

## Annual Report of the Hastings Historical Society, June 2013-2014

It has been another full year for the Society and its volunteers. You might think the work could get finished but the nature of our organization is that it is never done: history keeps being made! The year had many highlights. In late October we opened a new exhibit, "Hastings' Artists: A Rich Legacy." It featured 40 different artists and about 150 works of art, from oil paintings to furniture and many other media. This exhibit has been one of our most popular and well appreciated in recent years. It is also very different from other recent exhibits and illustrates the amazing depth of artistic talent that has in the past found inspiration in Hastings. I use the present tense because the exhibit will be up through Saturday, September 20th. If you haven't seen it, do so now. We owe much appreciation to those who loaned us art which so expanded the beauty of

the display beyond the Society's own artwork.

Then on Veterans' Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>, in VFW Park on Warburton Avenue just before the traditional morning service of remembrance, we dedicated two new monuments to Hastings residents who served in the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. Mayor Peter Swiderski gave a moving dedication speech. The Society raised the funds and carried out the project as a gift to the village and long overdue recognition of the many residents who had faithfully served our country. The assistance of Peter "Greg" Muraik has been essential in bringing this idea to fruition.

The fiscal year ended with a May Annual Meeting, shared with the Friends of the Library. Bruce Levy gave a program about Jacques Lipchitz and his time in

Hastings. This was an outcome of Mr. Levy's extensive research for the October 20<sup>th</sup> Rededication of the "Heaven and Earth" sculpture in front of the Library.

In the meantime, the Society's archivists have been busier than ever with increasing research requests by e-mail as well as in-person visits. We are proud of the archival volunteers who contribute huge amounts of time and thoughtfulness in their responses to requests as well as keeping up with the deluge of new information. Muriel Olsson is head archivist, Eileen Forbes-Watkins does accessions, Beth Smith handles photographs, Jan Clough deals with artifacts and Annette Borowitz keeps the files in order. If you have not seen the archive space, please visit to see the high standards we maintain and the

*(continued on page 11)*

### Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Activities for the Year ended December 31, 2013

#### Statement of Financial Position

##### Assets

|                                      |                   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Cash and Cash Equivalents, . . . . . | \$13,813.         |
| Inventory . . . . .                  | 21,309.           |
| Long Term Investments                |                   |
| · Merrill Lynch, . . . . .           | 173,783.          |
| Total Property and Equipment         |                   |
| Net of Accumulated Depreciation, ,   | 221,221.          |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b> . . . . .        | <b>\$430,126.</b> |

#### Statement of Activities

##### Support and Revenue

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Donations, . . . . .                        | \$6,395.         |
| Dues . . . . .                              | 19,659.          |
| Veterans' Project Donations, . . . . .      | 22,000.          |
| Merchandise Sold and Misc. . . . .          | 3,394.           |
| Investment Income . . . . .                 | 3,774.           |
| Realized Gains in Investments, . . . . .    | 18,830.          |
| <b>Total Support and Revenue, . . . . .</b> | <b>\$74,052.</b> |

##### Expense

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Cottage Expenses & Maintenance , ,       | \$29,667.        |
| Veterans' Project Expense . . . . .      | 20,215.          |
| Cost of Merchandise Sold . . . . .       | 904.             |
| Professional Fees, . . . . .             | 4,270.           |
| Historian Newsletter & Postage . . . . . | 4,634.           |
| Insurance . . . . .                      | 4,085.           |
| Office and General . . . . .             | 6,925.           |
| Investment Expense . . . . .             | 2,155.           |
| <b>Total Expense . . . . .</b>           | <b>\$72,855.</b> |

##### Increase (Decrease)

|                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| in Net Assets . . . . .               | \$1,197.   |
| Net Assets at Beg. of Year, . . . . . | 410,748.   |
| Adjustment to Net Assets . . . . .    | 18,181.    |
| Net Assets at Year End . . . . .      | \$430,126. |

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Forbes-Watkins, Treasurer

## Notes from Observatory Cottage

### The Water Tower

A recent inquiry about the water tower, the landmark that marks our village on the Hudson River, sent our researchers scurrying. Here's what we discovered:

While it's somewhat confusing (because apparently there were a couple of water towers in operation on the Hastings waterfront in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century), from what we can gather the Anaconda water tower that is now still

standing was built sometime prior to 1924. We have an old insurance map from 1924 that has it listed as an American Brass Company water tank with a capacity of 75,000 gallons. While it doesn't say it's a tower, it looks like it's in the right location for the current structure. Anaconda bought the American Brass Company in the late 1920s and, at some point thereafter, "Anaconda" was painted on the tower. (Atlantic Richfield must have seen the same map, as we found a presentation of theirs on the Internet that labeled the Hastings water tower as "Constructed Prior to 1924.")

Unfortunately, we have no other information on the materials used or height/dimensions of the tower. We're guessing that the tower was probably constructed in the early 1920s or perhaps in the late 1910s, as photo of the waterfront prior to that time show no water tower.

*Note:* The Society has put this iconic symbol on a coffee/tea mug which is currently for sale for \$13. or two for \$25., plus shipping costs.

### Palisades Lecture and Slideshow

The Historical Society will be jointly sponsoring with the Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct and other organizations a lecture and slideshow program by Eric Nelson about the Palisades. It will be held on Thursday, October 9th at 7:30pm at the Dobbs Ferry Library Community Room at 55 Main Street, Dobbs Ferry. You may remember that Eric Nelson was our excellent interpreter on the Hudson River boat ride that we held on the 35th anniversary of the Society. Mark your calendars.

### Do You Remember This Quilt?

The Historical Society recently received this quilt entitled "We The People," which had been stored in the library of Hastings



*Detail of the Bicentennial quilt.*

High School. The center scroll bears the dates 1787-1987, indicating that the quilt commemorates the bicentennial of the Constitutional Convention. The red, yellow, black and beige quilt features silhouettes of the founding fathers and original 13 colonies. Initials (possibly of the students involved in the project?) are placed near the silhouettes. We assume this quilt was created circa 1987. Does anyone have information about the creation of the quilt, such as the students involved, the teacher, the class or specific event for which it was created? Let us know.

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### Annual Report (cont'd.)

variety of material that has been organized and stored. This past winter we had a workshop with a professional consultant to review our policies and procedures and be sure we are up to date. This was followed in the spring with a workshop on disaster planning, an essential concern for all organizations.

Financially we continue to have annual expenses in excess of our income. We rely upon the Endowment Fund to make up any shortfall. How fortunate we are to have that resource, funded over the years by special donations and bequests. We also look to the sale of merchandise to bolster the bottom line. This financial situation reflects our shrinking membership base, now about 650 members. Since dues are our primary source of annual income, I would ask you, our reader and member, to tell your Hastings family and friends the value of membership, the pleasure of reading original articles in the *Historian* as well as support for the collection and preservation of the village's unique history. Or consider giving a membership as a gift. It is the best value in town!