

## Reflections On A Different Kind of Year for EMAHS By Elaine Hayden

What an inauspicious year we have experienced! The Society began 2020 with an awesome lineup of events including our celebrated teas at Hiwan and scheduled speaker events. Preparation for all school programs at Hiwan, Discovery Days and Medlen School Days were well underway. Alas, as March settled in, we all were turned a bit upside down with restrictions brought on by COVID-19. The cancellation of all scheduled events for the remainder of 2020 was a regretful but necessary decision.

Tours of Hiwan Museum resumed in June offering a new perspective for visitors. As Jeffco adjusted guidelines, willing tour guides resumed greeting guests from the side porch at Hiwan. Titled 'Hiwan History on the Porch', guides offer the history of the house and its residents as well as offering outdoor tours around the perimeter of the building. This outdoor perspective allows for an interesting historic and architectural tour, while observing distancing guidelines. This concept has been well received and is an alternative option for the continuation of telling the history of Hiwan.

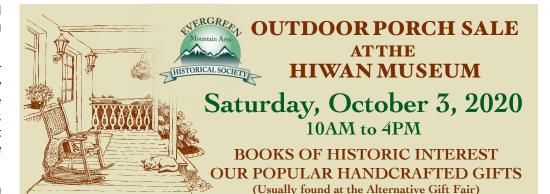
The quarantine period was a valuable time for introspection and for the completion of many postponed projects. In July, the wooden flooring in the museum was refinished and buffed to a beautiful luster, revealing the house's original flooring. As tours have not been resumed in the museum, this was the opportune time to tackle this project.

Recognizing the impact this global pandemic has on everyone, Educational Specialist, Jennee Hancock, introduced an opportunity for area school students to share their perspective on the state of the pandemic. Some of these unique points of view can be viewed on the EMAHS web site and have been added to our archives as a permanent historic record. In the months prior to COVID restrictions, Hiwan volunteers served 814 students through Colorado History, Hiwan History and Pueblo to Plains educational programs. Additionally, while you visit our web site, a new video of a tour of Hiwan is available. Andrea Keppers narrates the very complete and updated version of the house tour.

Due to gathering restrictions, our annual membership meeting and election of Board officers has been cancelled. The opportunity for all Society members to vote for Board membership will be conducted online in December. Watch for an email concerning this vote in early December. With the cancellation of the Alternative Gift Fair, one of the Society's fundraisers and usually held in early November

at Lutheran Church, a committee has been formed to present an 'Outdoor Porch Sale' on October 3rd. A selection of our popular books of historic interest and gifts will be offered at a 'COVID restricted' event hosted outdoors and on the side porch at Hiwan that will provide the opportunity to purchase what we typically offer at the AGF. Please consider stopping by in support of the Society at this time when many of our fundraisers have been cancelled. (See inset)

As we all have experienced a new sense of direction during this pandemic era, these times offer reflection and hope. Be mindful of the fact you have the right to vote twice in 2020! Vote in the EMAHS Board election in December and exercise your right to participate in the U.S. General Election in November. Your vote counts.



## SAFE SHOPPING FOR EVERYONE

ALL COVID-19 SAFETY AND DISTANCING GUIDELINES WILL BE OBSERVED. MASKS REQUIRED

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