

January 11- March 29

The Other Side: Photographs from the William Floyd Estate, by Xiomáro

March 25

Ye Olde Fatted Lambe Tavern
A fun-raiser based on the Andros Patent

April 12 - June 7

Ancient Art Form: Contemporary Adaptations in Glass, with the Long Island Craft Guild

June 5

Clams on The Cove
The return of the ultimate summer kick-off party

June 19 - September 6

Hats Off! An assembly of extraordinary headwear from the Society's collection

June 21

Annual Meeting of the Oyster Bay Historical Society

Oyster Bay Historical Society

Earle-Wightman House and Angela Koenig Center
20 Summit Street, PO Box 297
Oyster Bay NY 11771
516-922-5032

Philip Blocklyn, Executive Director
obhsdirector@optonline.net
Nicole Menchise, Librarian and Archivist
obhslibrary@optonline.net

Open to the Public
Tuesday - Friday 10 a.m - 2 p.m.
Saturday 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Closed Monday
Other times by appointment

Researchers: Please make arrangements in advance by calling the Society at 516-922-5032 or by email

Oyster Bay Historical Society

Year In Review 2014

NEWS FROM
THE COLLECTIONS

SOCIETY ARCHIVIST
TELLS ALL!

SIGNATURE
FUNDRAISERS

NEW VENTURES
PAY OFF BIG

CAPITALIZING
ON SUCCESS

OBHS BEST DRESSED
IN WASHINGTON, DC

BANNER YEAR FOR
PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

HOW MUCH MORE
CAN WE DO?



Non-Profit Organization
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Oyster Bay Historical Society

20 Summit Street, Oyster Bay, New York 11771
516.922.5032 www.oysterbayhistorical.org

History in Progress

20 Summit Street
Oyster Bay, NY

516-922-5032
oysterbayhistorical.org

SAA Museum Archives Section

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Executive Director

Nicole Menchise
Librarian and Archivist

Mariel DePalma
Administrative Assistant

Narissa Palmer
Weekend Docent

Elizabeth Roosevelt
Gift Shop Manager

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WELCOME

Each year, the Oyster Bay Historical Society offers a diverse schedule of exhibitions, lectures, children's activities, fundraisers, and educational programs. And so it is never a surprise to us that our visitors prove as diverse as our programming. Researchers and authors, history lovers, families with children in tow, students, day-trippers by land or water, lifelong residents, first-time callers—all have their reasons for visiting us. Often enough, it's as simple as "We always wondered what was in here." And perhaps that's the best reason of all, because what all our visitors have in common is a curiosity to learn how a little hamlet on Long Island's North Shore has come to play, from time to time, a role on America's big stage.

On the cover: *Rehabilitation of the Earle-Wightman House is underway, thanks to the Town of Oyster Bay.*

EXHIBITIONS

SNOW DAY IN OYSTER BAY THE LIFE AND TIMES OF OYSTER BAY IN WINTERS PAST JANUARY 31—MARCH 23

The winter 2014 exhibition, *Snow Day in Oyster Bay*, featured artifacts, images, and textiles from the Society's permanent collections, as well as costumes on loan from the personal collections of Monica Randall and other lenders. *Snow Day* highlighted many of the traditional activities of Oyster Bay in winter, including sledding, bobsledding, skating, skiing, and ice sailing.



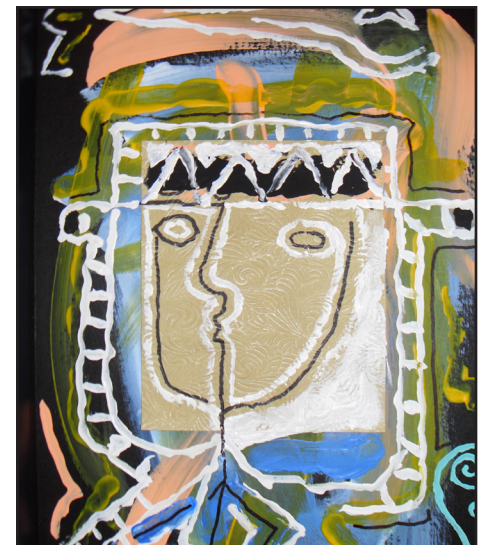
IT'S TIME FOR TEA CERAMICS BY MEMBERS OF THE LONG ISLAND CRAFT GUILD APRIL 6—JUNE 8

After a hard winter, the Oyster Bay Historical Society celebrated the arrival of spring with the opening of *It's Time for Tea*, featuring ceramics by members of the Long Island Craft Guild's Clay Media Group. Both functional and sculptural work relating to tea—pots and bowls, cups, mugs, and sugar/creamers sets—were on view and for sale at the Angela Koenig Center.



ECHOES: VOICES OF THE MYSTICS AN ARTIST'S RETROSPECTIVE BY GREGORY L. REID JUNE 13—SEPTEMBER 27

In June Oyster Bay resident Gregory L. Reid opened a solo exhibition of his artwork that featured nearly two decades of experiments and breakthroughs. Primarily self-taught, Reid studied briefly in New York City, only to find the classroom environment "distracting." He describes his need to paint as a way to release the energy discovered when seeking truth and inspiration from the natural world and the people he encounters. His work suggests the influence of Picasso, Chagall, de Kooning and other abstract expressionists, while incorporating ethnic and spiritual themes.



FOURTH ANNUAL PLEIN AIR EXHIBITION SEPTEMBER 28—NOVEMBER 16

Oyster Bay's Teaching Studios of Art collaborated with the Society in mounting the fourth annual Plein Air Exhibition. Following a two-day competition of artists at Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, the Society hosted a reception and awards ceremony to open the exhibition for a seven-week run in the Koenig Center. The exhibition featured paintings from each competitor as well as from competition juror Ken Salaz. A part of the proceeds from the sale of exhibited art was dedicated to the Beverly Mohlenhoff Fund in support of the Society's collections, exhibitions, and public programs.



Painting by Madeline Meryash

ARTS AND CRAFTS

Reflecting the broad interests of Long Island residents, the Historical Society offered a rich array of craft classes, workshops and events for adults and children. Programs included card making, needlework, holiday crafts, and a pottery workshop. We are fortunate that many of the instructors have placed their crafts in our gift shop. You can find handmade cards, afghans, scarves, ceramic cups and pitchers, as well as original art by Dan Christoffel and photographs by Elizabeth Roosevelt.

PAPER ARTS CLASSES

with Diana Kovacs

- Valentine's Day Cards
- Miniature Books
- Spring Card Fest
- Easter Treat Cards
- Duct Tape Book Construction
- Cards for the Ladies
- Cards for the Gentlemen
- Five-Minute Cards
- Summer Extravaganza
- Fall Card Class
- Wax Paper Transfer Technique



WORKSHOPS

- Hand-stitched Hamlet Workshop with Patti McSkane
- Raku Workshop: A Two-day Class with Brett Thomas
- Arm Knitting: I Love Yarn Day with Jacque Blocklyn

"I look forward to what your upcoming events are. So all and all...bring on the new and let's keep learning. What fun!" Dagmar Karppi



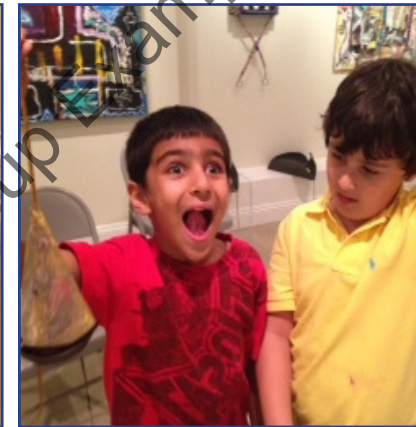
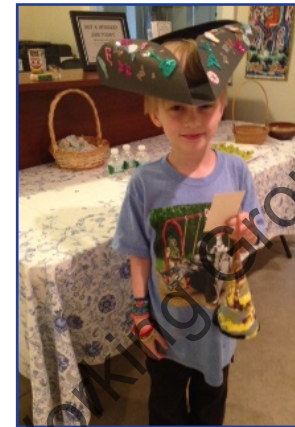
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Part of the mission of the Society is to engage children in activities that are not only fun but educational. In May we held the **Sea Shell Collage for Kids** afterschool workshop, introducing our students to the art of sailor valentines. Children used local shells and other dried, natural elements to create something special of their own.

Pop Rocks Powder Horns allowed kids to paint and assemble their own powder horns, with inspiration from the real 18th Century artifacts in the Society's collection. Naturally, we needed something to substitute for the gunpowder, and what else could be better than Pop Rocks™ to create a spark?

Ghastly Grounds is just about having fun at Halloween. It's an opportunity for children to visit the slightly spooky Earle-Wightman House and enjoy games from an earlier time. As written on the invitation:

*Calling all vampires, witches and ghosts,
The Historical Society will be your hosts.
Face painting, pumpkin toss, scavenger hunt,
Beware of goblins and monsters that grunt.
Don't be afraid, there's no need to run.
Come for the treats and stay for the fun!*



VISIT FROM GLES 4TH GRADE & BAYVILLE BOY SCOUTS!!!



We have had many young guests come through the Society's Earle-Wightman House and Koenig Research Center in 2014. Two groups in particular come to mind. The entire fourth grade of the Glenwood Landing Elementary School visited Oyster Bay for programs at both the Society and Raynham Hall, taking in all that both locations had to offer. One of the reasons a visit to the Historical Society is so special is the behind-the-scenes look at the Society's second-floor archival holdings. Curiosities were piqued when the students were given a chance to ask about some of the objects shelved out in the open. It was an energetic Q&A to say the least.

The Bayville Boy Scouts came to OBHS during the *Fourre Pounds Sterling* exhibit, which gave us an opportunity to show the boys how the families of Oyster Bay intertwined as the hamlet developed. By using yarn to cross-connect the items on display, the Scouts created a 'web' across generations and centuries of Oyster Bay history.

LECTURES & BOOK SIGNINGS

The Other Side: A Fine Art Photographic Presentation with Xiomáro

Winter Dreams: An Illustrated Lecture with Monica Randall

Behind Every Great Fortune, lecture and book signing with Frank Amoroso

The Forgotten Chapters: My Journey into the Past, lecture and book signing with Katherine Dimancescu

General Washington's Commando: Benjamin Tallmadge in the Revolutionary War, lecture and book signing with Richard Welch

Joseph Urban: Designer and Architect, lecture and book signing with John Loring

Impeccable Connections: The Rise and Fall of Richard Whitney, lecture and book signing with Malcolm MacKay

The Centennial of Two Canals: Cape Cod and Panama, lecture and slide show with Elizabeth Roosevelt

Massapequa's Historical Markers, lecture and book signing with George Kirchmann

Collecting Historical Manuscripts: A Lecture with George Krzyminski



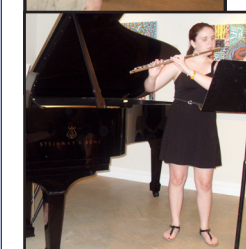
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

WALKING TOURS RETURN TO OYSTER BAY

Director Phil Blocklyn introduced a series of walking tours over the summer to highlight the historic sites, and sights, along South Street, East and West Main Street, and Audrey Avenue. As promised, no two tours were ever the same, as participants tailored each walk through the hamlet to their own interests. Walkers visited the cemeteries at Fort Hill and Orchard Street, and even got an impromptu glimpse of the rehabilitation inside the Wilson House on East Main Street. The series will start up again in the spring of 2015, and parties interested in private tours should contact the Society.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOSTS THIRD ANNUAL OYSTER BAY MUSIC FESTIVAL



The Oyster Bay Music Festival returned for a week-long series of concerts and programs, including two engagements at the Historical Society that featured the living connections between music and musicians of the past and present. "What I loved about the concerts," said Director Phil Blocklyn, "was how well they fit with our mission to show visitors how the past informs the present. Concerts like 'Dead Composers, Living Musicians' and 'Folk Traditions in Classical Music' clearly did with music what we're looking to do with our own material collections."

EDUCATIONAL VISITS HERE...

Over a seven-day period in April and May more than 250 visitors from Massapequa Adult Education toured the Historical Society for an in-depth look at what's old and new in Oyster Bay. Director Phil Blocklyn offered participants a close look at the Earle-Wightman House's one-room colonial house and minister's parlor, before leading everyone to the Koenig Center for a viewing of the spring exhibition *It's Time for Tea*. The program closed with a behind-the-scenes tour of the Society Archives led by Nicole Menchise.



... AND THERE

Archivist Nicole Menchise and Director Phil Blocklyn visited Mr. Andriaccio's 7th Grade American History Classes at the Oyster Bay High School to discuss the hamlet's contributions to the American Civil War. Students had a chance to see letters, photographs, Confederate currency, enlistment and recruitment documents—even an absentee ballot cast by an African American soldier (for President Lincoln's re-election).

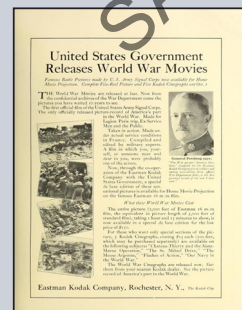


Although Oyster Bay's connections to the American Revolution may be better known, the program helped illustrate the roles everyday people in Oyster Bay played during the Civil War.

WWI DOCUMENTARY SCREENING WINS "OVER HERE!"

Commemorating the 100-year anniversary of the events that sparked the beginning of World War I, the Society held a special screening in July of the silent WWI documentaries in our collection. Originally distributed in 1919, the documentaries are part of a larger series created by the War Department and include footage from battles in "No Man's Land", the U.S.S. Leviathan, the sinking of battleships by U-boats, as well as the capture of German prisoners and Armistice Day celebrations. Keeping us engaged was the "epic soundtrack" that accompanied the footage. Based on the success of the first screening, the Society is planning another viewing in 2015.

"It was a real pleasure to have the opportunity to view such rare archival footage in such a convivial setting." Sheila Lieber



LATEST FROM THE ARCHIVES

The past twelve months have been all about the textiles.

For those of you who haven't been around the Society for a while, I've been giving the textile collection a complete overhaul. Textiles, as you may or may not know, are items that not only derive from cloth, but may include organic matter such as leather (shoes) or feathers (hats). The Society is fortunate to have so many uniquely Oyster Bay items in the collection; however, the sources of some of the pieces are unknown, and many were never fully documented.

I took it upon myself to catalog all of the textiles in the Society's collection. This entailed searching through past donor paperwork to find whatever I could about the 200+ pieces in the collection; photographing items extensively; describing the items in great detail; creating unique object numbers and labeling the items with tags; wrapping each item carefully in new, acid free paper; and placing them in new, archival textile boxes with labels - finally ready for their place on the shelf.

During this phase of the project, I was so inspired by the headwear in the collection, that it was easy to convince Director Blocklyn to have an exhibit based entirely on those items. Look for the *Hats Off!* exhibit in the summer of 2015.

If that wasn't enough to keep me busy, the document and object donations to the Society have been very exciting this year. Turns out that our exhibit *Snow Day in Oyster Bay* brought forth some unexpected after-the-fact donations. Ken Summers, the son of Oscar Summers who managed the Ski Center in the mid-1950s, offered the Society six wooden signs that his family kept from the time the Center was in operation. When it comes to collections development, we sometimes have to wait to see what folks will uncover and be willing to part with. In this case it was the exhibit that inspired the donation, when it's usually the other way around.

My next two projects for the archives will be: first, to re-sort, re-file and re-index our "vertical file" of materials (newspaper clippings, past researchers' notes, etc.); and second, to arrange and catalog the Society's objects.

There is so much to do and so many fun and interesting public programs ahead. I hope that you will consider making time to visit the Society soon.

Enthusiastically yours,

Nicole Menchise
Librarian/Archivist



SPECIAL THANKS TO THIS YEAR'S DONORS

Thomas Abbe
Marion Baker
Linda Bruder
Mark Buxton
Christine Colon
Caroline DuBois

Robyn Ham
John Hammond
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Peter Hayward
David Kellogg
Puneeta Mittal

Dana Moriarty
Ellen Nicoll
Whitney Roberts
Elizabeth Roosevelt
Herb Schierhorst
Ken Summers

We'd like to thank the following Oyster Bay Organizations for their donations:

Boys and Girls Club of Oyster Bay-East Norwich
Christ Church, Episcopal Parish, Oyster Bay
Oyster Bay High School

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Staff members of the Society traveled to Washington, DC, in August to participate in the annual conference of the Society of American Archivists. Nicole Menchise, the Society's archivist, took part in a panel discussion that offered advice to students and young professionals regarding their graduate school internships.

The Society also participated in a two-day professional poster session held during the conference. This year's poster entry summarized the Society's atlas digitization project which Ms. Menchise developed during the summer of 2012. Ms. Menchise said: "People from all over came up

to ask questions about how it was accomplished and how they could use the same methods on their collections' larger tomes and atlases. It was a great feeling to share this project with the hundreds of folks that stopped to read what we had going on at our small but influential Society."

The conference provided a week of educational sessions, roundtables, and panel discussions on how archivists can provide broader public access to their collections. On the final evening, attendees enjoyed a reception in the Library of Congress's Thomas Jefferson Building, featuring a behind-the-scenes visit to the Library's immense card catalog.



ANNUAL FUNDRAISERS

CLAMS ON THE COVE



Friday, June 6

Clams on The Cove

A CHARITABLE EVENT TO BENEFIT THE OYSTER BAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY featuring live music by

CROSTOWN BLUES BAND

with craft beers from THE OYSTER BAY BREWING COMPANY AND TOMMY CLAMS CATERING

Party starts at six, clams served at seven... till they're gone!

\$75 per person

All Cove Neck Road Oyster Bay, NY



Summer had barely arrived when the Oyster Bay Historical Society launched the first annual **Clams on The Cove** benefit. The event was held at Evergreens, the beautiful Cove Neck home of Robert Greco and Elli Zaverdas. We were pleased to have food provided by Tommy Clams Catering, music by the Crosstown Blues Band, and local craft beers by Oyster Bay Brewing Company. There was such positive feedback that we know **Clams on The Cove** will become a much anticipated summer tradition for the Oyster Bay Historical Society.

OYSTER FESTIVAL



PEOPLE ARE TALKING...

Because the Oyster Bay Historical Society is such a busy place, visitors often ask us, "How can we volunteer? We'd love to help." And that's important. But I still think that a great way anyone can support the Society is by simply joining in. Attend a book signing or lecture, an exhibition and its opening reception, an arts-and-crafts workshop, a concert, an open house, a gallery talk, film screening, or ice cream social. We don't have to put you to work. You just have to show up and take part. Learn how to preserve your family's scrapbooks, or how to create a mini-book, or fire raku pottery. So what exactly is arm knitting, anyway? Come and find out.

And join us, literally, by becoming a member, or by renewing your current membership. Each year, as a member, you will be supporting us in everything we do to preserve the history of Oyster Bay and make it accessible to everyone. At a time when historical societies everywhere are rebranding themselves as history centers, or history connections, or history clubs, we still think of ourselves as a society of diverse people who share a love of the past and its place in our present lives.

Thank you for joining,

Philip Blocklyn
Executive Director

P.S. When you join you will be eligible to receive your limited-edition, members-only copy of *Out Of The Box*. This year's issue catalogs the fall 2013 exhibition, "Four Pounds Sterling." Pick up your copy at any Historical Society event during 2015.



Join Today!

Renew or open your membership to enjoy a full year of benefits including:

- Admission to the Earle Wightman House Museum and the Koenig Center
- Invitations to receptions and previews of Museum-selected special exhibitions
- Members' Party
- Out of the Box magazine featuring highlights from the collections
- 10% discount on purchases at The Windfall Gift Shop

SPECIAL OFFER FOR THOSE IN THE 11771 ZIP CODE - \$20 INDIVIDUAL/ \$30 DUAL OR FAMILY MEMBERSHIP!

Individual	\$35	_____
Dual/Family	\$45	_____
Contributing	\$75	_____
Sponsor	\$100	_____
Sustaining	\$250	_____
Patron	\$500	_____
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Please make checks payable to the Oyster Bay Historical Society and mail to: OBHS, P.O. Box 297, Oyster Bay NY 11771 or join online at www.oysterbayhistorical.org

All contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.