



Bay Shore Historical Society

Gibson-Mack-Holt House c.1820

22 Maple Avenue Bay Shore, NY 11706 (631) 665-1707
www.bayshorehistoricalsociety.org e-mail bayshohissoc@optonline.net

February 21, 2019

Meeting Notes

Barry called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and all stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. There was a moment of silence for Olga Westby, a longtime member and volunteer. Barry provided an update on the continuing work being done on the second floor of the Gibson Mack Holt House. The four rooms and stairway alcove will be an asset to the museum. The St. Patrick's Day Parade is on March 9. For those marching, line up by 1:30 PM at Kempster Avenue. The St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee will have their cocktail party on March 2. Tickets are only available by advance purchase. Minutes from the January 17, 2019 meeting are available on the table and posted on the Historical Society website. Joe reported the monthly income and expenses. Joanne reported the newsletter will be sent out with membership renewal forms included in it. Barry mentioned that Chris Verga will present at next month's meeting on March 21, 2019.

The speaker for the evening was Angela Reich. Angela is a Brightwaters resident, educator, and author. She presented her research on south shore's shipwrecks and sea captains that was done in her preparation of the writing of her novel "Shipwreck of Hopes". Angela began with a thank you to the Historical Society, her husband, Rudy, the volunteers at the Fire Island Lighthouse and the Long Island Maritime Museum.

Angela discussed the inspiration for her book came when researching the shipwreck of the Elizabeth in July 1850. The ship struck a sand bar 100 miles off the coast of Fire Island during a summer storm. The shipwreck of the Elizabeth was memorable because of the high-profile passengers who perished in it. This wreck claimed the life of Margaret Fuller, a feminist and journalist. While researching the shipwreck of the Elizabeth, Angela found that while the wreck occurred on July 19 no one discovered it until July 24. These were the days that Angela decided to write about – the storm that caused the wreck, the New York Tribune articles, notes from Henry David Thoreau, including actual interview notes.

Once her research was complete Angela had to novelize the information. She explained how she got help from Historical Societies, friends, etc. during the creative process. Angela then read an excerpt

The mission of the *Bay Shore Historical Society* is to collect, preserve and share the rich history of our community and to maintain the c. 1820 Gibson-Mack-Holt House which is located at 22 Maple Ave, Bay Shore, NY. The Society's collection of photographs, memorabilia, and historic documents is open to the public free of charge on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 1pm to 4pm. For further information contact 631-665-1707 or visit the Society's website > www.bayshorehistoricalsociety.org. The *Bay Shore Historical Society* is an all-volunteer, tax exempt not-for-profit corporation as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.



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from her book followed by a Q&A session. There were copies of the book available for purchase. Angela also offered to sign books for anyone that wanted.

Barry thank Angela for her presentation and invited everyone for refreshments.

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Zebro

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