



November 2011

“Past, Present, and Future, We Unite Them” – SCHS Corporate Seal

Dear Members and Friends,

Whether it’s a wide-eyed child viewing artifacts and learning about the history of Native Americans on Eastern Long Island; a Civil War buff stopping by to see our collection of arms and armament; a young woman researching her family genealogy in our Library and Archives; or a retiree attending an educational evening lecture – history comes alive at the Suffolk County Historical Society every day!

As we celebrate our 125th year, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to members of our community like you who make this possible, and we thank you for your continued support of our mission: *To collect, preserve and interpret the ongoing history of Suffolk County and its people.*

Today, more than ever, your financial support is needed to ensure that the Suffolk County Historical Society will continue to flourish and grow.

With your help today, we will be able to:

• *Present new and enhanced exhibits and programs*

We are excited about the Society’s 2012 schedule which will feature a spring exhibit on 19th Century American lithographers Currier and Ives; special exhibits for Black History and Women’s History months; a new collaborative exhibit with the East End Arts Council; and our annual fall “Let’s Make History” bicycle ride. We are also working with other organizations to present school curriculum-based workshops and vacation-time programming that will appeal to varying ages. For highlights of the wide range of exciting events and programs that were offered in 2011, please see our most recent newsletter (enclosed).

• *Hire additional personnel to meet our staffing needs*

Our ability to offer engaging exhibits and educational programs, to add to and properly maintain our collections and archives, to keep pace with technology, and to effectively serve you and the community requires a strong, professional staff. Of utmost importance is to restore our educational and curatorial departments.

• *Continue essential building maintenance and restoration projects*

Of particular importance is our current capital program of rebuilding our front entry and stairs. This and other maintenance projects are vital to caring for our building, first constructed in 1930, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Future proposed capital programs include the addition of a handicapped entrance and elevator, and the acquisition of an adjacent property for the relocation of our administrative offices and agricultural collection.

To ensure that the Suffolk County Historical Society maintains its vital role in our community – in short, to fulfill the mission set out by our founders 125 years ago – would not be possible without the continued interest, participation, enthusiasm and support of members and friends like you.

We thank you in advance for considering a gift to the Suffolk County Historical Society as part of your annual charitable giving plan. Please take a minute today to complete the enclosed donation form, and join us in our mission to preserve Suffolk County’s rich history and culture. (You may also use the form to renew your annual membership.)

With sincere appreciation,

Kathryn M. Curran
Executive Director