

# Lake Ronkonkoma Historical Society

Autumn 2023



<b>Curator:</b>	<b>Joyce D. Sorrese</b>	<b>President:</b>	<b>Evelyn Vollgraff</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Timothy Tucker</b>	<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Anthony Shakesby</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Debra Chase-Schramm</b>	<b>Museum Admin:</b>	<b>Rich Baake</b>
<b>Homestead Admin:</b>	<b>Quinn Vollgraff</b>	<b>Research Director:</b>	<b>Evelyn Bozler</b>
<b>Audit Director:</b>	<b>Judd Kramarcik</b>	<b>Patron/Development Director:</b>	<b>George Schramm</b>

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to start by thanking all the members and trustees for all their help this year with our many fundraising events. I am always pleased to hear how so many people would love to volunteer for our cause but just don't have the time to help. I get it; we all have family and job commitments, and volunteering can mean spreading ourselves too thin. But it doesn't have to be that way. We welcome all kinds of help! For example, we have a volunteer that assembles raffle baskets at her home, for our Victorian Tea fundraiser and our holiday party; another volunteer will come to the homestead prior to the Victorian Tea event and dust, clean, set the tables and prepare the kitchen for the volunteers that work on the event day; we have a volunteer that doesn't live local, yet enjoys our Fall Festival so much that they arrive early to help collect entry fees before enjoying the event.

Even the volunteer that puts this newsletter together volunteers from home, communicating by email / phone calls and by collecting event photos from our Facebook postings. I should also mention the volunteers that will come to the homestead for a day to rake leaves or make repairs to our beautifully preserved home that was built in 1888. I could go on and on, but I am sure you get the idea. If you like an event or a project, we welcome you to come and help if even for an hour. Many hands make for light work. Our final event of the year is our Holiday Party on December 10th. If you would like to make baskets or shop for raffle items or even pick up and drop off donations, we would be so appreciative of your help. Even if you have donations that you would like us to pick up we would appreciate this too!

Thank you to all that support the Historical Society in different ways. It is what makes us successful. Hope to see you December 10th at Trio's!

**EVELYN VOLLGRAFF**

## Upcoming Events

### Membership Meeting

- November 1, 2023
- Dec – Jan – Feb – No Meetings

### Holiday Party

- December 10, 2023
- Trio Restaurant, Holbrook
- Good Cheer! Good Food! Good Friends! Raffle Baskets & 50/50

Membership Meetings fall on the first Wednesday of each month and start at 7pm. Meetings are free and open to the whole community even if you are not a member!



Town of Brookhaven Historian, Barbara Rusell, discusses Brookhaven town history.

# Ronkonkoma Review Newspaper

The Lake Ronkonkoma Historical Society is very proud to announce that, as of this month, the following issues of the Ronkonkoma Review are now a part of the New York State Historic Newspapers Database (fully searchable with quality print / NYSHISTORICNEWSPAPERS.ORG):

**31 October 1959 - 26 October 1978 (983 issues)**

As you recall, the Historical Society had many years of copies of the Ronkonkoma Review. They had been organized in date order to be bound, only to be placed in boxes kept in the Museum's attic. Binding the papers never happened but it was obvious that preserving the newspapers was one of the "dreams" of the founding members. Instead, it became our goal to digitize them. After much hard work reorganizing them, removing double copies, choosing the best-preserved copies, and counting the number of pages that needed to be digitized, we started a fundraiser. About \$20,000 has been raised so far and put towards the \$25,500 cost.

A few months ago, in two batches, 2/3 of the Newspapers were packed and sent off to be processed and now accessible online. Although the project was very much a collaborative effort, special thanks need to go to our volunteer, Lesia Macko for taking on the whole of the project!

Happy researching and please remember to support the Historical Society as we continue to raise funds to complete the project – just 3 more boxes to go!

**Valley Nat'l Branch Adds To Community Beauty**



The artist's rendition pictured above is what Valley National's new bank office, now being built at 130 Portion Road in Ronkonkoma, will look like when it opens in mid-summer of '66. Said a bank spokesman, "The new building reflects the full thinking of the bank's officers. They feel that everything they do must contribute to the beauty of the community they service. The Colonial design, authentically proportioned, even to the drive-in window which looks like a gracious portico, echoes the architectural history of Ronkonkoma. George Auslander, Chairman of the Board, recently gave a few details of the "total banking" facilities the new Ronkonkoma office will give business and residents who live in the area. These include safe deposit vaults, drive-in windows and a lounge. In addition, one huge wall will be used for changing exhibits of fine art. This is of particular interest to Mrs. Auslander, who feels that wherever possible, a bank should contribute to the cultural needs of a community as well as the business needs.

**DINE OUT FOR Mothers Day**



**We Love Catering to Mom...**

Untie her apron strings and treat her to a meal fit for a queen. We're cooking up something special for Mom's day. Make reservations soon.

**Complete Dinners \$7.95 from \$4.95 & UP**

**Bavarian Inn**  
422 Smithtown Blvd.  
Lake Ronkonkoma  
588-4632

**RONKONKOMA REVIEW** 5  
"Your Weekend Weekly"

Friday, December 11, 1968  
Lake Ronkonkoma, N. Y.

**Plan January Opening For New Lake Ronkonkoma Shopping Center**



**OPENS IN SEPTEMBER**  
**Set 1st 4-Year College in Sayville**

**If Isn't the Fog . . . It's the Snow**

ORDER NOW  
**TURKEYS — 79c lb.**  
COOKED  
Stuffed — with gravy  
All you do is eat them!  
**CHICKENS - CAPONS**  
Open Thanksgiving Day 11:30 a.m.  
Open Fri. & Sat. 11:00 a.m.  
Open Sundays

**PARTY FARMS** RO 9-2590  
Hawkins Ave. Lake Ronkonkoma

**Yarrow Specials**



LEPPY, LIKE '66"  
**DOLL \$11.99**  
8 YR. OLD

**We Discount All Our TOYS & DOLLS**

WE WILL NOT BE CONCERNED AND WILL MEET ANY PRICE TO MOVE IT

**A. M. YARLOW & S 10**  
Hawkins Ave. Lake Ronkonkoma

## Please Check Out Our New Website

The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation and grant recipient, The Lake Ronkonkoma Historical Society announce the launch of the new Historical Society's website: The Lake Ronkonkoma Historical Society and Museum. The mission of the Lake Ronkonkoma Historical Society is to promote, protect and commemorate the history, cultural artifacts, and traditions of the Lake Ronkonkoma area and the adjacent areas as a legacy for present and future generations. For more information, please visit <https://lakerhs.org>.

We are grateful to the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation for the grant for the creation of a website that will improve the Historical Society's visibility, open opportunities for greater community involvement, enhance educational opportunities, and support on-going funding activities. Further, we believe that taken together, all these facets will underscore the Historical Society's inherent value to the community.

Established in 1987, the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation primarily supports the study of New York State history with a concentration on Islip Town and generally, in Suffolk County. Until his death in August 2004, Robert David Lion Gardiner was the 16th Lord of the Manor of Gardiner's Island, NY. The Gardiner family and their descendants have owned Gardiner's Island since 1639, obtained as part of a royal grant from King Charles I of England. The Foundation is inspired by Robert David Lion Gardiner's personal passion for New York history. For more information, please visit [rdlffoundation.org](http://rdlffoundation.org).





# EVENTS

The Historical Society relies greatly upon fundraising. Thanks to all who supported our events by attending or volunteering!

## Victorian Tea September 16, 2023



## A Day at the Races July 16, 2023



## Labor Day Street Fair 2023



## Fall Festival October 15, 2023





# Lake Ronkonkoma Historical Society

## Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Donation ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Membership ... \$20

Family Membership ..... \$30  
Additional Family Names

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Renew your Membership**

**Become a New Member**

Make your secure credit card or PayPal payment via our website [www.lakerhs.org](http://www.lakerhs.org) or  
by check made payable to the Lake Ronkonkoma Historical Society.

Mail payment to:

Mr. Anthony Shakesby 38 Eagle Circle Bohemia, NY 11716



Lake Ronkonkoma Historical Society  
PO Box 2716  
Lake Ronkonkoma, NY 11779

