



# Newsletter

Historical Society of Shawangunk & Gardiner

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## Small Businesses in the Hamlet by Libby Ross

Do you know how many small businesses in Wallkill today were operating 25 or 30 years ago? Very few, it turns out, but they are part of the very identity of the hamlet. This essay celebrates three such enterprises.

We are not talking about business on the scale of the Wallkill Valley Savings and Loan Bank which first organized in July 1913 and has operated in its current location since 1950, or Fair-Rite Products Corp., which has been doing business since 1952, or the grandfather of them all, James B. Crowell Brick Moulds, in continuous operation since the Civil War.

The winner of the hamlet small business longevity prize is the wonderfully named My Father Sam's Barber Shop, operated by Tony Martino, son of Santo A. Anthony Martino who opened his original shop in 1955, next door to the old U.S. Post Office, on 45 Wallkill Avenue, with Lawson's Bar & Grill on the other side. The barber shop itself has an even earlier history, operated until 1913 by Ed Warner and until 1955 by Joseph Vogel. Mr. Martino (who died last year) moved his business to the small house at 30 Wallkill Avenue in 1968. Father and son have served generations of men in the hamlet. Probably his most famous customer will always be Pete Hamill, the eminent journalist, novelist, and essayist who was interviewed in 1997 by ABC News journalist Peter Jennings while receiving a haircut from Tony, in a segment that appeared on the World News Report!



My Father Barber Shop

The second in the small business longevity contest is Rob's Pizza at 26 Wallkill Avenue. Rob Malatesta opened his business in 1990, 29 years ago, 16 at this location. The store stands on the site once occupied by Buffalo Bob's Café that burned down. Rob's has



Rob's Pizza

become a fixture in the hamlet. His philosophy? "My immigrant father taught me you can't make good wine from bad grapes," a motto that has served his business well and won him many faithful customers of all ages.

The last business featured is Jay Dee's Deli (originally called Mike's Market, then Mike's Deli) at 30 Wallkill Avenue, next to the current Post Office. The building was built in 1948 and bought by John Zwick in 1995. The deli is open seven days a week from 5 am to 5 pm, serving commuters, prison guards, Post Office employees, and those of other businesses around town. Their loyal customers ("we're like a family") come in search of a cup of coffee, a good breakfast or lunch, or just to sit and talk with John. A winning and dependable combination for the hamlet.



Dee's Deli

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Website: <http://WallkillHistory.com>

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Email: [ShawangunkHistoricalSociety@gmail.com](mailto:ShawangunkHistoricalSociety@gmail.com)

Address: 75 Wallkill Avenue, Wallkill, NY 12589

PO Box 570, Wallkill NY 12589

## Events

At the Historical Society Meeting Hall on **October 3 at 7 p.m., Ismail (“Ish) Martinez, Jr.** presented a delightful program about generations of Hispanics who travelled to enjoy good food and live entertainment at The Villas of Plattekill in Ulster County for many decades. Spanish, Puerto Rican and other Hispanic summer resorts opened as early as the 1920s and continued in popularity well into the 1980s, offering music, food, and the familiarity of language and customs for loyal and enthusiastic patrons.

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**On Tuesday, October 16 at the Pine Bush Area Library Community Center, Jack Weed** gave a talk on historical events from the late 1700s to the early 1900s that shaped the Hamlet of Walker Valley.

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**On November 7, Paul DeMarco** presented a fascinating program on **Antique Bottles** which was attended by community members and also members of a bottle club with knowledgeable interest in the subject. He described the history of individual bottles including those brought in by attendees

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A **special win-win event** took place at the Historical Society Meeting Hall on **November 10 from 3-6 p.m.** to benefit the Restoration Fund for the Historic 1769 Andries DuBois House. Attendees purchased raffle tickets limited to 50 and every attendee drew a prize. Community business contributed massages, baskets of honey, rugs, blankets, original paintings, orchid plants and other desirable prizes and the Historical Society offered a delicious tea and a chance to socialize with community members. Everyone was a winner on this warm social occasion. The event raised \$1140 for the Restoration Fund. Special thanks to **Board member Freda Fenn and Chairwoman Carolyn Crowell** for their organizing talents and hard work.

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The **Historical Society’s Annual Holiday Party** took place on **December 5, 6 p.m. at the Andries DuBois House**, with candles shining from every front window to greet guests prepared to enjoy themselves at this potluck event. A brief business meeting secured the re-election of **Debra Wolff and Libby Ross.** **Mary Work** was elected to replace retiring board member **Al White.**

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**Progress in the Kitchen:** The joint efforts of **Libby Ross, Karen Dale, Bob Mooney, Hal Van Aken, Freda Fenn, and John Ross** have resulted in significant advances towards restoration of the DuBois House kitchen, the oldest room in the Andries DuBois House. We have painted the walls with historically correct lime-based paint, scraped multiple layers of paint from window frames, baseboards, and door frames, removed three layers of wallpaper, repaired elderly locks on the door to the backyard, re-plastered broken walls, and removed non-relevant objects from the room, leaving the formidable cast-iron stove. In the spring, we will paint the window frames and baseboards and sand and stain the wooden floors. We have introduced two wooden period cabinets (including a Dutch Kas (jelly cupboard) donated by Historical Society member **Charlene Wykoop**) and a wooden chest. Both have filled shelves with kitchen plates, cups, bowls, and other period pieces from the estate of Mary DuBois Wright. The room is being transformed!



Charlene Wykoop and the donated Dutch Kas

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**The Board of Trustees meets on Saturday, December 29 at the home of Board member Freda Fenn for its annual Strategic Planning meeting.**

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**Enjoy the holidays, stay warm and we will see you in the spring!**



**Officers**

<b>President</b>	Debra Wolff
<b>Vice President</b>	Libby Ross
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Doris Callan
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	Donna Myer
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bob Mooney

**Trustees**

Doris Callan  
 Freda Fenn  
 Jim Malloy  
 Bob Mooney  
 Donna Myer  
 Robert Borden Reifmueller  
 Libby Ross  
 Harold Van Aken  
 Karen Wohlforth Dale  
 Debra Wolff

**Publications**

Libby Ross, Doris Callan,  
 Freda Fenn, Bob Mooney, Hal  
 Van Aken

**Standing Committees****Programs and Education:**

*Freda Fenn, Donna Myer*

**Fund Raising: Trustees**

*Membership: Bob Mooney*

*Publicity: Hal Van Aken*

**Restoration/Bldg.****Maintenance:**

*Bob Mooney*

*Finance: Bob Mooney*

**Archives and Collections:**

*Hal Van Aken*

*Publications: Libby Ross*

*Webmaster: Hal Van Aken*

**Dear Members and Friends,**

Winter is upon us and HSSG has much to be thankful for in 2018. In early fall, we completed repair of the DuBois House front wall to stabilize the area around two windows. Many thanks to those involved in this important restoration! Inside, in the kitchen, **Libby** and **John Ross, Karen Dale, and Bob Mooney** stripped wallpaper, painted, re-plastered, and repaired locks. The room was furnished with period pieces and kitchen items, mainly from **Mary Wright's** estate (see article). Many thanks to **Charlene Wynkoop** for her donation of a beautiful jelly cupboard (see picture). All of this was on display for our Annual Holiday Party on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, HSSG enjoyed a presentation on Las Villas of Plattekill and Ulster County by **Ismael "Ish" Martinez Jr.** Ish helped run his family's vacation villa when he was growing up; he gave a first-hand account of food, dance, music, and recreational activities that the vacationers enjoyed. On October 16<sup>th</sup>, **Jack Weed**, a member of HSSG, presented a talk on the history of Walker Valley at the Pine Bush Area Library. On October 20<sup>th</sup>, board members **Doris Callan, Karen Dale, and Debra Wolff** attended the premier of the DVD "Where Slavery Died Hard: The Forgotten History of Ulster Count and the Shawangunk Mountain Region" presented by the Cragmoor Historical Society. HSSG was given the DVD which we plan to show at an upcoming meeting. On November 7<sup>th</sup> there was a fascinating presentation on antique bottles. Members brought old bottles to be identified and dated. We learned that many families discarded old bottles and other trash down their outhouse pits!

As a result of the November 10 WIN-WIN fund-raiser at the Knights of Pythias house, where everyone walked away with a gift, the DuBois House restoration fund was enriched by an additional \$1,140. Many thanks to chairperson, **Carolyn Crowell**, and her committee for their hard work. Also, many thanks to all the businesses and individuals who contributed gifts for the raffles.

At the December 5<sup>th</sup> HSSG Annual Holiday Party and Meeting, Board members **Libby Ross** and **Debra Wolff** were re-elected, and out-going board member **Alan White** was thanked for his service and work on both houses. His many talents have helped make our restoration efforts a reality. Thank you, Alan! A new board member, **Mary Work**, was voted in to replace Alan. Welcome Mary!

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for their hard work, suggestions, contributions, and well wishes this past year. I am amazed at the progress in both the Andries DuBois House and the Knights of Pythias House in 2018. On Saturday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, the HSSG board will have its annual strategic planning meeting. If you have concerns or suggestions, tell a board member. Remember, this is a member-driven organization and we want to hear from you!

**Debra Wolff, President**

**Historical Society of Shawangunk & Gardiner Mission Statement**

*In one of the oldest settled townships in the U.S., The Historical Society of Shawangunk & Gardiner preserves historic buildings, stories, records, and artifacts. We share them with the community through absorbing and inspiring programs, strengthening a shared understanding of local history.*



### Tour of the DuBois House



### DuBois House Kitchen Restoration

