



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

P.O. Box 45, Franklin Square, NY

January 2023

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First Graders Pilot Visit to Museum

On Friday, January 20th, first graders from Ms. Montalto's class at John Street School visited the Franklin Square Museum. As part of a pilot program to introduce students from the Franklin Square schools to the town's history, one first grade class was introduced to five areas of the museum: schools, home, toys, banking and technology long ago. The pilot will allow the museum docents to map a curriculum which will be offered to all first graders beginning with the 2023-24 school year.



A similar model was utilized last year with fourth grade students from the Franklin Square School District. The program was piloted with a small number of students with the plan of full implementation in 2023. Beginning on March 3rd and continuing during the month of March each fourth grade from the John Street, Polk Street and Washington Street School will experience the excitement of visiting our beautiful museum and learning about life in Franklin Square long ago.

Many thanks to the Museum's team of dedicated docents who helped with the first grade pilot: **Eleanor Molina, Mary Jane Dunn, Mary Ann Grey, MaryAnn Scatamacchia, Barbara Priolo, Adrienne McKenna and Julie Soffientini.** Special thanks to **Nancy and Bill Youngfert, Pat Realmuto and Paul Van Wie** for all of their help and support for the school museum visits.



Historical Society Members are invited to visit our special exhibit:

Before Plastic—Pottery in Everyday Long Island Life

Sunday, February 12, 2023—2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Museum

Paul van Wie will guide us through the exhibit
with a wine and cheese reception to follow.

Space is limited, if you plan to attend please, call 516- 775-7260.



Sunday, February 5—2:00-4:00 p.m. Museum Open (continuing first Sunday of every month)

Wednesday, February 8—7:00 p.m. Historical Society Meeting at Fr. Sq. Library

"How Franklin Square Got Its Name"

Thursday, April 26—6:00 p.m.—Annual Dinner—Honoring

Gina & Vincent Centauro of Rescuing Families & former NYS Senator Kemp Hannon

Call 516-775-7260 if you need another reservation form. You don't want to miss this event!

Reminder: Please send your 2023 Membership Renewal — Thanks to all who have already!



A Tribute to Elizabeth McIsaac

The Society was saddened to learn of the passing of Elizabeth Linehan McIsaac recently. Elizabeth, known affectionately as “Betty” was one of the most dedicated members in the history of the Society. Elizabeth was born and grew up in the Linehan family home on Randolph Avenue. She attended the local schools, graduating from Washington Street School and Sewanhaka High School. One of her childhood memories was delivering the Franklin Square Bulletin newspaper to her neighbors. Elizabeth’s father was active in Franklin Square civic affairs, and she inherited his activism.



After her marriage, Elizabeth moved to Westchester County. After becoming a widow, however, she returned to the family home which she shared with her elder sister, Helen. In 1992 Elizabeth and Helen joined the Historical Society. Elizabeth was elected Treasurer, and then for many years she served as Vice-President of the Society. When the Building Campaign was launched in 1993, Elizabeth was appointed Committee Chair. From 1993 until 2017, she worked tirelessly at that post, planning fundraisers, annual dinners, garage sales, and selling chances.

During those years, the Historical Society was really a full-time job for Elizabeth, who worked on Society business on a daily basis. Her energy and dedication were amazing. She and her sister, for example, counted 1 million pennies at their kitchen table. The culmination of Elizabeth’s work took place in September 2017, when the Museum building was dedicated. As Building Chair, she was given the honor of cutting the ribbon. She thoroughly enjoyed the day, and seeing the project come to fruition.

Elizabeth had many close friends in the Society. They enjoyed sociable dinners together, took vacations together on the Society’s entertaining trips around the country, and looked forward to our picnics and events. Elizabeth was a loyal parishioner of St. Catherine’s Church, where she was baptized and married. It was a pleasure to see how much she loved her hometown. In 2018, in declining health, Elizabeth moved to Colorado, where her brother George’s large family lives. We send our condolences to the Linehan family, as we remember Elizabeth as one of our own who has left an indelible legacy in her beloved hometown.

Franklin Square National Bank and Art Lecture at the FS Library

On Monday, February 13 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., join our Dr. Paul Van Wie for a program on the Franklin National Bank murals on display in the F.S. Library. The murals expound the theme “The Future Is Now” which encouraged people to save money in the bank because they would need savings for a future which was just around the corner. Learn about local landmarks and people depicted in the paintings as well as the fascinating story of how the paintings came to reside in the F.S. Library!



Cash Drawing Returns at Fr. Sq. Historical Society Annual Dinner

The drawing will take place at the Annual Dinner on Wed., April 26, 2023.

You do NOT have to be present to win!

First Prize \$125 Second Prize \$75 Third Prize \$50

Mail your tickets and check to: Fr. Sq. Historical Society, Box 45, Franklin Sq., NY 11010

CASH DRAWING – \$1 each / or 6 for \$5

Name _____

Address: _____

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Name _____

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Phone # _____

CASH DRAWING – \$1 each / or 6 for \$5

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CASH DRAWING – \$1 each / or 6 for \$5

Name _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____

The Eith Family Donates Family Artifacts to The Museum

Members of the Eith family who grew up in Franklin Square have shared some of their family history with us. Their family ancestors were farmers who came from Germany and worked farms in Staten Island and Brooklyn before Ronnie Eith, Sr. bought a house on Jefferson Street in Franklin Square. When he purchased his house, the plot plan he received included several other homes to be built on the surrounding property. The development of Rath Park prevented that. However, thanks to this donation, we now hold that original plot plan along with a list of all the other families who were living on Jefferson Street at the time.

Ronnie Eith, Sr., who worked at Grumman for many years, also served as a volunteer fireman with the Franklin Square & Munson Fire Department. His fireman's turnout coat and helmet were also donated to our museum. Our thanks to the Eiths for their generous donation.

If your family has some items you think might be suitable for our museum call Bill Youngfert, the Historical Society Secretary at 516-775-7260.



We are looking for donations of new items for gift baskets for our annual dinner. Please call Nancy Youngfert (516-352-8376) if you have items the Society could use.





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