

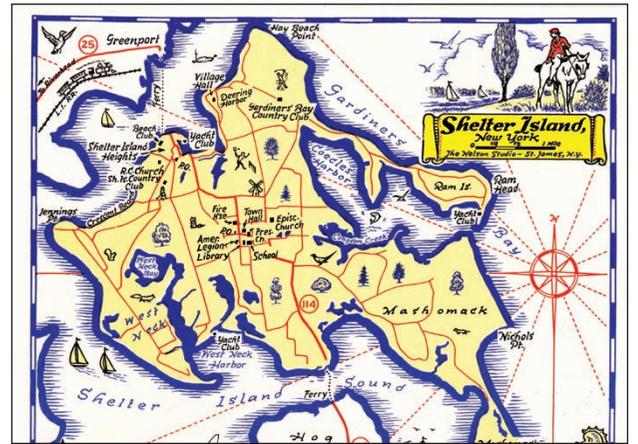
AROUND THE ISLAND

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EBETH LONES PHOTO

From left, Town Supervisor Gary Gerth, Shelter Island Historical Society Collections Manager Lora Lomuscio, Shelter Island Historical Society Executive Director Nanette Lawrenson and Shelter Island Historical Society Board President Elizabeth Pedersen in front of the new exhibit at Town Hall. All maps and advertising brochures are from the archives of the Shelter Island Historical Society.



c. 1950 pictorial map of Shelter Island. Illustrated by The Nelson Studio, St. James, NY. Donor: Helen Wortis.



c. 1930 Shelter Island advertising brochure and map created by the Shelter Island Chamber of Commerce.

America's Beauty Spot Picturing history at Town Hall

BY ANNETTE HINKLE | COMMUNITY NEWS EDITOR

The board room at Shelter Island Town Hall is often dominated by discussions pertaining to pressing issues that will affect Islanders in the future. But right now, at least one wall of the room is dominated by a pictorial slice of Shelter Island's past.

"America's Beauty Spot" is an exhibition featuring a collection of vintage 20th century advertising brochures and maps touting the pleasures of summer life on Shelter Island.

The show was curated by the Shelter Island Historical Society and its collections manager Lora Lomuscio, who selected the original items from the archives and had them enlarged and printed on canvas for display.

"Changing the scale makes them more impressive — which is something you can do with reproductions to make them accessible while keeping the original documents safe," explained Ms. Lomuscio in a recent interview with the Reporter.

She notes that the idea for the exhibition came from Supervisor Gary Gerth who invited the Historical Society to work together with the Town.

"He really wants to foster community across many organizations," she said. "It's perfect."

Also perfect is the fact that the show allows the Historical Society to showcase some of its artifacts at a time when the Haven's House Museum is

closed to the public due to construction of the new archives building on the property.

"We're closed, so the archives are not accessible," said Ebeth Lones, the Historical Society's communications and donor development coordinator. "Here, people can see these brochures even larger than they would in the archives itself. It's more tangible, more real than some of these little postcards or fragile documents that you can only view behind plastic sleeves."

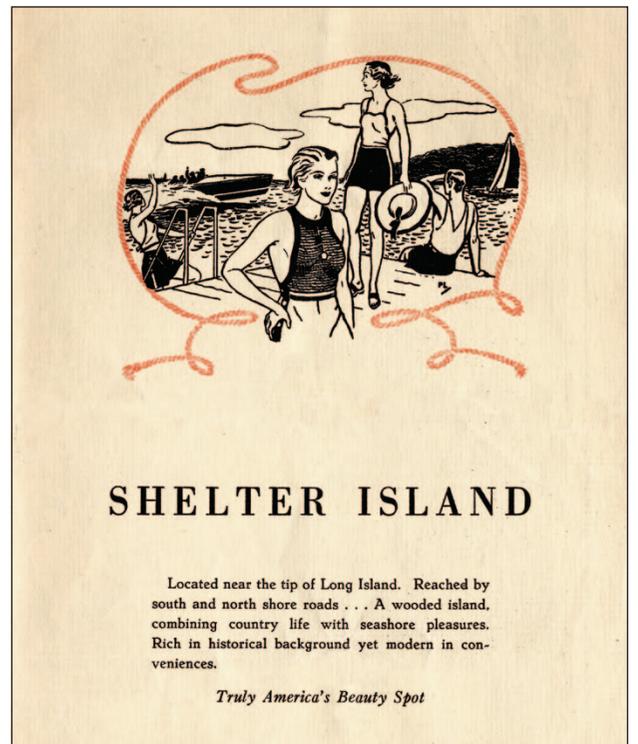
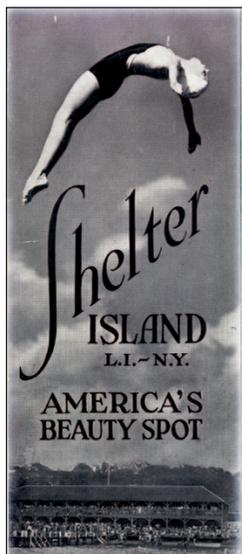
"It gives us exhibit space we don't have right now," added Ms. Lones who also credits Judy Meringer, secretary to Supervisor Gerth, for coordinating installation of the Town Hall exhibition.

The Island maps and advertising brochures on view date from the 1920s to the 1960s. While the brochures were produced by the early Chamber of Commerce, pictorial maps on view were created by the Nelson Studio in St. James and local artist Edith Shepherd. Ms. Lomuscio explained that she first became aware of the brochures while working with the Time Travelers summer program for children at the Historical Society.

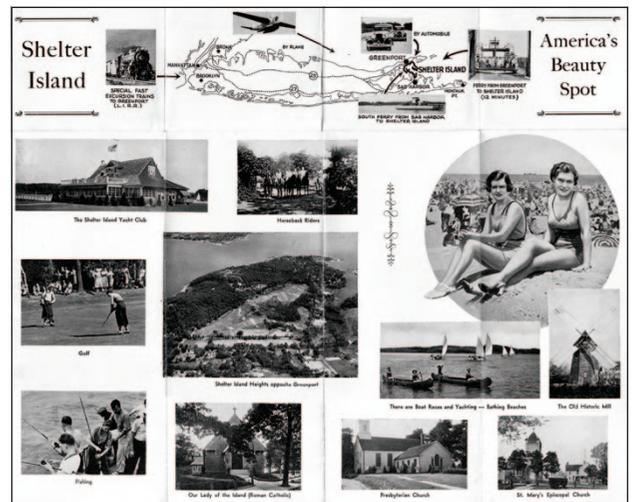
"We scanned and reproduced a lot of documents from the archives to make a timeline in a more casual way on paper," said Ms. Lomuscio. "That's the first time I saw this Chamber of Commerce brochure from the '20s."

"It was so neat and beachy," she said, adding

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c. 1934 advertising brochure with a Paul Laune Illustration.



c. 1935 Shelter Island Chamber of Commerce brochure highlighting fun in the sun activities. Front of brochure is at left.