

NEWS



Edward A. Diana
Orange County Executive

April 1, 2011

For Immediate Release

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OC Exec Diana Appoints Cornelia Bush New County Historian *First Woman to Hold Job in County's History*

Goshen – County Executive Edward A. Diana is pleased to announce the appointment of Orange County native Cornelia W. Bush to the position of County Historian. Ms. Bush, whose appointment received unanimous approval from the County Legislature at their Friday, April 1 meeting, will assume the position held by Mr. Ted Sly, of Middletown, upon his retirement.

“For 24 years, Ted has devoted himself to preserving and promoting the history of our great County,” said Mr. Diana. “We are deeply grateful for all that he has done to ensure that future generations will understand and appreciate the rich history of the County of Orange. We wish him well in his retirement,” Mr. Diana added.

“It gives me great pleasure to welcome Cornelia Bush to the position of County Historian,” said Mr. Diana. “Not only can she trace her roots in Orange County back to the 1600s, Ms. Bush is a genealogist, archivist, and professional historian and has a deep understanding of Orange County history. She will surely build and expand upon Mr. Sly’s legacy,” continued Mr. Diana.

Ms. Bush, whose family was one of the founding families of Monroe and also established Museum Village, is a 10th generation Orange County resident. She was instrumental in having the Village of Monroe designated as an official historic district by the New York State Historic Preservation Office and received an award from the NY Masons for preserving the oldest Masonic meeting room in New York State. She was also awarded a special congressional recognition from Congressman Ben Gilman for community service.

Ms. Bush received a Bachelor’s degree from University of Virginia and a Master’s degree from Arizona’s Thunderbird University. Among her many other credentials, she received a Federal certificate from FEMA for training in coordinating environmental and historic preservation compliance, is the national co-chair for marking and preservation of

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historic sites for the Colonial Dames, a hereditary society, and is a graduate of Leadership Orange.

"I am greatly looking forward to serving the residents of Orange County as their Historian," said Ms. Bush. "It will be a pleasure to collaborate with the many fine men and women who serve as historians in our cities, towns, and villages, as well as in local historical and genealogical societies. Orange is an original county of NY State, with a long and significant history. It has an important place in our national identity," she continued. "This is a tremendous honor, and I appreciate the trust that the County Executive and the Legislature have placed in me."

The County Historian's office is located in the 1841 Court House, 101 Main Street, Goshen. Ms. Bush can be reached at 291-2388 or by email at cbush@orangecountygov.com.



Legislative Chairman Michael Pillmeier, retiring County Historian Ted Sly, and Orange County Executive Edward A. Diana, welcome newly appointed County Historian Cornelia W. Bush.