



East Fishkill Historical Society Newsletter

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

(845) 227-4136

eastfishkillhistoricalsociety.org

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, March 10th, 1pm-3pm: “Meet the Author Series” is back!
Novelist Elizabeth Cunningham will be reading from her debut nonfiction work
My Life as a Prayer: A Multifaith Memoir. Reception to follow.
(Brinckerhoff One Room Schoolhouse)

Sunday April 14th 1pm-3pm: “Meet the Author Series.”
Cait Johnson returns with reading and meditation. Reception to follow.
(Brinckerhoff One Room Schoolhouse)

**Saturday, April 27th & Sunday, April 28th 10am-4pm: 3rd Annual
Dutchess County Civil War Days.** Long Island Balladeer Max “Lumpy” Rowland,
Hudson Valley Council Band, Cooking demonstrations, Blacksmithing, Woodworking, Meet
the soldiers from *The 150th New York Volunteers*, and more! (Brinckerhoff House Historic
Site)

Sunday, May 5th, 1pm-3pm: “Meet the Author Series.”
Mark Perlman reads from and discusses his book “*The Reluctant Soldier*.”
Reception to follow. (Brinckerhoff One Room Schoolhouse)

Sunday, June 2nd, 1pm-4pm: EFHS Annual Strawberry Festival.
Live Music, Hayrides, House Tours, Animals, Crafts, Games, and Strawberry Shortcakes
while they last. (Brinckerhoff House Historic Site)

June: “Meet the Author Series” TBA Please visit: eastfishkillhistoricalsociety.org

8 Ways to Help the East Fishkill Historical Society by Eli Cohen

- 1. Membership – renew or join and continue to support EFHS.**
- 2. Volunteer – we can use your talents: we have needs in gardening; editing our quarterly newsletter; participate and support our events; dress up and party like it's 1799; help out in our gift shop; become a docent - just to mention a few areas.**
- 3. Donate – even a small amount can offset some of our costs.**
- 4. Does your company have a matching gift program? You can double your donation.**
- 5. Are you an IBM retiree, spouse, currently active: IBM will donate \$10 for every hour you volunteer at EFHS to a maximum of \$500. Go to <https://ibm.benevity.org/user/login> and register.**
- 6. Do you have a Donor Advised Fund (DAF)? Consider adding EFHS as one of your selected not-for-profit organizations.**
- 7. Do you have a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)? Consider making a donation to EFHS.**
- 8. Are you exploring ways to reduce your taxes on your annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)? Look into opening a QCD and don't forget EFHS. Thank you!**

From the Farmhouse by Site Director, Rick Soedler

Hello, friends! Happy New Year! We hope you are all well. Winter is upon us and that means winter maintenance projects here at the Brinckerhoff House. Recently, we just finished repairing cracked plaster and repainting our c.1830 summer kitchen on the southwestern end of our farmhouse. Currently we are repairing damaged plaster and repainting what is believed to have been the farm's warming kitchen and currently being utilized as a more modernized kitchen that is used for preparing special events. There is never an end to maintaining our 274 year old house. We are also continuing to sort through and catalog recent donated items, such as local documents, photos, books, and other antiques. Thank you to those folks who have renewed their memberships for 2024! If you haven't joined or renewed yet, we invite you to do that as soon as you can! We are looking forward to our upcoming event, and we hope that you can join us as we celebrate 64 years as the East Fishkill Historical Society. Thank you one and all! We couldn't accomplish what we do without your generosity. History matters!

Please consider becoming actively involved with the East Fishkill Historical Society. With the recent loss of several key people we welcome any and all to help with big or small projects. We need help with running and presenting events, assisting with our school field trips, gardening, managing our collections, operating our general store, and other site work. Please share this with any high school students that you know who are looking to fulfill their community service hours prior to graduation. Please contact rick@eastfishkillhistoricalsociety.org if you are interested. Thank you.

In Memorial: Don Hanna 1947-2023



On Wednesday, December 28th, 2023 we learned of the passing of our dear friend and colleague Don Hanna. A resident of East Fishkill for 45 years, Don was a society member and board member at the East Fishkill Historical Society for over 20 years. Along with his wife Beverly, their love of history and knowledge of antiques made them key members of our team. Don was passionate about collecting antiques and enjoyed many years as an auctioneer. Visitors would find Don in our early kitchen greeting them and sharing his knowledge and love of our farmhouse and local history. In addition to his time with the EFHS, Don was also an active member of the Hopewell Reformed Church where he sang in the choir and served as an elder for many years.

Born in Glens Falls, New York on January 2, 1947, he was the son of Howard and Dorothy (Gibson) Hanna. Don proudly served our country in the US Army and had been employed as a hospital administrator of several local hospitals, including Northern Westchester Hospital in Mount Kisco.

On June 14, 1969 in Hartford, NY, Don married Beverly Mercure. They raised their 3 sons together and enjoyed 54 years of marriage. Our thoughts are with Bev, sons Michael, Matthew, Jeffrey, and their extended families. We will remember Don for his friendship, dedication to our local history community and to his unwavering support of the East Fishkill Historical Society. Thank you Don, we'll take it from here!

How to stay in touch...

Please visit our website at 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).