

# The Franklin Square Historical Society & Museum NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 45, Franklin Square, NY

January 2025

Volume XLV No. 3

## A Wonderful Winterfest Event

If you came by the Rath Park Gazebo on December 7<sup>th</sup> you found the Franklin Square Historical Society and Museum and the Franklin Square Civic Association holding their annual very popular winter festival.

Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived on a fire truck courtesy of the Franklin Square and Munson Fire Department and were happy to see lots of children waiting for them to be seated on the decorated gazebo. The children lined up and waited to tell Santa that they had been good all year and what they were hoping to receive for Christmas. Santa listened to each child and then gave a small gift to each one.



The day included vendors selling a variety of holiday décor, a hands-on craft project for the kids, hot chocolate & coffee, raffles and a tour of the museum with its nine-foot tree decorated with hand blown ornaments; a large holiday model train layout circling the counters, a display of Christmas Snow Village houses on each counter and an Italian creche.

Samples of German stollen were handed out. Many families came to enjoy the displays! State Assemblyman Ed Ra, State Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages and County Legislator John Giuffre visited and as Santa did the countdown the large Christmas tree by the Museum was lit and the crowd cheered. It was a wonderful event and we want to thank the H. Frank Carey Honor Society students who helped as well as all the residents who came to celebrate the season with us. We look forward to next year's visit from Santa & Mrs. Claus.

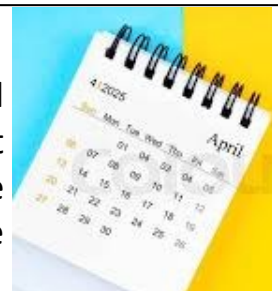


# Winterfest 2024



## **We've Set the Date—Mark Your Calendar!**

Please save the date of Thursday, April 24, 2025, for our Annual Historical Society Dinner at 6:30 PM at the Plattduetsche Park Restaurant. Next month, we'll announce the name of our 2025 Citizen of the Year Honoree in our newsletter and we'll provide an order form so you can reserve your place for this gala event for our town!



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## Elaine Phillips Visit

Nassau County Comptroller Elaine Phillips, a staunch supporter of our Historical Society, contacted us shortly before the recent Winterfest to express her regrets that she would be out of the country and unable to attend our Winterfest. We arranged a special visit for her to visit December 17 when she enjoyed our holiday displays, spending quite a bit of time looking over the Snow Village houses, trains and the Italian creche. She even purchased one of the holiday wreaths decorated by our docents in yet another demonstration of her support for the Society.



## A "Surprise" Visit

On December 18<sup>th</sup> as we were giving a tour of our holiday displays in the museum, we heard a knocking on the door of the museum. When we opened the door there was a family from Chile who were visiting and found our Museum listed in a Google search! They were hoping we were open to visitors. We of course were delighted to let them come in and they spent a half hour looking at our holiday displays and seeing the trains running. We were very touched by this unplanned visit.

## It's Time to Renew Your Annual Membership—Use This Form

FRANKLIN SQUARE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP (RENEWAL) to December 2025

Name *(please print)* \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your choice of Membership Category

### Individual

- Regular—\$25
- Contributing—\$30
- Supporting—\$50
- Patron—\$100

### Couple—Family

- Regular—\$35
- Contributing—\$40
- Supporting—\$60
- Patron—\$110

Can you help with an additional \$10 donation to help us create raffle baskets for our dinner?  
Please check the box at the left and add the \$10 to your regular membership fee.

**Checks should be made out to the Franklin Square Historical Society  
and mailed to PO Box 45, Franklin Square, NY 11010**



## Franklin Square Forward—Update

**Franklin Square Forward** is a coalition of Franklin Square residents dedicated to the renewal and improvement of our village. The working group was formed in response to the need to upgrade and improve Franklin Square's historic downtown area along Hempstead Turnpike. Franklin Square Forward's current emphasis, therefore, is to create and implement a plan to create a thriving, attractive downtown, and one which preserves the historic suburban character of our village.

At an October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Plattduetsche Park Restaurant attended by over 250 community members the following resolutions were passed:

- That the working group, called "Franklin Square Forward" be authorized to present the basic ideas presented this evening to public officials in an effort to obtain grants and appropriate measures to improve our downtown;
- That Franklin Square Forward create a website to inform every Franklin Square household of the progress of this effort and what has been presented this evening;
- That Franklin Square Forward investigate appropriate methods to promote the revitalization of the downtown in partnership with other organizations, public officials, local governments, and property owners so that all of these stakeholders might benefit from the efforts.
- That Franklin Square Forward schedule a follow-up informational meeting in the future.

The members of **Franklin Square Forward** represent a diverse, non-partisan cross-section of local organizations. We are united by our commitment to our hometown, and we encourage all local residents who share our goals to participate in envisioning a renewed downtown we can all be proud of. The committees are listed below:

How Have Other Communities That Got Revitalized Received Funding?

NY Forward Grant

FS Theatre

Landmarking Ordinances

Streetscaping

How To Best Communicate to FS Our Progress

Reach Out to Our Elected Officials for Their Assistance

Who Owns Business Buildings in FS – Award for "Best Landlord"

List of Businesses in Franklin Square - Oldest to Newest

Identify Historic Buildings to Landmark

If you would like to be part of any of the committees, please contact Bill Youngfert at 516-775-7260 or by e-mail at [franklinsquareforward@gmail.com](mailto:franklinsquareforward@gmail.com). You will be contacted by the committee chair to schedule a meeting and join others who have volunteered for each committee.

Another large group committee meeting will be scheduled in February.



## Tina Riccobono

We are sad to announce the passing of the one of the longest serving members of the Franklin Square Historical Society, Gaetana (Tina) Riccobono. Tina passed on December 1, 2024. Tina and her husband Frank moved to Madison Street, Franklin Square sixty-two years ago from Throop Avenue in Brooklyn. Frank was trustee of the Historical Society and assisted in the building process for the Franklin Square Museum. Tina was his loyal sidekick and a force in her own right. There were few who were as effective as Tina at persuading local businesses to donate raffle prizes for our events.

Tina worked for Astoria Federal Bank for over 20 years. She was also a member of St. Catherine of Sienna church and participated in many community activities. She and Frank were married sixty-six years and Tina was a mother of four children, grandmother of six and great grandmother of another six. She will be truly missed by the members of the Franklin Square Historical Society.

## 50 / 50 Raffle Drawing

We want to thank Mary Ann Coklo who was the winner of the 50/50 Raffle at the December Winterfest and generously donated \$175 that she won to our classroom building fund. Now there's another chance for you to win our next raffle when the drawing is held at our Annual Dinner on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Simply fill out the tickets below (make as many copies as you need) and send your completed tickets with your check made out to the Franklin Square Historical Society to PO 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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





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