

## September 2020





# MILL POND RESTORATION & MAINTENANCE



An all-in volunteer and fundraising effort has been launched by the WARD MELVILLE HERITAGE ORGANIZATION (WMHO) throughout STONY BROOK VILLAGE to remove the piles of debris and damage caused by Tropical Storm Isaias. Destroying over a dozen trees in the park, and many more in the surrounding area, Tropical Storm Isaias' winds ravaged the park's Braille engraved handrails, the borders maintaining the parks gardens, and even the walkways along the pond.

For 80 years, the T. Bayles Minuse Mill Pond Park has served as a community space for people to enjoy the great outdoors. Generations have enjoyed watching ducks, geese and other birds since the 1940s. The Stony Brook Mill Pond Fishing Club, established in 1951, has spent the better part of a century teaching fishing techniques to youngsters. The park's sensory garden featured plants with an array of textures and scents, providing enjoyment for both sighted and visually impaired visitors. The T. Bayles Minuse Mill Pond Park restoration and maintenance project is still being assessed to determine a complete cost.

To launch this effort, Local Girl Scout Troop 2907 of Setauket volunteered to clear leaves and debris from sections of the pond close to 25A, Main Street. Meanwhile, Boy Scout Troop 427, Benjamin Tallmadge District, Setauket removed large branches floating in the pond. To restore the sensory garden, Emily Caponigro of Girl Scout Troop 824, Service Unit 45, of Centereach has committed to its cleaning and replanting for her Silver Award. Yet, much work remains. Turn to the next page in this newsletter to learn how you can participate by joining our fundraising initiative, the NEW BEGINNINGS ONLINE AUCTION.

Your donation will be tax deductible to the extent of the law because WMHO is a 501-c3 non-profit corporation.





# NEW BEGINNINGS ONLINE AUCTION & VIRTUAL PARTY

ONLINE AUCTION OCTOBER 19 - NOVEMBER 16  
VIRTUAL PARTY THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12TH 6:30PM

SPECIAL GUESTS INCLUDE  
EMMY AWARD WINNING TV STAR RICHARD WIESE



The Ward Melville Heritage Organization's virtual "New Beginnings Party and Online Auction" to benefit the "Restoration & Maintenance of the T. Bayles Minuse Mill Pond Park" premieres in an exhilarating digital format. **The New Beginnings Online Auction** will run from **Monday, October 19th until Monday November 16th** giving guests plenty of time to compete for a good cause. Auction items include fun experiences, rare liquor, antiques, photography, east end dinning packages and more!

**The New Beginnings Party** kicks off on Thursday November 12th at 6:30 p.m., with a virtual toast lead by the events **special guest host and ABC Emmy Award Winning TV Star, President of the Explorers Club, Richard Wiese** and Chairman of the Ward Melville Heritage Organization Dr. Richard Rugen. Special guests throughout the evening will include **Emmy nominated reporter for News12 Elisa DiStefano**, musical performances by **America's Got Talent finalist Sal "The Voice" Valentinetti**, **National Headlining Comedian Rich Walker**, **Tom Manuel, DMA, Founder & President of the Jazz Loft** and his **musical trio** and more! Guests will be sure to put their party hats on for an array of games with prizes and a chance to win a very exciting live auction item.

Supporters will have the opportunity to purchase a "Virtual Celebration" ticket for \$125 which includes a luxury gift bag valued over \$500 and is filled with a selection of wine, provisions, apparel, gift cards to local restaurants and more. Purchase of the "Virtual Celebration" tickets support the restoration & maintenance of the T. Bayles Minuse Mill Pond Park. **For more information on purchasing a ticket or sponsorship opportunities please call the WMHO at 631-751-2244.**



**SAL VALENTINETTI**  
America's Got Talent Finalist



**RICHARD WIESE**  
Special Guest Host,  
Emmy nominated Star  
of PBS Born to Explore



**TOM MANUEL, DMA**  
Founder & President  
of the Jazz Loft



**ELISA DISTEFANO**  
Emmy Nominated  
Reporter, Channel 12,



**RICH WALKER**  
National Headline Comedian

## WE REMEMBER

On July 6, 2020, beloved resident of Head of the Harbor, educator and friend, Ellen Rappaport, passed away at the age of 76 after a battle with pancreatic cancer. Ellen was devoted to her Stony Brook Village and Head of the Harbor community where she lived for over 50 years. Ellen's passion was connecting with people. Gloria Rocchio, President of the Ward Melville Heritage Organization, first met with Ellen on her daily walks around Stony Brook Village Center. "...After my first encounter, I looked forward to seeing her. I discovered her thirst for knowledge, which she would impart to others. She loved life....always looking forward, never back....She was a beautiful person inside and out."



*Ellen depicting Rebecca Brewster, wife of Joseph Brewster, in WMHO educational experience, Become a Spy at the Brewster House.*

Over the years Ellen frequently collaborated with the Ward Melville Heritage Organization's (WMHO) education department. Believing in the importance of WMHO's programs for inspiring people to become life long learners, Ellen would help create curriculum that engaged and connected with audiences. Ellen's dedication to education shined when she would don authentic 18th century clothing at the WMHO's historic properties for students and visitors. She also guided WMHO's Youth Corps in planning their annual Santa Fund, a program that raises money to purchase presents for local families in need, foster children, and women in recovery from substance abuse. In addition, for over 15 years Ellen served on the board of Walk for Beauty, an annual walk that raises funds for breast cancer research at Stony Brook University. Ellen projected only positivity and thoughtfulness to the people around her – she had an innate gift that made you understand that you were important, and that you had something of equal importance to offer to the world.



*WMHO President Gloria Rocchio with Ellen Rappaport presenting her WMHO's Volunteer Award back in 2017*

Ellen asked that donations in her memory be made to the Ward Melville Heritage Organization (631-751-2244, [glindau@wmho.org](mailto:glindau@wmho.org)) and the Children's Book Committee at Bank Street College of Education (212-875-4540, [bookcom@bankstreet.edu](mailto:bookcom@bankstreet.edu)), organizations to which she devoted many hours and through which she shared her love of history, reading, and educating young people. Ellen also requested donations to Sanctuary for Families, New York's leading service provider to victims of gender-related violence (212-234-6009, [sconleyelgee@sffny.org](mailto:sconleyelgee@sffny.org)) and Barnert Temple (201-848-1800, [info@barnerttemple.org](mailto:info@barnerttemple.org)) her daughter's congregation, which always welcomed Ellen with open arms.



*Michele Deangelis showing a 4th grade class how to make pills using mortars and pestles*

WMHO remembers Michele J. DeAngelis who passed this February 24th 2020. Mike's career as a pharmacist began when he got a chemistry set at age 12. Years later, in the U.S. military during World War II, he worked as a pharmacy technician, and when he returned home, he studied chemistry, biology and pharmacy at St. John's University. He celebrated over 50 years as the owner of Village Chemists of Setauket. His passion for the history of medicine inspired him to join the WMHO community when in 2008 he helped create WMHO's Medicine: Past, Present and Future program at WMHO's historic Thompson House, the home of Patriot and physician, Doctor Samuel Thompson (1738-1811). Since the program began, each year Mr. Deangleis enjoyed showing hundreds of children how Doctor Thompson would use mortars and pestles to grind herbs and flowers into powder and make pills.



# 30th ANNUAL SCARECROW COMPETITION



Explore your imagination this fall by creating a scarecrow masterpiece in a location where you can maintain social distancing. Register by September 25th, 2020 by calling 631-751-2244. The winners will be announced virtually on Friday, October 30th. Winners for each category (previous winners & professionals, adults & families and children) will be chosen by the public, and will win valuable cash prizes! Individuals, families, children, teams and even previous winners are welcome to register for this fun experience! Want to be involved in the fun, but aren't ready to create a scarecrow? Between Thursday, October 1st and Monday, October 26th, whenever you visit a shop or restaurant in Stony Brook Village, you cast your vote for your favorite scarecrow creations on a ballot. Simply return your ballot to any shop to ensure that your vote will be counted in!

Thank you to our generous event sponsors:  
Suffolk Center for Speech & Myofunctional Therapy,  
Dr. Robert Quilty, Ph.D., Dr. Samuel Taube, RCSW & Carissa Millett, LCSW

**The Ward Melville Heritage Organization (WMHO)** is a not-for-profit corporation established as a charitable trust by Philanthropist Ward Melville in 1939. The organization is responsible for the management, preservation, restoration and revitalization of many properties in the Three Village area, including 88 acres of wetlands preserve. The WMHO offers over 70 multi-disciplinary educational programs and events year-round including musical theater, art exhibitions, and living history performances.

**Board of Trustees:** Dr. Richard Rugen, James Murdocco, Mary Van Tuyl, Kathleen Mich, Laura Huang-Ernst, Daniel Rowe, Charles Napoli, Graham Scaife, Edward J. Gutleber, Esq., Anna M. Kerekes **President:** Gloria Rocchio

## The Ward Melville Heritage Organization Properties

The Brewster House, c. 1665	The Erwin Ernst Marine Conservation Center	The Stony Brook Grist Mill, c.1751
The Thompson House, c.1709	Stony Brook Mill Pond	Hercules Pavilion
		Educational & Cultural Center
T. Bayles Minuse Mill Pond Park	Stony Brook Village Green	

**The Ward Melville Heritage Organization**  
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