

November 19, 2015 Bay Shore Historical Society Meeting Notes

Barry Dlouhy, the President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Barry mentioned the upcoming Bay Shore Winterfest and Small Business Saturday on November 28, the Annual Snowflake and Bake Sale on December 5 and the Annual Pot Luck Dinner on December 17.

Kelly Zebro read the minutes of the October 15, 2015 meeting. Joe gave the Treasurer's report. Joe reported that income was \$720 and expenses were \$543. Joann reported that membership is up to 302.

Priscilla provided updates on the clothing drive taking place at the 1st Baptist Church, Southside Hospital's Holiday Spectacular on December 6 and a proposal for a Universal Pre-K program to be held at the old armory.

Barry then introduced George Munkenbach. Mr. Munkenbach is the newly appointed Islip Town Historian. He briefly discussed the first Islip Town Historical Tour that included visits to Brookwood Hall in Islip, the Islip Grange in Sayville and St. John's Church in Oakdale. Sites located on the west side of Islip Town will be visited in the spring.

Mr. Munkenbach then told the story of Camp Wikoff: A Neglected Watershed in American History. He explained the history leading up to the formation of Camp Wikoff located at Montauk Point in July 1898. Camp Wikoff was established at the conclusion of the Spanish–American War as a military camp for soldiers to go for rest and recuperation including Theodore Roosevelt and the Rough Riders. By August 1898 the camp was 2,100 acres and housed 23,000 soldiers. It was named after Colonel Charles A. Wikoff. The soldiers that arrived to the camp were sicker than originally thought. The nation became outraged at the condition of the camp. In October 1898 the camp closed. The closure of the camp spawned the formation of VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars), JWV (Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America), Army Reserve and National Guard. It also brought attention to the need for better medical care for troops.

Barry thanked George for his presentation and invited everyone for refreshments.

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Zebro