

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

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

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Oyster Bay, New York 11771

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

TRIVIA



Answer: The picture hangs on the wall over Superintendent *Greg Marshall's* conference table. The likeness more resembles *Robin Williams* as TR in *Night at the Museum*, than it does TR.

NEWS FROM THE CHIEF CULTURAL RESOURCES

By Amy Verone

The next Curatorial Roundtable will be held at 3:00pm on Thursday, March 30, 2007 in the Old Orchard Conference Room. Refreshments will be served!!! The program will be two-fold: first, we will be discussing, **Fact or Fiction: Are We Telling Lies to the Public?™** Unlike many historic sites, we at Sagamore Hill are swimming in information about Theodore Roosevelt, the Roosevelt Family, and their home. Some of that information is at our fingertips in new books and reports; some of it is in the objects and documents the Roosevelts left behind; and some information is still being discovered. We need to work together to share information, to sort historical fact from entertaining stories and to examine how we are sharing information with our visitors. We are not talking about dictating tour content or producing one cast-in-concrete narrative to be memorized. Rather, we need to work together to identify the 3-5-10-? "big ideas" about Roosevelt that should be included in everyone's individual tour. **WE CAN'T DO THIS WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF THE VOLUNTEERS, SO PLEASE BE SURE TO COME!!!**

Amy will also present a PowerPoint program on the J. Horace MacFarland photographs taken at Sagamore Hill in June, 1905 and will discuss how these photographs can enhance our understanding of Sagamore Hill and the life that Theodore Roosevelt lived here.

SITE OPENS ON PRESIDENTS' DAY



When Congress made the third Monday in February, **Presidents' Day**, the intention was to give workers a three day weekend instead of celebrating **Washington's Birthday** on February 22, which could fall on any day of the week. Retailers jumped on the day to make it into **Presidents' Week**. Ten years ago the site was closed on **Presidents' Day**.

A local constituent complained to his Congressman that Sagamore Hill was closed, dishonoring *Theodore Roosevelt*, whose birthday happens to fall on October 27. The next year the site was open and we have been ever since. This year, Monday, February 19th was one of the coldest days in a long time. You could almost see the icicles in the Gun Room but visitors came from far and near. *Newsday* sent a photographer and as luck would have it, he found *Jim Foote* and a group of children in the Visitors Center. Maybe the visitors went to a mall after leaving the site and had hot chocolate to warm

HAPPY BIRTHDAY HOWIE

Park Guide *Howard Ehrlich* recently celebrated his thirty-ninth birthday for the thirtieth time. The superintendent arranged for the festivities to take place just before the first **Curator's Roundtable** began. This guaranteed the revelers presence at that event.



Is he for real? He's got to be kidding! Maybe it's the Hebrew Calendar.



Howard Ehrlich and Julie Abbate

The Rough Writer

The News of the Volunteers at Sagamore Hill



Volume 9, Issue 2

February 2007



Bookstore ready for customers



Sideboard in the Dining Room



Smoke appears to rise from the flag

PAUL LIEBOLD HAS PASSED AWAY

From 1994 to 2004, *Paul Liebold* was a mainstay among curatorial volunteers. He didn't clean or handle the artifacts, he did data entry in the basement of the TRH. If it was Thursday, Paul was there in the coal bin which was the curatorial office. Thanks to his efforts, a great deal of material was catalogued. Prior to Paul's retirement, he had been a commercial lending officer.

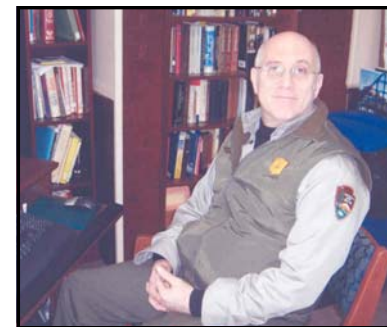
While working for the site he also found time to volunteer at the Children's Center in East Meadow. There Paul tutored children who had been convicted of serious crimes. Paul was the first recipient of the *Lady Glenn Award*, recognizing the **Volunteer of the Year**. Our sympathies go to his wife Louise and their family.



SITE NEWS: PEOPLE

Jesse Ponz was in heaven. Jesse loves to give tours to teachers because they usually ask stimulating questions. Two weeks ago his entire tour was made up of teachers. *Scott Gurney* pointed out the two (much the worse for wear) guard dogs protecting the rear entrance to Old Orchard.

Retired woodworker *George Dziomba* has been feeling fine since his retirement until he stepped off a ladder and broke his ankle. Get well George. Former site ranger, *Mike Shaver* recently was married. Mike is Chief of Interpretation at Governor's Island.



TRIVIA



Question: This gold colored wire on black velvet, portrait of TR (shown being cleaned by *Rita Onorato*), is located where on Sagamore Hill?

GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN



Showing the alternatives



Ellen Carlson explains the GMP to a reporter

A number of weeks ago, a significant step was taken in the process of finalizing our **General Management Plan (GMP)** for Sagamore Hill National Historic Site.

Thanks to *Ellen Carlson*, the final draft of the **GMP Environmental Impact Statement** was distributed to a significant list of interested parties. An excellent summary of the plan, including the NPS preferred alternative, was also distributed.

In order to listen to what the public had to say about the plan, an open house was held on February 1 at the *Doubleday Babcock Senior Center* in Oyster Bay. Twenty-three people attended the open house. Almost all the attendees were volunteers or other "Friends" of the park. A majority of the questions asked pertained to funding of the plan, the next steps in the process and an anticipated final approval date. One outstanding, dedicated volunteer had his own suggestions, which were reflective of his knowledge and passion for Sagamore Hill.

I am confident that the faithful readers of the *Rough Writer* are familiar with the plan's preferred alternative and what implementing the plan will mean to enhancing our visitors experience and expanding our stewardship of Sagamore Hill's natural and cultural resources.

Comments on the plan are still most welcome. You can go to the Sagamore Hill web site, send me an e-mail, or just drop me a note. If everything goes well – which we all know it always does – the **General Management Plan** is expected to be approved by this summer.

Thank you all for your support and, most importantly, your patience.

TR IN FEBRUARY 1907

Held a number of conferences on the letting of contracts for the Panama Canal.

2/9 Met with a delegation from the San Francisco Board of Education concerning the Japanese school question. Held another conference on the same topic, nine days later.

2/13 Made a speech on athletics at Harvard Union reception.

2/14 Visited Groton (the school).



EVERYONE LOVES A BARGAIN

Upon close examination, some of the original furniture in the servants' rooms looks like hand-me-downs and rightly so. Edith bought some of the items at what, on the North Shore, would be called "estate sales." In Washington, D.C. it would be a different story. The following are notes she wrote to son, Kermit.

EKR to Kermit 2-4-09

"At last I bought myself the doll's bureau I have so long wanted. It was no snooper's treasure, but I can't do that to advantage in W. They know me and are firm."

2-7-09

"It can never help being interesting to be a 'snooper' or a 'questing beast,' for one never knows what the next corner may conceal."

TR, JR & QUENTIN RECEIVE A VISIT



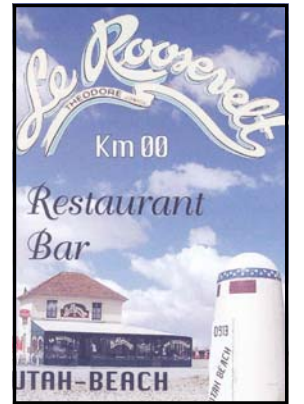
This fall volunteer *Aurelie Miller-Hendry* and her husband John spent sixteen days in France. One of the most moving and memorable experiences of their trip was a visit to the graves of Lt. *Quentin* and Brigadier General *Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.* in Normandy's American Cemetery at Colleville Sur Mer.

Although Quentin died in World War I and Theodore, Jr. in World War II, their grave-sites are side by side at the family's request. Of the 9,387 servicemen buried in the cemetery, TR, JR's is one of only three grave markers engraved in gold, since he was a Medal of Honor recipient who led the assault on Utah Beach. Their guide explained that, military rank was not a factor considered in grave placement, since all equally made the supreme sacrifice for peace and the liberation of France.

On the misty drizzly day of her visit to the cemetery, Aurelie donned her Sagamore Hill weather proof jacket when visiting the Roosevelt's graves. The grey day's weather contributed to the hushed solemn sense of reverence displayed by all for the hallowed final resting place of more than 9,000 courageous patriots.

Coincidentally, on the anniversary of the tearing down of the Berlin Wall (Nov. 9), we visited the *Memorial Peace Museum* in Caen where *Theodore Roosevelt's* place was prominently displayed among the Nobel Peace Prize recipients. It was a day which reaffirmed once more, the dedication, courage and invaluable contributions for peace made by one American family – the Roosevelts of Sagamore Hill.

The restaurant where Aurelie & husband John had lunch is the *Le Roosevelt, Theodore, Junior*.



NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF SAGAMORE HILL

Linda Bruder of Oyster Bay Cove has joined the Friends Board of Directors. *Joni Foote* is making progress following arthroscopic surgery on her knee. This year the Friends will again be handling the **TR Public Speaking Contest**. *Mike Mason* is coordinating the event scheduled for Old Orchard on April 24&25th with the final being held in the same location on May 3rd. The **Police Awards** will be on June 18th under a tent outside next to the North Room. If you are interest in becoming a member of the Board of Trustees of the Friends, please contact *Joni Foote* at 516-671-1447. If the Colonel answers, he can take a message.



TR KNEW HOW TO HANDLE THE COLD

The coat shown is heavy flannel, has a Persian lamb collar and is lined with what looks like mink. The coat is stored in *Quentin's Hideaway* and ready if the temperature takes a real drop. We could have used it to keep warm on Presidents' Day.



NEWS OF VOLUNTEERS

It is now politically correct to call *Ginny Perrell*, grandma. Congratulations to Ginny and husband Jay on the birth of their first grandchild *Brendan Thomas Beddow*. *Brendan* weighed in on Feb. 9 at 7 lbs. 14 oz. The proud parents are *Meredith Perrell* and *Artie Beddow*.



Madeline Nelson was in the museum when students and teachers from the *East Woods School* visited. She is pictured with the two teachers who accompanied the class. *Leslie Galati* is a new curatorial volunteer. As soon as we have a picture of her we will highlight her background.