



The Rough Writer

The News of the Volunteers at Sagamore Hill

Volume 8, Issue 5

May 2006

This newsletter is produced by Milton Elis and the Volunteer Advisory Board for the volunteers and staff of the Sagamore Hill National Historic Site.

Superintendent
Gregory A. Marshall

Editor
Milton Elis

Layout/Design
Mónica Chiro

Contributors
Mark Koziol
Debbie Bulck
Tobby Selda

Comments?
Milton Elis
1 Jarvis Avenue
Syosset NY 11791
516 921-3414

Phone
516 922-4788
922-4271 x33 Visitor Center direct line

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Sagamore Hill National Historic Site
20 Sagamore Hill Road
Oyster Bay, New York 11771

The Volunteers of Sagamore Hill
20 Sagamore Hill Road
Oyster Bay, New York 11771

TRIVIA ANSWER

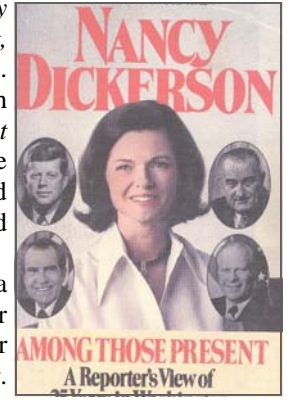


This chair is found in the Red Bathroom.

NEWS FROM THE COAL BIN

By Mark Koziol

Recently Mark was reading journalist Nancy Dickerson's 1977 autobiography, *Among Those Present*, and came across an interesting relevant vignette. Ms. Dickerson recalled attending her first boxing match with none other than the indomitable Alice Roosevelt Longworth. Since she was a good friend of Alice, the author was invited, along with a party of writers and Congressmen, to see a live boxing match in the old Uline Arena in Washington, DC.



Alice seated her party in the boxing arena according to a particular order, as if arranging a dinner party seating plan. This was done to maximize her enjoyment and to keep certain people away from her. When a boxer got an upper hand in landing blows onto his opponent, Alice would get to her feet and raise her clenched fists up and shout "Bully! Bully!" Another tradition practiced by Alice, was to have all her guests hold up white handkerchiefs during certain times of the boxing match so that her sister, Ethel Derby would be able to identify Alice and the group as Ethel watched at home on television.

CURATORIAL VOLUNTEERS REVERSE TRADITION



After many years of being treated to lunch by Amy Verone, Sue Sarna and Mark Koziol, volunteers took the three staff members out to lunch at *Al Dente Restaurant* in Oyster Bay. It was their way to thank the staff for making the work environment so pleasant. Next year, it will again be the staff's turn to treat. Shown in the picture: Amy Verone, Chris Ghent, Mark Koziol, Toby Selda, Milton Elis, Ginny Perrell, Sue Sarna, and Max Kleinman.

SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING NEWS

A proposal has been made that Sagamore Hill should schedule fire drills and fire extinguisher training for staff and volunteers and that it should be timed during the upcoming summer tourist season. The scheduling of these activities after Memorial Day weekend allows the seasonal staff and volunteers to participate. It was proposed that there be a walk-through

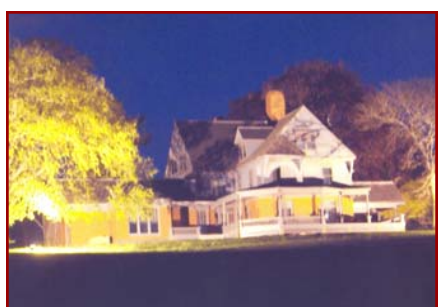
fire drill where evacuation procedures would be discussed as well the location of fire alarms and fire extinguishers. The proposed evacuations would be both announced and unannounced and would occur before the park opens for tours and during the hours of scheduled public tours.

PET-FRIENDLY PARKS

There was a recent ad in the Sunday, *New York Times* geared to the owners of dogs. A retail company was looking for a dog to become its mascot. The ad included a "Dog Lovers Guide to Manhattan. Of the fourteen pet friendly parks, one park caught my eye. The park was *Theodore Roosevelt Park* at Central Park West at West 81st Street. This writer's family lived at Broadway and 90th Street for forty years and no one ever heard of the park. Was it named after TR's father? The Museum of Natural History is very near the park or was the name chosen to honor TR? Does anyone know after whom the park is named?



Admiral George Dewey's flagship the Olympia moored in Philadelphia



The House illuminated for night viewing



Blooming cherry trees in the parking lot

FIRST ELDERHOSTEL A SUCCESS



Charles Markis welcoming the Elderhostel group

Twenty-eight Elderhostelers from six states visited the site on May 9 for a full day of activities. Only four people had

previously visited Sagamore Hill and those individuals were from the Island. This is the best type of publicity we can get, because it is free and national.

The two lectures, Amy Verone on the life of TR and his family and the second by Edward Renehan, Jr., author of *The Lion's Pride*, were held in the conference room at Old Orchard. After a tour of the museum and the viewing of two films, many of the visitors took the nature trail to the beach on Cold Spring Harbor.



Lunch was served in the picnic area behind the gift shop, which was open for business

thanks to Debbie Bulck. As the food was being cleared away, rain began to fall. Charles Markis produced the big red, white and blue umbrellas and everyone walked to the house. Charles and Howard Ehrlich gave the tours of the house and then guests returned to Old Orchard for cookies and their second lecture.

Toby Selda deserves credit for conceiving the program. After Toby had attended two Elderhostel events dealing with Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, she felt Sagamore deserved equal attention. Nancy Hall assisted Toby, chauffeuring her around the site, helping to set up the food and prepare the registration materials. Sue Sarna handled the slide projector for Amy and Charles warmed up the crowd and



Left to right Nancy Hall, Ed Renehan, and Toby Selda

served as MC. Superintendent Greg Marshall welcomed everyone to the site and asked the attendees to spread the word about Sagamore Hill. The next session will be on Tuesday, May 23 and that too is a sellout.

SITE NEWS: EVENTS



Dennis Mott has completed the first stage of repairing the piazza. He has replaced the deteriorating boards on the west side of the porch, in front of the side foyer exit. With an assist from Bo Stein,

Dennis did the repair in record time and was able to beat the rain. Now he will tackle the next section before we lose any visitors.



SITE NEWS: PEOPLE



On May 2, the site was expecting a photographer from a publication to tour the TRH. Mark Koziol and a few volunteers were doing some last minute cleaning to make sure the house looked its best for a photo shoot. Mark received a call from Amy asking him to hurry to Old Orchard and bring the volunteers with him. Amy had prepared a surprise birthday party for Mark, and Mark was indeed surprised.

How old is he? Ask him yourself.



VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION BASH IS A BEAUT!

It was a beautiful evening. The weather was perfect; the dinner and desserts were delicious; and the camaraderie made for a perfect evening. Forty-four volunteers, spouses, staff and Friends turned out on Friday, April 27. It gave the Wednesday people a chance to see old friends who work on Thursdays. The Sunday volunteers met the Tuesday volunteers and everyone cheered the recipients of the Awards.

Refreshments were served on the grass at the rear of Old Orchard. The food was in the Museum hallway and dessert was set-up on the second floor. The Awards were presented at the Visitor's Desk. *Charles Markis* and *Rita Onorato* did the buying of the edibles. *Rita* and *Chris Ghent* arrived early to help set-up. *Greg Marshall* welcomed everyone and got to meet volunteers that he hadn't met before. Charles was the emcee and Greg made the presentations. *Norm Parsons*, President of the TRA thanked the volunteers. *John Hammond*, Chairman of the *Friends of Sagamore Hill* sent greetings. *Milton Elis*, Chairman of the *Volunteer Advisory Board* thanked all the Board members for their efforts.

Dick Brummer received a 3,500 hours bar. About a dozen others also received new hours bars. *Roy Fuchs* received

the **Mary "Lady" Glenn Award** as the **Volunteer of the Year**. Roy had worked with *Lady Glenn* in 1993. *Maeve Casey* received the **Toby Kennedy Award** as **Interpreter of the Year**. Maeve and husband Brendan are Sunday stalwarts (see note at end of article). There was no **Curatorial White Glove Award** this year but *Amy Verone* presented boxes of chocolates to volunteers who helped with the recent film shoot of TRH artifacts.

Brian Forseth presented *Roy Fuchs* with Maintenance recognition, a pound of coffee and a box of doughnuts. All this time I thought Roy was too busy mowing the grass to stop for a snack. *Mike Vezzi* received a **Superintendent's Bandana Award** for engineering and supervising the construction of three new donation boxes. *Rita Onorato* received a similar award for spending time at *Weir Farm* in Wilton, Connecticut assisting curatorial personnel to inventory recent acquisitions to that site. A great time was had by all

Maeve Casey sent the following note: "Thank you all for the *Toby Kennedy Interpretive Award for 2005*. Brendan and I missed the April 27th Awards because we were at our 'other' volunteer job – babysitting in Rockland County. I enjoy working with the staff and volunteers. Sunday is my favorite day of the week!"



NEWS FROM EASTERN NATIONAL By Debbie Bulck

On my recent trip to Louisville, KY, I visited *Mammoth Cave National Park*, Lincoln's birthplace and childhood homes, *Churchill Downs* and a wonderful Shaker village in Pleasant Hill, KY. Not only did I visit these sites, I also checked out all the gift shops. Eastern National operates the shops at Mammoth Cave and Lincoln's homes while the Shakers have their own hand-made items to sell. Of course Kentucky Derby memorabilia is the big seller at Churchill Downs. Along with some chocolate covered, bourbon filled cherries, I brought back some great ideas for our gift shop.

Some new additions this month in our shop are *World War I in Photographs*, *The Military Aircraft of World War I* and *Leonard Wood* by *Jack McCallum*. The McCallum book deals with the surgeon, Medal of Honor winner, and first Colonel of the Rough Riders who is considered the architect of American imperialism. And for the romantics among us, there is *Love, Lust and Longing in the White House*. As always volunteers receive a 15% discount.

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF SAGAMORE HILL



Marie Sasso, Rich Althaus and John Hammond, members of the Friend's Board

Phil Roosevelt, the son of *P. James Roosevelt*, recounted the story of the Youngs family of Oyster Bay from the 1630s to the present at the **John A. Gable**

Memorial Lecture held on April 25. Phil was born in the Youngs' Homestead at the intersection of Cove Road and Cove Neck Road across the road from the cemetery bearing their name. The talk drew an appreciative audience of sixty people including a few from the Youngs family.

The last lecture of the series will be on Thursday, May 18 when *Dr. John Staudt*, the Executive Director of the TRA will speak on *A Priceless Heritage: TR and The Protection of America's Resources*. The program will be in the Parish Hall of Christ Church on Main Street in Oyster Bay and will begin at 7:00 pm. Admission is free.

TR IN MAY 1906

- 5/6 British writer *H.G. Wells* had lunch with TR and noted that he was relaxed and not afraid of being quoted.
- 5/12 Met with *Samuel Gompers* to discuss violations of the eight-hour law
- 5/30 Spoke at the unveiling of *Army and Navy Union* monument

ANNUAL PICNIC DATE SET

The Annual Picnic for volunteers, staff, *Friends of Sagamore Hill* and relatives of same, will be held on **Friday evening, July 14, 2006 at 6:00 pm**. This year's event will be held in the picnic area behind the Visitors Center. A tent will be erected and the picnic will be held rain or shine, preferably shine. There is no charge to attend but we ask each family or single to bring a dish to feed five. A flyer is enclosed and we ask everyone to respond promptly. We will supply hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, rolls, condiments, soda and water. The *Friends of Sagamore Hill* are underwriting the cost of this event.

TR ON BROADWAY

The current Broadway revival of the *Clifford Odets* play *Awake and Sing* plays homage to TR. The play, set in the early 1930s, in a Bronx apartment, has the father of the family constantly referring to Theodore Roosevelt (in a positive way).

VOLUNTEERS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

- Annual Picnic set for July 14 at 6 pm.
- *Wayne Wagner* reported sale of site pins has been slow.
- Communication among superintendent, staff and volunteers is improving. *Greg Marshall* distributed **Spring 2006** site info sheet that covered a variety of topics concerning what is happening within the next few months.
- Critique of *Volunteer Recognition Night* suggested that awards ceremony be held in the conference room where the chairs are more comfortable than the benches on the first floor.

ARCHIVES PROVES TO BE A TREASURE TROVE



A few days ago, this writer was cataloguing some purchases Curator *Amy Verone* had made on *e-bay*. The catalogue for the *James L. Clark Studios* caught my eye. The 1931 catalogue contained a 1912 letter from TR thanking Clark for the great job

the company had done in making the elephant tusks and gong piece that stands in the foyer of the TRH. The cover reproduced here shows a familiar item, the bronze rhinoceros that also stands in the foyer. TR's sister, *Corrine Robinson* may have purchased it from the catalogue. But that is not all. Also shown in the catalogue, are two gifts that may be purchased. One item is an elephant foot container for a beverage set and the other is a rhino foot tobacco jar. Now you know where TR got the elephant foot waste basket in the North Room and the rhino foot inkwell, also in the North Room.



TRIVIA QUESTION



In which room will you find this chair?

Clue: Look at the legs.