

# 2009 library budget approved by tight margin

*By Cara Loriz*

Voters approved the 2009 Shelter Island Library budget on Saturday but it was the closest vote ever and the biggest turnout for an operating budget vote since polling began in 1995.

The “yes” ballots in favor of the \$426,840 tax levy numbered 135, 30 votes more than the 105 “no” votes; 1 ballot was blank.

The budget proposition followed an expansion referendum that voters soundly rejected in October with almost 850 voters casting ballots.

The most recent library budget vote in 2006 (with no budget increase in 2007, there was no vote last year) had a similar margin of victory: 89 in favor to 57 against, a 32 vote margin but with 61 percent of the voters approving the measure. This year, 56 percent of voters approved the budget. Prior to the 2006 vote, library budgets were approved by a 2:1 to a 3:1 margin.

“We’re delighted that the community came out to support the library,” Shelter Island Library Director Denise DiPaolo said Monday. “The passing of the budget will allow us to continue providing the best customer service, materials and programs to our entire community.”

She listed a few of those programs: Movies at the Library, Toddler Time, Mommy & Me, Chess Club, Music Under the Tent, summer reading clubs, homework help

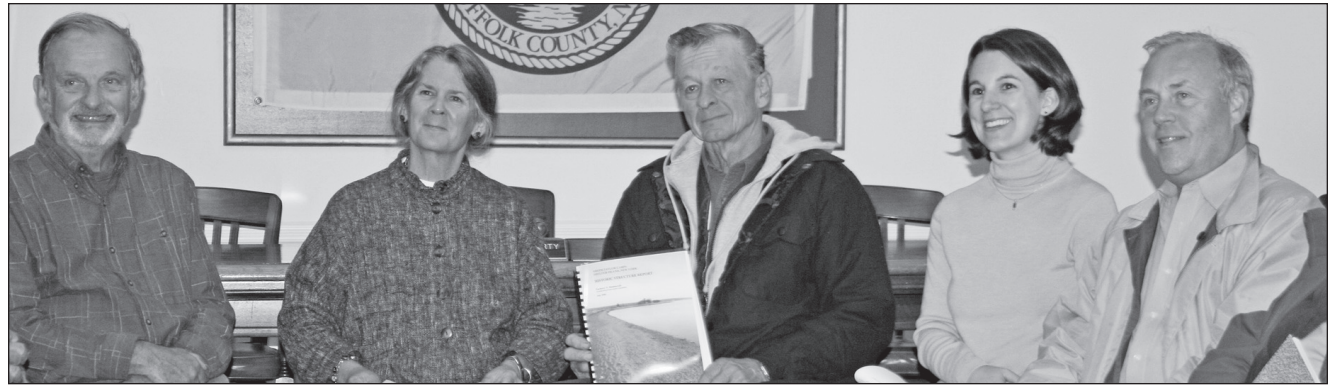
and online services including renewals, 24-hour librarian assistance and downloadable books.

One of the library’s services received a boost from outside funds this week. Ms. DiPaolo announced Monday that the Shelter Island Public Library received a \$2,000 grant from the H. W. Wilson Foundation

to support an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) collection. “We’ve had more and more patrons requesting materials to help them improve their English language skills,” Ms. DiPaolo said.

The grant will allow the library to purchase the 12-volume DVD/CD/workbook set called “Ingles sin

Barreras” (\$1,295) in addition to a handful of other titles. The library will also purchase MP3 players to circulate to patrons wishing to download language and other materials from [suffolkwave.org](http://suffolkwave.org). “We are very grateful to the foundation for supporting this project,” Ms. DiPaolo added.



**TAYLOR’S ISLAND REPORT COMPLETED:** Taylor’s Island Preservation and Management Committee Co-chairs P.A.T. Hunt and Rich Surozenski (second from left and center) presented a historic structure report on the Smith-Taylor cabin to Erin Tobin (second from right) of the Preservation League of New York State.

They were joined last Wednesday afternoon at Town Hall by Supervisor Jim Dougherty (left), architectural preservation consultant Zach Studenroth (right) as well as committee member Barbara Clark, Town Board liaison Glenn Waddington, Shelter Island Historical Society Director Louise Green and John Fokine.

They gathered to celebrate the report’s completion, made possible by a \$5,000 grant from the Preservation League, and necessary to secure more state grant money to restore the cabin. Ms. Tobin called the town’s grant application “very strong” and Ms. Hunt said of both the grant and report, “It’s going to be very beneficial to us as we move forward.”

That includes a \$100,000 matching grant application to the state’s Historic Preservation office. Ms. Hunt said she expects an answer on the application some time in December.

*Jake Williams photo*