

February 16, 2017 Bay Shore Historical Society Meeting Notes

Barry called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The January newsletters were sent out with the membership renewal forms included. The last 5 years of newsletters have also been uploaded to the Historical Society's website. Barry mentioned the website greaterbayshore.com. This is a positive media outlet for Bay Shore and includes several historical articles. The St. Patrick's Day parade is Saturday, March 11, 2017.

Priscilla provided an update from the last Summit Council meeting: (1) there were a 100 cars that passed stopped school buses – 2 buses will have cameras installed that capture license plate numbers (2) Pre-K will be housed in the Old Armory building starting in September – it is estimated there will be 250 – 300 students per day with free lunch (3) The Bed & Breakfast being built on Ocean Avenue is the old Prospect House – the owner came for pictures and history of the house (4) The old bowling alley on Sunrise Highway will become a children's party place and laundromat (5) Bay Shore Furriers will be a new restaurant by the owners of Verde (6) Senior housing is being planned for Mechanicsville Road (7) The Lions Club will be donating \$30,000 to local food pantries (8) Bay Shore basketball playoff game is February 18, 2017 at 6:00 PM at the high school.

Kelly read the minutes of the January 19, 2017 meeting. JoAnn informed everyone about the gift certificates now available to give to someone to become a member. Joe reported expenses were \$790 and income was \$1082.

Gene Horton presented American First Ladies Part I: Thumbnail sketch of 19th century first ladies.

1. Martha Washington – She was married with 4 children and was widowed before she was married to George Washington; She had no children with George Washington; First wife of a President on a postage stamp
2. Abigail Adams – She was the first First Lady to live in the White House; She is the wife and mother of a President
3. Martha Jefferson – She died long before Thomas Jefferson went to the White House
4. Dolley Madison – Fled the White House with a portrait of George Washington before it was torched during the War of 1812; Her silhouette is used on Dolly Madison ice cream

5. Elizabeth Monroe – She was the first First Lady born in New York; She and James Monroe honeymooned on Long Island; They were the first couple to live in the White House where it was white
6. Louisa Adams – She was the first foreign born First Lady; She was born in London
7. Rachel Jackson – Married Andrew Jackson even though the validity of her divorce from her first husband was in question; She died after Andrew Jackson won the race for President, but never made it to Washington
8. Hannah Van Buren – She died 18 years before Martin Van Buren was elected President; She is never mentioned in his autobiography
9. Anna Harrison – She was First Lady for one month because William Henry Harrison died; She never entered the White House; She is the wife and grandmother of a President
10. Letitia Tyler – She is the first First Lady to die in the White House
11. Julia Tyler – She was known as the Rose of Long Island; She was the first First Lady to be photographed
12. Sarah Polk – She wore black for 42 years following the death of her husband, James Polk
13. Margaret Taylor – There is no real likeness of her because she did not attend social functions
14. Abigail Fillmore – She was the first First Lady to work before being First Lady (school teacher); She started the White House Library; She had the first bathtub installed in the White House
15. Jane Pierce – She was described as the picture of melancholy – her 3 sons died. One son died at 3 days old, one at 4 years old and one in a train wreck in front of her
16. Harriet Lane – She was the niece of James Buchanan, the only President who was a bachelor; She was the first First Lady to be called First Lady; She started the Smithsonian
17. Mary Lincoln – She was described as having mood swings, fierce temper, public outbursts and being a compulsive shopper; It was Mary's idea to attend the Ford Theater the night Abraham Lincoln was assassinated; She held a séance in the White House and was later committed to a mental institution by her son; She bought the bed in the Lincoln Bedroom.
18. Eliza Johnson – She was 16 years old when she married Andrew Johnson (he was 17 years old); She taught Andrew Johnson how to read, write and figure
19. Julia Grant – She is the only First Lady buried in New York City; She was cross-eyed so she was always photographed from the side
20. Lucy Hayes – She was the first First Lady to be a college graduate; She was known as Lemonade Lucy – there was no alcohol in the White House

21. Lucretia Garfield – She nursed her husband, James Garfield, after an assassination attempt
22. Ellen Arthur – She died before moving into the White House; There is a stained-glass window in her image in St. John Church
23. Frances Cleveland – She was the youngest First Lady and the first to be married in the White House; Baby Ruth candy bar is named after Grover Cleveland's daughter Ruth
24. Caroline Harrison – She was the second First Lady to die in the White House; She raised funds for John Hopkins Medical School and was the first head of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR); She started the White House china collection and put up the first Christmas Tree in the White House
25. Ida McKinley – She was an invalid; She received guests at the White House sitting down and sat next to William McKinley at presidential dinners

American First Ladies Part II will be presented at the March 16, 2017 meeting. Barry thanked Gene for his presentation and invited everyone for refreshments.

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Zebro