



# *East Fishkill Historical Society Newsletter*

*P.O. Box 245 Hopewell Junction, N.Y. 12533*

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*eastfishkillhistoricalsociety.org*

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Saturday April 22nd & Sunday April 23rd 10am - 4pm: 2nd Annual Civil War Weekend, featuring NY 150th Historical Association, The Long Island Balladeer Max "Lumpy" Rowland, The Hudson Valley Council Band (BSA) and much more. (Brinckerhoff House Historic Site)**

**Saturday April 22nd 4pm: Period Banjo Music Concert with Max "Lumpy" Rowland (One Room Schoolhouse, Brinckerhoff House Historic Site)**

**Sunday April 23rd 1pm: Patriotic Music Concert with The Hudson Valley Council Band BSA. (One Room Schoolhouse, Brinckerhoff House Historic Site)**

**Sunday June 4th 1pm-4pm: EFHS Annual Strawberry Festival. Strawberry Shortcake, music by Don Lowe, and more. (Brinckerhoff House Historic Site)**

### ***How to stay in touch...***

***Please visit our website at [eastfishkillhistoricalsociety.org](http://eastfishkillhistoricalsociety.org). You can keep up with and register for events, sign up and pay for membership, watch videos of past events, and much more. You can also visit us on Facebook at Brinckerhoff House Historic Site/Home of East Fishkill Historical Society, and Instagram at [brinckerhoff\\_house\\_1750](https://www.instagram.com/brinckerhoff_house_1750).***

## **HAVE YOU RENEWED FOR 2023?**

Please RENEW your membership to the Society for the 2023 membership year.

Single member \$20

Family membership \$25

Contributing member \$40-\$99

Patron \$100 & over

I would be willing to assist in the operation of the society. Please contact me to see how the society might best be able to use my time and talents.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I would prefer to have newsletters emailed

### ***Welcome to our new treasurer Eli Cohen, by Rick Soedler***

Michael Elkin, our treasurer for the last 10 years, decided to step down at the end of December 2022. Michael remains active on our board and we are grateful for his time and dedication to the EFHS. Eli Cohen who has been a member for several years has offered to be our new treasurer. Eli is a retired IBM employee and resident of East Fishkill and is currently active with the Wiccopee Fire Department and a member of the department's fire police. We thank Eli for stepping up and welcome him as the newest member of our team.

## *From the Farmhouse by Site Director, Rick Soedler*

Hello friends. We hope you are all well and that the winter wasn't too hard on you. Winters at the Brinckerhoff House can sometimes be mundane, however most of our usual projects were put on hold due to unforeseen maintenance issues. Several days before Christmas our 30+ year old furnace developed a crack in its heat exchanger. This could have created a dangerous situation but we were lucky to have caught it in time. After further inspection it was decided to replace the furnace with a new energy efficient unit. Thank you John Ossenkop and Sons. Then in February our hot water heater began to leak and had to be replaced. Thank you again to John Ossenkop and Sons. Our Committees have been busy scheduling events, school field trips, and maintaining the financial stability of the historical society. We thank all of our volunteers who help to make these things happen. Last fall we obtained a very generous Grant from Dutchess County. This coming season will see several improvements to our site. In addition to long overdue repairs that need to be done to several of our farmhouse chimneys, the John Hyatt blacksmiths shop will be having its forge rebuilt and will be getting a new brick chimney. The building will also be getting a new metal roof to replace the asphalt shingles. This will make the building much safer from sparks that could land on the roof and cause a fire. Our one room schoolhouse will also become ADA friendly and compliant with the installation of a new removable wheelchair ramp. We want to say thank you to Dutchess County, the town of East Fishkill and to all of you for your continued support.

**Please visit our website [eastfishkillhistoricalsociety.org](http://eastfishkillhistoricalsociety.org) for all of our upcoming events.**

### *We are still in need of Active Members and Volunteers: by Rick Soedler*

The East Fishkill Historical Society has been blessed over the years to rely on a healthy volunteer base to continue our mission here in the Hudson Valley. Most of these volunteers have been active board members who have held officer positions or seats on our board of directors. These volunteers have also helped out during events, school field trips, and/or have volunteered their time to help with projects around our site. A good portion of our long-time board members are getting older and have stepped down, and/or have begun to limit their time with us. **We are asking for your help to become more involved with your historical society.** Our **board of directors** could always use fresh faces and fresh ideas. We have a lovely little **General Store** that we need help running. As we are getting more and more requests for **field trips**, we could use help presenting our programs to our local school children. We now have a small group of **garden volunteers** who could use additional assistance. We also could use help organizing and re-cataloging items in our **collections**, helping with **events**, and so on. We have one of the most unique historic sites in Dutchess County and we want to share the pride that we have with our members.



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### *The David M. Bushey East Fishkill Historical Society Scholarship: by Rick Soedler*



If you have been a supporter of the East Fishkill Historical Society over the past 50 years then you knew **David Bushey**. Sadly David passed away on April 8th 2019 which was a huge loss for all those who loved him, knew him and worked with him. David was one of our longest term board presidents and in his professional life was an educator who had a passion for the history of East Fishkill and all things history related. So it would only be fitting to honor his memory by creating a scholarship in his name for a student or students that are members of the **John Jay High School History Honor Society**. This will be the first year that we will be offering this scholarship and we are hoping to expand on it over the next several years. The **John Jay History Honor Society** students have been working with us the past two years, helping us present our field trips and events. If you would like to contribute to this scholarship in David's name or would like more information, please contact chairperson **Jan Bushey** at ([janbushey49@gmail.com](mailto:janbushey49@gmail.com))