



## - ECHOES -

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Summer 1995

*Dear Friends,*

*The Elmendorph Inn is "open for business"! No, you may not phone in requests for weekend reservations as we have received from misguided tourists in the past, but we are open for community service and special events. Perhaps of greater interest or importance in the minds of some is the fact that we are also embarking on a business year of monumental hopes—to raise the funds necessary for the completion of the first floor.*

*The Friends of Elmendorph members have proven in the past that you are all truly champions in regards to fundraising and restoration achievements. Your championship level of persistence, dedication, and courage have played a pivotal role in all our accomplishments. Together we have stabilized the Inn's foundation, restored the south meeting room, the center room and its adjoining center hall, established its working kitchen, and made its exterior one of which we are all proud.*

*The Board and I invite and encourage once again your participation in this year's challenging fundraising activities. We are all looking forward, as I am sure you are, to the final restoration of the Inn's first floor.*

*Sincerely,*

*David Brown  
President*



## ***Elmendorph, Etc.***

- Shirley Brown

Our shop opened for the season as part of the Apple Blossom Festival. It was great to greet old friends, and make new ones.

Many thanks to all of you who have donated "fresh stock" to start the season. The shelves are full, the walls bulging. The only items we could wish for are fresh paperback books. (We have enough romance novels.)

We will be open Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 10-4. We need volunteers to clerk and cashier. Please consider joining us for half a day or a day. If you can donate time, please call the Inn at 758-5887 and leave a message about when you can join us.

Thanks again for your support.



## ***Annual Meeting Report***

The annual meeting in March at the Red Hook Inn was a fine occasion enjoyed by 50 or so assembled members and guests. Membership Chairperson Mary Cioffi graciously attended to the arrangements for the affair which included a marvelous dinner in charming surroundings. Charter member Rev. Elliott Lindsley, who was key to the successful negotiations to acquire the abandoned building from the Grand Union Company, offered the grace. Harold Fell presented candidates for the board and a new slate of officers was elected. David Brown is our new President, Joan Lewis our new Vice President; Betsey Wacker and Faith Compo are Treasurer and Secretary; respectively, while outgoing President Joe Kavaky, Shirley Brown, Vito Fontana, Ellen Phelan and Buildings and Grounds Chair Larry Thetford continue to serve on the Board.

The speakers for the evening, Juliet Harrison and Brent Kovalchik, a young Red Hook professional couple, gave us a fascinating but challenging lecture describing in detail, first, the work accomplished in Medina, Ohio, by the local concerned citizens to protect the small-town fabric by historic restoration of the central square to the former Victorian architectural period, and second, a new community created in "Seaside," Florida, based on the best functional and architectural aspects of the conceptually classic historic village. A lively discussion followed the completion of the presentation, which was only curtailed at 10:00 p.m. at the insistence of the Secretary who perceived the restaurant staff would like to go home.



## ***Successful Bake Sale Kicks Off Fund Drive***

The Apple Blossom Festival Elmendorph Bake Sale on May 6th was wonderfully successful thanks to so many! (See Barbara Bielenberg's Restoration Report elsewhere in this issue for the good financial news.) Thanks to Richard Coons for calling everybody: Christine Foreacre, Dawn Hamilton, Margaret Picard, Gussie Townsend and Lee Courtney for manning (womanning) the cash box and table. And deep thanks to our bakers, our wonderful roster of cooks including Janet Loop, Betty Franklin, Joan Lewis, Barbara Bielenberg, Betty Bader, Carleen Baright, Arlene Harkins, Gussie Townsend, Mary Zalenski, Elvira Nuccio, Donna Coon, Dawn Hamilton, Margaret Picard, Inge Pulver, Inge Hoss, Alma Bowman, Millie Stutzbach, Richard Coons, Harriet Norton, Leslie Coons, Christine Foreacre, Lee Courtney, Lillian Stanford and Mim Brown. Yum!



## ***Elmendorph to Host Fourth Grade Students***

This June, two Red Hook fourth grade classes will visit the Elmendorph Inn as part of a special local history program being developed by the Egbert Benson Historical Society and the Friends of Elmendorph in cooperation with Mill Road School teachers, Ann Donnelly and Andrea Clark.

The program will begin with a visit to the school by local historian, Fred Briggs. Fred will use his extensive postcard collection to show the students how Red Hook used to look. A week later, the children will take an historic walking tour of the village following a course developed by Linda Keeling and make gravestone rubbings in the Methodist Cemetery on Cherry Street behind the Elmendorph Inn. Barbara Bielenberg will conduct the tour of the Elmendorph, focusing on the Inn's importance as the village grew up around the crossroads of the Old Albany Post Road and the turnpike to Connecticut.

It is planned to repeat the program next year for all seven fourth grade classes and volunteer guides are urgently needed. Call 758-5887 if you are interested in helping youngsters better appreciate the Red Hook community.



***Have a  
Safe & Happy  
Summer!!!***





# FRIENDS OF ELMENDORPH, INC.

As of May 15, 1995

## DONATIONS

Dr. Kenneth and Marcella Appell  
Apple Valley Realty  
Carleen and Richard Baright  
Cary and Barbara Bayer  
Faith Compo  
    - for Inn Maintenance  
Mrs. George Curran  
Donald Daria  
Terence and Catherine Dewsnap  
Tullen Downing  
    - in memory of John D. Downing  
Barbara H. Ewing  
Jane and John Ferguson  
Christine Foreacre  
Paul Fredricks  
Eleanor Friery  
Friends of Clermont  
    - use of Building  
Donald and Ann H. Germain  
    - in memory of Lee Ann (Germain)  
    Sanchelli  
Paula Golden  
Dawn Hamilton  
Jessie Harsnett  
    - for the Auction  
Patricia Hart  
Madeline Keute

Lottie Kittner  
Lottie Kittner  
    - in memory of Helen Garlinghouse  
Amos Lemmerman  
Patricia M. Masia  
Jack McEnroe  
Jack McEnroe  
    - for the Auction  
Mary Norton  
Pat and Sally O'Connor  
Ruth and Frank Oja  
Raymond and Christine Rhodes  
    - IBM Matching Grant  
Ted and Barbara Schachlinsky  
Thomas and Evelyn Seils  
Karen Sipperley  
Spirit of Elmendorph  
Larry Thetford  
Barbara and Henry Thompson  
Dominick and Eunice Tiberio  
Grace Traudt  
Stan and Priscilla Tremper  
Charles Wegman  
Ethel Wilken  
Herbert Wise  
Carolyn Yablonski

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Leslie Coons and Jeff Levine  
Margaret E. Doty

Kenneth and Karen Giek  
Helen McManus - in memory of Ed McManus

## NEW MEMBER

Colonel Nicholas Peck



## ***Report from the Chamber of Commerce***

- Beverly Riley

Thank you for this opportunity to let the Friends of Elmendorph hear about some of the exciting projects the Red Hook Area Chamber of Commerce is pursuing. We feel very fortunate to be using the Elmendorph Inn for some of our meetings regarding both Community Events and Revitalization Issues. Recently we had one of our Board of Directors meetings at the Inn also. You can see that over the past year we have become "close friends."

Our Community Events Committee has been busy this past year with the Christmas Parade which attracted hundreds of people. Three Christmas trees were lit along our parade route—Hardscrabble Center, Key Bank Lawn, and the Memorial Park—with free raffles at each. We awarded prizes to about thirty children. Santa arrived with candy canes to conclude the Chamber activities. Many of us then joined the Friends of Elmendorph for the open house. A WONDERFUL COMMUNITY DAY!

The Apple Blossom Festival on May 6 was another large success. Sixty-five craft vendors were set up throughout the village. The churches sold food and other items, a flea market was held at Hardscrabble Center, a Petting Zoo was on Key Bank Lawn, and a May Basket Contest judged by the Old Dutch Village Garden Club was held on the Elmendorph Lawn. Concluding the day, a Maypole Dance was held with Lisa Glickenhause, Mill Road Elementary School Music Teacher, playing guitar and leading the singing and Marguerite San Milan of Rhinecliff's Cocoon Theater leading the dance. Boy Scouts helped decorate and the Middle School and High School students and teachers helped with other details—a true community event.

The Revitalization Committee meets regularly with our issues of concern being beautification and preservation of our rural character in our business center. One of our goals is to have a unified shopping appearance starting at Hardscrabble Center and extending through Red Hook Village to the Prado's Building. This is a large undertaking, but with help from experts and input from many Red Hook organizations, we hope to see Red Hook grow but still retain its rural character. Presently, we have placed 24 barrels throughout the center of the village extending out from the light. Someday we would like to have more. The committee planted the barrels on May 21.

In the near future, we hope to be able to make the Elmendorph a home for the Red Hook Area Chamber of Commerce. This has been a dream for one of our mutual members and we hope to start realizing it very soon. Our meetings are always open to you. Please contact Beverly Riley, Director of Merchants' Relations, at 758-8541 for further information.





## ELMENDORPH INN - AUCTION '95 - JULY 9TH

### FIFTH BIENNIAL BENEFIT AUCTION

Under a tent behind the Inn at 12:00 Noon

Preview begins: 10:00 a.m.

### HELP US COMPLETE THE GROUND FLOOR RESTORATION

#### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

1. Give your time — to set up, register auction-goers, direct traffic, bake, etc. There are many jobs that must be done before, during and after the auction.
2. Donate auction articles — The auction can only be successful with a great number of articles/services to be offered for sale. Furniture, paintings, lamps, china, household items, jewelry, small appliances, antiques, clocks, collectibles, camping equipment, tools, and many other articles are suitable and saleable. If you have already cut to the bone, perhaps your neighbor or a relative is about to clean the attic or the cellar and you could request donations. If items are not auctionable, they will most likely be excellent Elmendorph Etc. shop merchandise.
3. Use your salesmanship — Offered in the past were services from local businesses. We need members to contact merchants and request their assistance through donations of either merchandise, services or gift certificates.
4. Underwrite costs — For those members who are unable to donate articles or time, you may wish to contribute to offset the costs of the auction. Renting a tent, advertisements, food, posters, and mailings are just a few of the expenses of running the auction.
5. Come to the auction — AND JOIN THE FUN! Your donations can be delivered to the Elmendorph Etc. during shop hours, or by appointment.

#### Shop Hours

Wednesday, Friday, Saturday

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

#### By appointment

Call 876-2000 - Mim and Dave Brown

Need items picked up or to volunteer, call

Mim and Dave Brown (876-2000)

or

Shirley Brown (758-8604)



## Restoration Committee

- Barbara Bielenberg

What does a Restoration Committee do between restoration projects? Some members raise money. As you'll read elsewhere in this issue, the Apple Blossom Festival Bake Sale and Elmendorph Etc. Opening Day raised nearly \$700—enough money to reconstruct the moldings missing from the tap room fireplace. Each cake baked and purchased, each toy cleaned and sold brings us closer to our goal of a restored tap room and kitchen. Thank you all!

Herman Gorgens makes phone calls—to suppliers who might have yellow pine to match our floorboards, or other hard-to-find materials and to New York State officials to track the progress of our grant application and the necessary approval for our restoration plans.

This spring, Bob and I travelled to look at other restored Inns. In fascinating Fredericksburg, Virginia, we discovered the Rising Sun Tavern. Like the Elmendorph it was built about 1760 as a residence by Charles Washington, George's youngest brother. The house was leased to a tavern keeper in 1792. Nearby stands the "commodious" home occupied by Washington's mother during the last 17 years of her life. Both are operated as museums by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities.

The Rising Sun is a smaller structure than the Elmendorph but has high ceilings and wood panelled interiors typical of the Tidewater region. The organization and use of the rooms, however, is similar to our own Inn. There is a center stairhall and to one side an elegantly furnished "best parlor" where small groups of the gentry could dine and gamble, away from the "rowdies" who frequented the tap room. In one corner of the tap room is a bar with a grill to protect the contents from after-hour drinkers. Lots of sturdy tables and chairs, gameboards, and utensils for eating, drinking and smoking crowd the room, and the walls are plastered with advertising broadsides and satirical engravings. Upstairs are sleeping accommodations ranging from private chambers equipped with comfortable high post beds to a common room with mats on the floor where ten to twelve persons could share a 10' by 10' space. Downstairs, the innkeeper's office contains a partitioned post box for filing incoming and outgoing mail, and a sturdy safe for the storage of currency and valuables before banks were chartered for that purpose.

The crowning moments of our tavern trek occurred one evening as we strolled the darkening lanes of Colonial Williamsburg. The hordes of tourists had returned to their motels and we had the lovely village almost to ourselves. Warm candlelight gleamed through the mullioned windows of the King's Arms Tavern and the sounds of laughter and the clatter of dishes floated from the building. Through the windows we glimpsed costumed waiters serving plates of food while a young woman entertained with songs of adventure and romance.

Our imaginations carried us back to the Elmendorph, its tap room restored and filled with school children experiencing 18th-century life or adults recreating the convivial atmosphere of an early 19th-century tavern, enjoying refreshments prepared in the large brick bake oven or over the open hearth. No, the Elmendorph is not intended to become a commercial tavern again but rather a place to step back in time for a few hours, the better to understand and appreciate the present. With your help, the dream will become reality.



## Historic Note

From a broadside posted at The Rising Sun, an 18th-century tavern in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

### RULES of this TAVERN

4 pence a night for bed  
6 pence with potluck  
2 pence for horsekeeping  
No more than five to sleep in one bed  
No boots to be worn in bed  
No razor grinders or tinkers taken in  
No dogs allowed in the kitchen  
Organ grinders to sleep in the wash house



Friends of Elmendorph, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1776  
Red Hook, New York 12571

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Red Hook, N.Y.  
Permit No. 36

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED