

*History is not static – it evolves as new sources are found and earlier sources are re-examined with a fresh perspective. Its accuracy depends on which stories become a part of the collective narrative.*



# *Missing History*

*In February 2022 as part of Black History Month, the Historical Society mounted our first exhibit on Black History in Bedford.*

*In addition to displaying the documents and artifacts that we have in our collections, we sought to discover and share the stories we know of Bedford's Black residents, both enslaved and free. While we were able to confirm census data and draw some conclusions based on our research, gaps in that history still remain. There may be stories from Black residents that were passed down by oral tradition but not written down. Records were not kept for a portion of our population and the records that were kept were not always complete.*

*Because of the dynamic shift in our national consciousness in recent years, students of both local and American history are re-examining the past to better understand it. The Society will continue to research and share Bedford's missing history and be mindful of the stories of all people in our community, both past and present.*

**BEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

# - Collections, Acquisitions & Museum -

## COLLECTIONS

Caring for our artifacts, costumes, documents and photographs is an ongoing process of research, cataloging, cleaning and properly housing each item in a safe and secure location. In addition to this routine care, in 2022 we:

- Consulted with A.M. Art Conservation on best practices to identify, safeguard and store collections.
- Moved our collections database to an online software program "Catalogit."
- Used low temperature treatment to exterminate pests in some of our collections. Costumes were then cleaned and rehoused to appropriate storage.

## ACQUISITIONS

We consider every donation priceless no matter what the value. If you have Bedford-centric items you'd like to donate, please give us a call at 914.234.9751 or send an email to us at [curator@bhsny.org](mailto:curator@bhsny.org).

- Album with photos of the 1946 jubilee celebration of Rev. John Flynn's ordination at St. Patrick's Church plus various mounted photographs of the O'Brien/Kinkel family from the 1890s-1960s. Gift of Brien Kinkel.
- Bedford Village Fire Department records and ephemera from the 1929 Fire House including an application for membership to support the establishment of Bedford Memorial Park and a receipt for Albert Glasser from Standard Steel Products for Memorial Park diving boards, 1951. Gift of Bedford Village Fire Department.

## BEDFORD MUSEUM

You can visit the Bedford Museum at the 1787 Court House to discover more about life in early Bedford. Hours are listed on our website: [bhsny.org](http://bhsny.org) or call us at 914.234.9751.

- Opened the Bedford Museum and provided tours thanks to our fantastic Docent, Mary Durham.
- Refreshed a display cabinet with books from our collection, updated labels and improved displays.
- Began research and planning for a new exhibit "Blushing Brides of Bedford" opening Friday, May 12th 2023.



- Reconfigured existing space and installed a new exhibit on Mourning & Religion using a custom display case.

# - Education -



Meadow Ridge residents "bus toured" Bedford Village and learned about Bedford's history during their field trip.

Our many Educational Programs include *Footsteps in the Past* for students, *Guided Walking Tours of Historic Bedford Village* for the community, *Bus Tours for Seniors*, our new *Great Bedford History Hunt*, *History Matters* talks and more.

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; Carolyn Nielsen as School Mistress at the School House; and Tour Guides Alli Choi, Mary Durham, Anna Kenoff, Mary Milo and Hannah Winiker.



More than 50 families searched the Village for clues and learned about Bedford's past in our first *Great Bedford History Hunt* in October.

Thanks to our Board Member Liz Omilinsky for organizing along with Board Member Christina Bresani and Town Historian John Stockbridge.





# - 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 initiatives.

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Anna Kenoff • Liz Omilinsky • Schuyler Perry • Jesse Randol • Michelle St. John • Eliah Seton  
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

## BOARD MEMBERS NEWS

- Welcomed Liz Omilinsky and Eliah Seton to the Board.
- Thanked Jonathan Conner, who completed his term, for his insights and contributions to our Finance and Investment Committee.
- Thanked Mimi Freund, who completed her term, for her vision, leadership and support of many signature BHS events. Mimi brought style and panache to every endeavor.
- Remembered Rico Aszenzi for his years of service to the BHS as our Properties Manager. Rico's ready smile and generous spirit will be missed.



## REMEMBERING BOARD MEMBER JACKIE FARRELL



Jackie served on the Board of the Bedford Historical Society from 1982 to 2006 and was a member for many years both before and after her service.

She contributed to our success in countless ways - serving as Secretary for multiple terms, expanding and managing our collections and participating in all of our events and activities. Her leadership of the *Bustles & Bloomers* Costume exhibit in 2005 allowed us to showcase our unique costumes and bring history to life for the community.

Jackie had a special knack for getting things accomplished and building consensus. She was kind, intelligent, thoughtful and funny. We were very lucky to have her at the Historical Society and in our lives. She is greatly missed.

All of the memorial donations made in Jackie's honor will be dedicated to the care and expansion of our collections.

## 104TH ANNUAL MEETING



SCAN to see  
our new video  
& learn more  
about the  
Society

Historical Hall transformed into a movie theater at our 104th Annual Meeting *Bedford's Past to Present*. Lynn Ryan, Executive Director, spoke to the audience about the importance of historical assets on film as well as images which visually trace Bedford's history over time. We showed a video made in 1980 of Bedford's Tricentennial Celebration and introduced the first video of a multimedia project we have undertaken to highlight our mission, the 10 properties we preserve, our educational programs and the events which bring history to life.

Many thanks to film maker Jamie Edgar of Hound Dog Media, Sonja Bartlett of Sonja Bartlett Productions and photographer William Abranowicz for their fabulous contributions to our modern take on the Society's historical landmarks.

## - Membership & Community -

- Published *Bedford Stories*, our monthly history email, contributed stories to the *Record Review* and posted historical info to social media.
- Mailed historical buildings collage postcard to members with complimentary souvenir pen offer as our thank-you for *making everything we do possible*.
- Supported the Bedford Playhouse, Bedford Village Elementary School, Bedford Village Fire Department, Chabad, Chowder & Marching, Endeavor, Fox Lane, the Garden Clubs, Hawthorn School, Lion's Club, Rippowam Cisca School and others with auction donations and special rental rates at Historical Hall.
- Opened the 1787 Court House for numerous events including a Voting Rights class, Eagle Scout Ceremony and several wedding ceremonies.
- Active members of the Bedford Village Business Association. Helped organize and participated in Sidewalk Sale Days, Shine Bright Bedford and the Tree Lighting on the Green. Hosted a BVBA meeting at Historical Hall.
- Coordinated the Geraldine Lanfair Scholarship for future elementary educators.
- 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.
- Worked with the Town on the Wastewater Treatment proposal and on the proposed crosswalk by Historical Hall.
- Provided historical photos to the Town's Film Committee to help encourage filming in Bedford.



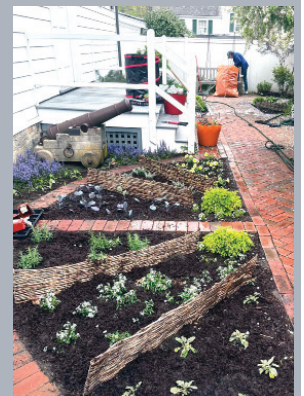
Visitors enjoyed refreshments and candy canes at the 1787 Court House during Fezziwigs at Shine Bright Bedford weekend.



Families visited the 1829 School House for a lesson with the School Marm, participated in Colonial Games on the Green and enjoyed ice cream compliments of our Board.

## - 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.
- Melissa Fleming for the donation and care of the plantings and gardens at the Post Office and Lounsbery Buildings.
- John Beach for unfailingly answering electrical emergency calls with patience and grace for both the BHS and the Village when the lights just won't go on!
- Town of Bedford's IDEA Committee for their assistance as we researched Bedford's Black History and Native History.
- Intern Teagan Weindel for assistance deaccessioning damaged books and relocating collections to appropriate organizations.
- Hopp Ground Garden Club for donations of holiday decorations inside and outside of the Post Office.
- Bedford Garden Club & Rusticus Garden Club for donating wreaths for our historic buildings.
- Robert Sour for corralling the unruly postings on the Post Office Community Bulletin Board.
- Paul Bernier for providing emergency volunteer services.
- The Clock Winders for their dedication to winding the Sutton Clock weekly.
- 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 generous donation of souvenir pens to share with the community.
- Aimee Whitman for assistance with membership mailings.
- SavATree for "rigging up the lights" on the Village Christmas Tree.
- Elsa Gomez and staff for the cleaning and care of our historic buildings.
- The *Record Review* for their editorial support.
- Bedford Garden Club for planting and maintaining the Louise Renwick Memorial garden at the Court House.





# - Events -

## 7TH ANNUAL HOPPFEST

More than 500 guests enjoyed Hoppfest with live music by DogHouse and Trunk, beer and wine, a bourbon tasting, food trucks, pub games and fire pits under a moonlit sky on the Village Green. We are beyond grateful to everyone who joined us at this fabulous community event to support our Properties Preservation Fund.



Thanks to our amazing sponsors, underwriters, the Recreation & Parks Department, the Town of Bedford and our fantastic Board of Directors for making the evening such a success!



Visit our website for more photos at [bhsny.org](http://bhsny.org). If you'd like to be a sponsor please give us a call at 914.234.9751. And save Saturday, September 30, 2023 for our 8th Annual Hoppfest!

### THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS & PATRONS

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Eliah Seton & Jamie McKeever • Michelle & Harry St. John • Tricia & Steel Swift • Libby & Cutler Whitman • David Worby • Leslie & Vic Wortmann



A special thanks to the Bedford Village Flower Shoppe for creating a beautiful vista inside and out; to our wonderful Board of Directors who generously give time and financial support to make this fundraiser a success and to all the volunteers before, during and after who provide the magic that makes this such a special evening for all!

— our members make everything

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Goldman, Sachs & Co  
IBM, MBIA  
PepsiCo, Pfizer  
William Blair & Company

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*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.*



- Events -

**THE POWER OF PRESERVATION**



A Bedford Farmers Club and Historical Society joint meeting featured co-founders of the "Billion Oyster Project," Murray Fisher and Pete Malinowski, who shared the story of how a local project to restore New York Harbor ignited worldwide interest in a conservation initiative. Guests were treated to freshly shucked oysters from Pete's family's oyster farm as Bedford resident Murray answered questions about the ongoing project.

- Properties -

We overhauled the WIFI and phone systems at the Hall, added lights to the Court House cupola, mowed the field around the Bedford Oak, and a hundred little things required to preserve Bedford's historic buildings!



Replaced the burner at Historical Hall with a more energy efficient unit due to a cracked heat exchanger.



Our talented Property Manager Rich Carpino takes care of all things at our buildings, but also built a new custom bar for Hoppfest, created a portable outdoor lighting system for Historical Hall, fabricated custom display cabinets for exhibits in the 1787 Court House Museum, built a new storage area in the attic at Historical Hall and more!

- 2023 Events -

**Sunday, May 7th - 3pm at Historical Hall**  
105th Annual Meeting - Leatherman Documentary & Talk

**Friday, May 12th - 5pm at the 1787 Court House**  
Blushing Brides of Bedford Exhibit Reception

**Monday, May 29th - Memorial Day on the Green**  
Parade, Colonial Games & Ice Cream Truck

**Saturday, September 30 - 6:30 to 9:30**  
Hoppfest on the Village Green

**Saturday, October 14th - 2 to 3:30**  
Great Bedford History Hunt

**Friday, December 1st at the 1787 Court House**  
Fezziwigs, Tree Lighting, Shine Bright Bedford

*Please visit our website for information on our programs and events or to volunteer:*  
[bedfordhistoricalsociety.org](http://bedfordhistoricalsociety.org)  
*or call us at 914.234.9751*

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
**YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022**

**REVENUE**

Membership Dues & Contributions	\$100,343
Educational Programs & Events	\$2,321
Tenants' Leases & Daily Rentals	\$342,485
Fundraising Events	\$88,615
Interest, Gift Shop & Miscellaneous	\$67,838
<b>TOTAL REVENUE:</b>	<b>\$601,602</b>

**EXPENSES**

Property Renewal & Annual Maintenance	\$145,993
Property Taxes & Insurance	\$66,229
Education Programs & Events	\$24,557
Museum Collections & Exhibits	\$61,154
Fundraising & Development	\$109,744
Administration & Office	\$131,788
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE:</b>	<b>\$539,465</b>

**CAPITAL FUNDS AS OF 12/31/2022**

Properties Reserve	\$488,750
Properties Acquisition & Preservation	\$1,398,569
Endowment	\$1,128,545
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$3,015,865</b>



*Bringing history to life*