

# BEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

*A few words from retiring Executive Director, Lynn Ryan . . .*

While I haven't been a part of Bedford as long as the Bedford Oak, the years I have spent at the Bedford Historical Society have rooted me in a way I couldn't have imagined when I first began. Much has changed since my early days in a small office on the second floor of the Lounsbery Building. Successive Boards have moved the organization forward and allowed me to grow along with the Society as we progressed into the new millennium.

We have celebrated 100 years, moved our office making us more accessible, and added new programs that bring history to life for the community. We have maintained all our buildings following the best practices of historic preservation so they will remain the treasures they are. We have taught countless children about early life in Bedford using the very same buildings that existed centuries ago. We have worked with the town and local business and community groups on beautification and infrastructure projects that will keep Bedford Village vibrant while honoring its history and the sense of place that brings us together.

Change is inevitable and this is a good thing. If we are wise, we remember to value our essential character as we change and move forward. I am reminded of the words of James Wood II, when he spoke of Bedford –

*The personality of an individual is difficult and often impossible to define or describe. ...Often we know it by its influence and by the atmosphere which surrounds and pervades it, and it is so with a community. It is so with Bedford. ...Those who are native here never feel quite at home elsewhere. Those who come here to reside for a time become conscious of an indescribable something which holds them here.*

Bedford has held me here. And so have all of you with your ongoing support. It has been both a privilege and my pleasure to be a part of it.

Thank you,



# - Board of Directors -

With thanks to our Board for their time, energy and commitment to fulfilling our mission



Peter Hennessy, President • Anna Kenoff, Vice President • Schuyler Perry, Treasurer • Shawn Carmody, Secretary

Katherine Gage Boulud • Christina Bresani • Jen Button • Alex Hamer • Alexandra Lawrence • Liz Omilinsky  
Chris Pachios • Phoebe Polk • Jesse Randol • Michelle St. John • Elijah Seton • Steel Swift • Cutler Whitman • Leslie Wortmann

John Stockbridge, Town Historian • Evelyne Ryan, Executive Director • Sophia Bernier, Communications Director  
Hannah Winiker, Collections Manager • Rich Carpino, Property Manager • Elsa Gomez, Housekeeping

- We welcomed Katherine Gage Boulud, Alexandra Lawrence and Phoebe Polk to our Board of Directors.
- Frank Geiger, Alison Gregory, Nancy Markhoff and David Worby completed their Board terms. Their many accomplishments and contributions will be missed.
- We worked with the Town on the development of a waste water district that will ensure safe drinking water and protected wetlands. This will allow for the expansion of high water use services like restaurants which will add vitality to the Village.

## 104TH ANNUAL MEETING - *The Leatherman*



Executive Director Lynn Ryan welcomed guests and thanked departing Board Members. Board President Peter Hennessy provided an overview of the Society's 2022 accomplishments, two Board Members renewed their terms and three new Board Members were elected.

This year's meeting featured a documentary and discussion on *The Leatherman* who has been a part of history and folklore for decades. A panel discussion and Q&A followed with local historian Tony Godino, *Leatherman* enthusiast Lee-Stuart Evans, and filmmaker Jon Scott Bennett providing insights and answering questions.



# - Education -

*Educational programs extend beyond the classroom and bring history to life for students of all ages*



Our *Footsteps in the Past* program introduces students to local history and life in old Bedford with experiences in the various buildings we own and preserve throughout the Village. Our *Second Saturday Walking Tours* of historic Bedford Village also includes visits to our buildings with details on the artifacts in the Bedford and School House museums, the history of Bedford and information on the architecture in the area.

We are grateful for our volunteers who help us bring history to life for students, visitors and the community. Thank you to our Constables and Justices of the Peace at the Court House: Town Historian John Stockbridge, Parker Gilbert, Peter Hennessy and Andrew Lam; Carolyn Nielsen our School Mistress; Tour Guides Mary Durham, Mary Milo, Rin Swan, Lothryn Whitney-Goldman and Jane Hickey.



## **SPRING FORWARD AND BACK IN TIME - SUTTON CLOCK & TOWER TOUR**

More than 30 community members toured the Sutton Clock Tower, enjoyed a demonstration of the winding of the clock after climbing to the 2nd floor and learned about the history of the 1879 Clock. Vincent Morrow, head ClockWinder, and his daughter Caitlin gave the tours along with Ben Branch. Ted Raymond, one of the 12 ClockWinders was on hand to answer questions.



# - Collections & Curator's Notes -

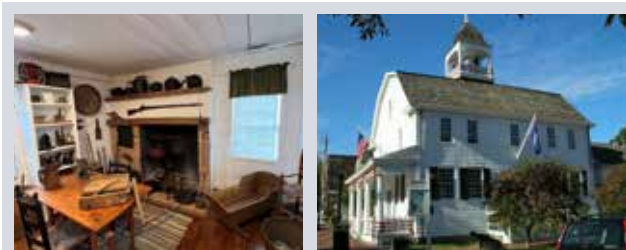
Caring for our artifacts, costumes, documents, and photographs is an ongoing process of research, cataloging, cleaning and properly housing each item in storage areas that are safe and secure.

In addition to this routine care, in 2023 we:

- Received a grant from Greater Hudson Heritage Network to purchase two new HOBO onset dataloggers to monitor the environmental conditions in our museums and storage areas. The grant also included funding for a new costume box, insect traps, and webbing clothes moth pheromone lures.
- Continued to utilize the new collection database software program CatalogIt.
- Wrote two *Bedford Stories* about an early Ouija board and 19th century fans and umbrellas found in our collections.
- Inventoried entire costume collection and the museum storage area for the CatalogIt database.

Many thanks to our Docent, Mary Durham. Over the years she's brought new information to the position through her personal research and shared it with our many visitors to the Bedford Museum.

Mary also volunteers for numerous Society events and is in high demand at the many weddings at the 1787 Court House. We are beyond grateful for all that she brings to the position and the Historical Society.



The 1787 Court House & Bedford Museum is open for tours Thursday through Saturday - noon to 3:00 pm  
May 1st through November 30th

## The Bedford Museum

Debuted the exhibition *Bedford's Blushing Brides* in May at a *Bubbles & Brides* Reception. The three-month-long exhibit showcased historical objects and costumes from our collections. The gowns and accompanying artifacts were researched, cleaned and photographed to prepare for the rotating exhibit at the Bedford Museum located at the 1787 Court House.

## Acquisitions & Purchases

- Bedford Tricentennial Commemorative brass coin 1980. Gift of David Holderness.
- Assorted Bedford memorabilia including photos, scrapbooks, 1940 Student Directory Bedford Hills High School, and 1927 *Examinations in General Science* pamphlet. Gift of Bernard Kosakowski.
- Bedford Fire Department memorabilia and framed print of Bedford Female Academy. Gift of Bedford Fire District.
- Volume Four Folio of *Atlas of Westchester County, NY*, G. M. Hopkins Co. 1930, inscribed: "property of Beatrice Lounsbery Renwick, Inc." Gift of James B. Renwick.
- 1976 Copy of *Bedford Advance* newspaper, Bedford Oak tie, and Bedford Tricentennial Pocket Coin. Gift of Nick Cartatzas.
- Bronze plaque from H. H. Park Petroleum Products, Est. 1909. Gift of Christine Juchem.
- 100th Anniversary Poster of Bedford Fire Department. Gift of Ben Glotzer.
- *History of the Harvey School*. Gift of William J. Knauer.
- *The McDonalds of Bedford: Lewis McDonald & Family*. Gift of the author Alan R. McDonald.
- Marilyn Foley watercolor of Sharlach's Hardware, Bedford Village. Gift of Jan and John Pinckney.



## - Properties -

Maintaining older buildings requires diligence, creativity, a sense of humor, a hefty budget and Rich Carpino - our "Jack-of-Every-Trade" Property Manager! This year we rebuilt the garden side porch at the Court House; Repaired and painted the Jackson House porch & columns; Power washed buildings and signs and cleaned gutters; Installed new carpet at Historical Hall; Built additional sections for the Hoppfest Bar; Met with an energy counselor from Bedford 2030 to review future efficiencies at our buildings;



Pruned trees; Hung patriotic bunting & holiday decor; Replaced screening; Replaced broken glass windows; Repaired doors and fixed hardware; Performed fire and security maintenance and HVAC maintenance and repairs; Touched up walls at Historical Hall & The Bedford Store; Monitored for pests; And many, many other tasks big and small necessary to care for all our aging buildings!



## - Thank you -

- John Stockbridge and Christina Rae at the Town Historian's office - research and support.
- Peter T. Michaelis - professional photography services at our events.
- Aimee Whitman - help and guidance with membership mailings.
- Melissa Fleming - donation and care of plantings and the gardens at the Post Office and Lounsbery Buildings.
- Doug Koziak of RK Irrigation - donation of services at the Post Office and Lounsbery gardens.
- The Bedford Garden Club - planting and caring for the Court House garden, tree pruning and wreath donations for Historical Hall.
- Rusticus Garden Club - wreath donations for our buildings.



- Hopp Ground Garden Club - decorations for the interior and exterior of the Post Office.
- Robert Sour - coordination and maintenance of the postings at the Post Office Community Bulletin Board.
- John Stockbridge - donation of souvenir pens highlighting our historic buildings.
- John Beach - assistance with Holiday lights & always answering our Electrical Emergency calls!
- Jamie Edgar - assistance with all things creative & AV support.
- Colin Neenan & Paul Bernier, accidental volunteers.
- Elsa Gomez and staff - cleaning and care of our buildings.
- The *Record Review* and *Bedford - New Canaan Magazine* - editorial support.

## - Events -

### COUNTRY LIFE WITH WILLIAM ABRANOWICZ

Celebrated photographer William Abranowicz shared photographs from his newly published book, *Country Life: Homes of the Catskill Mountains and Hudson Valley* with guests at Historical Hall in November. Bill's insights on the history and architecture of the homes and the stories of their owners transported guests into the lovely country homes featured in his book.



We also introduced a limited edition, numbered print of the Bedford Oak photographed and signed by William Abranowicz. If you'd like to purchase a print, please stop in to The Bedford Store, call 914.2134.9751 or email us at [info@bhsny.org](mailto:info@bhsny.org).

### BEDFORD BINGO AT HISTORICAL HALL

Mix prizes and popcorn with 100 plus Bingo players and you've got yourself a fun, family evening in the Village!



A special shout out to our "Caller," Board Member Cutler Whitman! Thanks to Board Member Jesse Randol for organizing, past Board Member Abby Gerry for supporting and much gratitude to volunteers Ashley Allatt, Lizzie Gahagan, Michelle Kenny, Colleen Massaro, Melissa Mendez, Susan Pecha, Schuyler Perry, Lauren Ritter plus student volunteers Addie Whitman and Hank Hearon. If you'd like to be a volunteer at any of our events, please email us: [info@bhsny.org](mailto:info@bhsny.org).

### MEMORIAL DAY - COLONIAL GAMES AT THE SCHOOL HOUSE



Families visited the 1829 School House for a lesson with the School Marm, participated in Colonial Games on the Green and enjoyed complimentary ice cream. Thanks to all who helped make the day special.

## - Events -

### FEZZIWIGS AT THE 1787 COURT HOUSE

We held our 5th Annual Fezziwigs Celebration at the Court House to thank the community for their support throughout the year. More than 100 guests stopped by our "Open House" to enjoy caroling, refreshments, candy canes and friendship! A special thanks to Steel Swift for his vision and dedication to Fezziwig Philosophy and to our Board volunteers: Liz Omilinsky, Phoebe Polk, Michelle St. John and Leslie Wortmann. Thanks to Phoebe Polk for designing the new Fezziwig invite and Steel Swift for the festive lighting.



A joyful thank you to our merry band of carolers:  
Carolyn Nielsen, her sons Sam and John Nielsen, Michael Roth, Robin and Lily Wheatly and Steel Swift

## - Members & Community -

- Rewarded members with free admission to museums and Walking Tours, discounted and priority tickets to events and invitations to member-only events.
- Supported local organizations including Bedford Fire Department, Skylark Ensemble, Bedford Village Lions Club, Garden Clubs, Bedford Free Library, Chabad, Bedford Boogie and more by offering fellow non-profits discounts and other considerations on the rental of Historical Hall.
- Participated in the Bedford Village Business Association on hamlet beautification, Sales Days, Shine Bright Bedford and hamlet vitality. Continued to work with the Town on infrastructure needs including wastewater treatment, public Wifi, pedestrian and traffic safety and the need for adequate parking.
- Coordinated the Geraldine Lanfair Scholarship for future elementary educators.
- Published *Bedford Stories*, our monthly history email.
- 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 St. Patrick's Church to host the Emergency Shelter Project at Historical Hall.
- Donated display panels to St. Matthew's Church for Art Show Bedford.
- Decorated our buildings with patriotic bunting honoring Memorial Day and Independence Day.
- Continued to serve on the Bedford Playhouse Advisory Board and at Westchester RW250, the organization planning the semiquincentennial of the American Revolution.
- Coordinated with the Bedford and Rusticus Garden Clubs who hosted the Garden Club of America in June.
- Hosted Greater Hudson Heritage Network's Stone Strategies Workshop at Historical Hall.
- Worked with Historical Society members to coordinate the donation and maintenance of hanging baskets to beautify the Village. The Bedford Historical Society and community are grateful for their extraordinary generosity.



# - Events -

## 8TH ANNUAL HOPPFEST CELEBRATION

*Oktoberfest with a Bedford Twist!*

More than 400 guests enjoyed an evening under the stars with live music, refreshments, a bourbon tasting, food trucks, pub games and fire pits. Thanks to all who made the evening so special!



We begin planning for our next Hoppfest the week after the last Hoppfest. Without volunteers, sponsors and the community, our biggest fundraiser to support preservation wouldn't be possible. Thanks to all who make Hoppfest happen!

Committee Chairs: Anna Kenoff & Jesse Randol and Committee Members: Christina Bresani • Jen Button • Shawn Carmody  
Kierstin Crane • Jillian Lam • Alexandra Lawrence • Liz Omilinsky • Phoebe Polk • Michelle St. John



Volunteers: Ashley Allat • Sara Bliss-Hamblett • Molly Breuer • Stacy Carruthers • Lisa Corcoran • Sean Corcoran  
Kierstin Crane • Mary Durham • Carolyn Guard • Alisa Harrison • Lauren Locke Hayduk • Liz Juliano

Eliza Keegan • Blakeley Lowry • Melissa Mayer • Mary Milo • Lauren Ritter • Jennifer Sarkilahti • Lisa Taber  
Merry Thornton • Libby Whitman • Thanks to: Town of Bedford • Bedford Recreation & Parks Department • Bedford Police  
Department AND Warm thanks to Catherine & Tom Butkiewicz and Bryce & Samantha O'Brien for the cauldrons





# - Events -

## HOPPFEST THANK YOU

*It takes a Village*



Since 2020 the Bedford Village Flower Shoppe has donated design and decor to Hoppfest. Branches, flowers and greens magically come together to transform the space into something special. We are so grateful to Lauren and Anthony for all they do for our community. Thank you!



We wear many hats at the Historical Society but audio visual wizardry isn't one of them. Thanks to Jamie Edgar, Hound Dog Media for his many assists with the technology. He has also worked on countless video projects for us through the years.



When we plan Hoppfest we consider worst case scenarios - it could be cold or possibly rainy or maybe cold and rainy. But no amount of planning prepared us for a Village Green that became a swamp! After days and days of rain the tent went up and we all went down as committee members slipped in mud and slogged through puddles. We are grateful for rubber boots, our never-say-die committee members and Bradsell Contracting. After receiving our SOS Bill and Diane came through within hours, installing special nonslip flooring that allowed for deliveries, band prep, decorating, bar set up, etc. - Thank you!



### THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

Bedford & New Canaan Magazine • Bedford Village Flower Shoppe • Bedford Village Lions Club • Bedford Wine Merchants  
Bradsell Contracting • Captain Lawrence Brewing Company • Diamond Fit Yoga • Hound Dog Media • Mark Boyland Real Estate  
Michael Winter - Houlihan Lawrence • Pepsi-Cola of The Hudson Valley • Siemers Wines & Spirits • Thomas Fox & Sons

### THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

Ashley & Fred Allatt • Chris & John Beach • Wendy Belzberg • Sara Bliss-Hamblett • Katherine Gage Boulud  
Christina Bresani & Michael Struble • Molly & Russell Breuer • Shawn & Gail Carmody • Stacy & Simon Carruthers  
Mr. & Mrs. Winthrop Conrad • Kierstin Crane • Carolyn & Matthew Guard • Alexander N. Hamer • Alisa & Scott Harrison  
Lauren Locke Hayduk & Eric Hayduk • Peter & Lisa Hennessy • Lisabeth Juliano • Anna & Jeff Kenoff • Andrew & Jillian Lam  
Sam Lark • Blakeley Lowry & James Darch • Caroline & Gordon MacGill • Allyson & Chris Pachios • Toni Peache  
Tyler & Schuyler Perry • Phoebe & Samuel Polk • Fred Reimer • Lauren & Brian Ritter • Jennifer Sarkilahti • Tricia & Steel Swift  
Linley & Michael Taber • Holly Taylor & Gene Pope • Merry Thornton • Libby & Cutler Whitman • Leslie & Vic Wortmann

### ADDITIONAL THANKS

American Brick Bourbon - Bourbon Tasting • Peter T. Michaelis - Photography • DogHouse & Trunk - Live Music

- Thank you for making

**BEDFORD OAK CIRCLE**

*\$2,500 & above*

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Bedford Village Lions Club  
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# *everything we do possible -*

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Marilyn Hermansen  
Jane & Dan Hickey  
Marla Hoskins  
Emily Hyland  
Mark Iannazzi &  
Christopher Brown  
Alfred & Lynn Jacobsen  
Susan Jorgensen  
Linda & Mardig Kalarchian  
Coco Kanakis  
Nina Kane  
Tom & Angela Kelly  
Michelle & Peter Kenny  
Loring & Diana Knoblauch  
Carrie Kwiatkowski  
Diane LaPointe & Robert Dolan  
Jane Lash  
Diane & Michael Lentini  
Marcy & Drew Marchiano  
Lucy & Alan B. McCollom  
Riddhima & Neil Mehta  
David Menken & Julie Stern  
Matthew A. Miller, Esq.  
Mel & Chris Morley  
Tricia Odonnell  
Michael & Cheryl Olivieri  
Beth Olszewski  
Alexandra &  
Christopher Padden

Erin Pastirchak  
Marilyn A. Pellini  
Erika & Clay Pierce  
The Ramage Family  
Adam & Allyson Reuben  
Jutta Rubin  
Robert & Shari Ruckh  
Roger & Inger Savitt  
Marcia Schaeffer  
Karen & Rob Schmidt  
Linda & Bob Seaver  
Nell Shapiro  
Lauren Short  
Stepping Stones - Historic Home  
of Bill & Lois Wilson  
Missy Swan  
Marcia & Larry Thomas  
Mrs. Calvin A. Thompson  
Cheryl & Kimberly Thomsen  
Dr. Joanne L. Timmel  
Alison & Andrew Todd  
Erica Toretta  
Roger van Loveren  
& Karen Lau  
Roxanne Vanderbilt  
Susan West  
Eric West  
Melissa Whitworth Vincent &  
Roger Vincent  
Richard S. Wilson  
Joy Zegras

## **RECOGNITION**

Charles and Kerry Wilson  
in honor of Leslie Wortmann

## **MATCHING GIFTS**

Bank of America  
BNY Mellon  
Goldman, Sachs & Co  
PepsiCo  
Pfizer  
UBS  
William Blair

*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.*

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## 2024 EVENTS - SAVE THE DATES!

### **Annual Meeting Bedford Past, Present & Future Wednesday, May 8th - 6:30 to 8:30pm**

Join us for a panel discussion on the evolution of Bedford as a town and community with thoughts on the years to come

**Panelists:**

Ellen Calves, Supervisor, Town of Bedford  
 Jessica Youngblood, Director of Planning, Town of Bedford  
 Clayton Rose, Chair, Bedford Village Historic District Review  
 Brett Cameron, President, Bedford Village  
 Business Association  
 Lynn Ryan, Executive Director, Bedford Historical Society

### **House Tour: The Collected Home Thursday, May 30th - noon to 4:00pm**

Tour select houses in Bedford representing "The Collected Home." Noon to 1pm - Lunch & Panel Discussion at Historical Hall

Moderator: Eugenia Soto - Design and Decoration Director, Frederic Magazine

Panelists: Gerald Bland, Gerald Bland NYC, Mike McGinnis, Mnuchin Gallery and Steven Gambrel, S. R. Gambrel

### **Sidewalk Sale Days - Bedford Village Friday & Saturday - May 31st & June 1st**

Shop the Village and enjoy specials and discounts from local merchants plus food tastings and other goodies

### **Cheers to 28 Years Friday, June 21st - 4 to 7:00pm**

Open House at the 1787 Court House to honor Executive Director Lynn Ryan who is retiring. Join us as we celebrate 28 years of BHS growth with Lynn at the helm

### **Party at the Bedford Oak Saturday, September 28th - 6:00 to 9:00pm**

A once in a century cocktail party with live music and a seated supper by the Bedford Oak to honor Lynn Ryan and benefit our Properties Preservation Fund

### **The Great Bedford History Hunt Saturday, October 19th - 11:30am to 2:30pm**

Join us for a Bedford history scavenger hunt through the Village. Tours, prizes and refreshments

### **Fezziwigs at the 1787 Court House Friday, December 6th - 5:00pm**

Join us for an open house celebration of our community



### FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023

#### REVENUE

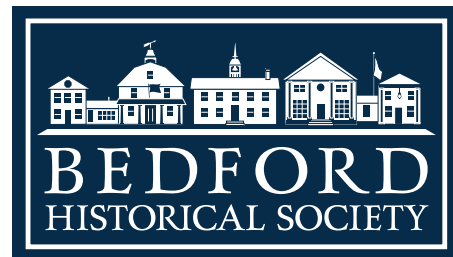
Membership Dues & Contributions	\$ 96,279
Tenants' Leases & Daily Rentals	\$358,699
Education Programs & Events	\$1,606
Fundraising Events	\$62,716
Interest, Gift Shop & Miscellaneous	\$89,719
<b>TOTAL REVENUE:</b>	<b>\$609,019</b>

#### EXPENSES

Property Renewal & Annual Maintenance	\$135,917
Property Taxes & Insurance	\$63,188
Education Programs & Events	\$24,824
Museum Collections Management	\$72,083
Fundraising & Development	\$114,310
Administration & Office	\$135,380
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE:</b>	<b>\$545,702</b>

#### CAPITAL FUNDS AS OF 12/31/2023

Properties Reserve	\$552,129
Properties Acquisition & Preservation	\$1,742,835
Endowment	\$1,325,620
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$3,620,584</b>



*Bringing history to life*

at The Bedford Store - 612 Old Post Road  
 Bedford, NY 10506 - 914.234.9751  
[bedfordhistoricalsociety.org](http://bedfordhistoricalsociety.org)