

# *The Franklin Square Historical Society* **NEWSLETTER**

P.O. Box 45, Franklin Square, NY

Aug – Sept. 2022

Volume XLIII No. 1

## **FALL FESTIVAL** **SATURDAY, OCT. 1 — 10:00 A.M. — 4:00 P.M.** *(RAIN DATE — SUN. OCT. 2)*

### **We need everyone's help with the upcoming Fall Festival**

**Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.** — Help set-up the large Tent on the Museum grounds

**Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> — 7:00 — 10:00 a.m.** — Help with set-up for the event

**10:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.** — Help staff the Society sale booths, crafts table and sell the food

**4:00 p.m.** — Help with clean up and packing up our supplies, food and EZ up tents

### **Better yet — come and spend the day with us!**

### **It's fun and a great service to the museum and our community.**



♦ *Museum activities for the day include: selling tickets for raffle baskets, and Society merchandise including many books written by Dr. Paul Van Wie, sweatshirts, T shirts, DVD's, Christmas ornaments, afghans and firehouse pillows, plus our "trash & treasures" booth.*

♦ *Over 25 vendors have paid for a spot to sell their items on the day.*

♦ *There will also be a craft area for the children, as well as a decorated photo area and we hope to have a person in costume for photos with the children.*

♦ *Food choices include coffee and crumb cake, hot dogs, bratwurst, cold drinks and snacks.*

**If you can help with setting up on Sept. 30 or any time on Oct. 1 - the day of the Festival, please call Nancy Youngfert at 516-352-8376 or email her at [nyoungfert@aol.com](mailto:nyoungfert@aol.com) and let her know how you can help us raise funds for our museum and all Society activities.**

## **A Personal Message of Thanks to Dr. Paul Van Wie**

The Historical Society is indebted to Paul Van Wie for his many years of hard work guiding the organization to the point that we can celebrate our fully-functioning museum and ongoing programs. Paul is stepping down from the Presidency for a while, but staying on as the Society's Historian. This means as Vice-President, I am moving into the role of President. I have accepted this position with more than a little awe. The job has been made easier because of the major work already done, funding is starting to meet the needs of the building, and the Board of Trustees members are as dedicated as they have always been.

There is simply no way to express the thanks the community owes Paul and all the visionaries who conceived of, and then built, a museum for our town! I will do everything I can to keep the original vision for the museum moving forward.

With sincere thanks for this opportunity!

Nancy Youngfert, President, Franklin Square Historical Society

## TUNE IN—F.S. HISTORICAL SOCIETY INTERVIEW ON WHPC RADIO

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, Nancy and Bill Youngfert were invited to the Nassau Community College WHPC radio station to tell the story of our Franklin Square Museum. The 30-minute show will be aired on 90.3 FM on Thursday, September 22, at 3:30 p.m. and repeated on Sunday, September 25, at 7:30 a.m. It may also be heard on Podcast by September 23. You can listen on your phone or tablet by searching for WHPC on the 'Audacy,' 'iHeartRadio' or 'TuneIn' apps, or on a smart speaker by asking it to "Play WHPC!" Tune in to hear how Nancy and Bill communicate the mission of the society in building the museum and describe our plans for public visits on a regular schedule starting in October.



### It's Here—Another 50-50 Raffle!

We are excited to announce the return of our very popular 50/50 Raffle Fundraiser. Tickets cost \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. We're enclosing six tickets (be sure to fill in your name and phone number so we can contact our winner). If you want additional tickets, feel free to make copies. Tickets must be received by November 26, 2022. The prize drawing will take place at our December membership meeting and the winner will have some extra money for the holidays! Send your completed tickets with your payment to the Franklin Square Historical Society, P.O. Box 45, Franklin Square, NY 11010.

#### 50/50 RAFFLE – \$2 each / or 3 for \$5

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

#### 50/50 RAFFLE – \$2 each / or 3 for \$5

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages Presents \$10,000 Check for Museum**

On August 9, 2022, NYS Assemblywoman Michaelle C. Solages came to our museum for a tour of the displays. She had visited several years ago but that was before all the showcases were in place with completed displays. So she enjoyed seeing all the great Franklin Square historical artifacts, especially the melted coins from the player piano in the Kalb Hotel fire back in 1923. She was also interested in learning more about the Museum's effort to help raise awareness of heritage plants in cooperation with Boy Scout Matthew Meaney, who constructed the new raised beds in the rear of the museum as part of his Eagle Scout project.



At the conclusion of the tour, Assemblywoman Michaelle C. Solages presented us with a check from New York State for \$10,000 to help pay our ongoing expenses at the museum. A staunch supporter of the museum, she also spent some time with the Historical Society officers discussing how we do our fund raising and offering advice on soliciting donations. She recommended we add a donation page to our website which Bill Youngfert has started working on right away



As a society, we are immensely grateful for Assemblywoman Solages' ongoing interest in our activities, for taking time out of her busy schedule to actually visit the museum, and, of course, for her efforts in bringing the work of the Society to the attention of the State, resulting in this very generous \$10,000 grant.

## **CENTRAL NASSAU ROTARY HELPS AT MUSEUM**

The Central Nassau County Rotary Club has been a huge supporter of our museum and in 2019 donated \$6,000 to the Society to help purchase cabinets and appliances to finish our kitchen. In July, they held their Board and Service Meeting at the Museum and then stayed to help prepare our June/July Newsletter mailing.

Sincere thanks to the Central Nassau County Rotary members for all their help!



*(L to R): Sec'y -Lucille Marzolini, Past Pres-Rony Kessler, and Co-Presidents -Carl Gerrato and Bill Youngfert*



## Save the Date—Thurs., Oct. 6—7:00 p.m.— Membership Meeting

Our first in-person meeting in two years — and a chance to honor Paul van Wie

### INVESTORS BANK GIVES GRANT TO THE SOCIETY

Several months ago, the Historical Society applied for a grant from Investors Bank. The application was prepared by our Secretary, Bill Youngfert, and he was delighted to receive a phone call early this summer informing him that a check for \$1,000 would be coming to the Society. On July 22, officers of the Society were pleased to visit the Investors Bank branch in Franklin Square at the corner of Semton Blvd. and Hempstead Turnpike to receive a check from Lucille Marzolini, the bank manager. The photo shows them in front of an old photo of the Franklin Hook and Ladder Company that is proudly hanging in the bank. Lucille expressed continuing support for the Society and offered to place an ad for our Fall Festival on the large TV screen in the bank to remind the community of the event!



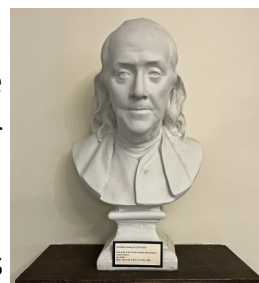
### A LOOK BACK AT THE HISTORY OF FRANKLIN SQUARE

*By Dr. Paul van Wie*

Under the leadership of Arthur T. Roth (1905 – 1997) the Franklin Square National Bank was renamed the Franklin National Bank. Benjamin Franklin was subsequently adopted as the Bank's symbol. As an instantly recognizable American and icon of thrift and industry, the choice was an appropriate one. Images of Franklin appeared on printed materials, signs, artwork and even a well-known statue at Roosevelt Field.

This white bisque bust of Benjamin Franklin once graced a niche inside the Bank's headquarters. It stands nearly two feet high and is virtually a life-size image of the famous patriot.

When the Franklin National Bank collapsed in 1974, most images and memorabilia relating to Benjamin Franklin were removed from the Bank's branches to make way for the European-American Bank, or EAB. This bust of Franklin was acquired by a bank employee who had little practical use for it. She eventually placed it in the basement of her house in Woodmere, Long Island. Fifteen years later in 1989, Franklin Square Village Historian and Hempstead Town Landmarks Commissioner Paul van Wie was inspecting the Woodmere home for possible landmark status. While walking through the darkened basement of the old home, he came face to face with the bust. Startled, he asked the owner of its significance and expressed interest in it on behalf of the Franklin Square Historical Society. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Duffy immediately and very generously donated the bust to the Society, and so that day it was returned to Franklin Square. It was ceremoniously unveiled at a Historical Society meeting in 1989 to the great delight of the membership, and it began a new life as a focal point of the new Franklin Square Museum.



## Spotlight on Our Supporting Businesses

### GIBRALTAR HOME IMPROVEMENTS, INC.

Gibraltar Home Improvements is located at 483 Franklin Avenue in Franklin Square. The business was started in 1979 by owner Daniel Goldberg in Richmond Hill and they have 10 employees. They offer FREE estimates & design, personal service and financing. Customer satisfaction is their number one goal and in fact, much of their growth and success over the years has been due to repeat customers and referrals from happy homeowners. Reliability, honesty and respect for their customers and their home improvements needs are always Gibraltar Home Improvements' top priority and have gained them a top rating of A+ with the Better Business Bureau for Customer Satisfaction. They strive to offer the best value in Home Improvements and convenient payment methods as well as Special and Senior Discounts on all interior remodeling and exterior projects. They are open Monday thru Friday 8:30 AM – 5:30 PM. Their website is at <https://www.gibraltarihi.com>. You are invited to contact them at 516-408-2500.



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