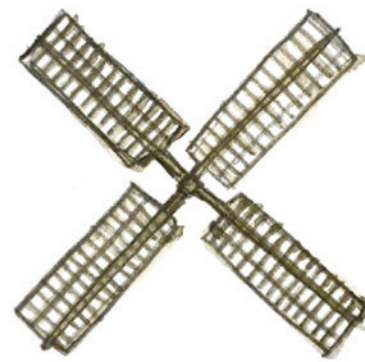


THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF EAST HAMPTON

FALL NEWSLETTER
2024



VPSEH

Village Preservation Society
of East Hampton

2024 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD CEREMONY

By Georgia de Havenon, Historic Preservation Committee Chair

It was a grey day outside, but there was a bright ambiance inside as the Village Preservation Society held its Annual Meeting and Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony on September 28 at the Tennis House on Maidstone Lane. Dave Brown, President of the Village Preservation Society, welcomed everyone. He gave a brief overview of our goals for the meeting, thanking those responsible for organizing it and honored the memory of Polly Bruckmann, a long-time Trustee and Doug Mercer, husband of Trustee Pat Mercer.



Photo Credit: Kathy Cunningham

Kathee Burke-Gonzalez, East Hampton Town Supervisor, receives 2024 VPSEH Historic Preservation Award, in public category, from Georgia de Havenon.



Photo Credit: Kathy Cunningham

2024 VPSEH Historic Preservation Award Winners in private category, Kristen & Robert DeLaMater receive their award from Georgia de Havenon (center)

In her introduction to the seventh annual award ceremony, Georgia de Havenon, Chair of the Historic Preservation Committee, quoted from the National Trust for Historic Preservation website: “Historical sites are physical reminders of the diversity of our experiences and the history we share.”

“Wayside” the Dr. George E. Munroe house of 1888, designed by Isaac Henry Green, Jr., and located at 24 Ocean Avenue, was given the award for a private project. Kristen and Robert DeLaMater, owners of the home and individuals responsible for its preservation, accepted the bronze plaque awarded for the sensitive restoration of their

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2024 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD CEREMONY *continued from p. 1*

Photo Credit: Kathy Cunningham



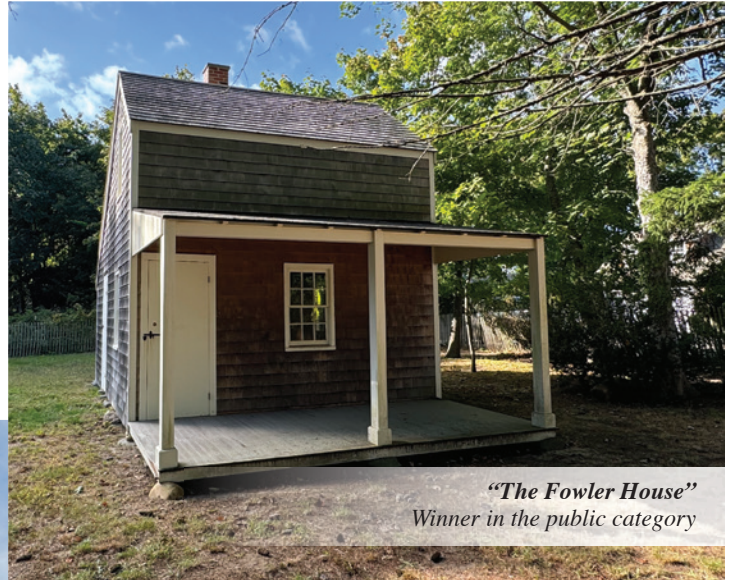
Speaker, Hugh R. King, East Hampton Town Historian

quintessential shingle style residence that they combined with a tasteful addition. The architectural firm of Fink and Platt were responsible for the work along with John Hummel Builders. Mr. DeLaMater gave an eloquent short acknowledgment of the honor, mentioning that this was the third house over 100 years old in which they had lived. Janet Fink and Arthur Platt spoke about the painstaking work they did, from

restoring the “eared” columns on the porch to restoring each window, a project that stretched out eight months.

George Fowler worked as a gardener for Thomas Moran, the Home Sweet Home inhabitants, and others. He also drove Moran’s gondola on occasion.

Kathee Burke-Gonzalez, Supervisor of the Town of East Hampton, accepted the award. The Montaukett Indian Nation was also acknowledged at this time. In her acceptance speech she surprised the audience by announcing that the Town is planning to acquire 66 Wainscott Main St, the Osborne Farm, adjoining Wainscott Pond, thus making access to the pond possible for the public.



“The Fowler House”
Winner in the public category

Photo Credit: Kathy Cunningham

“Wayside” Winner in the private category



Photo: © Paul Rivera

The award for a public project was given to the Town of East Hampton for the George and Sarah Fowler House, dating from the late 19th century, at 95 Springs Fireplace Road; restored by Ben Krupinski Builders in 2018. The Fowler House is particularly significant, even though it is a modest saltbox structure, because it is the only surviving structure in which members of the Montaukett Indian Nation lived. It is located in the Freetown area of East Hampton, a section of the Town in which freed slaves and indigenous people lived.

Hugh King, the official historian of the Village and Town of East Hampton, then regaled us with insights into the award winners and their places in local lore. In particular, a quiz format regarding the Fowler House and how various individuals, as wide-ranging as Thomas Moran to Dick Cavett, were connected to the home was not only amusing, but factual too. He also evoked the late 19th century architectural history of East Hampton recounting how Isaac Henry Green, Jr., an important architect, who designed numerous structures in the Village, and often is credited with popularizing the gambrel roof and introducing the shingle style cottage to this area.



Attendees

Photo Credit: Kathy Cunningham

The meeting was then adjourned and all enjoyed the delicious homemade hors d’oeuvres, provided by the Trustees of the Village Preservation Society and organized so capably by Trustee Missy Egbert Sheehan.

WELCOME OUR NEW TRUSTEES!

By Missy Egbert Sheehan

Rose Brown

Rose Brown has lived her entire life in East Hampton. Born and raised here, she resides in the Village and is married to Greg Brown, an East Hampton Village Police Lieutenant. They have three children. Rose graduated from East Hampton High School and received her BA from Loyola University in Baltimore, MD. and a Masters degree in Social

Work from Fordham University in New York. She has worked in the field of architecture and design. She is presently employed as assistant to cookbook author and host of Barefoot Contessa & Be My Guest, Ina Garten. Rose has been involved with many local civic groups and nonprofits and has served on the Village Planning Board as its Chairwoman, and the Design Review Board, both appointed positions. In 2018, she was elected as Village Trustee, receiving the highest number of votes in a competitive election for two seats as only the second woman to be elected to the Village Board. Rose served one four-year term on the Village Board and retired from that position in 2022.



Photo Credit: Kathy Cunningham

eventually running RSA, a production company for Ridley and Tony Scott. She then went on to run her own film production company making television commercials. Lisa traveled the world, learned a lot and retired from the film business to raise a family. Currently, Lisa writes speeches and consults for film companies and directors. She loves her house in East Hampton and is happiest when in residence here.

Glenn Purcell

Glenn has devoted a lot of time to the preservation and exhibition of the historic contributions of the Dominy Craftsman, arguably East Hampton's most important contribution to the art form of that age. Glenn attended Fashion Institute of Technology in New York and the Winchester College of Art in Great Britain majoring in textile design. He presently owns a textile company LPK Textiles International, LLC in New York serving luxury textile clientele representing top European mills. Previously, he was Senior



Photo Credit: Kathy Cunningham

Vice President of Design and Development at New York & Company and also led all fabric design and development for Anne Klein Collection. Glenn and his partner, Charles Keller, are local experts on the Dominy family. He has curated exhibitions of their work and that of Thomas and Mary Nimmo Moran for the East Hampton Historical Society.

Lisa Dortch

Lisa and her husband have lived in East Hampton and Los Angeles for 30 years. She has been an active resident working to preserve the historic neighborhood character of the community, actively observing the variance process for commercial projects in residential districts. She was educated at Cortland State University and then Cornell before landing a career in the film industry as a producer



Photo Credit: Kathy Cunningham

"The primary obligation of a Trustee in a not-for-profit organization is to ensure its mission can be achieved by making decisions that support the institution and ensures its fiscal capability to do so. We value the time and effort our volunteer Board dedicates to the VPSEH and the Village and its surrounds. We look forward to many productive years with our new Trustees."

Reports at the Friends of Geogica Pond Annual Meeting on August 25th indicated notable progress in mitigating the impacts of blue-green algae growth over a now ten-year period, a significant milestone in data measurement. The most dramatic decreases were assessed during periods when the microalgal harvester was working during the summer months. Paired alongside an elevated interest and monitoring by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, the sectors of the community that contribute to the nitrogen loading which creates inhospitable conditions for marine life and water quality, are roughly aligned with those of Dr. Christopher Gobler, science advisor for the FOGP, and Chair of Coastal Ecology and Conservation at the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences at Stony Brook University, who oversees the Friends water management program. The greatest contributors to poor water quality are outdated septic systems and lawn fertilizers, areas over which positive influence can be exercised.

Blue-green algae, even in small amounts, carry neurotoxins that kill fish, eels, birds and dogs. These toxins carry through the food chain and can kill larger animals or birds of prey that feed on the smaller creatures infected with these neurotoxins. Harvesting pond weed has high quality impacts to the water by removing this piece of the algae food chain, however, even this remarkable effort isn't enough to stem the growth of this toxin. The only real remedy is for residents to install low-nitrogen septic systems, and there are

many more options available now that ever before. Rebates are still available and everyone, particularly property owners along the shorelines of any of our surface water bodies should install these systems. For information on this process please visit: <https://ehamptonny.gov/588/Suffolk-County-New-York-State-Grants>.

In related news, the Town of East Hampton is anticipating a purchase with Community Preservation Fund (CPF) money of the old Osborn Farm in Wainscott, some 30-acres bordering Wainscott Pond, one of our most challenged water bodies. This purchase will enable to the Town to commence serious water mitigation projects around Wainscott Pond, while retaining a vital agricultural source, and critical rural vista in Wainscott. A public hearing for this purchase will be held on October 17th at Town Hall. We vigorously support this purchase and applaud the Town's efforts in this arena.

Last but not least, the VPSEH welcomes new FOGP Executive Director, soon-to-be-retired NYS Assemblyman, Fred Thiele, who brings with him decades of government experience and the strongest possible ties to our community as a local Sag Harbor fellow. Former FOGP Executive Director, Sara Davison, retired from her position after eight years of extraordinary leadership during extraordinary times. We bid Ms. Davison as fond 'adieu' and look forward to continuing our good working partnership with FOGP under Mr. Thiele's leadership.

IN MEMORIAM

Mary T. Bruckmann

By Kathleen Cunningham



Polly Bruckmann served the Village of East Hampton and the community at large in her many volunteer capacities the entirety of her life, several decades of work. Her tireless efforts to preserve East Hampton's history, its way of life and natural environment were second to none. We lost her

this summer at 90 years of age. One of our most treasured Trustees, she served as the Vice-President of the VPSEH for over a decade, and contributed her time and resources to achieving the organization's goals. She not only provided wise counsel, but rolled up her sleeves and did the work. Her valued perspective and deep understanding of how so many of the challenges of preservation were interrelated was a unique talent. Our deep condolences go out to Polly's family. She will be sorely missed.

Douglas D. Mercer

By Kathleen Cunningham



The Society and the community at large lost a true champion with the sudden passing of Douglas D. Mercer, beloved husband of dedicated VPSEH Trustee Patricia Mayer Mercer in September.

Doug created the Wellness Foundation in 2005, to address poor nutrition habits and food offerings in public schools and the organization helped to transform the diets and cooking habits of thousands of East Enders. Doug was a true visionary, able to integrate a variety of approaches to address issues of importance to the individual, the family and the community. All gifts to the community simply because he felt it was the right thing to do. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and his loving wife, Pat.

Vote Yes!

for Proposition 2 on the back of your ballot on Election Day, November 5, 2024!

Passage of Suffolk County Water Quality Restoration Act will protect clean water by expanding sewer systems County-wide and provide tax-free grants to homeowners to replace outdated septic systems with clean technology. This will make septic upgrades affordable to both residential and commercial property owners. If approved by voters, a fund will be created by a 1/8 of a penny increase in the County Sales Tax. These monies could only be used to improve water quality in Suffolk County and provide access to other federal and state funding opportunities for clean water projects. Passage of Prop 2 will create thousands of good jobs, revitalize business districts and restore drinking water quality while improving habitat in our local bays and harbors.

LOOK ON THE BACK OF YOUR BALLOT AND VOTE YES ON PROP 2!



**Please fill out, cut along the line and mail to THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY
P.O. Box 2015, East Hampton, NY 11937 • 631-324-3524 • www.villagepreservationsociety.org**

Please enroll me as a member of The Village Preservation Society of East Hampton
for the Membership Year from January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

Number of Members in this Membership _____

For year round Newsletters and information, please print winter address

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Contributors of:

\$ 25,000.00 will be listed as **Chairman's Circle**

\$ 15,000.00 will be listed as **President's Circle**

\$ 10,000.00 will be listed as **Visionary**

\$ 5,000.00 will be listed as **Champion**

\$ 2,500.00 will be listed as **Advocate**

\$ 1,000.00 will be listed as **Benefactor**

\$ 500.00 will be listed as **Patron**

\$ 250.00 will be listed as **Supporting Member**

\$ 100.00 will be listed as **Friend**

Regular Membership (\$50) _____

The Membership Year runs from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

I would like to be active. My special interests are: _____

I (We) support VPS principles but do not wish to be listed as a member.

Enclosed is a contribution of \$ _____

THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

P.O. Box 2015

East Hampton, NY 11937

www.villagepreservationsociety.org

JOAN D. OSBORNE RETIRES FROM VPSEH

By Kathleen Cunningham

Our Board has experienced lots of change in the last several years as the first generation of Trustees has moved on, in one way or another. The Society and the Village, at large, owes these founders a great debt as they have been a strong force in helping to shape the historic, community character that makes this place so special. And valuable.

Among those who leave an extra-ordinary body of work is former VPSEH, Board Chair and President, Joan D. Osborne. Mrs. Osborne has served with distinction on the Board of Trustees since 1995, nearly 30 years.

Joan's particular skill sets: a strong sense of how valuable the history of a place is to its core identity; an ability to quickly understand and articulate the complexities of an issue; a natural directness; an intuitive capacity to get to the root of the problem, were strong assets



to not only the Society, but the Village at large. Joan served not only in the leadership of the Society, but also was the By-Laws Chairwoman and generous donor to the organization over time.

She was an active participant in the 2002 Village Comprehensive Plan and remained a diligent observer of Village government for several decades. Her service to the Society, the Village and the community at large are exemplary.

The Society extends its deep gratitude to Mrs. Osborne for her inspired leadership, genuine interest, and steadfast dedication to the history of this place, the residents of this community and the important work of the Village Preservation Society. We salute her irreplaceable perspective and talent, and we wish her well in her retirement.

Photo Credit: Kathy Cunningham