## Oral History Interview with Rosa Hanna Scott July 13, 2023

## Interviewed by Aimee Lusty for the Montauk Library Oral History Program.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:00:03] Today is Thursday, July 13th, 2023. My name is Aimee Lusty. I'm the archivist at the Montauk Library and I'm conducting an interview with Rosa Hanna Scott. This interview is part of the Montauk Library Oral History Program and will become part of the Montauk Artists Association collection when it's transferred here to the archives. So we're conducting this interview from the sound studio at the Montauk Library in Montauk, New York. And we're joined by Donna Corvi of the Montauk Artists Association. So, Rosa, I just want to first confirm on tape that you agree to participate and to be recorded.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:00:36] Yes, I do.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:00:37] Okay. A little later, we're going to get into the Montauk Artists Association. But first, I wanted to get some background on you. Would you mind pronouncing and spelling your first and last name?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:00:47] Well, my first name is Rosa. R-o-s-a capital R-o-s-a, capital H-a-n-n-a capital S-c-o-t-t.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:01:02] And is there a story behind your name? Your first name? Is that a family name?

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:01:07] Well, I don't think there is, really? No.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:01:16] And where were you born? And what year were you born?

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:01:19] I was born in East Hampton. I'm a Bonacker and I was born in 1937. Mm hmm.

Aimee Lusty [00:01:30] And what were your parents' names?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:01:32] My father's name was James Nicholson, and my mother's name was Victoria. Victoria Nicholson.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:01:42] Can you tell me a little bit about your family heritage and where your parents and grandparents came from?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:01:50] Our background was was sharecroppers. They were sharecroppers in Drewryville, Virginia, and we came to East Hampton in 1929. Sharecroppers. And I yes, I did visit there. I have visited there when I was a little girl, say around ten and 11 years old. And I know the homes where my grandparents lived.

Aimee Lusty [00:02:15] And do you know what the crops were that they were growing?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:02:18] I. As far as I'm concerned, I really don't know what they were. But I do remember seeing them out in the fields, er 5:00 in the morning. They'd be out in the fields, plowing and so forth.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:02:31] Wow. And did your parents continue that through through their life?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:02:37] My parents or grandparents.

Aimee Lusty [00:02:39] So you're saying your grandparents?

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:02:42] Yes, they did. They did.

Aimee Lusty [00:02:45] And you know when your parents were born?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:02:48] When my parents were born, I can't tell you about my parents. Their birth. No, but let's see if I was. If I was. I was born in 1937 and my mother was about 14 or 15 years old. But what would that be? 15 years from 37. Gives you something to think about.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:03:19] What were your parents occupations?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:03:21] Well, as I said, they were sharecroppers. And my father when he did bring his family to East Hampton. My father was a long distance truck driver. He worked for Sweezy, here in Montauk. They used to carry the foods and stuff back and forth by truck to New York City. And then once he retired from the long distance truck driving, he worked on the railroad. Well, hey, come to think about it I have all those pictures of the cars.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:03:56] The Long Island Railroad, it all comes back.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:03:59] The Long Island Railroad. Yes, it does. It really does. Yeah.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:04:03] And do you have any siblings?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:04:05] And my one son. And this name was Frank. Frank Hanna the third. Yeah, and he passed six years ago.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:04:15] Do you have any brothers or sisters?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:04:17] I had the one. Brother. Brother? Okay. Yeah, my one brother. He lives in Virginia. Yeah. Yeah.

Aimee Lusty [00:04:25] And where was your childhood home?

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:04:28] East Hampton.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:04:30] Where In East Hampton?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:04:33] Springs Fireplace Road. Yup. And we were in the commercial area. In fact, we now have the senior center there. And also all the school busses. Yeah. On that street.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:04:54] Yeah, I'm very familiar. I live in Springs.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:04:56] Oh, well, you know. You know. Yes. Yep. Beautiful. I want to see those busses go by I say wow. You would believe it, but I really do. I just love seeing those busses. It means growing and growth. Well.

Aimee Lusty [00:05:16] Children learning.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:05:17] That's it.

Aimee Lusty [00:05:18] Now, what was it like growing up in that area of Springs?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:05:21] Well, in Springs, it was fun. We picked berries as children, rode our bicycles, had to do that and went to the movies every Saturday. Parents would send you to the movies.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:05:41] Was that the East Hampton Theater?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:05:42] Yes, the East Hampton theater.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:05:46] What are some of your early recollections of the neighborhood at the time?

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:05:50] Well, at that time, it has changed because many people have come here now, which you do not even come into Montauk today. Oh, my goodness. All those people, all those cars. As you look at the Lobster Roll now. Mm hmm. The Clam Bar. Oh, my. And they start getting ready now in December for the summer. But as you were saying, the neighborhood has changed because many people have come in. The old family stores that we had in East Hampton on Main Street in Newtown Lane, they're gone. So that's how they have changed no longer there. But she's not the only one. Still, there is White's Pharmacy. My right. Yeah. White pharmacy. Yeah.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:06:44] And being in Springs, you probably went to East Hampton a lot. Did you do much? Did you go to Amagansett town Much. Or to come to Montauk in your youth?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:06:52] Well, I should say that didn't come to Montauk that much, but outside of that, we sort of stayed right in East Hampton. Does that sound strange to say we stayed there? Until well as an adult I was back and forth to Montauk, Springs and so forth, which is good. Mm hmm.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:07:16] And what did your family do for recreation when you were a child?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:07:23] Work. That was the main thing work, the movies, and church. We always had to have that church in there were the movies in church.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:07:31] What church did you attend?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:07:34] Well, it's Calvary Baptist Church now, but years ago, we really didn't have a church. Believe it or not, we go to Bridgehampton. But then I think it was in the sixties. In the sixties, Reverend Spinner from Southampton decided he wanted a church in East Hampton, bout 1962 or so. And that's when the Calvary church came into existence. Yeah.

Aimee Lusty [00:07:59] Yeah. Where is that located?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:08:01] That's Calvary Baptist Church. Yeah. You live in Springs. Do you know the Jackson Street is? The corner, they have Spinner Lane.

Aimee Lusty [00:08:13] Okay.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:08:14] Have an idea where it is. Yeah. Yeah, right, right. Yeah. Spinner Lane.

Aimee Lusty [00:08:20] And where did you attend elementary and high school?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:08:23] Well, with the schooling, we only had the one school, which you probably know, you remember. And that one school was the middle school, which is across from Stop and Shop. And that was the elementary school, the middle school and the high school. Then you slowly saw the other schools come in once, and then it was covered with beautiful vines. The whole school was covered with vines.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:08:58] And was Herrick Park there?

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:09:00] Yes, right across the street I would go across the street.

Aimee Lusty [00:09:05] And what was the school like when you were there?

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:09:09] Well, it was warm. It was a good school. Very good school.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:09:14] Were you part of any clubs or organizations as a teen?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:09:18] I worked on the school paper, I can't say I didn't do that. And I was a what do you call the girls that cheerleader? I was a cheerleader. But by that time, the Air Force and Army had come in to that. To give you an idea what the period was and my cousin said you want to be a cheerleader? Yeah. So, yeah, we would cheer on the East Hampton team against the Air Force and Army and things like that.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:09:52] Where were the fields at the time?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:09:54] The fields for the games? Across the street.

Aimee Lusty [00:09:59] At Herrick Park?

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:09:59] Yeah.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:10:04] What were your art classes like? Did you have any at the middle? When I was middle school or high school?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:10:10] Oh, yes. There were very good classes, the art classes were very good. And I enjoyed I enjoyed them. In fact, I remember I won a prize. Seventh grade. I was so oh, I was so pleased because there was a boy that I liked. And he could see me get this prize. Yeah. Seventh grade. Seventh grade. I won a prize. Yeah.

Aimee Lusty [00:10:39] And did you attend any continuing education, trade, school or college?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:10:44] Yes, I did. I went to Apex Beauty School in New York City and then Dabney Community College in Virginia and Mary Baldwin College. That was all girls college in Stanton, Virginia. And I did go to Southampton College for a while. Mm.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:11:04] And what were your majors?

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:11:07] Education and art, those two.

Aimee Lusty [00:11:11] And how long did you live in Virginia for?

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:11:14] About 15 years.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:11:16] Do you have family there?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:11:18] Well, I can say I remarried. I remarried. And when I remarried. My husband's family was there. So they're still there? Yep.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:11:31] And were you excited to leave and go away to college or were you hesitant in any way?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:11:36] I was excited. It gave me a chance to go because, as I said, my first husband, he helped me to cosmetology the beauty school. And when I wanted to continue going to Southampton College. He's said I'm not putting you through school anymore. So that was the end of that, when I was able to go to Virginia right away, I was excited.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:12:03] And what inspired that shift from cosmetology to teaching, to education?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:12:10] Because excuse me for coughing, but the cosmetology was something that I was encouraged to do. You understand when I say encouraged to do. Whereas with education, I wanted to go into education because my brother was a teacher and my cousins. Teachers. They were all in college. So I had to go to college to. That's how it went.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:12:43] And what are some of the places that you've taught?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:12:47] Let's see. Excuse me. I was in Virginia. Schools there. I subbed in the schools there, and then I subbed Wainscott here, the Springs School and the East Hampton schools. All of them.

Aimee Lusty [00:13:09] What ages?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:13:09] I would say up to the middle school. Yeah, the middle. Because they're fun. If they are fun kids.

Aimee Lusty [00:13:22] What did you like most about teaching?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:13:27] The age and the dif--The children. And also, I mean, like the teachers I subbed for earlier. Yeah, I like it.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:13:38] And do you still teach?

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:13:40] Not now. I stopped about about about four years ago. Yeah.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:13:50] And after Virginia, what drove you to move back to East Hampton?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:13:55] This is my home. See, by this being home, I came home and left his family in Virginia. Yeah. Mm hmm.

Aimee Lusty [00:14:09] And are you married? Do you have children?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:14:12] I have the one son. As I was telling you in, though. No, no, no. I'm a widower. Mm hmm.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:14:21] And what was your husband's name?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:14:24] When the first one or the second one?

**Aimee Lusty** [00:14:26] Both.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:14:26] I know my first husband's name was Frank Hanna Junior, and he was born in Nassau, Bahamas. So that's why I have this feeling towards the Bahamas. Yes. Born in Nassau. Bahamas. Mm hmm. And then we met at the Cottage Inn East Hampton. In the Cottage Inn and that's what the senior center is the former Cottage Inn. Yeah. Mm hmm. We met there and. And were married in 1957. Yeah.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:15:00] And do you have any grandchildren?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:15:03] Yes, I have three. I have Alexandria and two boys, men, I should say now, because they're in their thirties.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:15:15] Is one of them named Frank Hanna?

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:15:17] Frankie?

**Aimee Lusty** [00:15:17] Yes, Thank you. I went to high school with him.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:15:19] You didn't? Yeah.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:15:22] He's around late thirties?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:15:25] Right. Yeah. That was thinking about them today, he and Franaldo. I said they're not bad looking, too. You know, you look at them in their thirties. You don't think about when they're little kids and little kids you're grabbing them by the hand. And let's do this and let's do that well. And then once they've grown up, that's a different story.

Aimee Lusty [00:15:51] And do your grandchildren and other relatives still live in East Hampton?

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:15:56] The group yes, they're still in East Hampton. Yes, and my family.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:16:02] Hmm. So can you talk about your home now and what neighborhood you live in now?

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:16:07] Where I'm living now? Would you explain that again?

**Aimee Lusty** [00:16:15] Oh, can you just talk about where you live now? Are you still in that same area?

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:16:18] Yes, and same area. Right.

Aimee Lusty [00:16:20] Same house?

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:16:21] No, I moved across the street.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:16:27] So you have seen a change. You were there as a child.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:16:29] Yeah, that's what I'm saying. Yes. Yes.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:16:31] That's incredible.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:16:33] Isn't that something? The senior center, Oh, gosh. Oh, it's. It's really something. And. And before you could see the houses that were there are all gone now. You had just the big buildings. As I say, it's commercial. Yeah. Makes a big difference. Yeah.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:17:00] And when did you start to make art yourself?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:17:05] Well. I would say to make the art myself. I was when I started going to college in Virginia. That's when I became serious. Yep. Became serious. Yep. Dabney Community College and Mary Baldwin. And then I do. I use the acrylics and the photography. And I enjoy photography because I can take the pictures. The camera then go back home and draw like the lighthouse. The lighthouse, different things and then paint them.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:17:53] Yeah. Yeah, That's a great resource to have. Both of those skills that can feed into each other.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:17:59] Yeah, that's. That's what I do.

Aimee Lusty [00:18:01] And did you teach that kind of that technique in any of your classes?

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:18:05] Yeah, I did. I did. Yep.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:18:09] Is anyone else in your family an artist?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:18:11] My father's cousin. My father's cousin was a teacher in Washington, D.C. she's the art teacher. Believe it or not, that's going back quite a ways to going back. But she's the art teacher.

Aimee Lusty [00:18:26] Did she have any influence on your path at all?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:18:29] No. No, I never knew her. But she was. Is that what they say, inherited? DNA? Could be.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:18:41] Could be. And can you talk about some of the subject matter in your work? What do you like to paint and what do you want to communicate with your art?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:18:53] Well, I like I like painting people. I even like abstract, come to think about it. I like the abstract art, too. I like all of it. And then as they with art art is seeing and believing, you see what you see. With the abstract if it's a house. And it's not finished. It's still a house, you know. That's. That's true. And a person, even with the person, it's how you see how the individual sees the art.

**Donna Corvi** [00:19:39] So I just wanted to say one of my favorite paintings of Rosa's is one. I think it's called The Bride, and isn't it a self-portrait?

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:19:48] Dora. Okay. She's the one who works in the bank now.

**Donna Corvi** [00:19:53] It's beautiful. Yes. And it has such a beautiful feeling. And it's it's not quite realistic, but you can.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:20:01] Abstract, see you but them together and get the combination, isn't that something?

**Donna Corvi** [00:20:04] It's lovely. So every time Rosa exhibits that, it makes me smile. My favorite Rosa painting.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:20:09] Yeah. Thank you. Thank you. That's the two of them together. The abstract and the modern. Mm hmm.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:20:16] Yeah. I looked at some of your work online before the interview. And I saw a lot of local scenes, beaches, lighthouse, children playing.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:20:25] And that's why I get excited when you that John's working at the light house. I get excited, Oh, boy. I really do. Seriously, isn't it just life is something.

Aimee Lusty [00:20:36] Yeah, has the local environment inspired your work?

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:20:39] Yes, yes.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:20:43] And when you moved back, how did you get involved with the art scene here?

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:20:49] Well, when I was in Virginia, I belonged to some of the groups in Virginia, the art groups. And then when I came back, I heard that this this man named Percy Heath, Percy Heath had an art group called the Montauk Artists. And I thought, Wow, I have to join that, you know, just to get involved. And so I did. And we had no no place to show our work. So we go to the members' homes, their homes in Montauk, we go to the members' homes. And then finally, we heard that they had the depot, that the depot was up to be to be used. And that's how I got involved in that. And at the same time, we had, we used to share it with was showing at Gurney's Inn, and then we show at the library here. So here and the yacht club, Ruschmeyer's and the golf club. I didn't even know there was a golf club here until we had a big dinner there one time.

You know me, I'm going, going the golf club. So at these events, there were dinner dances to raise money. You see some of the pictures when you looked through, you'll see them back there. This is to raise money. And that's how I got involved. Yep.

Aimee Lusty [00:22:29] And was it called the Montauk Artists Association, then?

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:22:32] Yes. Yep.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:22:34] And that kind of how did that come together as a sort of organically just the folks kind of word of mouth hearing about it.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:22:41] Word of mouth. Yes. Word of mouth, just like I heard about. And then, he was this great, great artist and a musician. It's really something. There's a picture of him in there too, a great artist and musician.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:23:01] Yeah. And what year was that formed?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:23:05] This was in, let's see. In 20-. Let's see. In 2003. I think I have here. That's when I started as a receptionist. But I think the group was held 25 or 25 years old.

**Donna Corvi** [00:23:27] So this was our 25th anniversary.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:23:27] Yeah, that's right. You see? Yeah, Yeah.

**Donna Corvi** [00:23:30] Yeah. So. Yeah. Yeah. And Percy was a painter and a well-known jazz musician.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:23:38] Oh, my God. He'd go to Europe, and I said to him one day oh, well, I'd like to go to France. You know, just in conversation, he looked at me and said why don't you? You're going to jump up, you understand? I'm just in conversation. I'd love to go to France. Well, why don't? Because he was always over there in different places, different countries playing. So I did get there one time and I had a chance to see the Eiffel Tower.

**Donna Corvi** [00:24:11] There's nice synergy, too, because being in a small town when I was younger, my parents lived next door to Percy. Yeah. And so they knew him. Yeah. I didn't really know him. I was just young. Yeah, but I always drew. So now, like, all these decades later, here I am. You know a member artist.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:24:31] Bringing this all back.

**Donna Corvi** [00:24:32] And bringing it all back and bringing his memory back.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:24:34] Exactly. So bringing everything back. Yeah, like you have that depot and then we like you think he didn't even have a place to meet. So we come to the library to meet. You know, we come here, then we go to the members' homes. And then when he heard that the depot's was available. He was able to gather.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:24:59] So the group was founded around like 1998. And when did you get the depot space?

**Donna Corvi** [00:25:08] What date was that? Not much sooner than that. That was the sort of cosmic gift. That the depot was going to be closed. It was empty.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:25:21] That's right. That's what I said. Yes, it was empty.

**Donna Corvi** [00:25:23] Wasn't serving a purpose, so now it could be a community center for art.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:25:27] Yes, exactly. Exactly.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:25:30] And you mentioned Percy Heath, but who were some of the other first members of the association?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:25:35] Well, you had. He had He had had the last show. We had Joe Bucci, like I said. And then you had Hal McCormick. You had him and you also plus we had the Weismanns there because they were the first, Hal and Anne Weismann. And we thought it was beautiful.

Donna Corvi [00:26:04] Yeah, and was Paula Phelps around in the beginning as well?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:26:06] Yeah, Paula. She was in the very beginning. She was at the very, very beginning. But she came. She hit it. She did. Yeah. Then we had the the Black Artists came came to East Hampton, and I worked with them and they were all around, came to visit the show here in the plus Ashawagh Hall and places also. Yeah.

**Donna Corvi** [00:26:38] So you rose through the ranks. You started as secretary and you're president.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:26:43] Isn't that something? And you said, I couldn't believe it to be truthful. I really couldn't believe it.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:26:54] What were some of the early activities of the group? Besides exhibitions, did you have children's programs as well?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:27:02] Oh, yes. We have the pictures of them. Yes. The children's. And then what was that? I have on the also the different classes, the watercolors. And you had the, this was for the art. Now, this is. This is. This was years ago. But they don't even have a year on here. But you'll see the different teachers at the top. [Points to photograph and class press release].

**Aimee Lusty** [00:27:31] Oil. Acrylic painting. Pastel drawing. Watercolor. Photography.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:27:40] We did all that one room, that big room upstairs for the photography, too, which is great.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:27:47] That's great. I'd love a copy of this.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:27:48] Yeah. Yeah. Okay. She said she'd like a copy.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:27:52] And was it always artists and musicians? Did you collaborate with writers as well or any other?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:27:58] No, it was mainly the artists. But just the fact that Percy was a musician, that they were able to bring the musicians in. But what I like to is when the people that would be catching the train would stop in to, you know, this stop in a visit that we had some musicians that would stop in a couple of them play with just about it while their waiting on the train they were playing. You'll see them in the pictures too. You'll see them? Yeah.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:28:30] Yeah. Being in that location, just having it, you know, be such a hub of people that don't necessarily know they're going to stumble upon an art gallery.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:28:37] Yes. And it's, that's what they would do.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:28:39] You get such a wider crowd just passing through.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:28:42] You really do.

**Donna Corvi** [00:28:44] It's funny we've had a couple of times people come in to look while they're waiting for the train and buy a piece of art and wrap it and put it right there in their suitcase and take it.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:28:53] That's right. That's right. This is true. That's true.

**Donna Corvi** [00:28:57] Rosa, when did the Percy Heath Scholarship Award start? And do you remember?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:29:06] I don't really remember having. I don't think it was that long ago either, though.

Donna Corvi [00:29:11] Right. Everything kind of came to a stop because of Covid.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:29:12] It fell on the same time. You'll have to forgive me the same time that the shows on the green. Okay. Through that period of time. Yes. Yes.

**Donna Corvi** [00:29:25] All right, So we brought those back. We revived them. And Teresa Lawler, who's also on our board.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:29:33] Right.

**Donna Corvi** [00:29:33] We presented to \$250 gift cards to Sweetwater to two students. That's right. They filled out an application why they wanted to be considered at the Montauk School. And that was really exciting.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:29:47] That's beautiful.

**Donna Corvi** [00:29:48] That's an annual thing.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:29:49] And I guess that's important because it shows interest in the young people.

**Donna Corvi** [00:29:56] And why only do it for music. We were willing to do it for art as well, but they actually had so many art awards already they were giving out. Yes. And they didn't have anything for music, so they felt like this was going to be the best.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:30:07] That's right. Yes. Beautiful. And then there was something else. I was thinking, too, that they that they did. It's past me now though. But it's important. It's important. And I think by working on it the way you're working. That people can see this. It can. You can see it.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:30:33] So has the Artists Association over the years collaborated with any other community groups in the area, like the school or library?

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:30:42] Yeah, you could say with the even working with the Artists Alliance.

**Donna Corvi** [00:30:47] The Artists Alliance of East Hampton.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:30:49] Yes. And our members of our members that belong to the Montauk Artists belong to the Artists Alliance.

**Donna Corvi** [00:30:59] That's true, I am one as well. And we were able to help East Hampton High School Senior AP art class. They needed a home to have an exhibit for their art. Yeah, so we offered them the Depot Gallery, and that was the first time we had a high school art show and that was wonderful.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:31:11] That's what I wanted to say as it came to my mind, had the show here.

Aimee Lusty [00:31:17] Oh, that's great.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:31:18] Isn't that great? The high school students.

**Donna Corvi** [00:31:20] Yeah. We want the Montauk Artists Association and the Depot Gallery to be, you know, helping our community with with regards to music and art.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:31:29] Exactly.

**Donna Corvi** [00:31:30] They're going to be an annual thing. We're going to host their show again next May.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:31:35] They should continue.

**Donna Corvi** [00:31:36] We have we're bringing music back. Yes. We have jam sessions periodically upstairs in the studio. We have a local singer coming tomorrow night.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:31:45] That's right. Padden, I still say I know that name, I think whoever it is belong to our Montauk artist. We had a Montauk artist with that last name because I can remember. At least I think I can remember. I can't.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:32:03] And when did you start doing the shows on the Green?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:32:07] Yes, that was. I had that down too, in the 20-. Let's see. What year was that?

Donna Corvi [00:32:22] I knew that.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:32:23] Was a that was a 25 year thing too something like 25 years.

**Donna Corvi** [00:32:30] The association was set up with three women and they each had very specific tasks. Rosa oversaw everything.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:32:36] Yes.

**Donna Corvi** [00:32:37] Paula handles gallery exhibits. Anne Weismann handled the shows on the green.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:32:42] Yes, she did. She did.

**Donna Corvi** [00:32:44] And they all did a fabulous, fabulous job.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:32:48] And that and I remember at the show on the green, I can remember Percy putting up the tent there, putting the tents up. And he didn't have enough work, he says. I said, well, I have to work some work at home, he said go get it. East Hampton back to Montauk. But I can remember him telling me to go get it. And I did. I get a few more pieces and brought them back. Yeah.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:33:13] Do you have any other memories or stories from either on the green or the exhibitions?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:33:20] Well. Oh, I can tell you one this is one. He and Peter Jennings were good friends, right? Very good friends and they would compete. He his passion was the Montauk

Artists and Peter Jennings was the Bridgehampton Child Care, which you probably know. Yep. So that was really something to. Peter Jennings was on one of those pictures. Hmm. The two of them, too. They had something to be proud of. But this is true. You know, believe it or not, you wouldn't believe it. But this is true because Percy would talk about the Montauk Artists. And I rode down here one time on a motorcycle. Holding on a motorcycle.

**Donna Corvi** [00:34:11] Percy brought a lot to the organization because of his connection to people in the industry of music and performing.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:34:21] Yes. Yes.

**Donna Corvi** [00:34:23] And it was sad because from the records I looked at, once Percy died, we slowly started to lose those big names. Yes. Because he just wasn't there and there wasn't anyone like him.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:34:35] That's like I said, Peter.

Donna Corvi [00:34:37] To step up.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:34:38] That's right. Competition.

**Donna Corvi** [00:34:40] So but that's okay, because we're doing it now.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:34:44] And we're still here.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:34:45] You're still here.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:34:46] Dragging along.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:34:48] So what are some of the the challenges that you faced as a as an organization?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:34:57] Well, one thing I all. I loved the dinner dances. Gurney's and Ruschmeyers. They were pretty too, you've been to Ruschmeyers? They were nice. Weren't they nice?

**Donna Corvi** [00:35:13] And there again, too, because Percy had such with friends telling people he was able to get us great deals. And we have these little fundraisers. But a lot of these local places that we did go to in the past, you know, they're not owned by local people anymore. So the dinner dance era sort of came to an end.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:35:33] Yeah, it slowly. All of a sudden, you said she's only about three people here. This is serious and we before there were, you'd see them dancing. Oh, my God. Beautiful.

**Donna Corvi** [00:35:47] I think what's good today is that it's like every week I have a couple of new members join. New membership has been going up.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:35:57] Yes.

**Donna Corvi** [00:35:58] And what that does is it brings new artists to the table who want to be in the member's show.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:36:05] And then also on the green. The ones on the green.

**Donna Corvi** [00:36:13] The shows on the green, COVID didn't hurt because once we were able to rev up again. After COVID our shows are sold out and there's waiting lists for both of them. So that's exciting.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:36:23] Oh, yeah, that's great.

**Donna Corvi** [00:36:25] Yeah. And even though we have the gift of that beautiful building, you know, it. It costs a lot to maintain it. And that's all on us.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:36:32] You talking the depot? Yes. And we were lucky to get it. We were. We were. Because I know when the water would come down and I'd want to get the cup. Oh, my goodness. Get those a cup with something. But that's true, because all the work you have to do, like you're saying. Mm hmm. So it has to be done.

**Donna Corvi** [00:36:52] You have to maintain that building, it's expensive. But year by year we're doing it.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:36:58] Then, like you said, even with John, with the bathrooms.

**Donna Corvi** [00:37:03] Yeah, we did some renovation to the buildings to reopen after Covid.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:37:07] Sure did.

**Donna Corvi** [00:37:08] So it's in much better shape. It's a better gallery space. Yes.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:37:14] You have, you moved the benches and stuff like that. As you said, she said, meet room. Room. Beautiful.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:37:23] Yeah, I was there a couple of months ago. Yeah. What are some milestones of the group that you're you're proud of or really excited about that you've completed?

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:37:36] That we have?

**Donna Corvi** [00:37:38] I would say because it's our 25th. We've been trying to do new things and they've all worked really well. So I think they may become no more new. But part of our regular, our regular way to operate. So for the shows on the green, for example, we've invited local people to come and perform at the gazebo during the show. Not a full concert, but we had this young girl, Faith Mullally, she's 12. She sang two songs on the green she felt belted out. I think it was God Bless America and another song and another local talent. Dalton Portella came and did an acoustic set. And we'll have other musicians. In August, but it's nice to give local people a place to play publicly. Yeah, just for a short period of time.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:38:26] And they love it.

**Donna Corvi** [00:38:27] Bringing the music and art together for our organization.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:38:29] That's it. That's it. Exactly.

**Donna Corvi** [00:38:31] So that's been exciting.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:38:32] And it should be. It should be.

**Donna Corvi** [00:38:34] And then bringing the music and art together into the gallery. And I have to say we had you mentioned writers, we had the one and only dramatic reading, I think the Association's ever host. Yeah. And I was worried because I don't know how many theater lovers are there are out there that want to come to dramatic reading. But it was George Bernard Shaw and we had 28 people in the gallery, which doesn't sound like a lot.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:39:04] But it is. It is, yes.

Donna Corvi [00:39:06] And it was wonderful.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:39:07] That's the same as here when we had the show here. Not to show, but the reading here. There was only about 20 something chairs.

**Donna Corvi** [00:39:16] We had about 40 people when we did our little history. History 101 about the depot and who we are here at the library. That was wonderful to do. So I think we just want to keep doing these.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:39:27] You have to we have to in as you as you were saying, it's important. You don't want to just drift, go.

**Donna Corvi** [00:39:40] Yeah. I think the biggest challenge, Aimee, is finding people that have a love for art and music, to have the time to invest and donate here because all of us are volunteers and everything we do is at a volunteer level. And, you know, I'm very happy we have a youngster on our board. A local gallery owner Chris Lucore.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:40:05] Yeah, he's good.

**Donna Corvi** [00:40:06] And I'd love to find two or three more just like him to know that they'll be, you know, people coming up in the ranks to carry this forward.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:40:14] But who was the young girl that you had was. You had a young girl, where was I at. And. And you taking her around. Couple of weeks ago.

**Donna Corvi** [00:40:31] Not the gallery attendant. Not, Nova.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:40:32] Well, maybe not. There was a young girl. And so good to see her there. A teenager.

**Donna Corvi** [00:40:41] Okay, So we that's new for us as well. In the past, we didn't accept students as members. But if you are an art student and you're in eighth grade or high school, of course we want you on the board. You're going to be our future, down the pike.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:40:59] That's it. That's it.

Aimee Lusty [00:41:01] Great.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:41:03] And I think that's that's important. Because like I said, I did a little bird on the tree when I was in seventh, you know, in first grade, the bird of my first piece of art.

**Donna Corvi** [00:41:15] Well for those East Hampton High School kids. Yeah, for some for most of them, it was the first time they walked into a gallery and saw their work up on a wall. Yeah. And it really is transforming. If you're that person is going to continue art, whether it's full time or even just throughout your life. Yeah, it's. It's wonderful to know that people can come and see your work. So you need to give people that chance.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:41:38] Yeah. Yeah.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:41:40] And to know that these spaces are you know, they don't just exist. They are hardworking volunteers for decades.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:41:52] You said for decades? Goodness gracious. So then you still looking to see what else is coming up and you have the clothesline art show coming up. And then you

have what was fun is seeing the people that you know in these different groups and things like that, which makes it so nice. You know, it really does. I saw a man the other day, here I go again, and Rosa and I say, Hi, this is me. Always is this is I have five. And I said, You have what? I have five. Five kids. I said, But I know you in Montauk because he belonged to Montauk Artists, before he was even married. But you see, and he does beautiful work. Beautiful, beautiful work.

**Donna Corvi** [00:42:40] It's nice to see our members grow not only with families, but with their art as well. Yeah, they start then they have solo shows like Haim whose having a solo show at Ashawagh Hall.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:42:51] How'd you know I was talking about Haim?

Aimee Lusty [00:42:55] I work with him at Ashawagh Hall.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:42:57] Yeah, but then you see the circle she knew just who I was talking about.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:43:06] And yeah, the organization's not just Montauk artists, it kind of extends, through our different communities.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:43:10] That right it's a grow, everyone.

**Donna Corvi** [00:43:14] You know I felt in the past and I was just a newer member and I sort of felt like organizations were sort of polarized and maybe thought of each other as a competitor.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:43:23] Exactly. You can't do that all.

**Donna Corvi** [00:43:27] But you're not, you're all in our art community. It behooves you just to get to know each other and share, host each other. It just makes everything more vibrant.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:43:35] It does. It does. It really does. You knew just who I was talking about. It's a small world. Before he was even married. Yeah. Montauk Artists.

**Donna Corvi** [00:43:57] Well Rosa is our living legend right now, you you've been there the longest and you have the most history in your head and in your photos. So that's why it was important to do this.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:44:09] Well, that's what it is. Wow.

Aimee Lusty [00:44:13] And what's your, you're still on the board, what's your title now?

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:44:19] My title? What's my title?

**Donna Corvi** [00:44:21] You're still president Rosa.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:44:26] I had down there, I can remember when I was-

**Donna Corvi** [00:44:35] You said secretary when you started.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:44:36] Yes. And then going to go walking over to Gosman's or something and coming back and this was. And they said that they will make me Secretary. And I said what? Yes. And then at that time I started out I just was the receptionist. Then they gave me a position. I said wow. Yeah.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:45:07] How did that feel?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:45:09] I couldn't believe it at first, I sad what? I really couldn't. But it was it was fun working the different ones because they all had different temperaments. You understand what I'm trying to say? Yes. And each one, as they came in, you had to know how to approach them.

**Donna Corvi** [00:45:29] Well, I think that's one of your strong points, Rosa, is that you're very kind, welcoming and diplomatic. I mean, you never raise your voice or, you know, you're just even in a challenging situation. You you're very good at dealing with people and getting resolutions.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:45:50] And you have to be. Goodness gracious. And I remember when Joe Bucci he invited me over to house. I think I sold a piece of his work. That's what happened. He was so happy that I sold a piece of his work. He invited me to dinner. So I accepted, you know, but didn't believe then that some people didn't like that. Well, like you said, you have to be to be diplomatic, because I don't think everybody love Joe. You know. You know, everyone is different.

**Donna Corvi** [00:46:30] Artists can be temperamental.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:46:32] That's what it is. That's what it is. Just the way she said it. And I'd gone to Joe's and I think it rained that day to come to think about it, because I do remember it rained.

**Donna Corvi** [00:46:43] And you're going to have work in our members' show on the green coming up in August.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:46:48] Yes. Yes.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:46:50] What are you putting in that show?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:46:55] I have. Well. I love the I love the two abstract ones. You know, the Montauk Overlook. I love them. I like them. And I like to sha- the shadows, too. And that's one of the two houses-

Donna Corvi [00:47:14] I know your work.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:47:15] Yeah. Mm hmm. Yeah. So we'll see.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:47:21] I had questions about some other organizations that you're part of, but I first. Is there anything else you want to say about the Montauk Artists Association or your time there?

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:47:32] Oh, I love it. That's all. That's the main thing.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:47:38] It sounds like a very warm community.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:47:40] It is. It is very warm. Like to be hitting the road at, what, 12 to 5? And then the receptions from four. I have to remember, I'll have to be there til seven. Yeah, I remember your your at the receptions table and everything. Beautiful.

**Donna Corvi** [00:48:07] Yeah. In the past artists had to bring all their own wine and.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:48:11] Yes.

**Donna Corvi** [00:48:12] Whatever and food and set up their table.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:48:14] Your tables were always so pretty.

**Donna Corvi** [00:48:16] Thank you. But now post-Covid. We had to.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:48:25] Change. Had to change.

**Donna Corvi** [00:48:27] The gallery takes care of that. We put in individually bagged snacks and the wine and the water and it's simpler. And then you have control. It always looks nice.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:48:35] Yes.

**Donna Corvi** [00:48:35] Yes. And. And people are happy. They don't have to do it.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:48:39] That's right. They are. They are. Because that was work to them to think about, to bring bring it in, set it up in the kitchen that you could take it out and set it up on the tables.

Aimee Lusty [00:48:50] After your day job.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:48:51] Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:48:55] So you are also involved with the Long Island Black Artists Association. I saw that you were the past president there. Can you tell me a little bit about that group and how you became part of it?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:49:06] Oh, wow. The Black Artists. It was a beautiful group and I love that I started out as just as a member and. We were. We were at this place called the Lake View up in Hempstead. Up in Hempstead. And we do a lot of we did a lot of work. A lot of work. And at this at the same time. I eventually became president of that group. And we go to different places. Libraries, mainly the libraries we went to.

**Donna Corvi** [00:50:02] Was it last summer or this summer before you actually invited them to be part of one of our shows on the green in Montauk? And that was exciting that they were able to come and had their own tent.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:50:11] Yes. So it was. Certainly was. Yes. Beautiful group and warm and competitive, too. I'd say that it wasn't just like he just didn't work in the competition. Competitive. Very much so.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:50:37] Were there any other artists from the East End or the South Fork that were in that group?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:50:41] Not really. They were mainly up that end, Roosevelt and places like that. But I ended up becoming president. I was really surprised when I became president because I didn't know why.

Aimee Lusty [00:51:01] Your modest.

**Donna Corvi** [00:51:06] Rosa, they honored you at Ashawagh Hall over Martin Luther King Junior weekend. And your minister or pastor came and spoke.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:51:14] That's right. Yes.

**Donna Corvi** [00:51:15] He spoke about your there at Ashawagh Hall.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:51:16] Yes, Yes, wasn't that something because I didn't know it was everybody. It was a secret. I couldn't believe it.

Aimee Lusty [00:51:28] Was that through the Artists Alliance of East Hampton?

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:51:32] Yeah, I couldn't believe it.

**Donna Corvi** [00:51:34] And they were honoring me for how many years of work and art?

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:51:40] Yeah.

Donna Corvi [00:51:42] I think it was over 20.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:51:43] It was. It was over 20. My pastor. He tried to keep bringing up things that I'd forgotten, things that I'd forgotten if. If I gave them a cookie. He'd go, do you remember that cookie? And I said damn, he has a good memory, because it'll come back to me, you know, come back like it should.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:52:09] How long did you know each other?

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:52:13] This pastor? Ten years. He's been at Calvary for ten years. Yeah.

**Donna Corvi** [00:52:20] And you were in a show recently? Juneteenth?

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:52:24] Yeah. The Juneteenth show

**Donna Corvi** [00:52:25] Yeah. Where was that?

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:52:27] There's one in Southampton. As in the one in Southampton. And then also the one in East Hampton it was on a Sunday, I believe. Yeah. Yes. No, Saturday had to been on a Saturday in the one in the in the one in East Hampton was Saturday and the one in Southampton was Friday. Yeah. There were two days. Mm hmm.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:52:51] Still very active with your work.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:52:58] I tell you this.

Donna Corvi [00:53:04] Got to keep going.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:53:05] That's all we have to do. That's right. Yeah. Only thing gets me down. It's that like when I was with that vertigo, whatever you call it, could that killed me because I couldn't come here, couldn't go there, could do this, couldn't do that. And that's why I still wasn't feeling well when I canceled the last time.

**Donna Corvi** [00:53:25] Yeah, but you're here today.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:53:27] I know, I know. And then they didn't even have me down.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:53:37] We were able to make some room and accommodate. I'm so glad you came, though. Really happy to have you here and hear about your history. You know, your upbringing in East Hampton, how you made your way to Montauk and collaborating with different artists and musicians.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:53:53] Yeah, I did make it. I did get to France one time for. Percy said why don't you go? You know what that means. But when you think about things. But he's good.

**Donna Corvi** [00:54:09] You know, thanks to people like you that the organization is still going. Right. So we just have to keep going.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:54:16] Keep going. And we're going to keep going. I want to hear that name Paddon, and I'm going to find out where that name is. I'm going to try to make it tomorrow for

a few minutes. I said for a few minutes. Sure. Thanks. Yep. And see with that name, because it was somebody that belonged to the artists that his name was Paddon. Bet it's a relative.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:54:45] I'm at the end of my questions. But if there's anything you want to ask or anything, we didn't cover that you want to talk about.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:54:53] No, I don't think so.

**Donna Corvi** [00:54:55] It is just enjoy working with Rosa and learning from her all the time. And I think we make a good team.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:55:02] We do. I like her haircut too, she changes her hair every once in a while.

Aimee Lusty [00:55:08] Yeah. As an educator, you also have, you know, a lot to, a lot to teach.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:55:12] Yeah. Yeah. And and as as we were saying, now that we have to keep on pushing, do you know the song, keep on pushing, can't stop now, move up a little higher.

**Donna Corvi** [00:55:27] Thank goodness it's a seasonal gallery because mid-May to mid-October. Life is crazy busy. But then you get a little respite. Not too long.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:55:38] About two weeks.

**Donna Corvi** [00:55:40] Because you have to start prepping for the next season.

**Rosa Hanna Scott** [00:55:43] Like we're saying just driving down. I said Oh, my goodness. It started. What time do they open and start preparing the places? In April.

**Donna Corvi** [00:55:54] Right. So the gallery and the shows on the green might be on a hiatus in the fall and winter, but the association isn't because we keep it alive and vibrant with our Instagramming and online.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:56:06] That's right.

**Donna Corvi** [00:56:07] News, monthly newsletters, on the off seasons.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:56:10] Exactly. That's it.

Aimee Lusty [00:56:15] Keep doing it.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:56:17] Thank you.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:56:20] I look forward to seeing more shows and programs.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:56:22] Yes.

Donna Corvi [00:56:24] Thank you, Aimee.

Rosa Hanna Scott [00:56:25] Thank you. Thank you so much. So nice. And thank you so much.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:56:30] This is the end of the July 13th interview with Rosa Hanna Scott. The interviewer was Aimee Lusty, and this recording can be found in the archive collection of the Montauk Library.