

FREEPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

FREEPORT, NEW YORK

Newsletter

Spring 2013



Message from the President

Brooklyn Water Works

All Freeporters remember, with fondness, the Brooklyn Water Works building located on North Brookside Avenue just north of the Long Island Rail Road tracks and Sunrise Highway. It was actually the Milburn Pumping Station and was part of an extensive water supply system for the City of Brooklyn that extended to Massapequa. In the 1880s, Brooklyn bought the Milburn Pond which had been the site of Pine's mill. The pumping station was to the north and was designed by the noted architect, Frank Freeman. It was called "Long Island's most ambitious Romanesque Revival design." It was a brick building with towers, arched windows, eyebrow dormers, and a Roman arch for the main entrance. A large stone sign announced that it was the Brooklyn Water Works. Finished in 1891, it housed five steam pumps and could deliver up to 54 million gallons a day.

When Brooklyn was absorbed by the City of New York in 1898, access was available to the Croton aqueduct system and dependence on Long Island water was reduced. The pumping station was used as a standby source until 1929. Since it was only for emergency use, the large smokestacks were removed. By 1977, it was no longer needed and was sold to Nassau County. All the machinery was removed and it fell into disrepair.

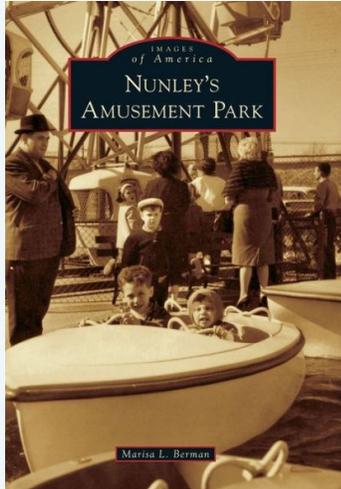
Gary Melius, a real estate developer, bought the property in 1989 for \$1.4 million. His first project was a 48 unit condominium but it was put on hold when the housing market collapsed. Unfortunately, the building suffered from a destructive fire but Melius planned to convert what was left into a nursing home. It was reported that Nassau County had sufficient nursing home beds, and the Board of Health rejected his request. At that time, the Freeport Landmarks Preservation Commission designated the property as a landmark in hopes of saving it.

Because the Water Works was in such disrepair and dangerous, it was bulldozed. Since then the property has been in litigation and Melius proposed building rental apartments. He withdrew his proposal and Nassau County has purchased the property with Environmental Bond money to preserve open space on the south shore. It is now an open field. The Brooklyn Water Works sign needs to be returned to Freeport, as part of the agreement to demolish the property. It is located at Oheka Castle, owned by Gary Melius.

Calendar of events...

- April 28, 2013 Museum opens for the 2013 season
2 - 5 pm
- May 27, 2013 Memorial Day parade
Further details on time and place to follow. Please consider marching or riding with us.
- May 30, 2013 Spring Meeting
7 pm, Freeport Memorial Library
An evening with Marisa Berman who will discuss Nunley's Amusement Park.
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Spring Meeting



MEMORIES OF NUNLEY'S AMUSEMENT PARK

Presented by Marisa Berman author of the recently published Images of America series book entitled *Nunley's Amusement Park, New York*. Ms. Berman will be available for book signing following the presentation.

The description of her book says: "Nunley's Amusement Park in Baldwin, New York, was a beloved family destination for Long Islanders from 1939 until it closed in 1995. The park's most notable attraction was its famed Stein & Goldstein carousel. The Nunley family established numerous amusement parks in the Long Island area, such as those found in Bethpage, Rockaway Beach, and Broad Channel. Nunley's Amusement Park, which was in operation for over 50 years, has a special place in the memories of multiple generations of Long Islanders. After the park closed, the rides and games were sold at auction. In protest, Long Islanders banded together to prevent the carousel from being disassembled and sold off separately. Recognizing the passion residents held for the park, Nassau County stepped in and purchased the beloved carousel, and an elaborate campaign was established for its restoration. The year 2012 marked the 100th anniversary of the famous Nunley's Carousel, which is currently in operation at Museum Row in Garden City, New York."

Refreshments will be served.

Welcome New Members!

Individual

- Marisa Berman
- Tom and Mary Hessel
- Floyd "Hoss" Miller
- Traneice Richardson

Life

- Nancy Chauvin
- Alexandra Marinaccio
- John J. Randall IV
- Denise Rushton

Corporate Life

- Freeport Hotel and Boatel
- Robert Bennett, Rabco Engineering

Introducing our New Trustees...

Patrice Benneward - Patrice is a librarian at the Uniondale Public Library and volunteers at the Museum. She is a member of the Friday night crew who works on digitizing our photographs to put up on the Internet. She also appeared in the video on the Museum on MyLITV filmed by Waldo Cabrera. She wrote the book "Banquets for Birds." She has a long history of service as a trustee of the Gold Coast Public Library, president of the Glenwood/Glen Head Civic Association, and working with the South Shore Estuary Reserve. Patrice also digitized a number of photographs and postcards for the Gold Coast Library.

Denise Rushton - Denise is the Claims Examiner in the Human Resources Department of the Village of Freeport and had been a member of the Architectural Review Board. She is also a member of the Friday night crew working with our photographs. When the Leo Carrillo home on Wilson place was put up for sale, she was instrumental in securing a stone bench and flower pot that once belonged to him. Every Saturday she volunteers with Friends of Freeport to rip out and reconstruct homes in Freeport that were devastated by Sandy

Remembering Members who have passed

Jim Ewen

Jim Ewen was a long time trustee of the Historical Society and was a godsend in helping to keep us going. Known as "Mr. Fix-It," he would take care of all the repairs that needed to be made. He also opened the Museum for our Sunday guests. Born in Aberdeen, Scotland, he was a World War II veteran and served in the Navy. He was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church and the Lions Club.

Dorothy Storm

Dorothy Storm was a lifetime member of the Freeport Historical Society and trustee and mayor of Freeport from 1985 to 1993. She was selected by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Freeport after the resignation of Mayor William White. From 1986 to 1987 she was president of the Nassau County Village Officials Association. She was also an active member of the First Presbyterian Church.

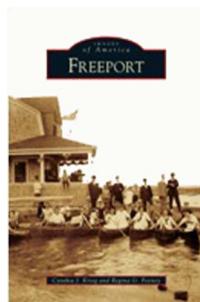


Rare Photograph!

This is a rarely seen photograph of Nunley's Carousel found in the archives of the Freeport Historical Society. To the right is the main building of the Brooklyn Water Works. To the left are the Long Island Rail Road tracks and Sunrise Highway. The Carousel building can be seen in the distance. We believe this picture was circa 1940. It was taken by Carl V. Johnson, who was a licensed land surveyor from Brooklyn.

Hurricane Sandy

We are collecting pictures of the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy to upload to longislandmemories.org. We are in the process of documenting Irene. If you would lend us pictures, we will scan them, return them to you and load them to the web.



If you haven't purchased the book on Freeport by Regina Feeney and Cynthia Krieg, please consider buying it from the Freeport Historical Society. All proceeds are donated to the Society. It costs \$21.99 and you can contact us at our phone number or email address.

Officers and Trustees

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Rita Carter	Helen Razzano
Isabelle Drach	Denise Rushton
Paul Eberst	Camilla Wier
Regina Feeney	Lily Wier
Dick Harrington	Steven Williams
Jack Holly	Frank Young

On the Web

We can be found on the web at:
www.freeporthistorymuseum.org. There you will find our current events and latest news! Don't forget to check out the longislandmemories.org site! We have over 4,000 photos loaded there.

Follow us on **Twitter!** Our handle is @FrptHisSoc

Join our group on **Facebook!**

Read our blog **freeportlihistory.blogspot.com**

Contact us at **freeporthistoricalsociety@yahoo.com**

Visit us at our **Second Life** office (picture below)



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS!

2013-2014 memberships are up for renewal. Check the mailing label for your expiration date. Our fiscal year is April 2013 to March 2014. Please continue your support of the Museum's operation. Your dues are tax deductible. If you want a membership card, pick it up at the Museum or at the meeting.

Freeport Historical Society is a non-profit organization solely supported by memberships and contributions. In addition to the regular memberships, the Society has established a LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND and a MEMORIAL FUND for receiving gifts.

Please make check payable to "The Freeport Historical Society", P.O. Box 323, Freeport, NY 11520

- INDIVIDUAL (\$10 annually) FAMILY (\$15 annually) SUSTAINING (\$25 annually)
- ORGANIZATIONS/CORPORATIONS (\$50 annually)
- LIFE MEMBER (Single Donor \$150) LIFE MEMBER (Organizations/Corporations \$250)
- MEMORIAL FUND (In memory of) _____ \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Please circle any area of interest as the Society NEEDS your participation and help.

Host/Hostess at the Museum Digital accessioning Newsletter Filing Research Gardening
Photography Cleaning Hospitality Committee (baking) Membership Mailings Graphic Arts