so widely known.

Abe's beloved Dorothy passed away in the summer of 2004.

Abe will be remembered for his warm friendships, his keen interest in history, his love of music, and his fascination with, and proficiency in, several languages.

The officers and trustees of the Society extend deepest sympathy to Daniel, Jonathan, Rachel and the grandchildren on the loss of their father and grandfather.

Abe's family requests that memorial gifts be directed to wildlife preservation organizations.



## **New Society President Brings Extensive Experience to Society**

Mildred Johnston, who will be installed as president of the Society on October 21, brings many years of service to the FBHS to the leadership role. She has been a member since 1965, and has been an Executive Board member for about half of that time. She has served as vice-president for two presidents, the late Dick Rietheimer (1982-1988) and Larry Jorgensen (2002-2008). In addition, Mildred served as president of the FBHS from 1988 to 1992. During her first presidency, the Society conducted a major fundraising effort to restore the Quaker Meeting House (1890), which was heavily damaged in a fire in 1990. This effort was instrumental in preserving the Farmingdale-Bethpage area's oldest house of worship. Mildred has also served as Membership Chair of the FBHS for many years.



### **“About Long Island”: October**

In the 1970s and 1980s, the Grumman Corporation sponsored radio “spot” announcements on Long Island history. Written by Ray Adell, the short pieces touched on many topics and had a sensitive, almost poetic tone. Themes included agriculture, industry, history, famous people, flora and fauna, landmarks, season/holidays, and geography.

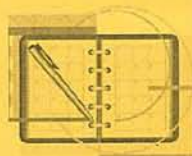


#### **ABOUT LONG ISLAND: OCTOBER**

*By Ray Adell*

*An October day on a beach. Nature’s sounds. Chill mingled with and tempered by a bright fall sun. A spray of small fish a short distance from shore. A herring gull, big and strong, coasts by on bent wings, caws an eerie cry, then glides away. A tiny plover, white neck, brown feathers, makes an abrupt landing and looks around with sharp movements. Then with quick steps, marches along the shore in unison with each surge of surf. Then follows the retreating water onto the dark, wet sand. The beach, hosting only its natural inhabitants. From the west, an orange-gold line across the water. The sun deepens in color and is falling fast towards the horizon. October on Long Island, on the beach, the sea, and peace.*

### **Executive Board Meeting Calendar**



The next meeting of the officers and trustees of the Society, including those newly elected, will be on Thursday, October 2, 2008 at 7pm at the Farmingdale Public Library. 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. Subsequent meetings will be held on the traditional first, non-holiday Thursday of the month: November 6 and December 4, 2008 and January 8, 2009.

### **“Historic Suffolk County Day” October 4 at Walt Whitman Birthplace**



History and genealogy enthusiasts are invited to learn more about historical and documentary resources available in Suffolk County at a program on Saturday, October 4, 10am to 4pm, which will be held at the Walt Whitman Birthplace State Historic Site, 246 Old Walt Whitman Road, West Hills.

Visitors may drop in during the day to explore exhibits presented by public libraries, genealogy groups, and historical societies. The focus of the event is to emphasize the importance of preserving local history, according to the program’s coordinator, Historic Suffolk County, whose website is [www.historicsuffolkcounty.org](http://www.historicsuffolkcounty.org). Directions to the event site are available at [www.waltwhitman.org](http://www.waltwhitman.org).

### **Origin of Park Name Sought**



Bruce Park is a Town of Oyster Bay recreation facility in South Farmingdale, with an entrance at Maple Avenue. The park’s eastern border is the Nassau-Suffolk county line. Do you know how the park’s name originated? If you do, please call Bill Johnston, Farmingdale village historian, with the information at 516-249-3099.



**FARMINGDALE-BETHPAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
45th ANNUAL INSTALLATION DINNER  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2008**

You are invited to be part of the 45th Annual Installation Dinner of the Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society, which will be held Tuesday, October 21, at Verona Ristorante, 1255 Melville Road, Farmingdale, NY (across from Farmingdale State College) at 6:30 pm (dinner at 7:00pm).

Dr. Aristides Scoufelis of Farmingdale State College's Department of History, Economics, and Politics will speak on the life and times of Theodore Roosevelt in celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 26<sup>th</sup> President's birth.

Nancy White, a Society trustee, is chairing the dinner. She requests that she receive your registration by Tuesday, October 14. Please be sure to indicate your choice of entrée on the registration form.

The dinner, for a total of \$35 (thirty-five dollars) per person, will include hot and cold antipasto, salad, a choice of four entrees, dessert, and beverages. Also included are wine and soda on the tables; cash bar for mixed drinks.

Please join us for an evening of fine food and good fellowship as we install our new, and returning, executive board members.

Again, please select an entrée for each person in your party, and return the form below to Nancy White by Tuesday, October 14. For additional information, Nancy can be reached at 516-694-3738.

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Nancy White  
315 Conklin Street  
Farmingdale, NY 11735

Enclosed is a check for \_\_\_\_\_ persons at \$35. each for a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_ payable to the Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society for the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Installation Dinner at Verona Ristorante, 1255 Melville Road, Farmingdale, on Tuesday, October 21, at 6:30pm (dinner at 7:00pm).

Please indicate entrée selection(s):  
All entrées are served with family-style platters of mixed vegetables and roasted potatoes.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Francese (chicken in white wine lemon sauce)                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Penne Pomodoro (penne pasta with fresh tomato and fresh basil)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lupe di mare (deep-water white fish filet baked with seasoned bread crumbs) | <input type="checkbox"/> Veal Toscana (scallopini veal with eggplant, fresh tomato and mozzarella cheese with a light red sauce) |

_____	_____
Your Name	Telephone Number
_____	_____
Street Address	Others in Party
_____	_____
Town, State, Zip	

I/We would prefer to sit with: \_\_\_\_\_



**Farmingdale-Bethpage  
Historical Society**

Box 500  
Farmingdale, New York 11735  
www.fdale.com

"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**

- Lawrence R. Jorgensen—President
- Mildred Johnston—President-elect; Chair, Membership Committee
- Gail Goldschrafe—Recording Secretary
- Jeanne M. Buck—Corresponding Secretary
- Frank Bondiotti—Treasurer
- JoAnne Bihary—Trustee
- Serena Brochu—Trustee; Editor of The Yeoman
- Nancy Cinque—Trustee-elect
- Eric Goldschrafe—Trustee
- William J. Johnston—Trustee
- JoAnn Krapp—Trustee; Exhibit Coordinator
- Pierre Lehmuller—Trustee
- Dolores McAfee—Trustee
- James McCullagh—Vice President-elect
- Seymour Weinstein—Trustee-elect
- Nancy White—Trustee
- Maria Zito—Trustee
- Dr. Benjamin Giminaro—Ex-Officio Immediate Past President

**Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical  
Society**  
Box 500  
Farmingdale, New York 11735

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