



# The Record



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## President's Pen *By Stuart Collins, EMAHS President*

As we reflect on an eventful summer and fall at EMAHS, I am struck by both the challenges and opportunities that have shaped our recent months. The society continues to evolve and adapt while staying true to our core mission of preserving and sharing the rich history of our mountain community.

Our ongoing Collection Inventory Project has revealed both treasures and responsibilities. Working closely with Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS), we've made significant progress in cataloging and properly documenting our collection. This vital work led to important discoveries regarding Native American artifacts that required careful consideration under Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) regulations. I'm proud of how our organization has approached these sensitive matters with the utmost respect and professionalism. Our dedication to proper collections management extends beyond regulatory compliance. This fall, we made significant progress in organizing our textile collection, moving sensitive materials to more appropriate storage conditions and addressing preservation concerns. The project has also uncovered fascinating historical items, including McKinley-era White House documents and important photographs of Chief Little Raven and Julia Bent that may provide valuable historical context for researchers. These discoveries highlight the importance of our ongoing preservation efforts and the historical treasures we continue to safeguard.

We warmly welcome Liz Ricci as our new Heritage Resources Specialist at Hiwan Museum. Liz has hit the ground running, already making significant contributions to our collections management and preservation efforts. Her expertise has been particularly valuable as we address important matters like NAGPRA compliance and the ongoing cataloging of our extensive collection.

Working closely with our JCOS partners and EMAHS volunteers, Liz brings fresh energy and professional insight to our mission of protecting and sharing Hiwan's treasures with the community.

Our educational programs continue to evolve and adapt. While we faced staffing challenges with Journey to Jeffco programming in the spring, I'm pleased to report that under the capable leadership of Mamie Hassell, Hiwan's Educational Specialist, the program has made a strong return this fall. Mamie has refreshed the Journey to Jeffco curriculum and implemented a new online registration system that is already proving successful. The continued success of our summer programs at both Hiwan and Medlen School, combined with the revival of Journey to Jeffco, demonstrates our ongoing commitment to providing engaging, hands-on historical education for our youth. This October, we were delighted to host our annual Hiwan Halloween event, reimagined as an engaging storytelling festival that brought our community together through the sharing of local history and traditions.

In a significant step toward modernizing our organization's governance, EMAHS recently asked members to vote on proposed new bylaws that would take effect in 2025. The revised bylaws, carefully crafted by our Bylaws subcommittee and approved by the board, include several important updates: streamlining our board structure from 11 to 7 members, clarifying officer duties, establishing distinct Standing and Select committees, and adding a comprehensive non-discrimination policy. The new bylaws also formally recognize our doing-business-as name "Evergreen Mountain Area Historical Society" while maintaining our legal incorporation as The Jefferson

### Evergreen Mountain Area Historical Society

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County Historical Society, Inc. They provide more detailed procedures for membership categories and give members a stronger voice by requiring their approval for future bylaw amendments. Following the October 31st voting deadline, I will share the results of this important membership vote that will help shape EMAHS's future governance.

Our partnership with the Evergreen Downtown Business Association has opened exciting new possibilities for community engagement. We are exploring potential projects such as historical walking tours and educational placards for downtown buildings that will help bring our local history to life for residents and visitors alike. As we approach the holiday season, I'm particularly excited about our upcoming events. While we've seen some changes in our traditional programming, such as modifications to our tea services, we continue to find ways to celebrate our heritage and bring our community together. The Alternative Gift Fair and Holiday Open House remain cherished traditions that showcase the best of our organization.

In closing, I remain optimistic about EMAHS's future and grateful for the opportunity to serve this remarkable organization. Together, we continue to write new chapters in our own history while preserving the stories of those who came before us.

## Say Hello to Liz

By Stuart Collins, EMAHS President



EMAHS is delighted to welcome Elizabeth (Liz) Ricci as Jefferson County Open Space's new Heritage Resources Specialist at Hiwan Museum. Liz brings an impressive background in museum studies and collections management that perfectly aligns with our mission of preserving and sharing mountain area history.

With a Master's degree in Museum Studies from Johns Hopkins University and extensive experience in collections management, Liz has already demonstrated her expertise in addressing complex preservation challenges. Her background includes managing museum collections at the Aurora History Museum and Historic Sites, where she oversaw preservation, documentation, and storage of artifacts while following museum best practices. Her experience with NAGPRA compliance, culturally sensitive collections, and archive management makes her particularly well-suited for her role at Hiwan.

Liz's collaborative approach and commitment to community engagement are evident in her work developing volunteer programs and forming partnerships with various cultural institutions. Her expertise in collections management software, particularly PastPerfect, will be invaluable as we continue our ongoing accession project and digital preservation efforts.

We are especially excited about Liz's experience in exhibition development and public outreach. Her proven track record of making collections accessible while ensuring their preservation aligns perfectly with Hiwan's dual mission of protection and education.

As we continue to catalog and preserve our extensive collection, Liz's expertise in preservation, conservation, and collections management will be instrumental in ensuring that Hiwan's treasures are properly preserved for future generations. Please join us in welcoming Liz to our Hiwan family!

## Events

### Alternative Gift Fair

-Dates: 11/09/24 - 11/10/24

-Location: Luthern Church

-Time: 9am-4pm

### Holiday Open House

-Date: 12/13/24

-Location: Hiwan Heritage Park and Museum

Time: 4-6:30pm

### Julia Douglass's Doll Exhibit

-Date: TBD

-Location: Hiwan Heritage Park and Museum