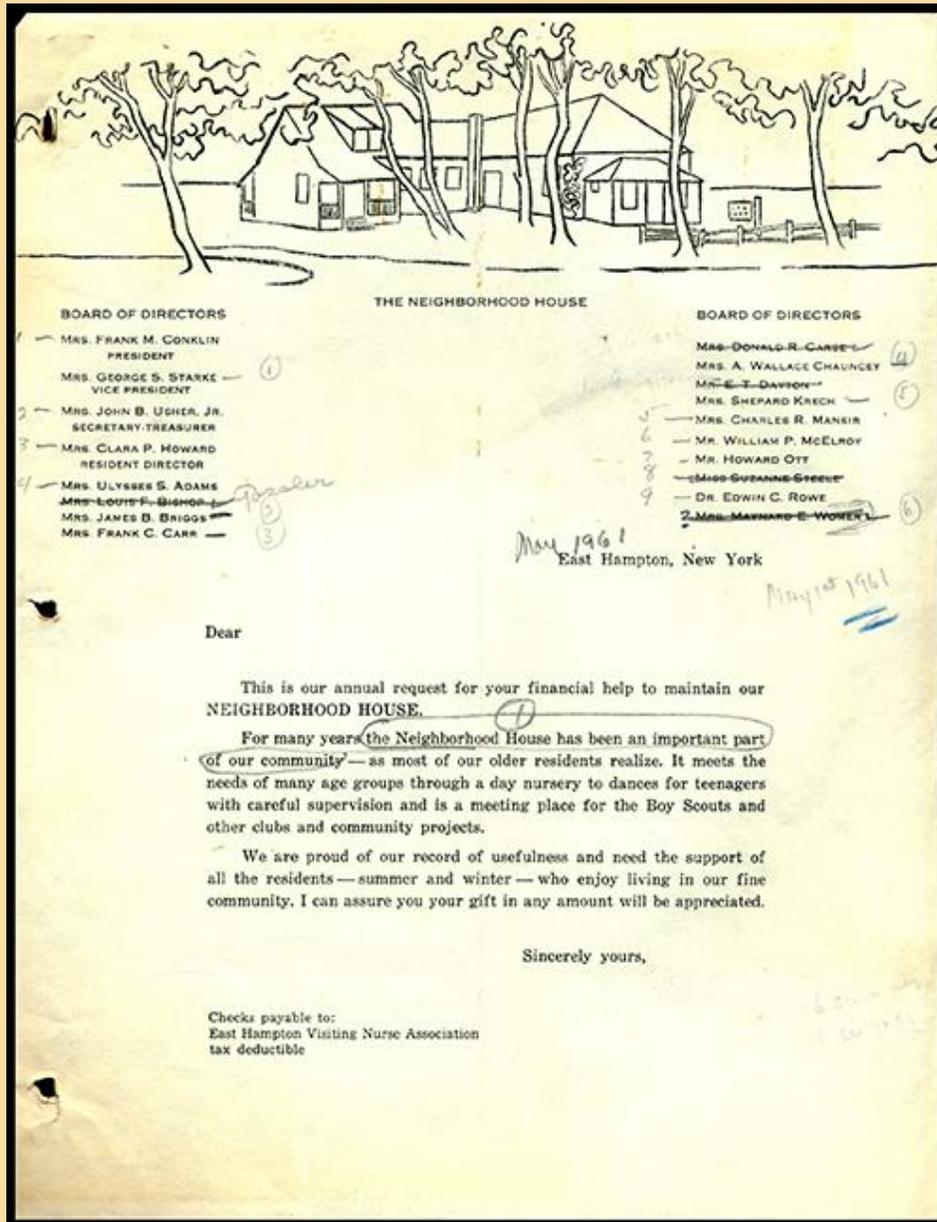




Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

LONG ISLAND COLLECTION | DIGITAL LONG ISLAND | EAST HAMPTON STAR ARCHIVE



Neighborhood House appeal letter, May 1, 1961

If you're a regular visitor to [Digital Long Island](#) on the [East Hampton Library website](#), you may have noticed two new collections: the [Ladies' Village](#)

[Improve Society Archive](#) and the [East Hampton Neighborhood House Archive](#). While much is known about the L.V.I.S., the history of Neighborhood House may not be as readily apparent.

The East Hampton Neighborhood House Association is located at [92 Three Mile Harbor Road](#) and functions as a community center or meeting place for local residents; offering day care, banquet facilities, and as a host for recreational activities and events.

The idea behind Neighborhood House is said to have originated with Sunday School classes taught by George A. Eldredge, at [St. Matthew's Chapel](#) on Three Mile Harbor Road in the 1890's, which drew the attention of summer resident Catherine Stimson Weston. Wishing to help alleviate poverty in the surrounding community, Weston hired social worker Mary Gustine to initiate a project making children's clothes. Through Weston, others members of the Summer Colony were drawn to the project, including Everett Herrick and Frederic Gallatin who, in 1909, purchased the land and had built the first part of Neighborhood House, which was deeded to the First Presbyterian Church of East Hampton.

By 1915, the first nursery school group was founded, followed by the building of the East Hampton Emergency Hospital in 1917, which was the first of its kind on the East End. When Southampton Hospital refused children from Springs with diphtheria because they had to be quarantined, the community hoped to prevent such emergencies in the future and the building was ultimately given by Mrs. Joseph M. Hodson.

In 1927, Neighborhood House and the Emergency Hospital merged with the East Hampton Visiting Nurse Association and title to the property was transferred from the First Presbyterian Church to the association two years later. By the 1940s, the hospital was discontinued when transportation to Southampton Hospital became more readily available and the Town of East Hampton hired a public health nurse and school nurse.

While much more of the history of Neighborhood House can be examined, it's clear the organization has experienced a multitude of roles over time, adjusting to the needs of the time period, all while remaining at the heart of the community.

EXPLORE MORE

[The Digital Long Island Collection](#) is part of New York Heritage Digital Collections. Included are searchable scans of deeds, drawings, etchings, inventories, letters, maps, paintings, pardons, patents, photographs, plans, postcards, prints, sculptures, sketches, textiles, tiles, yearbooks and more to come.

[The East Hampton Star Archive](#) is a fully searchable, online digital archive of our local weekly newspaper, that features each complete issue of the paper from 1918-1968, exactly as it appeared in print. Visit the archive online, for a tour of our Town's history that will fascinate both the amateur and professional historian!

[The Karl Grossman Research Archive](#) is an extensive collection of materials digitized from the personal archive of Karl Grossman, an investigative reporter, columnist, author, and current professor of journalism at SUNY Old Westbury. The archive brings together a decades long career in reporting and journalism with topics ranging from the economy and pollution to fishing and East Hampton Town. Patrons are capable of searching this 9,500+ item collection by collection name, year, title, or keyword search.

The Local Artist Research Archive is a collection of over 19,000 items digitized from Guild Hall, containing materials including personal letters, photographs, news clippings, and art catalogs concerning artists of the East End. Patrons are capable of searching this archive by collection, title, or keyword search.



Welcome to the Long Island Collection's "Item of the Week."

We are an archive dedicated to the history and people of Long Island, with a special interest in all things East Hampton and East End. Unlike some small local history rooms in other public libraries, we have over 100,000 items including, but not limited to, rare books, maps, photographs, deeds, postcards, letters, newspapers, and whaling logs. We also have a dedicated and hardworking staff ready to help you with any questions you may have. Unable to make it to the library? No problem! We upload images from the collection to [Digital Long Island](#) on a weekly basis, so there's always something new and interesting to behold.

Please visit us at the Library, make use of our extensive online digital resources, or contact us for assistance. Public hours are: Mon. - Tues. and Thurs. - Sat., 1:00-4:30 p.m.

Researched and written by Gina Piastuck, Department Head, Long Island Collection.

Gina Piastuck joined the East Hampton Library in 2007 as a librarian and archivist and has served as the Head of the Long Island Collection since 2009. She's a graduate of LIU Post's Palmer School of Library and Information Science and holds both an M.L.I.S. degree and a Certificate in Archives and Records Management. Her responsibilities managing the Long Island Collection include providing reference and research assistance to patrons on and off site, as well as the acquisition, arrangement, description and conservation of rare and new materials pertaining to the history and people of Long Island.

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