In honor of the ten-year anniversary of 9/11, the Suffolk County Historical Society will present a September 11th Memorial Exhibit, in collaboration with the Riverhead Free Library.

The exhibit explores the history of the Twin Towers with rarely seen photographs of their construction, and also features interpretive artwork in a range of mediums by artists Mary Carlson, Lance Corey, George D’Amato, Mare Dianora, Kevin O’Connell, and J. Lee Elsbree. Featured in the exhibit is a striking three-dimensional steel sculpture of the Twin Towers, standing nearly eight-feet tall, by Long Island sculptor David T. Haussler.

The Riverhead Free Library has collaborated with the Suffolk County Historical Society to document the September 11th memories and experiences of Riverhead residents in a special oral history project. Selections from the filmed accounts will be on view as part of the exhibit. Special book projects from the Library’s Teen Loft and children’s group will also be featured.

Opening reception: Friday, September 9th, 6-8 PM. On view through October 1, 2011.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS TO BE PRESENTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE 9/11 EXHIBIT

LECTURE: Wednesday, September 14, 7 PM
“9/11 Air Traffic Control – A Firsthand Account” with Paul Thumser, former Air Traffic Control Supervisor. $5 donation to SCHS.

LECTURE: Thursday, September 22, 7 PM
“Collecting Folklore and Oral Histories” with Dr. John Eilertsen, Director, Bridgehampton Historical Society. $5 donation to SCHS.

WORKSHOP: Saturday, October 1, 11 AM
“Creating a Memory Book” with book artist Mare Dianora. Materials cost: $20. Pre-registration required.

Reservations are requested for the lecture programs; please call the SCHS at (631) 727-2881 x100.
This is an exciting time for the Suffolk County Historical Society and I see a bright future for the Society under Kathy’s new leadership!

Wally Broege welcomes new Director, Kathryn Curran
Retired Suffolk County Historical Society Director

The past few months, since our last newsletter, have been filled with new projects, exhibitions and programs. Our “Edith Lorin Fullerton: The Lady of the Garden” exhibit was a success. The Fullerton Collection, which is comprised of over 2,300 glass plate negatives, lantern slides and autochromes is one of the Society’s most important and versatile collections. Hal Fullerton was a Special Agent and the Director of Agriculture for the Long Island Rail Road.

The “Garden” exhibit was a success. The Fullerton Collection, which is comprised of over 2,300 glass plate negatives, lantern slides and autochromes is one of the Society’s most important and versatile collections. Hal Fullerton was a Special Agent and the Director of Agriculture for the Long Island Rail Road.

Another great success was this summer’s “Private Places Public Spaces: Suffolk County’s Elite Hunt Clubs and Regional Decoys,” accompanied by a smaller exhibit offered by renowned decoy collector Dick Richardson about the Pattersquash Gun Club. The exhibit featured beautiful decoys and memorabilia from private hunting clubs that today are state and county parks. This exhibition was accompanied by a weekly series of well-attended lectures concluding in a successful silent decoy auction.

This will be my last opening letter as Director of the Suffolk County Historical Society. As many of you may know by now, I have stepped down after 33 years as Director and 36 years working at SCHS. It is a bittersweet time for me because I will miss working here. More than anything else I hope that the Society and its collections will thrive and continue to grow. My success as the Society’s Director would not have been possible without the efforts of the Board of Directors, the volunteers, and our dedicated staff. I am confident that the Society will continue to be a vibrant and successful organization, fulfilling its mission and serving the community.

The Suffolk County Historical Society is pleased to present the 4th Annual “Let’s Make History!” Bicycle Ride on Sunday, September 18 (rain or shine), at 8:30 am. Riders will have two round-trip route options of either 50 miles (Half Century) or 25 miles. Both options offer riders scenic routes along Long Island’s North Fork, through farms, vineyards and quaint villages. Food and beverages will be provided at all stops. Free T-shirts will be given to the first 200 registrants.

Registration is $30 per person; $55 the day of the event (cash only). Riders will meet at the municipal parking lot at the intersection of Osborne Avenue and Court Street in downtown Riverhead, directly behind the SCHS building. Children under the age of 15 ride free. Riders under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Riders can register online at: www.active.com, (type “Riverhead, NY” and “Let’s Make History Bicycle Ride” in the search bar).

For full ride details, sponsorship opportunities, and to volunteer, please contact Kathy Carran at 631-727-2881 x104, or curranschs@optonline.net

Proceeds from the ride will benefit the Suffolk County Historical Society.

SCHS RECEIVES MAIN STREET GRANT
The Society has received a Main Street Grant from Riverhead Town in the amount of $9,500. The funds will be used to repair and restore the front stairs and platform outside of the entrance to the museum.

Water intrusion and freezing conditions during the winter have taken their toll on the cement and slate structure. Gary Jacquerius, an architect who is on the Riverhead Town Preservation and Landmarks Commission, who has worked on many area projects, has prepared a description of the work, along with drawings of the structure that has been sent to contractors along with a request for proposals to make the necessary repairs. The Suffolk County Board of Directors has chosen Omni Construction Co. to complete this project, which is to begin in mid-September.

The Society’s Weathervane Gift Shop is currently featuring several original oil paintings by contemporary Long Island artist Keith Mantell. Make sure to stop in the shop to view these beautiful works on your next visit!