

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**  
Joshua Reyes

**Contributors**  
Charles Markis  
Mark Koziol  
Brian Forseth  
Joshua Reyes

**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

**NEWS FROM THE COAL BIN**  
by Mark Koziol

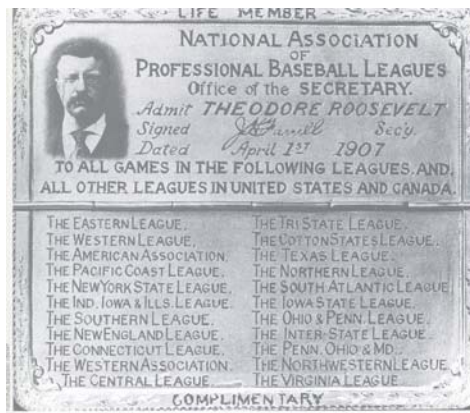
**THEODORE ROOSEVELT AND BASEBALL**

As the seasons change and winter becomes spring at Sagamore Hill, we are reminded of *Theodore Roosevelt's* love of outdoor sports. Despite the president's passion for action, an active lifestyle and the enjoyment of contact sports like football, baseball was not one of TR's favorite sports. According to the book, "**Baseball: The President's Game**" by *William B. Mead* and *Paul Dickson*, TR referred to non-bruising games, such as baseball, as "molly coddle games." This public criticism of baseball led some baseball executives into scheming a way to unite the popular TR with America's national pastime.

On May 16, 1907, President Roosevelt received a delegation from the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues. During the meeting, *John H. Farrell* co-opted TR by publicly praising him for being a champion of an active, outdoor lifestyle, thereby implying TR endorsed baseball, because the sport "did not nourish molly coddles." At the same time, the baseball delegation presented to President Roosevelt the first ever presidential season pass: a 14-karet gold, engraved, two-piece, hinged pass to both minor and professional league baseball games.

Boxed into a corner, the president publicly expressed "warm thanks for the card and I regarded the game of base ball\* as the typical American outdoor sport because it can be played by middle aged men as well as younger people."

Ironically, TR never used the baseball pass during the 1907 season.



**THEODORE ROOSEVELT OUT WEST**

*Amy Verone* was the first presenter of this year's **John A. Gable Lecture Series**. Her powerpoint presentation followed *Theodore Roosevelt* on his travels through the western United States in 1903. Nearly fifty people assembled in the Parish Hall of Christ Church in Oyster Bay to hear Amy's remarks. *Mark Koziol* assisted Amy.

The next presenter will be *Jim Foote*, who will speak on April 26<sup>th</sup> on "**The Role of a Lifetime**," his experiences portraying *Theodore Roosevelt*.



# The Rough Writer

## The News of the Volunteers at Sagamore Hill

Volume 9, Issue 3

March 2007



Snowstorm closes site on March 16



TR's Arsenal



One week after the snow, flowers appeared

**AUTHOR! AUTHOR!**

For most schools in the area **spring break** will occur in the first week of April and Sagamore Hill is sponsoring some special events for children on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, April 4, 5 and 6. On each of these days, author *Toby Selda* will be on hand to sign copies of her new book, *Simply "Father" Life with Theodore Roosevelt as Seen Through the Eyes of His Children*.

A work of historical fiction, *Simply "Father"* uses the collective voice of the Roosevelt children to tell the story of their life with *Theodore Roosevelt*. Through historic photographs, picture letters and quotes, the book accurately describes Roosevelt family life and creates the understanding of a man who was accessible to children, as well as a father figure, who loved his family and home. The book is meant to look like a family album from the early 1900s. This new Eastern National publication is well-illustrated and, although primarily written for the younger reader, will appeal to readers of all ages.

This book is part of the *Sagamore Hill Series: Connecting America's Children to Theodore Roosevelt and His Sagamore Hill Home*, created to mark the centennial of *Theodore Roosevelt's* presidency. Other publications in this series include the Junior Ranger Activities recently developed here; also designed to provide an entrée into the life and times of TR. We will be offering these activities during spring break week as well.

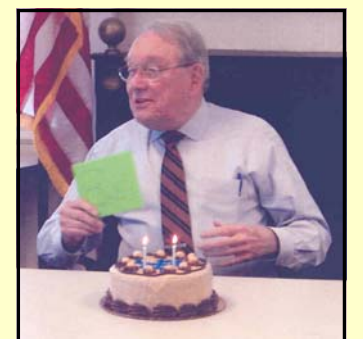
Beginning each of these days at 10am Ms. Selda will be at the bookstore to sign copies for those who purchase the book, priced at \$7.95. Author Selda will read her book at 11:15 and 1:15 on each of those days. Everyone will have a chance to meet and greet the author. There is no cost to attend the readings. Purchase books and sign up for the readings at the Visitor Center.

We are planning to honor Toby with a reception on Friday, April 6 at 2pm. If you are available, please come by to greet our author. If you can't come on Friday, come on one of the other days that Toby will be here to greet her, and perhaps have her sign your very own copy of her book. Congratulations to Toby and many thanks for her hard work.



**SITE NEWS: PEOPLE**

*Bob Wulforst* of Administration was feted at a birthday party. When asked which birthday this was, Bob responded, "Who can remember that far back."



**TRIVIA**



**Answer:** The bowl is on the fireplace mantel between the bronzes of the *Bronco Buster* and *Kit Carson*.

## MAINTENANCE AND PRESERVATION GO HAND IN HAND

Fabrication of storm window replacements for the TRH is underway. The Preservation and Maintenance shop has been humming. *Dennis Mott, Paul Dama* and *Rich Althaus* are cutting, planeing, shaping, drilling, fitting, sanding, gluing, glazing and painting wood and glass into new storm windows to replace those that have deteriorated. These new ones will match the existing windows in profile, size and color and will be installed upon completion. Chief of Historic Preservation and Maintenance *Bryan Forseth* asked, "Why did we wait until the end of winter to do this? Storm window fabrication is 'indoor' work and best saved for cold or wet days. Outdoor work receives our greatest attention since we can never be sure what the weather will bring. Some replacement storms have been needed for several years and with our current staff and shop capabilities, the time is right."



The work on the basement storm window was completed last month by *Dennis Mott* before he went to do his stint at *William Floyd*. New wallpaper was recently put up on the front staircase wall. Using paper that remained from the 1993 restoration of the TRH, *Rich*



*Althaus* replaced the paper that hundreds of children and adults had run their hands over on the way to exiting the second floor.

## THEODORE ROOSEVELT ASSOCIATION

*James H. Bruns* has been selected to be the new president of the TRA. Mr. Bruns comes to the TRA from Atlanta, Georgia where he has been the President and Chief Executive of the *Atlanta Historical Society*. Mr. Bruns succeeds *Edward Renehan* who served as interim President of the TRA following the death of long time Director *John A. Gable*. The new President assumes the leadership position about July 1, 2007. We wish him success.

## SITE NEWS: EVENTS

A Japanese film crew was on site filming the house and grounds. *Josh Reyes* and *Mark Koziol* acted as their guides. The crew spent the morning filming the inside of the TRH, specifically the Gun Room, North Room and TR'S painting by *de Laszlo*. Afterwards they filmed the exterior of the TRH and selected exhibition areas of the museum at Old Orchard. The film footage will be used by Nihon Television of Japan for a program called "*The Passage of Dreams*," a short travelogue.

## NEWS OF VOLUNTEERS

### SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

*Leslie Galati* is a new volunteer in Cultural Resources. She is a senior at North Shore High School in Glen Head, where they have combined English and social studies into one three-hour block for seniors. This class meets three times a week. On her afternoon off, Leslie decided to serve an internship in a field in which she is interested in pursuing after college.



Leslie has always loved history, whether reading historical novels, watching historical movies (even if they aren't always accurate), and checking out the *History Channel*. Her goal is to see how she can combine her interest in history with a career. After some research Leslie realized that she could set her sights on a career working for a museum as a director or curator. Being able to be part of preserving and displaying history to the public and to keep it alive was something of which she wanted to be a part.

She began searching for a museum at which to intern and started at the *Nassau County Museum of Art*. She was not happy there and the museum didn't have enough work for her. Realizing that Sagamore Hill would be more on target with what she wanted to do and has found that to be the case.

In college Leslie plans on majoring in American history and possibly going further in graduate school for a degree in museum studies or continuing in history. She is still young and doesn't quite know where life is going to take her. Good luck in which ever direction she takes.

### VOLUNTEER ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

*Barbara LaMotta's* name was presented to the VAB by Nominating Committee Chairman *Roy Fuchs* to fill a vacancy on the board. Barbara has been a volunteer since 1995 and gives tours on Wednesdays, during this time of year and shifts to Mondays after Memorial Day. Barbara was unanimously elected to the VAB.

This year's Volunteer Awards ceremony will be held on Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at the *Matinecock Masonic Lodge* in Oyster Bay. This is the Lodge of which *Theodore Roosevelt* was Grand Master. The program will start at 6:00 pm and there will be plenty of food for all. Watch for the flyer announcing this event which will include a map locating parking areas.

### A VISITOR'S E-MAIL

"I had the pleasure of visiting Sagamore Hill on February 4. I am an avid historical tourist, and admirer of President Roosevelt's accomplishments. I'd been hoping to take a tour of the house for years, but in all my trips to New York City I'd never found the time to make it to Oyster Bay. I am so glad I finally did. The tour was excellent – informative and rich in meaningful details that added to the overall quality of the tour. Most important, though, is how beautifully the house is curated. It truly gives the impression that the Roosevelt family is merely away for the weekend. It retains the vibrancy and reality of the life lived on the premises in a way no other historical site I have ever visited has ever accomplished. I just wanted to say thank you to the wonderful staff and curators who made my visit such a memorable one. I will never forget the beautiful day I spent at Sagamore Hill.

*Teresa Glanowski*

Editor's note- one of the topics *Amy Verone* may be addressing in her Thursday, March 29 **Curator's Roundtable** is that the house looks like the Roosevelt family is just away for the week-end. All tour guides should try to keep that illusion intact by discussing what is in the house and not what was in the house. Should you receive a question about the past by all means discuss it but don't make that a major part of your tour.

### THEODORE ROOSEVELT SESQUICENTENNIAL, 1858 - 2008

The year 2008 will mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of *Theodore Roosevelt*. The Sesquicentennial will afford Sagamore Hill the opportunity to create a vigorous program of events educating the public about T R's achievements and his lasting legacy.

Recently, Amy met with Mark, Susan and Josh to brainstorm ideas about what could be done in 2008 to honor T R's birthday. Some of the ideas discussed ranged from having Sagamore Hill sponsor a scholarly seminar with famous T R authors discussing a specific aspect of President Roosevelt's life; having the Rangers lead daily point-to-point walks for the public; and having Sagamore Hill network with local High Schools and Colleges to present programs to educate the public about the importance of T R's life and times. This was the first of many discussions that will occur this year in order to determine the best type of event (or events) to hold.

## TRIVIA



QUESTION: This bowl is located between which two items in the North Room?

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## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

by Greg Marshall

The following is a brief overview of the National Park Service Centennial Initiative:

A 10-year plan to invigorate national parks and to:

- Engage all Americans in preserving our heritage, history and natural resources through philanthropy and partnerships;
- Reconnect people with their parks and
- Build capacity for critical park operations and facilities, and sustain them through the next century.

A centerpiece of the President's proposed Fiscal Year 2008 National Park Service budget, the Centennial Initiative is designed to provide up to \$3 billion for investment in our system of national parks, trails, memorials and historic sites.

"This is money above and beyond our regular annual budget," said Mary Bomar, Director of the National Park Service. "It includes \$100 million of additional operating funds for parks each year and up to \$200 million a year for signature projects and programs."

The \$200 million a year would come in two parts. The President proposes up to \$100 million a year to match \$100 million in donations to the National Park Service.

The first order of business for the Centennial Initiative is to select signature programs- and establish specific performance goals- to help prepare the national parks for another century of conservation, preservation and enjoyment.

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Sagamore Hill NHS has submitted a number a "signature" projects for consideration. Almost all of them relate to the recommendations made in our draft "general management plan."

If you have any questions or suggestions please give me a call or even better...stop by to say hello! You can also go to [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov) to get additional information on the NPS Centennial Initiative.

## YOU'VE GOT TO LOVE THESE



These two loving cups, held in the TRH storage, were recently catalogued. The large cup on the left is silver, stands on three legs and has three handles. One side is inscribed, "**Presented to President Roosevelt by the citizens of Dallas, Tex. Apr. 5, 1905.**" The second inscription reads, "President of all the people, one who believes in a square deal for all men."

The second cup appears to be pewter and has inscribed on a small plaque, "**Welcome Hon. Theodore Roosevelt the famous African hunter from his friend Quan Yick Nam 6-18-1910.**" This latter cup has been sent out with other items for conservation.

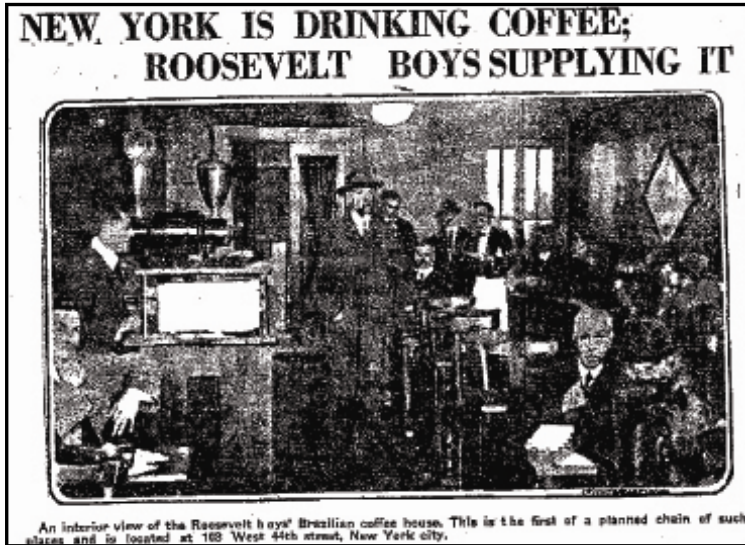


## INVOKING TR TO HELP MAKE A SALE

The real estate section of *Newsday*, on February 16, featured pictures of TR, *George Washington* and *Abraham Lincoln*, only *Thomas Jefferson* was missing so they didn't invoke *Mount Rushmore*. TR's blurb was for a \$2.3 million, eighteen room house and stated, "**The property is less than a mile from Sagamore Hill where *Teddy Roosevelt* famously had his summer *White House*.**"

## The Roosevelts' "Brazilian Coffee House"

by Joshua Reyes



In November 1919, Theodore Roosevelt's children Kermit, Archie, Ted and Ethel along with her husband Richard Derby and Philip Roosevelt (a cousin) opened the Brazilian Coffee House, located at 108 W. 44<sup>th</sup> Street, in the Theatre District of New York City. The name Brazilian Coffee House was changed in 1921 to the Double R (Roosevelt and Robinson) and moved to 112 W. 44<sup>th</sup>. The Double R was managed by the Roosevelt family until it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Zivko Magdich in 1928.

The Brazilian Coffee House was conceived while Kermit Roosevelt was working as assistant manager for the National City Bank in Buenos Aires. Kermit originally pitched the idea to his brothers prior to the United States entering World War I. Following the war, he suggested the idea again. The coffee house opened within a year of Kermit's suggestion (two months before Prohibition in 1920).

Phillip Roosevelt was president of the firm, but all six relatives had an equal share. The Roosevelts' goal was to model the coffee house similar to the establishments seen in Paris and Brazil. They hoped the coffee house would encourage reading, writing and socializing among the patrons. Some newspapers, such as the *Boston Globe* even believed the coffee house would replace the saloon as a social center.

The *New York Times* interviewed A.M. Salazar, the coffee house manager, following the November 1919 opening. According to Mr. Salazar, the signature item was imported coffee from Brazil. The coffee house was licensed as a restaurant, but Mr. Salazar explained this to be misleading because the menu options were limited to pastries, sandwiches and a daily Brazilian dish.

According to the *Janesville Daily Gazette*, Ethel Roosevelt was the interior decorator of the coffee house. Upon entering the long narrow shop, a patron saw portraits of Voltaire and Shakespeare on opposite sides of the room. The walls were decorated with green and gold wallpaper containing a Brazilian bamboo plant design. The room contained 30 small oak tables and matching chairs with a large oak counter in the center where freshly ground coffee was made. City dwellers that passed the coffee house might have caught a glimpse of a sign that read "If Postum disagrees with you, try a cup of our coffee," which hung in the storefront window. Early in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Postum was considered a safe substitute for those who feared the effects of caffeine.

Salazar believed the Brazilian Coffee House to be special because "the American people don't really know how to enjoy a good cup of coffee." According to Salazar, their coffee was unique because it was brewed "like tea by pouring boiling water over coffee through a specially prepared strainer," this contrasted with the American way of boiling the coffee in water or using a percolator.

Shortly after the Salazar interview, a *New York Times* column titled "Topics of the Times" wrote an editorial on the Roosevelt coffee house. According to the columnist, "the idea was hardly as original...as the originators seem to think," and added that "there have long been more than a few places on the east side...However, these older coffee houses have appealed chiefly to what is called the foreign element." With Prohibition on the horizon, "the time is favorable for the starting of something that will or may bring men together in the sort of sociability which was for many not the least attraction of the vanishing saloon."

Based on the resources available, the coffee house appears to have been a success in its nine year run despite two kitchen fires, a relocation and name change. The coffee house was reportedly part of a chain, however, no supporting evidence for this has been found. The Kermit and Belle Roosevelt papers, located at the Library of Congress, have a file labeled the Double "R" Coffee (Box 118). It is quite possible this may contain the missing pieces to this story.

The coffee house did succeed in inspiring and bringing different people together. Science-Fiction writer H.P. Lovecraft and his circle of friends, known as the Kalem Club, used the coffee house as one of their meeting locations. In 1925, Lovecraft even wrote a poem titled "On the Double R Coffee House." The romance of Mr. and Mrs. Zivko Magdich, the couple who bought the coffee house in 1928, began there in 1923. The day after the deed was transferred to the Magdich's in 1928, the *New York Times* wrote the Double R had been a "gathering place for aspiring playwrights, actors, artists and musicians." Presently, Sushi Zen Inc. occupies the address of the Brazilian Coffee House at 108 W. 44<sup>th</sup> Street. The question of whether or not this is the original structure requires further research.