



## The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Faith

In December 1916, Mrs. Minnie Hawkins and her friends formed a Christian Club, hoping to fulfill "a long desire for a church of their own." Soon thereafter, the Club was organized as a church of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion faith. This New York based, black denomination was formally established in 1801.

After six years of strawberry festivals, oyster bakes and the like, the original 12 members were able to purchase the piece of land on the Montauk Highway just north of Jessup Ave for \$400. St. Paul AME Zion Church was consecrated on June 11, 1922, and now there is a parsonage in back. "This church has been central in the spiritual and social lives of black people here" stated Mrs. Minnie Hawkins' son Stewart.

The core membership still remains small, with most coming from Quogue, Westhampton and East Quogue; but some of the congregants travel from Riverhead, Bridgehampton and Manorville to attend services. Many descendants of the "founding families" are still attending services.

Rev Andrew Teagle, Jr. is the current pastor of the church. He arrived in July 2010 to take over the reins from Dr David Robinson. It was Dr Robinson who inspired the renovation and refurbishing of the 16 pew church, with most of the labor donated by parishioners. Energized by his predecessor's enthusiasm, Rev Teagle is hoping to expand the activities of the church. Already the church hosts the largest AA chapter in the Metropolitan area in its undercroft every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. It has an adult Sunday School which is currently studying Dietrich



Rev Andrew Teagle, Jr.



Bonhoeffer's "The Cost of Discipleship." And he hopes to launch a children's Sunday School in the near future.

The church does not have an endowment which means that each

year funds (\$5,000) must be raised for operating expenses and outreach. A portion of the funds supports Livingstone, a historic black church in Salisbury, North Carolina and Hood theological Seminary, also in Salisbury, a 2-year college in South Carolina and another in Alabama and scholarship and missionary work throughout the world. This year, the summer celebration begins with a Womens'/Ecumenical service on June 9 at 7 PM in which Rev Dr. Charles M. Cary of the Westhampton Presbyterian Church will participate. Additional services will be held on June 10 at 7PM and June 12 at 4PM. Everyone is welcome.

Those attending services find that the preaching is inspirational, the music is glorious and all are welcomed with open arms.

Nancy Mullan

## Mayors of Quogue and Their Legacies

At the turn of the twentieth century the hamlet of Quogue was rapidly becoming a popular summer resort and residents thought it a good idea to organize a Village Improvement Society to take care of various concerns such as the gas street lights, fire and police protection and a regular watering of the dry dusty roads. For many of these years Mary Halsey Howell (Mrs. Josiah Pierson Howell) was the unofficial mayor, the head mover and shaker to get things done. Mrs. Howell (Big Gram) was Concha Georgeson Payne's grandmother. Concha Payne, who died in March at 106 years, was Village Trustee Kim Payne's mother. In the 1920s another committee studied the advisability of incorporating the

developing hamlet. It was June 1928 when a vote was taken and the Village of Quogue became the Incorporated Village of Quogue, with the first Board of Trustees, under the symbol of the Pine, voted into office.

### Mr. Joost 1928-1940

The next month Sherman B. Joost was elected Mayor and served until 1940. His Quogue roots went back to the 1880s when his great grandfather began to summer here. Mr. Joost was as regal as a king someone said. He was a courtly, courteous man, very respected and admired. He was an A Team footballer at Amherst, class of 1904. One of his first mayoral announcements was "the village is

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Mr. Joost

in its formative years and we must plan for the future." He envisioned it to be forever as peaceful and charming as it was then: no shopping centers, no intersections, nothing to disturb the quiet nature of the village. Mr. Joost sang bass in a barber shop quartet with George Post, Sr. whom, he told his grandson, was a great baritone. After Mrs. Joost died, the mayor played bridge every Thursday with Annetta Schroeder, Annette Murray and Anita MacLean. He was with the A team again.

After the 1938 hurricane he was busy cleaning up a devastated Quogue. The village was in chaos State Troopers came and declared Marshall Law. The water had come inland 100 yards and brought pieces of houses, ships and trees with it. The prow of a ship went through a wall of the Atonement Church and the Ocean Avenue Bridge to the beach was washed out. The Trustees were hard put to find another access to the beach when it was decided to re-design Post Lane at Niamogue Lane for a bridge connection. Homeowners there were against the idea. The village had to come up with a plan to satisfy many requests. There was a lot of talk about how to minimize congestion coming from all four directions. They dismissed a traffic light, scrubbed the idea of four stop signs and settled on the gentle flow of a traffic circle. ...with notes from Peter Chace, grandson

## Beals/Baldwin 1942-46

H. Warren Beals was mayor from 1942 to 1946. He may have won the election from Mr. Baldwin in 1942. No one seems to know what happened. It is known that he lived in the most westerly house on the eastern end of Niamogue Lane. Mr. Beals and family members are buried in the Quogue Cemetery.

## Ralph Baldwin-1940-1942 and 1946-1956

Mr. Baldwin was also President of the QFC from 1935 to 1939 and in 1937 wrote the first 50 years history of that club. He had a responsible approach to things, he was very thoughtful and had a smart-looking appearance some remember. Mr. Baldwin was away during the four years of Beals's terms. As he was too old to enlist in the war, maybe he was doing some secret patriotic tour and couldn't talk about it. However, on his return in 1946, he was elected Mayor and re-elected for four more terms. He built and lived in the anachronistic Tudor-style brick house at Ocean Avenue and Quaquanantuck Lane. Mrs. Baldwin was a good looking, sophisticated woman who kept her looks she told friends by swimming in their pool every day. It was in the house. On his death, Mr. Baldwin left the house to his caretaker. No one recalls a legacy to the village.

## Frederick McCoun-1952-1956



Mr. McCoun

Frederick McCoun came to Quogue when he married Celia Dickinson who summered here with her parents in the Maury house on Shinnecock Road. The young marrieds moved to Old Point Road until the house burned down around 1950 and then bought the house at 32 Quogue Street where they lived until they died. They were a handsome, proper couple with a gracious air about them and were very liked by everyone. Mr. McCoun was a partner in the law firm Scudder and McCoun in New York City. All of the McCoun men were good athletes, except Frederick, but he was good at lawyering.

For a number of years, whenever a developer came to the powers at village hall with requests for permits to subdivide large parcels for more houses, it is said that the builders were warned that "Quogue zoning laws are very strict, you would do better in Westhampton." They were making it up. McCoun made it legal. There were no laws on the books. Mayor McCoun put together strict zoning rules pertaining to large pieces of property to prevent these properties from being parceled out into small plots becoming like Westhampton! ....Gordon McCoun, grandson

## Harvey Cooley 1956-1966

Mr. Cooley was Principal of the Quogue School, a Trustee and Mayor. He was the Donald Trump of his time, a fortuitous deal maker, a rather interesting asset for a school teacher. He and his wife, Helen, ran the swimming and shower facility at the beach across from Beach Lane. Around one o'clock one morning the week of July 4th, 1957 someone called the fire department to report flames there. The firemen worked all night with Carl Cardo manning the pumper truck and they got the fire under control before eight that

## Mayors of Quogue...continued from page 2

morning. Harvey came up to him then and asked him to go get his bull dozer. He did. By nine they had begun the clean-up and rebuilding. The Surf Club reopened in time for the next summer season. The entry road to that bathing facility is still a public road.

In 1964, Mayor Cooley went to the Quogue Beach Club directors to make a deal. He knew they owned 13 acres of beach east of where the club is located. If they would give the village an amount of that property equal to the width of the Ocean Avenue right of way, the Mayor would make that parcel a private road, no longer a public entry into the members-only club. The swap was made and the Village Beach was born. And all that front area is now a private road owned by the QBC.

He made a deal with Richard Post who owned 20 acres of land with a lot of wetland at the end of Assup's Neck. The village was dredging Quantuck Creek and could build up Post's land with the spoil if the village could have the nice loam underneath. Cooley convinced him and they trucked the good earth to the village beach and built the parking lot with a prime surface at no cost. Then they enlarged the pavilion. The spoil was so salty it took Post ten years to grow grass.

In May 1964 George Leness was retiring from the Board of Trustees. Mayor Cooley wanted Carl Cardo on the Board, a natural seque for him to take care of the Highway Department, and finally convinced him to accept the appointment so that his name was on the ballot for the village election in June. The next month Mr. Cardo was swept into office and blew them out of the water at every local election for the next thirty years. At the time of his retirement in 1995, Carl Cardo had the longest tenure as Village Trustee in the history of Quogue AND the longest in the State of New York.

The modern Fire House was built during Cooley's term.

In the first week of March 1962 we had a devastating three-day Nor'easter that raised havoc with the entire beach front and dunes. We lost seven houses into the ocean. Dunes the entire length of Quogue were severely damaged and some lost. Mayor Cooley at this time was on a trip in Europe when he heard about the catastrophe. From Europe, he immediately called the caterpillar dealer here and ordered a new

D-7 Cat Bulldozer to start restoring and pushing sand up to rebuild the dunes. The purchase was an emergency so he did not have to go out to bid.

Cooley, Sidney Phillips Sr., Charles Belt, Ross Federico, Russell Carman and a couple of other men from East Quogue were duck hunters. In winter they would break a good size hole in the ice pond and feed the ducks with chopped up potatoes, corn and bread pieces so that the ducks would survive, and procreate.

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### Some Grave Concerns.....

On April 10th, Zachary Studenroth, S.H. Town Historian, gave a fascinating presentation on "Southampton Burying Grounds- A Plan for Preserving our Sacred Sites." According to Mr. Studenroth early burying grounds are "outdoor museums" of historical importance. But they are challenging to preserve. He highlighted the problems that face old cemeteries, encroachment by trees, damage from lawnmowers, acid rain, invasion of plant life and vandalism, and then explained how to repair and preserve them.

There are more than 50 burial grounds, including unique grave sites in the Town of Southampton. Of these, the Town owns ten, some dating to the 17th and 18th centuries. With the goal of preserving and maintaining these sacred sites, this past January the Town Board formed the Historic Burying Ground Committee which has two initiatives: 1) conservation and repair: to help the town raise funds, apply for grants and develop good maintenance practices and 2) public education outreach: to assist the Town Clerk's Department

record gravestones along with genealogical information for the it's website.

The presentation ended with a field trip to the privately owned Quogue Cemetery (with permission from the cemetery President). While there he remarked that "this is one of Southampton Town's lesser known historic treasures, and while still an active burial site, it preserves the gravestones of some of Quogue's earliest settlers."

*Melissa Cook*



*Zachary Studenroth*

# Pride of Place

Sally Spanburgh was our third Preservation Speaker at the Library this winter. She is one of the nine resident members of The Landmarks & Historic Districts Board. The Board is committed to historic preservation in the Town of Southampton. Sally brought slides of some of Quogue's historic treasures. The pictures really emphasized the importance of preserving these living museums so that children can 'feel' history through

structures standing as they did 200 years ago. The Landmarks Board cannot prevent demolition. They would like each town to adopt recommendations in its Code to protect historic houses, to prevent valuable community buildings from ever being reduced to a pile of fire wood.



Sally Spanburgh

## Correction

Mrs. Beatrice R. Marcks wrote to tell us that her grandfather, Joe Payne, was born in the house at 79 Jessup Avenue, not 114 Jessup Avenue. We thank her for the correction.

## Summer Events

**Friday, July 1st:** 4 to 6 p.m. Open House for the family at the Pond House, 114 Jessup Ave. Refreshments. Admission is free. Come see our new home, watch a video of the history of Quogue, purchase a historical book, renew memberships and check out the dumb waiter.

**Saturday, August 13th:** 10 to 4 p.m. The Art Show. Once again it will be held under tents at the Library rain or shine. Our artists are all local. Many are the favorites who have exhibited in the past, as well as exciting new faces. There are a few spaces left. Any Quogue or East Quogue artist wanting to exhibit, now is your opportunity. Call Stephanie Delaporte 653-8054 or Jean Duffy 653-6461 for information.

**July 1st:** The Schoolhouse Museum opens. We need docents for Wednesdays and Fridays (3-5) and Saturdays (10-noon). Please call Cecelia Lazarescu at 653-6019 or Jane Post at 653-4144 to volunteer.

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