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#### History of Post-Morrow

The Post-Morrow Foundation, Inc. is located in the Hamlet of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York. Its principal office is at 16 Bay Road, Brookhaven, NY 11719.

Conceived by Thomas and Elisabeth Post Morrow and established in 1969, the Foundation is dedicated to the preservation of the rural countryside character of the Hamlet and the surrounding areas. Through the acquisition of properties, either by gift or purchase, the Foundation seeks to establish a nature preserve and sanctuary for the benefit and enjoyment of the immediate community. The preservation of Beaver Dam Creek, where the Foundation owns over 100 acres, is a priority.

The Post and Morrow families have had a long tradition of philanthropy in the community. James H. Post purchased the land along Carmans River, now known as Squassux Landing, which was later donated to the Brookhaven Village Association for use as a marina. The land upon which the Brookhaven Free Library is situated was another gift. Elisabeth Post Morrow continued the tradition of her father by donating various gifts to community groups, mostly anonymously. It was the hope of the Morrows that this legacy be continued through the establishment of the Post-Morrow Foundation, Inc.

# Post-Morrow Foundation VEWSLETTER volume 22, number 2 Fall 2019

## A Sense of Place



For our 50th year celebration the Post-Morrow Foundation made a video, *Of Habitat & Heritage*. The video begins with a quote from Arthur Danto's essay *Brookhaven Hamlet as Historical District*. Professor Danto's essay was in 1985 to support the effort to create a special historic district in Brookhaven Hamlet.

"Brookhaven Hamlet includes an area with so unmistakable a character that, when one has entered it, there is an immediate awareness of being in a place different in feeling from what surrounds it."

You can view this 8-minute video which highlights the sense of place that the Foundation has worked to preserve at our website: www.Postmorrow.org to view this wonderful video. We are grateful to Russell Wilson who volunteered his expertise to put the video together.

#### Mission Statement of the Post-Morrow Foundation:

To preserve and conserve the rural, cultural and historical character of the hamlet of Brookhaven and surrounding areas in Suffolk County, New York.

## 50th Anniversary Celebration \_\_\_\_\_

We would like to thank all who supported the 50th anniversary celebration at the Post-Morrow Foundation on September 14, 2019. Thanks to the more than three hundred friends of the Foundation who attended, it was a wonderful success.



The 50th



Proclamation from Brookhaven Town



Friends of Wertheim volunteers provided activities for kids



The New Students provided the music



Supervisor Ed Romaine presented a proclamation for the 50th



CEED provided activities for the kids



The Herb Society Long Island Unit made lavender sachets for everyone



The Hamlet-style picnic basket was a great raffle hit



The Board of Directors



Our volunteers at the drinks table



Flowers by Jane Tierney



Painted faces decorated the celebration



Babies were especially welcome

## WHAT POST-MORROW MEANS TO ME...

#### The Fifteen 50-Words or less Entries Below:

The Post Morrow Foundation is my time machine. Your devotion to the past takes me back to a time when we knew what was important to preserve. A time when life was simpler and you realized once something is gone, it is gone forever.

Forever is a very long time.

Scott Munson

It was the final turn onto Bay Road.

I knew this road and the acres of woods like the back of my hand as a child and Post Morrow has preserved so much of where I used to play.

I love Brookhaven and all that Post Morrow has done to preserve the natural environment I spent summers exploring it and I never wanted to leave. In a world that is so focused on so many other aspects of life, we forget the gentle nudge that calls to our hearts, nature. Post Morrow encourages the use of our natural surroundings and works to keep nature so much a part of our life.

Jan Shannon

Post-Morrow is a local treasure, with acres of land which include wooded trails, marshland with a boardwalk along the creek and a great lawn. The property is dog friendly and for me there is no better way to start the day than a nice early morning walk with my dog Miss Cricket to Post-Morrow.

**April Murray** 

A Haiku representing what Post-Morrow means to me,

The peaceful wind blows
Through my hair as I paddle
My way to the bay

Nicole Brown

To me, Post-Morrow means being respectful of the past while living in the present and planning responsibly for the future. The words Post-Morrow have come to mean environmental conservation and cultural preservation. In celebration of fifty years, cheers to the Post-Morrow Family for establishing the Foundation!

Lynn Brown

Hope

On the morrow there is a post
"The glaciers melt and the forests roast"
Assaulted by voracious glut
Gaia bleeds from lethal cuts.

Greed in control by institution Posterity suffers the retribution Hope never dies if one can listen Grace follow Greta on her mission.

Edensoajar

David Harder

Because of Post Morrow I get to live in a place where my Mom & I can go for walks that are quiet and beautiful. We walk past fields instead of shopping malls and woodland instead of condos. We like to visit the

Ken Budny boardwalk & watch the wildlife.

Cassandra & Grayson Pope

Preserving nature, our historical past, and Brookhaven for the future. Reconnecting the present with nature by conserving open spaces, restoring wetlands, and preserving the history of our community.

Erica Brown

Post-Morrow embodies the spirit of the Hamlet of Brookhaven. I am proud to have grown up in a town that values its past by preserving it for the future. I feel fortunate to share the nature of this area with my son.

Post-Morrow is a hidden gem on Long Island.

Kristin Brown

A Provisional Post to a Theory (not really) of Heaven, Havens, and at least one Hamlet of the Morrow.

We inhabit a haven
that is a hamlet,
and that,
on occasions more than rare,
achieves the elusive state
(that is, not a status)
of Heaven.

BrookHeaven,
to be precise,
the Fire Place
haunted by Osprey
taloned
in a streak of sky
casting their spells of paradise:
PostMorrow
PostMorrow
PostMorrow

Thaddeus O'Neil

Post-Morrow is a voice for the waters, marshes, trees, meadows, and farms that have long given a special sense of place to the community around Brookhaven Hamlet, helping to keep this area's primeval character, recognizable for centuries, intact for the future.

Tom Ludlam

Brookhaven is always in season. Particularly in the summer, when stately trees boast their presence and green is the seasonal color. Escaping the surrounding strip malls, fast food giants and other reminders of a hectic pace, the peace and serenity Brookhaven exudes claims my heart and soul.

Thank you, Post Morrow Foundation.

George A Pope

Post-Morrow means ...
rivers, creeks, wetlands,
preserve, conserve, recycle,
trees, meadows, flowers,
butterflies, mosquitoes,
farms, fruits, vegetables,
happiness, family, friends,
community.

Peter & Orion Thobaben

Years ago, driving back east, I beguiled the hours imagining a perfect place to live: a rural community, old trees shading houses, lanes, library, farms, and waterways.

With astonishing luck, I found our enchanted hamlet. Thanks to the vision of the Post-Morrows and Foundation Board, my dream came true.

Mary Hamilton Hawkes

Consistent commitment to infrastructure of earth, water, flora and fauna, air, light and space, which sustain uncluttered values of sense of place, human and community wholeness.

Claudia Taylor

## REMEMBERING LAURA, BY ELISE BROWN

(We include this eulogy because it is such an evocative memory of what growing up in Brookhaven is like. It speaks to a sense of place.)



How lucky a girl was I to have had a friend like Laura. A friend who would tramp through the swampy marshes of Brookhaven in pursuit of feathers, bones, intact clay pigeons and other treasures. Who would lug a kayak ½ mile down the road, paddle 3 miles across the Great South Bay over to Old Inlet, carry it across the dunes to frolic in the waves, only to do that all in reverse to get back home? A friend named Laura who, when we were little, would stay in the surf as long as I would (those skinny brothers of ours would be long since out, all blue

and shivery), body surfing alongside the older ladies giggling about how effortlessly they seemed to bob in the water with just their toes showing. A friend who would collect just as much sand in the bottom of her bathing suit as I, laughing as we emerged from the waves with our saggy drawers.





A friend named Laura who loved to cook and bake too. Like the time we baked 5 dozen lemon cookies, only to return from a brief time outside to find that our two dogs, Sandy and Paget, had devoured them all. The time we helped make *coq au vin* for a high school French Club dinner party. Or when she and I hosted a neighborhood birthday party for those two dogs, replete with a frosted layer cake for humans and bacon cheese muffins for the canine guests.

My pal, Laura, who lived just down the road, so that we could find our way to each other's house in the pitch dark, often walking barefoot on the road, knowing every inch and every smell along the way. Who needed a flashlight? Who else, besides Laura, would find sitting smack in the middle of her driveway smashing black walnuts into a pungent paste ~ staining our hands and clothes ~ enjoyable? Or making

poison arrows from mashed honeysuckle berries? Who else, besides Laura, wouldn't mind slimy chicken fingers from baiting the innumerable strings of crab bait to set out along the docks at Squassux, casually wiping the grime onto her shorts.



A friend who, although younger, was soon taller than I, yet never made a point of it. A friend who stuck with me as we battled those mean girls at the bus-stop, they wielding their cloth-covered "hitting sticks". Laura, a friend who seized opportunities for adventure and inspired me like no other girl I knew. Did you know she twice earned enough money to take herself on summer-long 1200-mile + biking trips?

It was Laura's idea to bike to my aunt & uncle's house in Rhode Island and back again. And it was her idea to bring her flute along the night we spent on a pier, babysitting a sick sperm whale, she serenading dear Physty, and he responding with his own song.



Such was the luck we had as girls growing up in the 60's and 70's, when it seemed like "benign neglect" was the norm for parenting, when "get your chores done and be home in time for dinner" was about all the direction we got from our parents. We rode our bikes to Patchogue, or took the bus. We hopped the LIRR into New York City for a day in the Big Apple. We roamed the back lanes of Brookhaven, the forgotten & overgrown paths, the backyard dumps & old cemeteries, the abandoned duck farm, often spooking ourselves with specters of ghosts or blue briggins.



And such was the luck for us two girls to grow up in a community such as Brookhaven, where we knew our neighbors and our neighbors knew us. Where gathering up a gang of kids for a game of Kick the Can, baseball, or Red Light Green Light was a common summer evening activity. Oh, those summer nights, when we might hear the distant jingle of the approaching Good Humor truck and race inside to scour our pockets and dresser drawers for enough change to buy an ice cream. And, in the fall, run through the neighborhood with all the other

kids in our Halloween costumes (Laura's was usually well-conceived, I might add), trick or treating for Unicef (remember those orange cardboard containers?) and candy. A community where our families shared picnics on the beach, cook-outs on the porch, birthdays, and holidays year after year.

The natural beauty of our community beckoned us to explore its nooks and crannies, where the nearby river called us to ply its waters on out into the bay and beyond to Fire Island. Woods, marshes, rivers & streams, fields, beaches, and swales. Such were our playgrounds. What lucky kids were we. The intellectual climate or our community, enriched by the international scene at Brookhaven National Laboratory (where some of our parents worked) instilled in us a sense of global curiosity. It was not uncommon for us to meet people from Bulgaria, the then-Soviet Union, China, Iran, or Argentina. Laura's family frequently hosted scientists from around the globe, sparking an interest in Laura for parts far-flung, cultures far and wide, and languages a-many. The educational community of



our public-school system attracted high quality teachers. Teachers, like Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Cooley, like Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Roberge, like Mrs. Shore, and Monsieur Dugre, like Mr. Ebersole and Mr. Fehring. Teachers who expected and demanded much from us.



How many kids get to learn that they can make a difference in our world? We did. Mr. Cooley's SEQ – Students for Environmental Quality – club helped protect the Carman's River, get a state-wide bottle bill passed, address landfill issues at the Town dump, and protect marine mammals. In going through some old high school newspapers, I can across several articles written by Laura about these issues. In one, she described the foul smells she and her family endured when they volunteered their deck for the reconstruction of a whale skeleton.

How many kids have the privilege of a public-school system with a music program carefully crafted over decades through the vision of a determined man like Mr. Ebersole? We did. From Mr. Grun's band and Mrs. Marcus' orchestra, to Mr. Fehring's jazz ensemble, and Miss Santos' Madrigals, we Bellport High kids had first-rate exposure to many forms of musicianship and many of us carry that with us to this day. Laura played the flute not only to whales, but also in band, marching band, school and community orchestras. She played recorder, sang in the chorus and Madrigals, and performed in numerous musical productions.





Laura did not dwell much in the past, but very much in the present. So I would be remiss in my remarks to focus solely on the escapades of our youth. As you will hear from her brother, Steve, and from Laura's long-time Seattle neighbor, Karen Vogel, later in today's program, Laura took these experiences and values to shape a life completely of her own making. An adventurer to the core, Laura laughed long and hard, lived always in community, and looked to bridge divides, be they cultural, ethnic, or economic. Her professional and her personal life, like so many of us here today, reflected the values we shared growing up here in Brookhaven and surrounding towns.

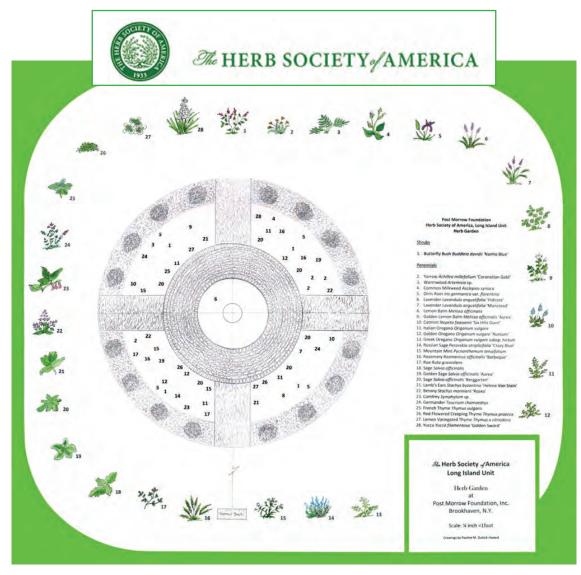
Looking around at today's gathering, I see the very example of how Laura lived ~ in community. As she would have wished, here we are. Together. She invested her time, energy, and enthusiasm in organizing group events. Spontaneity was one of Laura's middle names. Dinner party tonight? Sure. 5-mile hike after breakfast? Let's go. Mini-reunion? Yes, let's put it on the calendar! Now, as we gather to celebrate her life, I'm sure we all have our own memories of how Laura included us in her celebration of life.





Elise Brown grew up in Brookhaven Hamlet and her mother, created the *Virginia Brown Scholarship* which the BVA awards each year to a graduating Bellport High School student who lives in the Hamlet. She currently lives in Maine. Watercolors by Dennis Puleston (taken from *A Nature Journal*, W. W. Norton & Company, 1992, by Dennis Puleston)

## Herb Garden Restoration Project \_\_\_



Rendition of the Herb Garden by Pauline Hazard

The Herb Garden restoration project is being conducted by members of the Herb Society of America Long Island Unit and the Post-Morrow Foundation.

25 years ago, the Foundation and the Herb Society entered into an agreement to maintain a public herb garden on the Foundation grounds on Bay Road. The Herb Society provides the expertise, the garden design, and the plantings; the Foundation provided the funding to build the circular brick walkway and a circular fountain, as well as the space for the garden.

The Herb Society hopes to enhance the grounds of the Foundation and enlighten residents about the beauty, versatility, and usefulness of herbs. The garden has a formal plan, with paths wide enough so that two people can stroll side by side, and the Morrow fountain at its center.



Dava Stravinsky working on the restoration of the Herb Garden

Constant deer pressure and dry sandy soils, two local challenges, will be addressed through special plantings, such as thyme, lavender, lamb's ears and catmint. The garden will have a plant list for the public, and members of the local unit can be available on certain days to give talks on the garden.

## THE POST-MORROW FOUNDATION

#### WELCOMES TWO NEW MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Christine Schaeffer

Christine Schaeffer was born and raised in Brookhaven Hamlet, attended the South Country School District, and graduated from college with degrees from both SUNY Oneonta and The Fashion Institute of Technology.

After starting her family, it was time to move back to the Hamlet, where she has been residing with daughter Megan, and son Ryan, for the past 22 years.

Chris began working as a sales associate for her Mother, Eileen Green, in 2001. Eileen retired in 2017, and Chris took over as Broker/Owner of Eileen A. Green Realty, located in Bellport Village. In the past, Chris was a Board Member of the Brookhaven Free Library, and was a member of the Auction Committee for the South Country Education Foundation. She is currently a Trustee of the Brookhaven Village Association, and works with Post Morrow on Event Committees.



#### Kathleen Butler

Kathy Butler is a retired IBM Vice President where she worked for 37 years. During that time, Kathy held various executive positions in IBM's software, hardware, sales and information technology divisions. Her responsibilities included World Wide sales, technical sales, marketing, process improvements and information technology systems.

When she retired, she joined her local Connecticut boards of the Alzheimer's Association and the Christopher and Dana Reeves Foundation where she lived at the time.



When she moved back to Bellport, where she grew up, she became, along with her sisters, a primary caregiver for her parents. She also volunteered at the Boys and Girls Club and at her church of Mary Immaculate. The last few years she has volunteered at the Post Morrow Foundation as her interest grew in preserving the land and community she grew up in.



#### In Memoriam

We are grateful for the thoughtful memorial gifts to the Foundation from friends and families of Pete Motl and Robbie Fishman. The Foundation extends its gratitude and condolences to their families.

#### Pete Motl

Peter D. Motl, local businessman and bayman, passed away Sunday, August 4th, age 65.

Known to many throughout the South Country and Fire Island areas, Pete lived life fully with dedication to the communities he lived, served, and grew up in. In his lifetime, he was a craftsman, a clammer, a builder, appliance repairman, and a loving family man.

He will be remembered for his honesty, dependability, selfless good nature, and his friendly wave from his signature grey van around town.

He is survived by his wife Debra, his son Zachary and partner Alex, his son Evan and wife Julia, brother Robert and sister Carolyn, sister-in-law Judi, sister-and-brother-in-law Laura and Ron Sanchez, sister-and-brother-in-law Joan and Ian Ballantyne, sister-and-brother-in-law Janet and Ron Klug, sister-and-brother-in-law Marilyn and Kevin Livosi, and many nieces and nephews.

Remembrance by the Motl family



## Robbie Fishman

Roberta (Robbie) Elaine Arvine Fishman, 83, longtime resident of Brookhaven, NY, and formerly of Great Neck, NY, passed away on Sunday, June 2, 2019. Robbie taught English and Social Studies in the Hauppauge and Patchogue school districts over a career that spanned nearly 40 years, and introduced many of her students and friends to the joys of theater, museums, and culture in New York City and all over Long Island. She held a BA in History from Cornell University (1958), and later earned a Master's degree in Education. She served on the South Country School District Board of Education in the early 1970s, and was also active in the League of Women Voters.

Following her retirement, she traveled the world, enjoying culture, sights, and adventures throughout North America, Europe, Africa, Asia, Southeast Asia, and Australia.



She was predeceased by her parents, Kitty and Jerry Arvine, and is survived by her children, Philip [Ann Musselman] Fishman, Michael [Julie] Fishman, and Bonnie Wruck Fishman, and her adored grandchildren, Jack, Kitty, Anna, and Will, her siblings, Ron [Julie] Arvine and Judie [Jerry] Barry, her many "adopted" wards, and many wonderful friends and neighbors. She wanted it known that she's gone to London, to enjoy the theatre.

#### Thanks to our 2019 donors.

We are grateful to the following donors.

Their assistance helps the Foundation maintain its effort to keep Brookhaven Hamlet and the surrounding area in its natural state and to protect the environment as our legacy to future generations.

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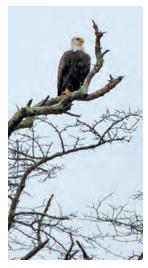
Gary Schneider & John Erdman

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Sandra Zylowski

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Permit No. 15 Brookhaven, NY 11719



Bald Eagle on Beaver Dam Creek -Photo by Marty Van Lith, October 2014

email: Postmorrow@optimum.net www.postmorrow.org

#### The Post-Morrow Foundation Newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

Designed and printed by Searles Graphics, Inc. • 56 Old Dock Road, Yaphank, NY 11980

## GIFTS TO THE POST-MORROW FOUNDATION

A gift of any amount is most welcome and will assist us in our stewardship of lands and resources in the Brookhaven community.

We have included an envelope for your convenience or you can go to our website, www.postmorrow.org and contribute via the "donate now" pay-pal button.



We are grateful to the many individuals who have contributed to the efforts of the Foundation to preserve the unique beauty of our community. Gifts to the Foundation are tax deductible.

Ways to help the Foundation include;

POSTAL PATRON

<u>Matching gifts</u> If your employer has a matching gifts program, your gift to the Foundation can be doubled or tripled. Please check with your employee benefits office.

<u>Memorial gifts</u> A gift in memory of a loved one or friend is a special tribute to someone who loves the area. We would be happy to notify the family of your charitable gift.

#### Gifts of land and/or historic material

We welcome gifts that reflect the heritage of our community.

#### **Bequests**

If you would like to extend your support of the work of the Foundation to preserve our heritage you may include in your will a bequest of cash, securities or property to the Foundation. If you would like to discuss a potential bequest please call Bruce Wallace, President at 631-286-0686.