Bringing history to life

Bedford Historical Society
2016 Annual Report
Dear Members,

2016 was a remarkable year for the Bedford Historical Society. We celebrated 100 years of preservation and education by bringing history to life through exhibits and events that were shared with the entire community.

From our 100th birthday on February 5, 2016 through our Centennial Ball and Outside the Box photo exhibit to the Hunt for History and Crafts at the Court House, we offered a year of events and programs worth remembering. If you weren’t able to join us, please enjoy reading about them in our annual report.

In addition to our Centennial events, we were also hard at work at preservation. We restored the porch and columns at the Lounsbery Building, replaced the roof at Historical Hall and the Jackson House, the Jackson House also received a new coat of paint, and work has begun to refresh the lobby of the Post Office.

The Historical Society launched the public phase of our Centennial Capital Campaign and we successfully completed the campaign by year-end. Board members had worked diligently for two years to raise funds critical for the ongoing preservation of our properties, and for the fiscal agility we would need to save other threatened properties and to continue to offer the programs so valued by our members. The completion of the Capital Campaign has enabled us to move confidently into our second century of stewardship. And we couldn’t have done it without you – all of you!

While your participation in the campaign and special events allows us to expand our initiatives, it is your membership dues that are the foundation that makes our work possible. Members enable us to maintain our landmark buildings, provide educational programs and community events, and to open our museums at the 1787 Court House and 1829 School House.

Our success is a direct result of your support, our Board of Directors and staff. The volunteers who make up our Board are ambassadors and advocates whose vision, leadership and generosity are crucial to accomplishing our mission. The professionalism, steadfast commitment to excellence and can-do, grace-under-pressure modus operandi of our dedicated staff literally makes it possible for so few to accomplish so much.

Thank you for all the ways you have supported the Bedford Historical Society through the years. If you are not yet a member, please join us and make a difference in the next 100 years.

Very truly yours,

Stacy Albanese
President, Board of Directors
It is the mission of the Bedford Historical Society to preserve and promote the buildings, landmarks and artifacts that document the history of Bedford, New York; to increase awareness, understanding and appreciation of the town’s founding and growth; and to strengthen the current and future historic character of the town. The Bedford Historical Society will:

**Celebrate and cultivate interest in the history of the Town of Bedford.**

The Historical Society celebrated 100 years of preservation and education with a talk by David J. Brown of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Since 1916 the Historical Society has been devoted to preserving Bedford’s historic character and sharing our Town’s history.

”Whereas the Society is a glowing and priceless treasure whose splendid work is acclaimed far and wide. Be it resolved that the Town of Bedford wishes the Bedford Historical Society a very happy 100th Anniversary and congratulates and is grateful for all the Historical Society does for the Bedford Village Community, the Town of Bedford and beyond. Be it further resolved that Friday, February 5, 2016 is proclaimed Bedford Historical Society Day in all the Land.”

**Identify, document and maintain buildings, monuments and natural landscapes of historical significance to the Town.**

The 1906 Lounsbery Building porch and columns were restored in the spring. The Society continued to proactively maintain and preserve historic landmarks and buildings in and around Bedford Village.

**Procure, preserve and interpret objects, artifacts, documents and images relating to the natural, literary, artistic and civil history of Bedford.**

Our collections are not static - instead we bring history to life with events and exhibits for the community. As part of our Centennial, the Historical Society created Outside the Box, an outdoor photo exhibit of life-sized images from our archives.

**Provide access to the buildings and collections for research, education and enjoyment through museums, temporary exhibits, events, educational programs and community initiatives.**

Our Timeline Exhibit provided a 100 year retrospective of our contributions to the Town including the history of the buildings we own and preserve. The exhibit opened at our Centennial Celebration and remained on view at Historical Hall.

**Work with the Town and local organizations to further the welfare and preservation of the historic character of the community.**

The Hunt for History encouraged participants to learn about history in a fun, interactive way. We collaborated with the Town and other community groups to bring life to the Village through activities and events.

Our funding comes from our members, fundraisers and the balance from the rental of our buildings. We do not receive any local, state or federal funding. Preservation requires planning, vigilance, dedication and love. But without adequate funding, none of it is possible. For 100 years, we’ve preserved Bedford’s historic character with the support of our members. Please join, renew your membership, or make a donation so future generations can enjoy this historic oasis. Visit our website: www.bedfordhistoricalsociety.org, call us at 914.234.9751 or fill out the membership card attached in our Annual Report. Thank you for your generosity and support!
WE RAISED $2 MILLION THANKS TO YOU!

In February we announced the launch of our Centennial Capital Campaign at our Centennial Celebration. The campaign was the most ambitious fundraising endeavor in our 100 year history. Thanks to our generous supporters, we successfully raised $2 million for properties acquisition and preservation, a properties capital reserve fund and to build our endowment.

We are deeply grateful to Kurt Harrison, a longtime Board Member, who volunteered to be the Centennial Campaign Chair. Kurt and his fellow committee members worked tirelessly to raise a record $2 million for the Society. Thanks to their efforts and the support of the community, we are well positioned to navigate the challenges of preservation in our second century of stewardship.

Thank you to everyone who supported us and made the Campaign such a success ~ Our nine founders would be proud!
Thanks to our Board for their time, energy and commitment to fulfilling our mission. We are particularly grateful to our officers for their service and dedication.

Stacy Albanese, President
George Bianco, Vice President
John Fink, Treasurer
John Horn, Secretary
Cyndi Azima ● Mary Cox ● Mimi Freund ● Abby Gerry
Anthony Giordano ● Will Gourd ● Alison Gregory
Randy Hall ● Alexander Hamer ● Kurt Harrison
Peter Hennessy ● Nancy Markhoff ● Tricia Swift
H. Cutler Whitman ● David Worby ● Leslie Wortmann
John Stockbridge, Town Historian
Evelyne Ryan, Executive Director
Sophia Bernier, Communications ● Lisa Brotmann, Development
Ben Branch, Properties Consultant ● Rich Carpino, Property Manager

• We welcomed Will Gourd, Alison Gregory, Randy Hall, Nancy Markhoff, David Worby and Leslie Wortmann to the Board.

• Stacy Albanese resigned as President to return to work at a NYC historic preservation firm and will remain on the Board. Peter Hennessy was elected as our new President.

• Courage Corps Consulting was retained to work with the Board to identify and refine the Society’s near and long term goals as we move into our second century. We look forward to sharing more about this work in 2017.

The following Board Members retired in 2016:

• Katherine Bang served for six years on our Development, Membership and Capital Campaign Committees and her contributions enhanced events and community relations.

• Kirtley Cameron joined the BHS as a volunteer in 2004 and helped shape the future of the Society by serving as Vice President, President and Chairman. She was a strong advocate for making the BHS more accessible by moving The Bedford Store, re-branding our logo, redrafting our Mission Statement, and serving on the Campaign Steering Committee. For her many accomplishments, she received our 2016 Legacy Award.

• Melissa Fleming also began as a volunteer in 2005 and played a critical role in our fundraising events and in planting and caring for the gardens at the Post Office and Lounsbery Building. The Fleming Family generously underwrote the restoration of the School House in 2011. Melissa received our 2016 Legacy Award for her lasting contributions during her nine years on the Board.

• Tim Ghriskey joined the Board in 2007 and served on the Finance Committee, where he helped to revise our investment policy before becoming Treasurer and pro bono Investment Manager, a role he continues to hold.

• Ben Ginnel joined the Board in 2010 and contributed his marketing, graphics, and technical expertise to increase our presence in the community through membership appeals and the 2011 House Tour.

• Marilyn Glass first volunteered on the Events Committee and served on the Board for two years bringing enthusiasm and her artistic flair to every special event we held.

Society Receives Three Awards of Excellence from the Greater Hudson Heritage Network

The Greater Hudson Heritage Network recognized the Historical Society for three projects which exemplified creativity and professional vision, resulting in contributions to the preservation and interpretation of the history, culture and diversity of the region.

Benjamin Branch, our Properties Consultant, received an Award of Excellence for the historic preservation of the 1906 Lounsbery Building columns and porch.

Stacy Albanese, former President of the Board of Directors, was recognized with an Award of Excellence for Outside the Box: Bringing History to Life - an outdoor exhibit which was created to celebrate the Historical Society’s Centennial.

The Society’s Hunt for History, a multi-faceted historical quest involving Bedford’s three hamlets was also recognized with an Excellence Award.
4TH GRADE STUDENTS STEP BACK IN TIME - FOOTSTEPS IN THE PAST PROGRAM

If Mrs. Brown accuses you of stealing a hen, can the Justice of the Peace find you guilty and put you in jail? Why is wampum different colors? Did the School House on the Green have a library? Students from area schools get a taste of life in old Bedford after meeting on the Village Green with a class at the School House, a trial at the 1787 Court House, a visit to the Bedford Museum and an interactive tour with artifacts at The Bedford Store.

Without the many volunteers who help bring history to life, the tours wouldn’t be possible. Thanks to Parker Gilbert, Jim Eaton and John Stockbridge for volunteering as Constable and Justice of the Peace; Patty Kiernan as School Mistress; and to Tour Guides Paula Desperito, Lisa Brotmann, Marilyn Brotmann, Jane Hickey, Carolyn Nielsen and Jenny Weisburger.

PRIVATE TOURS FOR SENIOR GROUPS, GIRL & BOY SCOUT TROOPS, MEMBERS AND VISITORS

The unique character of Bedford Village is largely a result of the Historical Society’s preservation efforts since our founding in 1916. We maintain ten historic properties with the support of our members.
Our successful Centennial Capital Campaign enabled us undertake several significant restoration projects in 2016:

**Lounsbery Building:** Restored two original columns and replaced two deteriorated columns with appropriate reproductions • Rebuilt the porch framing and installed new porch flooring and steps • Received Greater Hudson Heritage Network Award for this restoration

**Jackson House:** Removed and abated transite tiles on the roof over the garden addition and replaced with cedar shingles to match main building • Replaced asphalt shingle porch roof with standing seam copper roof • Painted exterior and performed epoxy consolidation on bay window

**Historical Hall:** Removed existing roof and replaced with new, cedar shingle roof

**Post Office:** Replaced the lobby flooring • Replaced the door and wall separating the Lobby from Retail area with a design more suitable to the original architecture • Painted the workrooms and storage areas • Began design for lighting and furniture replacement in lobby
Planning began in the Spring, 2015

A million thanks for 100 years

**Platinum Sponsors:** Becki & Ari Fleischer • Mimi & Peter Freund • Donna & Marvin Schwartz

**Gold Sponsors:** Bedford Magazine • George Bianco • Susan & John Freund • Lisa & Peter Hennessy

**Silver Sponsors:** Alexander N. Hamer • Houlihan Lawrence Bedford • NetJets • Pernod Ricard • Tangram • West Construction

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The Bedford Historical Society’s Centennial Ball has been one hundred years in the making and it was well worth the wait. More than 300 guests dressed in their finery joined us for our “once in your lifetime” celebration. The festivities began with the Pernod Ricard Champagne Stroll through the Village with the Fox Lane High School Jazz Quintet and the Bedford Community Theatre providing the ambiance. Guests enjoyed the Outside the Box exhibits located at each of our buildings and on the Village Green. St. Patrick’s Church and the Bedford Presbyterian Church joined in the “pealing of the bells” to invite everyone into the grand, starry tent. Guests enjoyed cocktails and hors d’oeuvres around the fabulous, custom bar donated by the Swifts & Tangram. A magnificent feast from Bedford’s own Rafael Palomino was enjoyed by all followed by non-stop dancing to the dynamic Hal Prince Band.

It’s been said that a picture is worth a thousand words. When you look at the photos from the Ball on our website, you’ll have an understanding of how spectacularly memorable the evening was without any further description. Thank you to all who helped us celebrate in style! Huzzah!

Special thanks to photographers Peter T. Michaelis and Patrick McMullan Company for capturing our guests and buildings at their best.
**Centennial Celebration & Timeline Exhibit**

*Standing room only at Historical Hall*

More than 200 guests joined us as we celebrated the 100 year anniversary of the founding of the Bedford Historical Society on February 5, 2016. The room overflowed with good wishes from longtime members, new members, residents, visitors, fellow nonprofits, local politicians and more.

On display in Historical Hall was *100 Years of Preservation*, an exhibit highlighting the Society’s accomplishments since 1916 which was underwritten by former BHS President and Board Members, Jim & Missy Renwick. David J. Brown, Executive Vice President and Chief Preservation Officer of the National Trust for Historic Preservation discussed preservation in the 21st century and lauded the Society for our achievements.

The Society received commendations from the Town of Bedford, Westchester County Board of Legislators, State of New York Assembly and the 100 Year Association of New York. You can see all the photos from the event and the full Timeline Exhibit by visiting our website: www.bedfordhistoricalsociety.org.

Special thanks to Bedford Village Wine Merchants for donating the marvelous champagne for our 100 year toast!

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**Hunt for History**

*A historical adventure through Bedford Village, Katonah, Bedford Hills and Mount Kisco*

We launched our *Hunt for History* in June with several local libraries. The hunt encouraged families to use their “clues keeper” to search for and find history throughout the greater Bedford area. During the hunt, participants learned about the Town’s history and events that shaped modern Bedford. Participants took photos and posted them on Instagram for bonus points.

The *Hunt for History* Finale Picnic was held in September at Historical Hall and on the Green. Families enjoyed re-enactors, a mini Timeline hunt, refreshments and prizes.

Thanks to the generous underwriting from Bedford Village Chowder & Marching Club, everyone was able to participate in the *Hunt for History* at no cost. Thank you to Happiness Is for the wonderful lunch and Laurie & Paul Sturz for the Linden’s Cookies.

While there were many wonderful entries, three stood out and received special prizes at the *Hunt for History* finale

First prize was awarded to Kallie Hoffman and her family

Alisa, Timmy & Colden Harrison won second prize

Third prize was awarded to Sandra Gardinier

If you’d like to Hunt for History, stop in to our office and pick up your clues book! You can even win a prize!
**OUTSIDE THE BOX: BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE**

*Interactive Outdoor Photo Exhibit*

To celebrate our Centennial in 2016, we chose to literally “bring history to life” with an outdoor exhibit that paid homage to our past. Ten historically significant images were selected and placed around the Village highlighting the buildings we own and preserve. The engaging exhibit created a “museum in the streets” that invited the public to interact with history.

Our thanks to Ginnel Real Estate and Granger Historical Picture Archive for their generous underwriting and to Bedford Photo-Graphic and C&M Signs for their assistance with print and production. To see the complete *Outside the Box* exhibit and learn about the relevant history, please stop into our office and pick up a Commemorative Centennial Book or visit our website at www.bedfordhistoricalsociety.org.
Continued to offer members free admission to our museums, discounted and priority tickets to events, and invitations to member-only events.

Supported local organizations including the Lions Club, Chowder & Marching, Bedford Village Fire Department, the Junior League, Rusticus Garden Club, Bedford Garden Club, Town of Bedford, and more by offering discounts and other considerations on the rental of Historical Hall.

Gave private historical tours to members and visitors.

Gifted one-year memberships to local businesses and new residents as part of our outreach initiative.

Published and emailed “Bedford Stories,” a monthly in-depth historical E-article.

Participated in New York State’s “Path Through History Weekend” with special tours at the 1787 Court House. Also opened the Museum on weekends throughout the summer and during the Holiday Season.

Collaborated with Westmoreland Sanctuary and Friends of Bedford Burying Grounds on “Every Stone Tells a Story” event at Ferris Cemetery.

Decorated our buildings with patriotic bunting honoring Memorial Day and Independence Day.

Continued to collaborate with the BVBA and the Playhouse to encourage the Town of Bedford to address the long-standing lack of adequate parking in Bedford Village.

Coordinated the Geraldine Lanfair Scholarship for future elementary educators.

Welcomed Bernadette Durham’s “pop up” Red Fox Art Gallery at The Bedford Store.

- Centennial Events -

- Membership & Community -

- Thank You -

The Freund family for donating the party planning expertise of Damselfly Designs, the Christmas Tree and decorations at the Court House, the lights on the trees in the garden, and numerous acts of generosity and kindness.

Melissa Fleming for planting and maintaining the Post Office & Lounsbery gardens and her assistance with the Post Office renovation.

Craig Intinarelli, Architect, and Sean Shanahan at Shanahan Group for donating their services to renovate the Post Office lobby.

John Chiarella and Ultimate Services Grounds Maintenance for generously mowing the field at the Bedford Oak each year.

Geoff Morris and Jennifer Stahlkrantz at Bedford Magazine for the promotional support throughout our Centennial year.

The Record Review for the editorial support and coverage during our Centennial year.

Diane Bamford for extensive research on the Historical Society’s founders and authoring their histories for our Centennial Celebration.

Diana and Ian Spier for their Board of Directors research.

Bedford Village Historic District Review Commission for allowing the Outside the Box exhibit to be displayed in front of the buildings we own and for permission to mount Centennial Banners on the Village lightposts.

Alex Fonarow for assistance with the Centennial video compilation.

The Town of Bedford for diverting traffic during the Champagne Stroll and for use of the Village Green for our Centennial Ball.

The Bell Ringers at the Ball: St. Patrick’s Church, Paul Bernier, Ben Branch, Rich Carpino, Matt Brotmann and Robert Turner.

John Stockbridge and Christina Rae at the Town Historian’s office for their research and support.

Alexandra Morris, our intern, for her valuable research, assistance with collections, and contributions during our Centennial year.

The Bedford, Rusticus and Hopp Ground Garden Clubs for donating decorations for our historic buildings.

Paula Desperito for help in the office and volunteering at numerous events.

Aimee Whitman for her continued assistance with mailings.

Lucy Brotmann for office and event support.

Jeff Carpenter for crowd control, valet parking, security services and grace under pressure.

Sam Valencia and HCS Technologies for their donation of a Mac desktop computer for our office.

C&M Signs for their assistance with new signs for the buildings we own and preserve.
Friends and neighbors gathered at the Court House for our 99th Annual Meeting. The intimate gathering included remarks by Board President Stacy Albanese, the election of new Board Members and awards to departing Board Members. Lynn Ryan, our Executive Director, honored Kirtley Cameron and Melissa Fleming with 2016 Legacy Awards.

“Both Kirtley and Melissa care deeply about the welfare of the Town and its history. They will be missed not only for their contributions to the Society but also for their passion for preservation,” noted Lynn. Even though their terms have expired, each will remain a part of the Society as advisors and committee members. In addition, Melissa will continue to care for the gardens in front of the Lounsbery Building and Post Office and contribute her expertise in the renovation of the interior of the Post Office.

After the meeting, guests enjoyed strolling in the Court House garden which is planted and maintained by the Bedford Garden Club. Thank you to our departing and new Board Members and all who joined us at our 99th Annual Meeting.

More than 50 families joined us at the Court House in December to make holiday crafts and meet Bedford’s very own Santa during “Jingle Pass” Weekend in the Village. Visitors toured the Bedford Museum, located on the second floor of the 1787 Court House and visited the museum Gift Shop in search of the perfect “Bedford” gift. A big thank you to Board Member Abby Gerry, Events Chair Mimi Freund, Santa and all the volunteers who made the day such a success. And a special thank you to Bill Black for his time and photography expertise.
Thank You to Members & Supporters

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- Mr. & Mrs. Kurt Harrison
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(914) 234-9751.
**Collections & Acquisitions**

**Loans**
- Mannequins to Bartow Pell Museum for the exhibit “Gilded Age Glamour.”
- A civil war bayonet belonging to Jerome Brown, a sandpaper drawing of the Antioch Church and a photo of Teat Storms in Bedford Hills to the Bedford Hills Museum for their exhibit entitled “A Legacy of Faith: Antioch Baptist Church” housed at the Bedford Hills Train Station.

**Acquisitions**
- Two sleigh-bell belts and a saddle bell used in a L. D. Myers farm in Bedford and five letters from Romer J. Myers stationed in France during WWI to his parents in Bedford - Gift of Susan Roper.
- Framed colored lithograph print of scenes of the Croton Watershed from Marian Rose for the Croton Watershed Clean Water Coalition.
- Child’s 19th century tricycle, assorted 19th and 20th century children’s books, a Hoyt Brothers Company Katonah, NY Minutes Book from 1907, and an assortment of early kitchen and farm tools. Eleven 19th century New York State Supreme Court and Court of Appeals case books belonging to William H. Robertson, Westchester County Court Justice at the Bedford Court House, State Senator and US Congressman, photographic prints and etchings of W. H. Robertson and a Griebel Instrument Co. hygrometer used by William Henry Robertson when he was Collector of the Port of New York to measure the alcohol content of imported wines from Edward and Sue Kelly of Katonah.
- Assorted photographs of Hyman & Rose Glasser and descendants. The Glassers built the Empire Building and operated a number of Bedford businesses. Gift of Lenore Harris and Linda Seaberg.
- Drop leaf kitchen table c.1860 marked “Hoyt Brothers Katonah” from Donald & Ann Mortimer.
- Two enlarged, mounted aerial photos of Bedford Village 1947, assorted digital images of old Bedford and two audio files of interviews with Edith Sherry on the founding of the Bedford Fire Department and exercising the deMauriac’s horses. Gift of Mark & Brad Sherry.
- Framed U.S. geodesic maps of Bedford and Pound Ridge from Linda Broudy.

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**Financial Statement**

**Year Ending December 31, 2016**

**Revenue**
- Membership Dues & Contributions $88,921
- Tenant’s Leases & Daily Rentals $287,472
- Education Programs & Events $7,839
- Fundraising Events $272,791
- Interest, Gift Shop & Miscellaneous $12,708

**Total Revenue:** $669,730

**Expenses**
- Property Renewal & Annual Maintenance $196,763
- Property Taxes & Insurance $50,269
- Education Programs & Events $80,216
- Museum Collections Management $8,293
- Fundraising & Development $236,167
- Administration & Office $97,419

**Total Expense:** $669,128

**Centennial Capital Campaign**
- Total Pledged $2,000,000
- Net Campaign Income as of 12/31/2016 $1,165,513
- Balance to be collected $834,487

$141,678 spent on properties projects funded by the campaign
$142,260 bequest from Ruth T. Marsh allocated to Endowment & Planning

**Capital Funds as of 12/31/2015**
- Historic Easements Protection $62,996
- Education & Collections $115,979
- Properties Reserve $283,175
- Properties Acquisition & Preservation $575,255
- Endowment $427,956

**Total:** $1,465,361