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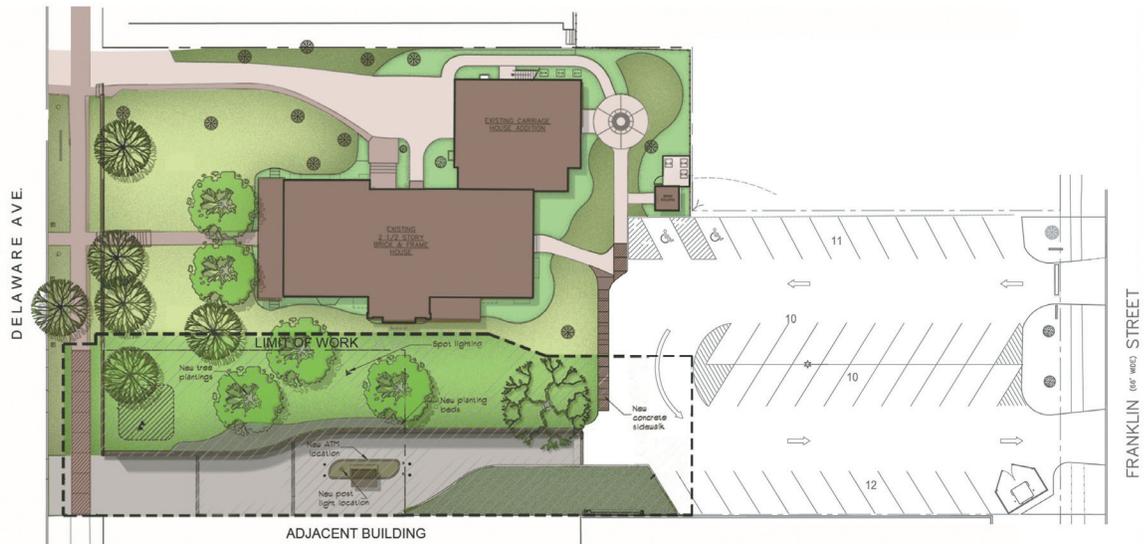
How Are We
Doing?

NYSCA
Go! Grant

Introducing...

Gateway to Greatness Campaign at 77% of Goal

Foundations, National Park Service, Trustees Demonstrate Confidence in TR Site



Rendered Site Plan for the Gateway to Greatness Project

Great progress has been made toward our *Gateway to Greatness* goal of \$800,000! These funds will demolish the former Bank of America branch bank and restore the TR Site to its 1901 footprint and landscape. Very soon, the Site will once again look the way Theodore Roosevelt saw it when he took the presidential oath in the library of the Wilcox home. Bank of America's generous donation of the neighboring property initiated this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the Site.

Fund raising got off to a strong start late last year with the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation Trustees committing more than \$100,000 in personal gifts. This pledge of support was followed by leadership gifts from The John R. Oishei Foundation, The Margaret L. Wendt Foundation, and The Cameron and Jane Baird Foundation. We are truly appreciative of these foundations' early support of the campaign. The National Park Service, with whom we have partnered for more than forty years on the Site's preservation and management, has recently committed project funds to help underwrite the landscape restoration portion of the project. NPS's ongoing advice and support continues to be key to the Site's success. In total, \$620,000 has been raised to date!

Our campaign now continues in its "public phase" as we reach out to TR Site volunteers, members and friends to help us reach our goal. With your generous support, we will have more good news to report soon.

Stay tuned and watch what's happening on Delaware Avenue as the early stages of the project begin this summer!

Published by the
Theodore Roosevelt
Inaugural
Site Foundation

641 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14202
716 884 0095
www.trsite.org

Message from the Foundation President

HARD WORK, DEDICATION, AND GENEROSITY CONTINUE TO BE HALLMARK OF TR SITE'S VOLUNTEERS

The Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site has a proud tradition of community involvement and support. Its 40-year history, from the time it became one of Buffalo's early preservation success stories to its transformation into a museum for the 21st century, is a testament to what can be accomplished through the committed actions of so many.

On May 17, more than 120 volunteers gathered in our Carriage House Gallery to receive a well-deserved thanks for the countless acts they perform daily for the betterment of the Site and its visitors and to recognize the efforts of several truly outstanding individuals.

Our annual Volunteer/Staff Reception, following the spring Trustee meeting, is an opportunity to celebrate our 25 board members, our cadre of approximately 250 additional volunteers, and our full- and part-time staff of fourteen for all they do, individually and collectively, on a daily and on-going basis, to make the TR Site a notable local and national treasure.

Volunteers at the TR Site come in all shapes and sizes. At a governance level, some of our volunteers comprise our Board of Trustees. Volunteers also serve in advisory capacities and perform certain office duties. They are on the front lines, interacting with visitors and staff, serving participants at our many special events, and participating in internal meetings. They are the heart and soul of the Site, giving freely of their time and talents and serving as our ambassadors in the community.

Our volunteers find satisfaction in feeling as if they have contributed to the success of the TR Site and made an impact. And, once a year, we recognize them formally for their work.

As Board president, I was delighted to be able to recognize two remarkable individuals and present them with the 2012 President's Award.

Liz Krawczyk, the Site's long-time Volunteer Coordinator, is a former teacher and stay-at-home mom. How fortunate for the Site that Liz responded to a Buffalo News call for volunteers in 1991. Liz began her volunteer activities as a docent, soon added the Research Committee to her "resume", and eventually gravitated to the realm of special events. Chair of Victorian Christmas not once, but twice, Liz organized, encouraged, and cheered on her fellow volunteers with boundless energy and a nurturing approach to accomplishing the tasks at hand.

Liz has always been full of new ideas and has worked tirelessly to recruit new volunteers and to ensure that the Site is demonstrating its appreciation to everyone in our volunteer family year-round. Thanks to Liz, the volunteer experience at the TR Site has become a linchpin to its overall success and the envy of every other non-profit organization in our community.

In the past 15 years, I don't believe there is a single person who has had more of an impact on the TR Site than immediate past board president **Larry Seymour**. Larry, also a more than 20-year volunteer, served as board president from 1997 to 2011. Although his contributions to the Site are numerous, Larry's leadership is rightfully best known to us for spearheading the Carriage House project and for the Site's groundbreaking multi-media museum experience, as well as the current Bank of America project.

Larry's unbridled enthusiasm, creativity, generosity, hard work, and love of the Site has made it virtually impossible for any person, business, or government entity to say no to our plans. The Carriage House project, with Larry as chair of the capital campaign committee, successfully raised \$3.7 million. The project was completed on time and on budget. And, perhaps most importantly for future sustainability, our

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Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation

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Message from the Foundation President

continued from page 2

museum of the 21st century is meeting or exceeding every goal set for attendance, revenue generation, and visibility.

The perseverance and persistence Larry has exhibited during the years of conversations with Bank of America and its predecessors relative to the possible acquisition of the bank building adjacent to the Site is equally noteworthy. His polite but relentless approach finally paid off a year-and-a-half ago with the bank agreeing to donate the property. The Site is now poised to complete its Master Plan and return the property to its original 1901 footprint. Larry continues to be with us every step of the way on the project, as we raise funds and oversee plans to make this long-held dream a reality...in the near future.

I have had the great fortune to serve on more than 40 boards and advisory groups during the course of my career. And, in my estimation, the loyalty and passion exhibited not only by Liz and Larry, but by all of our volunteers, is what sets the TR Site apart from every other non-profit organization for which I've ever served.

Kudos to all for a job well-done!

STANTON H. HUDSON, JR.

PRESIDENT

THEODORE ROOSEVELT INAUGURAL SITE FOUNDATION



SAVE THE DATE!

Catherine Schweitzer to Be Honored

Plan to join us on **Wednesday, September 12, 2012** for the Site's annual Anniversary and Awards Dinner. The **Theodore Roosevelt Award for Exemplary Citizenship and Service** will be presented to **Catherine Schweitzer**. Catherine's leadership has been truly exemplary, especially in the area of historic preservation. The outstanding success of the National Preservation Conference in Buffalo last October can be attributed to her extraordinary efforts as Co-Chair. All of Western New York has and will continue to benefit from her numerous contributions accomplished through keen insight, collaboration and personal determination. Buffalo is a better community because of her many contributions!

This year's event will be held at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center and will commemorate the 111th anniversary of Roosevelt's presidential inauguration in the Buffalo home of Ansley and Mary Grace Wilcox. The Theodore Roosevelt Association Police Award will also be presented that day. TR Site Foundation Vice President Karen Gaughan Scott is chairing the event. Watch for an invitation in August.

Volunteer Awards Presented

This year's **Barbara Berryman Brandt Volunteer Award** was presented on May 17 to **Diane Elmer** and **Lynn Gerber**. Diane has been one of the guiding forces behind Victorian Christmas, acting as co-chair four times and laying the groundwork for our renowned Candlelight Dinners. Her creativity and flair for design have made the Site's basket raffles a major success each year. Always ready and willing to take on any task, she stepped in as co-chair of Victorian Christmas volunteer scheduling last year – not a job for the faint of heart! Diane lent her professional talent during the Site's recent renovation, overseeing the custom design and installation of the beautiful carpets we now enjoy.

Lynn has been an asset to the Costume Resource Center since 1997. Her keen fashion sense and vast knowledge of vintage garments and clothing trends has helped transform the CRC clothing collection into a professional, carefully organized resource for both education and fundraising. Whether her time is spent researching style trends, developing new programs or orchestrating fashion shows, Lynn's contributions to the Site have made an extraordinary difference. She also shares her professional talent with the Site as co-chair of the ever popular Victorian Christmas Tempting Treasures boutique, raising thousands of dollars each year.

Thank you Diane and Lynn for your outstanding contributions!



TR Site Foundation President Stanton H. Hudson, Volunteer Coordinator Elizabeth Krawczyk, and Barbara Berryman Brandt Volunteer Award winners Diane Elmer and Lynn Gerber (left to right).

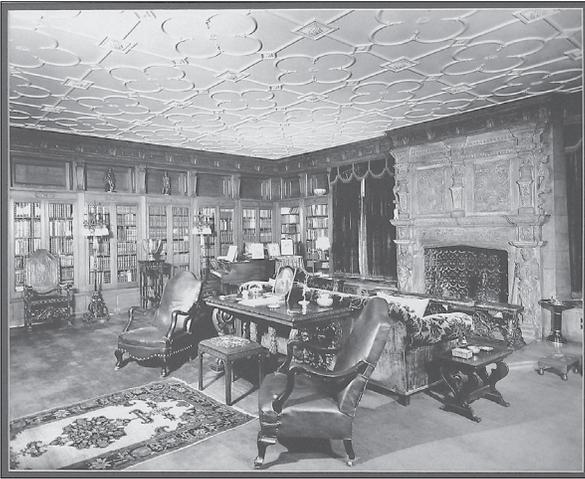


TR Site Foundation President Stanton H. Hudson, Volunteer Coordinator and President's Award recipient Elizabeth Krawczyk, Site Director Molly Quackenbush, and Foundation Trustee and President's Award recipient Lawrence D. Seymour (left to right). (Photos by Katie Schneider Photography)

Summer Events at the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site

641 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202, 716-884-0095, trsite.org

Twilight Tour of Mansions



One of the many magnificent interiors on the *Twilight Tour of Mansions*. (Photo by Chuck LaChiusa, Buffalo Tours)

Imagine strolling along Delaware Avenue on a balmy summer evening in the early 20th century, marveling at the palatial residences along the city's grandest thoroughfare. Continue your twilight stroll onto the elegant Oakland Place, a beautiful tree-lined street created in the 1880s from the back yards of the largest Delaware Avenue estates. On to Summer Street and the private residence of the renowned architect E.B. Green. Imagine walking into these exquisite homes where the rich and famous lived during Buffalo's glory days. Your imaginary journey can become a reality during the *Twilight Tour of Mansions* on Thursday, June 21.

The Theodore Roosevelt Site and Preservation Buffalo Niagara's Buffalo Tours are joining forces again to present this totally unique tour experience that offers a rare glimpse inside the magnificent homes of Buffalo's Golden Age. Several of these gilded age mansions are now public buildings but others are still private residences, carefully restored and adapted to fine modern living in the 21st century. The current owners take pride in our city's treasure trove of historic homes and welcome the opportunity to share these wonders with the community.

The *Twilight Tour of Mansions* offers a self-guided, "go at your own pace" experience with knowledgeable docents to share the fascinating history at each location. Stroll back in time and immerse yourself in the grandeur that was Buffalo's heyday. As a special treat, we've included a wine and cheese reception at the incomparable Butler Mansion, today known as the Jacobs Executive Development Center. Special thanks to Three Pillars Catering at the Butler Mansion for their gracious hospitality and generous support of the *Twilight Tour of Mansions*.

The tour sites will be open from 5:00 until 9:00 pm. Advance sale tickets are \$30 (\$25 for members of either organization) and can be purchased through June 17th. After that date tickets are \$35. Purchase at the TR Site at 641 Delaware Avenue, the Market Arcade at 617 Main Street or call (716) 884-0095 (TR Site) or (716) 852-3300 (Preservation Buffalo Niagara.)

Included in the tour cost is a lecture by local historian Chuck LaChiusa on the history and architecture of the Delaware neighborhood, which will include intriguing insights on the homes that will be toured. The lecture will be held on Wednesday, June 13th at 5:30 pm at the TR Site. Tickets for the tour will be sold that evening. For further information, please contact the TR Site at 884-0095.

Summer Walking Tours

The TR Site's Walking Tour Committee will be offering two tours this summer, *Allentown* and *Main & North Pearl*. Each tour will be given on several dates throughout the summer. The Site is pleased to be collaborating with Buffalo Tours this year on marketing our docent-led tours.

Tours are **\$10 per person, \$5 for students, no reservations required**. All tours begin at the TR Site.

Allentown

Discover how people lived one hundred years ago and learn about Buffalo's early history while enjoying a leisurely walk through the charming streets and unique styles of Victorian architecture in the historic Allentown district.

Mondays at 10:00 AM • July 2 to Sept. 10

Main & North Pearl

On Main Street, see older structures repurposed to suit our modern lifestyles and new construction that gives us a glimpse of the future. The North Pearl neighborhood's restored houses and beautiful gardens are a reflection of life in the 19th century. The contrast makes for an interesting urban outing.

Begins at 1:00 PM • June 17, July 22, Aug. 19, Sept. 9

Teddy Bear Picnic

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Cost: \$5 per person

(includes picnic lunch - grilled hot dog, snack & beverage)

Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens

2655 South Park Avenue

Buffalo, NY 14218

By reservation only. Please call the TR Site, 884 – 0095.

It's Teddy Bear Picnic time and we're joining forces again with our special friends at the Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens. What a beautiful place to have a picnic!

Mama Earth's Kitchen Band Show will start the afternoon off right with a special show that uses music and song to help spread the message of respect towards all of Earth's creatures.

Mama Earth sings about composting, gardening, hiking, bird-watching, fossil hunting, and recycling. We know Theodore Roosevelt would heartily approve of her show! Yummy picnic food, games, stories and other good things will also be part of the fun.

Teddy Bear Picnic is a fun day for all – mom, dad, grandparents, and friends. Get your team together and don't forget a blanket to sit on and your favorite teddy! Special thanks to Young Audiences of Western New York and Fisher Price for their generous support of this event.



Mama Earth

2012 Behind-the-Scenes Tours

Like many museums, much of the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site's artifact collection spends a lot of time behind closed doors—safely tucked away so that it will be there for future generations. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to get "up close" and enjoy some of the TR Site's rarely seen artifacts. Curator Lenora Henson leads each theme-based tour and shares lots of interesting stories and anecdotes.

Wednesday, June 20th - 1:30 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Souvenirs & Stories from Buffalo's Pan-Am Expo

Monday, August 20th - 1:30 p.m.

The 5 W's: Who, What, When, Where & WILCOX

Tuesday, November 6th - 10:00 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.

Theodore Roosevelt: Tales & Treasures

All tours last approximately 1½ hours and are limited to 10 people.

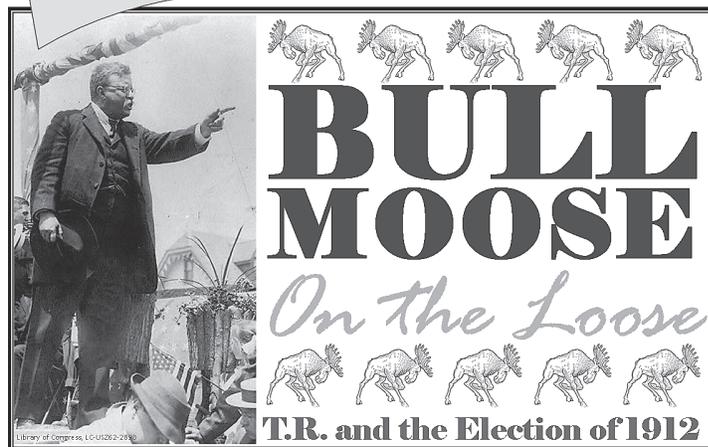
Participants will receive a coupon good for a "standard" guided tour of the TR Site (\$10 value).

\$15 TR Site Members/\$25 Non-Members

Pre-paid reservations required. Sorry, no refunds.

Reservations can be made anytime by calling (716) 884-0095.

COMING SOON!



Watch for an exhibit featuring the 1912 presidential election that is opening this summer. Theodore Roosevelt came out of retirement to run as the Progressive Party candidate. Rarely seen items from the TR Site's collection will be featured. Also, save Monday, September 24 for a lecture by **Sidney M. Milkis**, author of *Theodore Roosevelt, the Progressive Party, and the Transformation of American Democracy*. Professor Milkis is the White Burkett Miller Professor of Politics and the Director for Democracy and Governance Studies at the Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia.

How Are We Doing? – Evaluation and Review

From 2007-2009 the Site underwent a major transformation, completely reimagining the tour experience and re-designing exhibits, at the same time as physical renovations, in the form of the Carriage House addition, provided an improved reception area, new museum shop space, and an expansive gallery for programs, meetings, receptions and building rentals. The renovated Site reopened on June 20, 2009, and it sometimes seems hard to believe that these major changes are rapidly approaching a three year anniversary!

With the perspective of some time, how has the “new TR Site” been received? According to statistics, the Site is meeting and exceeding the goals it set for the project. Two full years after reopening, the Site recorded a 25% increase in attendance, 100% jump in group tour income, and 44% increase in membership support. Building rental income and special events profit also rose significantly.

Over the past year, the Site has also conducted an extensive summative evaluation of all aspects of the visitor experience. An evaluation consultant worked with Site staff to implement on-site interview surveys, comments cards, and web-based surveys, in addition to two focus groups, to get feedback from our audience.

The visitor ranking of the guided tour was among the highest marks on the survey, averaging a score of 4.8 out of 5. Better still, the overall experience was ranked 4.9 out of 5! Surveys also found that an unusually high proportion of visitors were able to state the intended “take-away message” of what the Site is all about. The evaluation consultant declared that the Site “is to be commended for implementing such a clear interpretive message throughout.”

Perhaps the greatest compliment is that visitors often described their visit with terms not typically used to describe a traditional historic house museum experience. One frequently used term was “interactive,” as were the more expected ... “interesting,” “informative,” and “worthwhile.” Visitors also used the word “fun” more than 100 times to describe their visit! “With many historic house museums facing the grim reality that their offerings are the common and boring ‘point and tell’ scenario, the TR Site has created an experience that not only is ‘fun,’ but also ‘interactive,’” relates our consultant.

The evaluation process is helping the Site review current offerings and also determine future steps. Building on the success of its first forty years, the Site continues to learn and grow in an effort to remain vibrant and serve a growing and more diverse audience.

Grant Sends Curator to Statewide Museum Conference

Earlier this year, the TR Site was awarded a \$500 GO!Grant, which made it possible for Curator Lenora Henson to attend *Museums in Conversation*, the annual conference jointly sponsored by Museumwise and the Museum Association of New York. Held in Albany at the end of April, the theme of this year’s conference was “How Do We (RE)VISION Our Museums?” In trying to answer that question, many of the conference sessions featured discussions that stressed the importance of community involvement and creating programs that relate to contemporary issues.

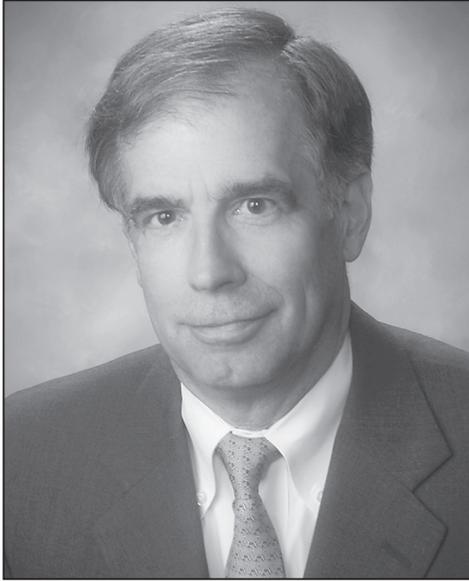
“Going to Museums in Conversation is always a great experience,” Lenora said upon her return. “It provides an opportunity to see how the TR Site stacks up when compared to other museums in New York State, but it’s also a great source of new ideas and motivation.”

The GO!Grant is one of a series of grants offered by the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) to help museums and historical societies strengthen and develop their institutions while working with their communities. Administered by Museumwise, GO! Grants make it easier for organizations to access professional assistance and improve their institutions by defraying travel and registration expenses. More information about the grant program can be found at www.museumwise.org

Quick Notes

- A limited number of spaces are still available for the Site’s **annual fall trip** set for September 23 – 27. This year we’ll travel to **Philadelphia**. Tour highlights include Independence Hall, Liberty Bell Center, National Constitution Center, Longwood Gardens, Nemours Mansion & Gardens, The Barnes Foundation and a Phillies baseball game. For full details, please contact Assistant Director Janice Kuzan at the Site, 716-884-0095.
- A Victorian Christmas note – the Site presented Visitors’ Choice Awards to the **Smallwood Garden Club** for decorations in the Dining Room and to the **Orchard Park Garden Club** for the Doorway to the Second Floor. **East Aurora Garden Club** won the Curator’s Choice Award for the Christmas tree in the Gallery. Congratulations to these three clubs and to all participating clubs for their exceptional work.
- The **Children’s Courage Campaign**, chaired by Volunteer Coordinator Liz Krawczyk and supported by TR Site volunteers, recently donated 225 gift bags containing teddy bears and books for children using services at the Lee Gross Anthonie Child Advocacy Center, the TR Site’s next door neighbor.

Introducing...



George F. Bellows

George F. Bellows joined the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation Board of Trustees in 2011. An attorney with Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel, LLP, George follows in a long line of partners from the firm who have served as the Foundation's secretary, beginning in the 1960s when the Foundation was created to restore and manage the TR Inaugural Site. This list of distinguished trustees includes – Owen Augspurger, John Montfort, John Putnam, Thomas Brydges and now, George Bellows. The continuity and dedication of the Jaeckle Fleischmann firm to the TR Site has been truly outstanding and most greatly appreciated.

A partner in Jaeckle Fleischman & Mugel's Business and Corporate and Financial Services practice groups, George concentrates his practice in general corporate and business matters with a special emphasis on complex financing transactions.

George has always been interested in history. He majored in history at Hamilton College before earning an M.B.A at Syracuse University and a J.D. at SUNY at Buffalo. Reflecting on his first year on the Board, George relates: "I have enjoyed being involved for the past year and feel that the work the Site does in the community is very important." Much of his board service to date has been related to the Bank of America property donation that will restore the Site to its 1901 footprint and landscape. George is also chairing the Foundation's task force to review by-laws and policies.

The Bellows family, including wife Ann and daughter Alison, lives in Buffalo. George also serves on the Elmwood Franklin School Board of Trustees.

We welcome George Bellows to the Board of Trustees!

Thank You to the Following Supporters

Received between 2/21/12 and 5/8/2012

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Supporting (\$100 - \$199)

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In Memory of Margaret Haselbauer

TR Site Research Committee

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In order to provide maximum space in *The Bullytin* for programming and event information, memberships at the Rough Rider level and above will now be recognized in this publication. All memberships are truly appreciated and will continue to be acknowledged with a personal letter from the TR Site. Thank you to each and every member for your interest and support!

Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site

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*The Williams-Pratt Mansion, now the offices of LiRo Engineering, Inc., will be one of the featured locations on the **Twilight Tour of Mansions** scheduled for Thursday, June 21 from 5:00 - 9:00 pm. See the article on page 4 for full details and ticket information. (Photo by Chuck LaChiusa, Buffalo Tours)*



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