



L·V·I·S

Ladies' Village Improvement Society

Established in 1895

March 2018

Calendar

**March 6
Tuesday
10:00 a.m.
Box and Books
Reopening**

**March 12
Monday
2:30 p.m.
Member Meeting
LTV Studios
Wainscott**

Colleen Rando, Editor
Durell Godfrey, Colleen Rando
Photos

March Meeting at LTV Studios

The March meeting at LTV will feature archival film of East Hampton, including many LVIS events. LTV, located at 75 Industrial Road in Wainscott, is a nonprofit organization established in 1984 to provide public access television to the citizens of East Hampton. Operating on channels 20 and 22, it provides a wide array of programming including talk shows, educational programming, government meetings, and community activities and makes them available for live streaming as well as video-on-demand on its website.

Our speaker, Executive Director Morgan Vaughan, is an actress, singer, producer, director, and administrator. Since assuming her administrative position in 2015, she has helped launch some of

LTV's self-produced shows, including *East End Underground*, for which she serves as Executive Producer. She holds advanced degrees in Journalism and Classical Acting, and continues to sing professionally. Morgan is an East Hampton native — her mother and father, Karen and Bill Sturges, were very active in the Arts community in the seventies and eighties.

Genie Henderson, LTV Archivist, also hopes to attend. She served on the Board of Directors until joining the staff as the Archivist in 2002. She considers the collection of videos she presides over a "treasure trove" featuring the people and life of our town over the past 35 years. Recently, she has added vintage film to the collection with local footage dating back to about 1920.

Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 24 at 11:00 a.m.



A Brief History of the Gardiner Brown House

1740 to 2018

- ◆ The historic house was built in 1740 by David Gardiner (1691-1751). Because the family had another house on Main Street, the house was called the “Brown House”, as it was shingled and brown in color.
- ◆ The property for the house came into the Gardiner family through David’s wife, Rachel Schellinger. Her father deeded the property to David Gardiner, along with other properties at Three Mile Harbor, Northwest Plain and Montauk.
- ◆ The house had some unique features. With special permission from the Town fathers, stone front steps were built from the house to extend onto the sidewalk close to the street. There also was a secret room reached by an almost invisible trap door in the attic floor. The space was located between the chimney and partitions and was large enough to hide eight men.
- ◆ During the American Revolution, the British occupied East Hampton and chose the house as their headquarters. The owner of the house, Col. Abraham Gardiner (1721-1782), served as host to the British officers, along with Sir Henry Clinton, Lord Percy and Gov. William Tyrone.
- ◆ In 1924, Winthrop Gardiner had the house moved from the street to its present location. At the time the house had no bath and only one spigot with barely running water. The house was completely modernized and as part of the renovation, the central chimney was removed and replaced by a central stairway. During renovation, fragments of a gravestone were found and once pieced back together, the marker bore the name of Rachel Schellinger, who died in 1744.
- ◆ The Gardiner family sold the house in 1950.
- ◆ A deadly fire ravaged the house in 1979. The house fell into disrepair and became so covered with weeds and trees that no one could reach the front door or even see the house from the street.
- ◆ In 1982, a proposal was made to raze the historic house and build a parking lot.
- ◆ In 1987, The Ladies’ Village Improvement Society purchased the house from the East Hampton Village for \$365,000. Restoration costs were estimated at \$600,000. A year of fundraising and renovation followed.
- ◆ LVIS held a grand opening of the house in April, 1989.
- ◆ Thirty years later in 2017 the house needed extensive repairs, including major changes required for compliance with current building codes. Renovation began in January 2018 and a grand reopening was held on Tuesday, March 6.

— *Compiled by Mary Talley*

The New Look

A Smashing Success

Remarkable

Open and Inviting

Appealing

Bright and airy...

Just a few of the comments overheard at the Reopening Press Preview Party on Friday, March 2, attended by the press, principals involved in the LVIS renovation project, and representatives from various community groups.

The redesign project began once the Renovation Committee — Mo Cohen, Cathy Humphrey, Bonnie Pizzorno, Almeda Rick-

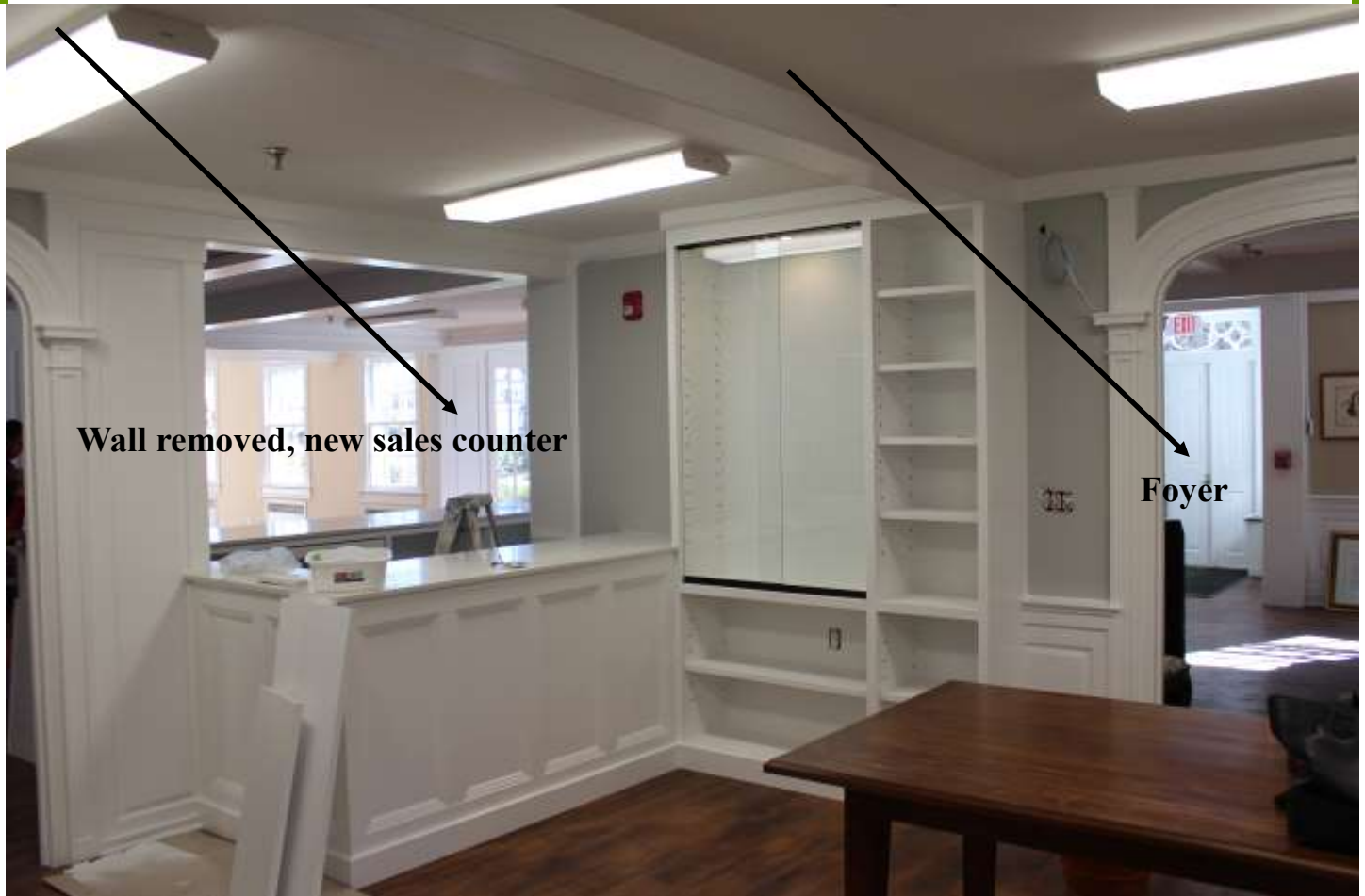
enbach, Jen Tarbet, Anne Thomas and Mary Anna Jun-Morris — chose architects Lee Skolnick and Paul Alter to reimagine the existing shop space, both selling and processing areas. With input from the thrift shop leadership, a master plan was developed.

To meet the challenging reopening deadline of March 6, LVIS sought the help of builder Ben Krupinski, who immediately and generously offered his expertise and financial support. He went above and beyond expectations, as did his entire team. House Chair Jen Tarbet (Miss Jennifer to the workers) practically moved

in for the duration, guiding and overseeing the project.

As is often the case with improvement projects, the original parameters expanded, in this case to the second floor parlor and Boardroom, resulting into nothing less than a transformation of the house.

The shops reopen to the public on Tuesday, March 6. Our loyal shoppers are always thrilled when the March reopening finally arrives — this year they have real cause for excitement.



Wall removed, new sales counter

Foyer



New glass case



Arch remains



Back door

New, open books selling area



Wall removed to connect present Books area to an additional Books area



Former Books processing area, now Books selling space



Looking from back door through to new Books selling area.



Former Books processing, now Books selling area.



New sales counter and marble counter top in Women's area.



Upstairs bathroom remodel







**Parlor with new wallpaper,
refinished floors and area rug**



**Upstairs hallway, new
paint and carpet**

From left, Peter Van Hattum, Anne Thomas, Lee Skolnick, Bonnie and Ben Krupinski.



From left, Jean and Mayor Paul Rickenbach, Isabel Carmichael



*Press
Preview
of
the
Shops*

Photos:
Durell Godfrey

Mo Cohen, left, and Anne Thomas



New, upgraded Men's department

Photos: Durell Godfrey



Photos: Durell Godfrey

LVIS 125th Anniversary Cookbook Update

Author Florence Fabricant

Photographer Doug Young



Proposed Chapters

Chowder Supper

Supper by the Fire

Home after the Movies

Italian Night

Strawberry Time – dessert buffet

Breakfast for Weekend Guests

Lunch Around the Pool

Paella on the Porch

**Beach Picnic – lobster rolls, deviled eggs, coleslaw, homemade bread
and butter pickles**

High-Season Buffet

Cocktails at Sunset

Labor Day Barbecue

Autumn Catch (seafood dinner)

Harvest Supper

Thanksgiving Classics

Holiday Open House



Please send your favorite recipes — and which chapter they go with — to Afton DiSunno at afton@disunnoarchitecture.com by March 30th. All original (not previously published as submitted) recipes are welcome. Florence Fabricant will make the final decision as to which recipes are included in the book.

If you know any local celebrities or anyone connected to our local restaurants, please let us know. We do not want to leave any stone unturned.

Thank you for your participation. Please contact Afton or Barbara Lambert if you have any questions.