

## *Meet the Bedford Historical Society . . . again!*



While we hoped 2021 would be a "return to normal" we quickly discovered that fundraisers, school tours and community events would again be limited. Albert Einstein's quote that "in the middle of difficulty lies opportunity" became our mantra. We turned the unexpected quiet time into an opportunity to tackle many languishing projects including the use of media to share the preservation and educational work we do.

Film maker Jamie Edgar of Hound Dog Media, Sonja Bartlett of Sonja Bartlett Productions and photographer William Abranowicz readily agreed to shoot the 10 buildings and landmarks we preserve and to capture some of our iconic events and tours. As Historical Society members and Bedford residents, the group brought a passion to the work that is evident when you see their captivating videos and photographs that will be available later this year.



## *2021 Annual Report*



## - Collections -

We welcomed Hannah Winiker our new Collections Manager. She has a Masters in History of Design and Curatorial Studies from Parsons and completed the London Summer Course of the Victorian Society in America. Hannah's expertise and dedication have allowed us to better organize and digitize our collections. Stay tuned for new exhibits planned for the Court House Museum.



The 1787 Court House & Museum was open to visitors for tours thanks to our wonderful Docent, Mary Durham.

As part of our media project, Lynn Ryan and Town Historian John Stockbridge recorded an oral history interview with Anne French, a 57-year Bedford resident, past Board Member of the BHS and the Bedford Free Library and former Executive Director of the Mianus River Gorge.

We rearranged exhibits in the Bedford Museum and fabricated a new custom display cabinet to allow space for upcoming rotating exhibits.

After extensive research we purchased new period appropriate costumes for staff and volunteers.



## - Acquisitions -



Assortment of 19th century baby and doll items donated by Marcia Thomas.



- 1980 commemorative coin marking the 300th anniversary of the Purchase of the Town of Bedford and 1987 commemorative coin dedicated to the Bedford Court House. Gift of Arthur P. Sullo.
- Painting of Bedford Oak mounted in gold frame. Gift of Ginny Benner.
- Framed Map of the Towns of North Castle, Bedford, and New Castle, circa 1900. Gift of Kelley & Scott Johnston.
- Commemorative 1787 Court House porcelain plate. Gift of Patricia Armstrong.
- Two lead proofs of the Bedford Tricentennial Medal made by Medallic Art Company, designed by Robert A. Weinmann. Gift of his son Chris Weinmann.
- Two red plastic identification tags for Bedford Riding Lanes Association, Inc. Gift of Deborah Matarazzo.

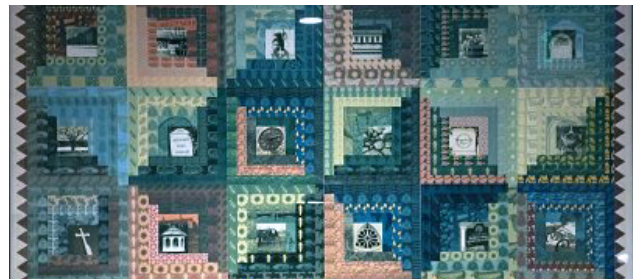


- Assortment of items belonging to Bedford resident Wilhelmina Kirby Waller, including her Red Cross army cloak, satin wedding shoes, and various photographs and certificates from her time served as a Red Cross Army Nurse in World War I. Gifts of Nicholas and Shelley Robinson.

- Large assortment of items from the life of Charles Wood Avery (1918-2003), Katonah Undertaker including Christmas greeting card from World War II and early 20th century leather box of playing cards with monogram F. Pelton (Frederick Pelton) who was Vice President of Mount Kisco Bank. Gift of Kristen Wiles.



- 1895 Scientific American newspaper, League of Women Voters Booklet, 1968, Land Title of Julius Siebert, 1895, Bedford Airshow Envelope, 1934. Gift of Pat Suppa.
- Multi-media quilt design composition of Bedford Iconography by local artist Carol Bouyoucos. Gift of Andrea Raisfeld and Bill Abranowicz.



## - Board of Directors & Office -

Thank you to our Board for their commitment to fulfilling our mission and for generously giving their time and expertise to all of our fundraising initiatives.

Peter Hennessy, President • Nancy Markhoff, Vice President  
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Christina Bresani • Jen Button • Jonathan Conner • Mimi Freund  
Frank Geiger • Alison Gregory • Alexander Hamer • Anna Kenoff  
Schuyler Perry • Jesse Randol • Michelle St. John • Steel Swift  
H. Cutler Whitman • David Worby • Leslie Wortmann  
John Stockbridge, Town Historian - ex officio  
Evelyne Ryan, Executive Director • Sophia Bernier, Communications  
Rich Carpino, Properties • Hannah Winiker, Collections



We created custom brochures for each of the buildings we own with information about the building's history and the Society.

To introduce our new multimedia project, we mailed postcards of Bill Abranowicz's photograph of the Bedford Oak to the community and gave everyone an opportunity to win a plank crafted from a Bedford Oak limb drop.

Postcards of the Oak and all of our buildings are available at The Bedford Store.

- Welcomed Jen Button, Schuyler Perry and Michelle St. John to the Board.
- Thanked Will Gourd who completed his term after contributing significant improvements to our Finance and Investment Committee.
- Revised the Society's Investment Policy and consolidated investment accounts to match current objectives.
- Hosted the Westchester County Historical Society's Annual Meeting at Historical Hall where Executive Director Lynn Ryan gave a talk about the founding and preservation work of the BHS.

## - Education -

### FOOTSTEPS IN THE PAST PROGRAM RESUMES DESPITE THE PANDEMIC & BAD WEATHER!



In 2020 students were not able to participate in our *Footsteps in the Past* program because of the pandemic and last year was looking dismal too before a group of parents, a Girl Scout Troop and one school decided to coordinate tours on their own. While we didn't have our usual 300 students, those that were able to come learned about local history and life in old Bedford with a meet on the Green, an interactive exhibit of artifacts and visits to the 1787 Court House and 1829 School House.

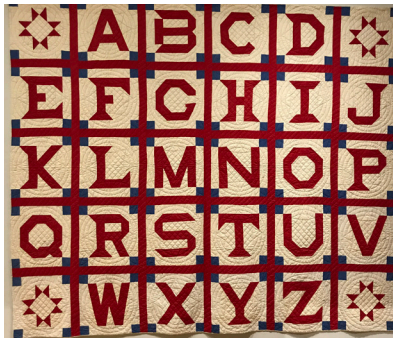
Without our many volunteers we could not share Bedford's history with the students who participate in our 4th Grade Tours. Many thanks to Parker Gilbert and John Stockbridge for their participation as Constable and Justice of the Peace; Patty Kiernan and Carolyn Nielsen as School Mistress at the School House; and Tour Guides Christina Bresani, Mary Durham and Mary Milo.



## - Community -



The Society displayed three Bedford quilts from our collections in the Westchester County's Quilt Show at the Hudson River Museum.



Board Members and their families welcomed visitors to the 1787 Court House porch during Jingle Pass weekend with mulled cider, holiday ornaments and candy canes



We participated in the Arbor Day tree planting in the Old Burying Ground with Jeff Carpenter of the Tree Advisory Board, Town Board and Friends of Bedford Burying Grounds.



## - Thank you - volunteers & support

- John Stockbridge & Christina Rae at the Town Historian's office for research and support.
- Peter T. Michaelis for his professional photography services at our events.
- Melissa Fleming for the donation and care of the plantings and gardens at the Post Office and Lounsbery Buildings.
- Town of Bedford's IDEA Committee for their assistance and guidance as we began our research into Bedford's Black History and Native History including research on ceremonial stone landscapes in Bedford. This work will enable us to reframe our history to identify and acknowledge all who have been present here.
- Henry Pence, our valued volunteer intern, whose research of Bedford's Black History has contributed to a better understanding of Bedford's past.
- The Bedford Garden Club for maintenance of the Court House garden and wreath donations for Historical Hall.
- Aimee Whitman for her help with membership mailings.
- John Beach for unfailingly answering electrical emergency calls for both the BHS and the Village when the lights just won't go on!
- Hopp Ground Garden Club for donations of holiday decorations inside and outside of the Post Office.
- Robert Sour for tending the postings on the Post Office Community Bulletin Board.
- Clock Winders for their dedication to winding the Sutton Clock to keep accurate time.
- O'Brien family for their donation of electricity and lawn care for the Sutton Clock & Tower.
- Doug Koziak of RK Irrigation for donating his services at the Post Office and Lounsbery gardens.
- John Stockbridge for the donation of souvenir pens.
- Elsa Gomez and staff for the cleaning and care of our buildings.
- The *Record Review* for their editorial support.



## - Properties -



We painted the exterior trim and interior of the School House with period appropriate milk paint; Upgraded the lighting at Historical Hall with two new chandeliers and LED adjustable downlights, replaced exterior front uplights and added safety lighting for the patio. Installed a new chimney liner in the Lounsbury Building; Rebuilt the rear entry at the Jackson House; Replaced the sign at the Bedford Store; Painted the rear porch at Historical Hall; Mowed the field protecting the Bedford Oak and everything else required to preserve Bedford's historic buildings! Thanks to our Property Manager Rich Carpino for his vigilance, carpentry and wood turning skills, decor installations, creative solutions and so much more.

## - Events -

### 6TH ANNUAL HOPPFEST RETURNS TO THE VILLAGE GREEN

A sold-out crowd enjoyed the return of Hoppfest with live music, beer and wine, food trucks, pub games and fire pits under a moonlit sky on the Green. We so appreciate everyone who attended and helped create a memorable evening to support our Education Programs. Thanks to our generous underwriters, sponsors, raffle donors and the Town of Bedford for making the evening such a success! You can see more photos on our website.

#### MUCH APPRECIATION FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO A MAGICAL EVENING

Bedford Village Flower Shoppe for the magnificent design & decor  
Tangram for the statement bar-in-the-round  
Mark Boyland Real Estate Team for the Waffle Cabin truck  
Broken Bow Brewery • Captain Lawrence Brewing Company  
Bedford Wine Merchants • Siemers Wines & Spirits  
Jennifer Mallowney Photography

#### THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

Bradsell Contracting • Compass, Betsy Ronel • The Shanahan Group LLC

#### THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

Chris & John Beach • Christina Bresani & Michael Struble  
Aimee Brisson • Compass, Beth Silfen • Jonathan Conner  
Mimi Feund • Anna & Tony Hass • Lisa & Peter Hennessy  
JC Beach Electric • Anna & Jeff Kenoff • Korth & Shanahan Painting Co.  
The Lamb Family • Mitchell Oil • Pepsi-Cola of the Hudson Valley  
Tyler & Schuyler Perry • Suburban Carting • Holly Taylor & Gene Pope  
The Randol Family • Record-Review • Thomas Fox Catering  
Town of Bedford • Libby & Cutler Whitman • Leslie & Vic Wortmann

#### ENTERTAINMENT, FOOD & TASTINGS

Doghouse • Bedford Playhouse • Mobile Pie • Thomas Fox Catering  
Three Little Pigs • Frankly Organic Vodka • Heimat NY • oHhO  
6° or less brewery • Taconic Distillery • Stew Leonards Danbury

#### THANKS TO OUR HOPPFEST CHAIRS & COMMITTEE

Mimi Freund • Anna Kenoff • Jesse Randol  
Christina Bresani • Jen Button • Shawn Carmody • Frank Geiger  
Peter Hennessy • Michelle St. John • Steel Swift • Leslie Wortmann



- you make everything

### **BEDFORD OAK CIRCLE**

*\$2,500 & above*

Christina Bresani & Michael Struble  
The Fleischer Family Gift Fund  
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The Mark Boyland Real Estate Team  
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Marc Ackerman  
M. & R. Ahrens  
Nadya V. Anderson



# *we do possible -*

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Wallace & Toby Baker  
Whitney & Stephen Barbera  
Suzanne Beatty  
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## **IN MEMORIAM**

in memory of  
Geri Glasser Ludwig Feinstein

## **MATCHING GIFTS**

Bank of America  
BNY Mellon  
Goldman, Sachs & Co  
IBM  
MBIA  
PepsiCo  
Pfizer  
William Blair & Company

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[BedfordHistoricalSocietyNewYork](https://www.facebook.com/BedfordHistoricalSocietyNewYork)

## **Instagram**

Follow us and check out posts  
[@BedfordHistorical](https://www.instagram.com/BedfordHistorical)

*Thank you for your membership  
which is valid for one year  
from the date you renew.*

*Our apologies if your name was  
omitted or spelled incorrectly.  
Please call us with corrections:  
(914) 234-9751.*

## - Members & Community -

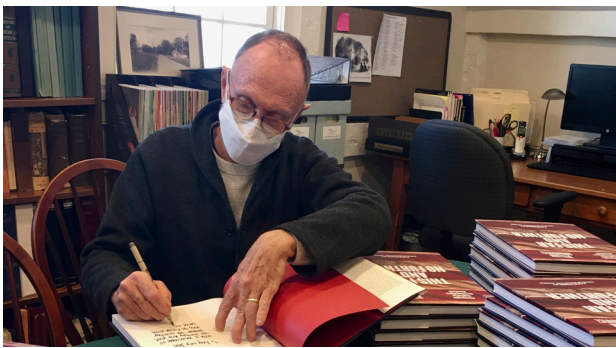
- Published *Bedford Stories*, our monthly history email and contributed stories to the *Record Review*.
- Coordinated the donation, installation and maintenance of the hanging flower baskets in the Village and flowers for the planters. We and the entire Town are grateful to the BHS members who initiated the beautification project and donated the funds.



- Participated in the Bedford Village Business Association. Helped organize and participated in Sidewalk Sale Days, Jingle Pass Weekend, Shine Bright Bedford and Tree Lighting on the Green.
- Coordinated the Geraldine Lanfair Scholarship for future elementary educators.
- Participated in Rainbow Pride Day in the Village and handed out Historical Society postcards.
- Provided photos of our buildings to Truck Restaurant for historic gingerbread houses.



- Participated in Constitution Week with National Society of Daughters of America Revolution.
- Participated in, and members of, the Greater Hudson Heritage Network, the Museum Association of New York, the Association of State and Local History and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.
- Hosted William Abranowicz for the rescheduled book signing of *This Far and No Further: Photographs Inspired by the Voting Rights Movement*.



## - Save the Date -

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25

**Saturday, September 24th**  
**7TH ANNUAL HOPPFEST**

Please visit our website  
for information on our programs and events:  
[bedfordhistoricalsociety.org](http://bedfordhistoricalsociety.org)  
or call us at 914.234.9751  
or sign up for our newsletter on our website  
to stay informed on all things BHS!

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021

#### REVENUE

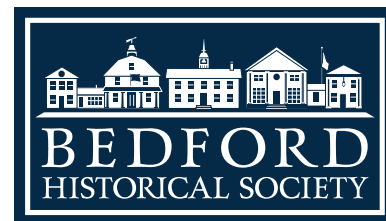
Membership Dues & Contributions	\$106,572
Tenants' Leases & Daily Rentals	\$335,617
Fundraising Events	\$51,021
Interest, Gift Shop & Miscellaneous	\$47,403
<b>TOTAL REVENUE:</b>	<b>\$540,613</b>

#### EXPENSES

Property Renewal & Annual Maintenance	\$150,920
Property Taxes & Insurance	\$54,083
Education Programs & Events	\$12,629
Museum Collections Management	\$50,286
Fundraising & Development	\$86,403
Administration & Office	\$121,465
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE:</b>	<b>\$475,786</b>

#### CAPITAL FUNDS AS OF 12/31/2021

Properties Restoration Reserve	\$578,646
Properties Acquisition & Preservation	\$1,657,406
Endowment	\$1,339,237
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$3,575,289</b>



*Bringing history to life*