



Ladies' Village Improvement Society

Established in 1895

December 2023

## ***Calendar***

***Saturday***

***December 2nd***

***2:00 to 4:00 p.m.***

***Holiday Open House***

***LVIS***

***Monday***

***December 11th***

***2:30 p.m.***

***Member Meeting***

***First Presbyterian  
Church of EH***

***Saturday***

***January 13th***

***9:30 a.m.***

***Member Meeting***

***EH Library***

Colleen Rando, Chair  
Lauren Betesh, Vice chair

## ***A Festive Holiday Meeting***

December's member meeting featured musical performances by East Hampton High School students. Chorus teacher Melanie Freyre led the school's Camera-ta singers and the orchestra teacher, Stephanie Quigley, directed the Chamber Ensemble. In addition the church's music director, Jane Hastay, led the Hand Bell group, which includes some of our own LVIS members. To view a video of the Camarata's performance, courtesy of Durell Godfrey, click on the link: <https://1drv.ms/v/s!AtU82dqEV0GVjqcGPL1eYU78WeTOBg?e=glhnOR> Photos on the following pages.



Two retiring chairs, Memorial Plaques Chair Jola Marcario and Men's Department Chair Almeda Rickenbach, were presented with flowers for their many years of service. And Student Awards Chair Sarah Minardi introduced the Madelon DeVoe Talley scholarship winner. (See page six.)

Also at the meeting, incoming President Joyce Tuttle read a letter from Mayor Jerry Larsen addressing the many accomplishments of outgoing President Jen Tarbet.



*Meeting photos and video: Durell Godfrey*













# *Congratulations Bethany Rebecca Trowbridge*

Since 2002, the LVIS has awarded a scholarship to women 25 years or older who reside full-time in East Hampton Town and wish to return to college. This scholarship was named in honor of Madelon deVoe Talley, a life-long summer resident of East Hampton who worked at the LVIS for many years up until her untimely passing in 1997.

Madelon Talley's career path provides an excellent template for late undergraduate starters. In her late 30's she not only completed her degree, but also landed her first job as an investment analyst for Dreyfus corporation. She had three children at the time. She was soon recognized as a powerhouse in this male-dominated business and, in fact, became the first female fund manager on Wall Street.



*Bethany Trowbridge, center. From left, stepfather Ken Dodge, daughter Davianna Trowbridge, mother Ruth Dodge and Chair Sarah Minardi.*

From that position, she capably moved between private and public sectors. In the federal realm, she designed programs for a joint Small Business Administration/Commerce Department initiative aimed at helping women entrepreneurs. She was also NY State's Director of the division on investments and cash management, managing the state's \$16 billion retirement fund.

Our scholarship winner, Bethany Rebecca Trowbridge, was presented with her award at the December member meeting. She is a lifelong resident of East Hampton. She holds a full-time position at Saunders & Associates as an administrative assistant, she waitresses at Springs Tavern, she is a full-time single mom to twin 17-year-old daughters and she is very involved in her church, VANY – Vida Abundante NY. She is currently the children's ministry leader.

On top of all that, she decided to return to school. She is currently enrolled at Liberty University Online, based in Lynchburg Virginia, where she is majoring in psychology. The cost per semester is approximately \$5,000. She chose this school as it is a Christian University and she was looking for a school with a biblical worldview that would help her on her journey to become a counselor. Congratulations, Bethany.

*— Chair Sarah Minardi*



# ***LVIS Holiday Party***



*Photos: Colleen Rando*

*Thank you, Membership Committee*























# *LVIS Open House*



*Recreating her role as Mrs. Claus, Joan Denny*



*Open House photos: Durell Godfrey*









*Thank you, Special  
Events Committee*



# Bring in the New Year with LVIS

*Mark your 2024 calendar. Join us for the Polar Bear Plunge Costume Contest at Main Beach on January 1st at 12 noon. Wear your bathing suit and green LVIS apron. We will be forming an elm tree. We'll meet at the long bench on the deck closest to Parking Lot #1.*

*Money raised at the event supports local food pantries.*

*—Vickie Lundin*



Vickie



Photos: Betty Pasteur



## *Message from President Jen Tarbet*

*Retirement from the position of President is coming up quickly. It is time to reflect on the three years of hard work, accomplishments and growth. It is also time to look forward to the future and all the new opportunities that lie ahead.*

*Together we have walked through some tough periods, such as recovery from the Covid pandemic and the reorganization of our daily operations. We have increased our scholarships and contributed to many worthwhile causes including the Brooks Park Art and Nature Center, the Dominy Shops, and the Eleanor Whitmore Early Childhood Center.*

*Our successes can be directly tied into the dedication of our staff and the dedication of our members.*

*The folks you have elected to be on the board next year are an awesome group! The organization is in good hands.*

*I cannot thank the current board, our committee chairs and volunteers enough. You are all amazing. I was honored to be the President of a Board of an incredible organization.*

*When I moved to the United States in 1967 I found East Hampton to be a warm welcoming community. It still is!*



*Photo: Lauren Betesh*



# *Landmarks Luncheon*

*Speaker: Alastair Gordon*

*Excerpts from Chair Jeanne Hutson's introductory remarks:*

“When the founders of the Ladies’ Village Improvement Society drew up their constitution nearly one hundred and thirty years ago, a commitment to local landmark preservation was one of the stated goals. They sought to preserve the colonial saltboxes such as Home Sweet Home, the Mulford Farm, and the Hook Mill. Those were the Landmarks of their day. Imagine their surprise if they could have known that in the 21st century, East Hampton landmarks would include glass houses with open floor plans, cantilevered decks, flat roofs, and roof terraces.

Yes... Significant mid-century modern houses built between the late 1940’s and late 1960’s are now 50-75 years old and are today’s important landmarks. And they, like the landmarks before them, deserve our love, admiration — and protection. Modernist houses tell the stories of the times in which they were created. They contribute a new historic and cultural value that has been largely overlooked until the last few years. Some of these architectural gems have already been torn down, and others are urgently in need of protection. In the 1970’s, the Landmarks Committee catalogued all of the houses they could find in the village that were old or historically important, and the first Village landmarks ordinance was written by Mayor Doug Dayton which in turn created East Hampton’s first historic district. Unfortunately, mid-century modern homes were not quite old enough to be included in the survey.

Our speaker will shed light on the story of East Hampton’s pioneering postwar architects, the important modernist homes they created, and the need for us to take action.”

*Also at the Luncheon, Bess Rattray paid tribute to former LVIS President Averill Geus and mother of Landmarks Chair Jeanne Hutson. Excerpts below.*

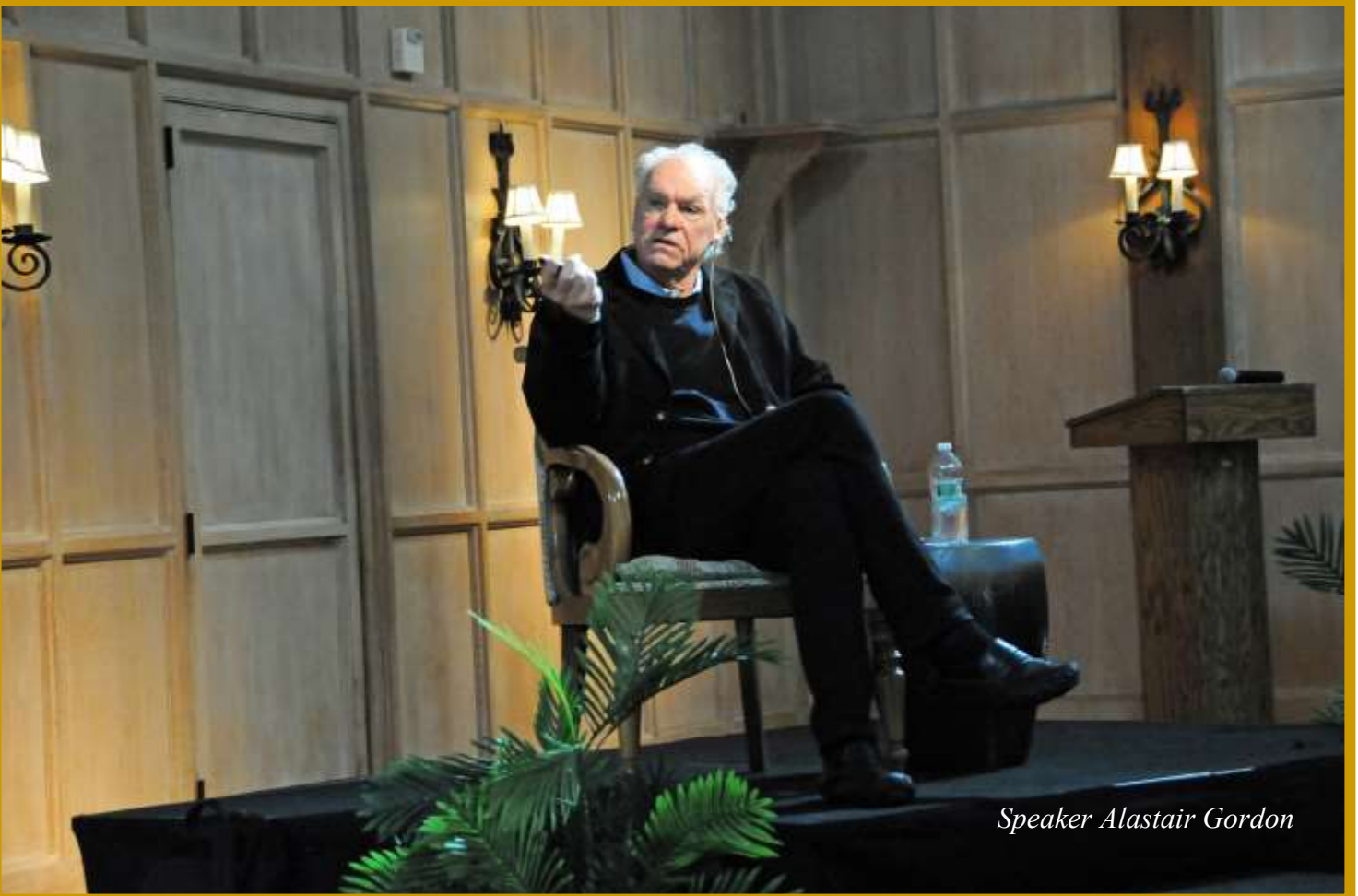
“Averill Dayton Geus, who died on Aug. 1, was one of the last of what East Hampton used to call its “great ladies.” In a life distinguished by personal courage and indomitable energy, she wielded considerable political and social influence through the channels of soft power available to women of her generation — as the town’s official historian; as a president of the Ladies Village Improvement Society and of the Suffolk County Historical Society; as curator at Home, Sweet Home Museum; as a teacher, and as an outspoken champion of the preservation of our built heritage.”



*Landmarks photos: Richard Lewin*



*From the left, Landmarks Committee members Harriet Edwards, Janet Dayton, Bess Ratray, Chair Jeanne Hutson, Christina Buckley, Ann Roberts, Vice chair Jaine Mehring.*



*Speaker Alastair Gordon*



































# Shop Talk



## Children's Pop Up

Priscilla Turner is seeking dressy children's clothing for a holiday season Children's Corner. Members can either make an appointment online, call the office, or drop off items at the office Monday through Friday. Email Priscilla with any questions.

[turnerpriscilla2@gmail.com](mailto:turnerpriscilla2@gmail.com)

*Shop  
sequins  
and  
holiday sparkle  
at LVIS*

## A Columbia Wedding



Esperanza Garcia bought this bridal dress at LVIS for \$50 for her niece Iliana, who wore it to her wedding in Columbia this past September. Thank you Leslie Clarke for bringing it to our attention.



# Book Talk

## Exquisite Gifts

Nancy Vermandois

Books recently received 20 publications from the Limited Editions Club. These books are noted for their beautiful illustrations and are priced from \$15 to \$40. The publisher limited each title to 1500 copies and most are signed by the artist. Titles include:

Balzac, Honore de. EUGENIE GRANDET 1960 Signed by Rene ben Sussan.

Wilder, Thornton. THE BRIDGE OF SAN LUIS REY 1962 Signed by Jean Charlot.

Cooper, James Fenimore. THE SPY 1963 Signed by Henry C. Pitz.

Moliere. TARTUFFE and THE WOULD-BE GENTLEMAN 1963 Signed by Serge Ivanoff.

Eliot, George. THE MILL ON THE FLOSS 1963 Signed by Wray Manning.

Tolstoy, Leo. RESURRECTION 1963 Signed by Fritz Eichenberg.

James, Henry. THE AMBASSADORS 1963 Signed by Leslie Saalburg.

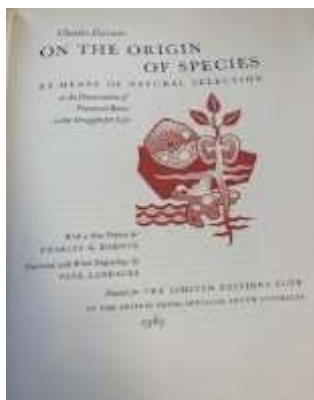
Twain, Mark. THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER 1964 Signed by Clarke Hutton.

Below are photos from of two very special publications that are more expensive because of the illustrations.

Wells, H. G. THE WAR OF THE WORLDS and THE TIME MACHINE. 1964. 2 volumes. Signed by Joe Mugnaini.



Darwin, Charles. ON THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES. 1963. Illustrated by Paul Landacre. Not signed.





# Beneath the Branches

## *Who Am I?*

*Don't call me deciduous, I am evergreen and a conifer at that.*

*Think of me when it comes to paper products and construction, but my holiday spirit is what makes me shine.*

*I am often used to make wood tar and turpentine, but I'm smoky firewood.*

*My seeds can be edible and sold commercially, great for pesto!*

*I can tolerate drought but need clean air and full sunlight to thrive.*

*Insects like to attack me, fungal diseases find me, but I try my hardest to fight back.*

*"To see a tree in winter*

*is to see it for what it really is.*

*A winter tree is an object so intricate*

*and so perplexing*

*that if it hadn't already been decided*

*that winter trees*

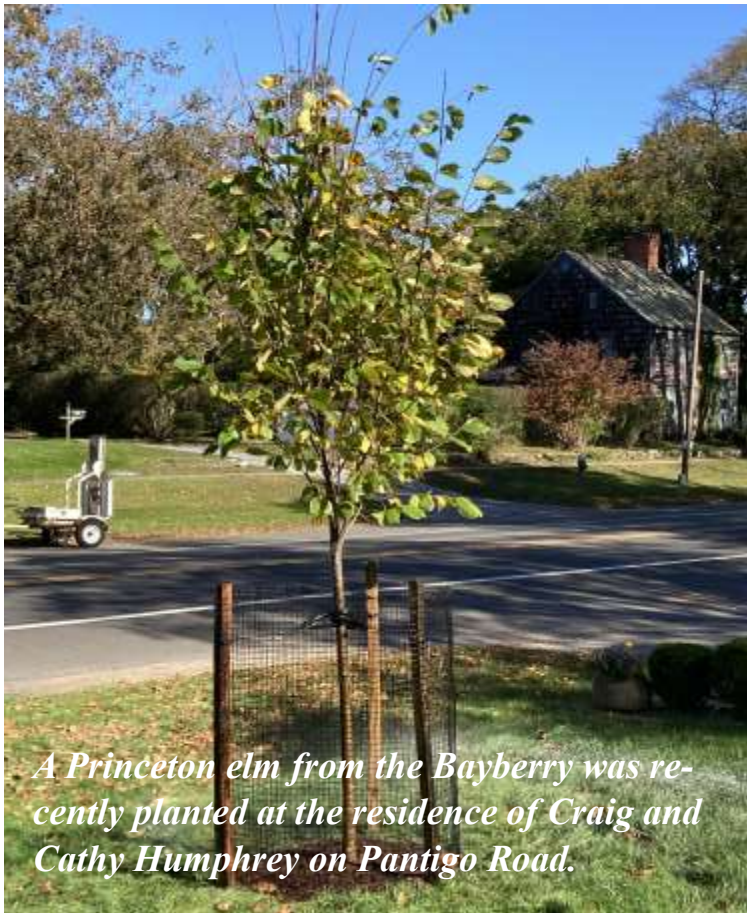
*were plain and boring,*

*we would be spending hours*

*pondering them,*

*staring at them in astonishment."*

— Vivian Swift



*A Princeton elm from the Bayberry was recently planted at the residence of Craig and Cathy Humphrey on Pantigo Road.*

## *Stumped*

*Garlands are*

*A) A decorative wreath of leaves woven together*

*B) A decorative wreath of flowers of flowers woven together*

*C) Laid in a place of cultural importance*

*D) Often worn on the head*

*E) All of the above*

*Answers last page.*



# Notes from the Board

## Bylaws Change

At the November 7, 2023 Board meeting, the Board approved an amendment to the LVIS Bylaws that would no longer task the Board with appointing Human Resource Committee members. As in other standing committees, going forward the Human Resources Chair would be responsible for appointing committee members.

A vote on this revision will be held on December 11th at the regular Membership Meeting. As required, an eblast was sent to all members thirty days before the vote.

BYLAWS Page 11 of Yearbook

Article III THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall:

P. Approve the appointment of a ~~Human Resources Committee~~, an Audit Committee and an Oversight Committee.

## Membership Changes

The Membership Committee has proposed several changes in the procedures for attaining full membership.

One of them, which reduces the time it takes to become a permanent member from two years to one, required membership approval and was agreed to at the November member meeting.

The second substantive change, which does not require member approval, requires all provisional members to volunteer for 100 hours in total, with 25 of

them served in the Shops. The other 75 hours could also be spent in the Shops, or the member could fulfill the remaining 75 hours on a different committee. A log will be provided for the provisional member to document hours served.

## New Shops Hours

Due to staffing shortages, the Annex and Furniture Barn hours will be reduced slightly and end at 4:00 p.m. each day.

## New Discount Policy

By popular demand, the discount policy for regular Shops' volunteers will revert back to what it was formerly, 50% off clothing under \$25. Clothing items over \$25 and all other merchandise is 20% off the non-sale price.



# *Welcome New Members*

*Below left to right: Sita Flaig, Kathleen Espinoza,  
Mary Jane Brock, Charlotte Sasso. Photo: Patti Ferrin*



*Missing: Arlene Bujese, Amanda Gelb, Irene O'Gara, Susannnah Reid*



# Annual Appeal Letter

*Since our founding in 1895, the Ladies' Village Improvement Society has been dedicated to preserving East Hampton's beauty and history while building a stronger community for residents and visitors.*

*Some of you may know us best for our renowned program caring for and preserving the Village's natural beauty—its trees, greens, landmarks and Nature Trail. This past year we distributed over \$325,000 towards these programs.*

*Or perhaps you are familiar with our scholarship program for East Hampton High School students. This year we awarded \$260,000 to help 24 local students and two adult women pay for their college educations. And we hope to give away even more scholarships this year.*

*We also supported the Eleanor Whitmore Early Childhood Center's new children's garden and collaborated with the Guild Hall Teen Arts Council and the Leiber Collection to support a fashion show organized by local teens emphasizing repurposing used clothing. In addition, we held two events for seniors at the Senior Citizen Center. And we do even more through other regular programs and events, like our holiday open houses.*

*Two of our main sources of funding are legendary — LVIS' popular secondhand shops and our annual summer fair at our headquarters on 95 Main Street. But they do more than provide funding— we like to think of them as our gift to the entire community. Both rely on a corps of dedicated, innovative, and incredibly hard-working volunteers. We feel so lucky for all they do!*

*But we can't reach our goals without your donations, and so I very much hope you'll consider a year-end gift to the LVIS. It is an investment in East Hampton's future!*

*Jennifer Tarbet, President*

LVIS IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THE RETURN OF THE ICONIC CAROUSEL