

ECHOES

WINTER

NEWSLETTER

2007

FRIENDS OF ELMENDORPH

THANKS GO OUT TO -----THE ELMENDORPH'S OWN MODERN DAY KNIGHT IN SHINING NEOPRENE

It was a cold day in December when I called on Bill Hammond to come to the rescue of a damsel in distress. This is a story which revolves around my cousin Linda, who had recently been burglarized at her home in Accord, NY. Through some sleuthing on her own and along with the help of the local authorities, Linda got a lead on where some of the stolen goods had been hidden. My dear cousin was very determined about trying to recover her possessions. Linda had recently lost her mother and many of the stolen goods had belonged to her mother. She felt so strongly about getting those particular items back that she would have put her own safety in jeopardy. So when she told me about her plan to go into a creek in hip waders, in December, by herself, I encouraged her to just stop and think about her plan. What would she do if the water was deeper than she thought? What if the current was stronger than she could stand? What if she got stuck in the mud? What if she bent over to pick something up and her waders filled with cold water and she drowned? I exclaimed to her that there must be a better way to get the job done.....give me a little time and let me see if I can get you some help. So..... I started thinking about what Bill Hammond had told me about himself. I remembered a conversation Bill and I had when I joined the Elmendorph. We were talking about what our hobbies were. He told me about the scuba diving and recovery diving he had done.....I wondered if Bill would be willing to jump into a creek in December.....So I called Bill and told him of my cousin's plight and how upset she was about the break-in and losses. I informed him of my cousin's plan to go into the water and asked him if he would consider donning his gear to go search around in the creek. Without any real hesitation Bill said yes. The very next day we all met at the appointed site and Bill donned his gear-----and lots of it too. Bill was very thorough with getting everything prepared and organized. Within the first 2 minutes, Bill came up with some of my Cousin's belongings. The unfortunate part is that there wasn't as much there as was originally described by the informer. But what Bill did find was a bit more valuable. He found peace of mind for my cousin. His efforts helped Linda feel like she did the most she could have done for her mother's memory. Many, many thanks to BILL HAMMOND.

Dee Karpel
Director
Friends of Elmendorph

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

KUDOS, KUDOS — and Fare Thee Well to the 'Old Girl'

I started my last column, a year ago, with kudos. As always, it is nice to thank people for their help, good deeds, and participation in our shared-interest activities. I want to thank all of you who have supported the FOE the past few years. This time though, I want to focus my thanks on the immediate dozen or so folks who have been my cohorts for the past two years in running our organization. You'll see the names on the newsletter 'masthead' — but that only lists names and 'jobs'. It doesn't really tell the story of individuals who have 'volunteered' themselves for two years (and more) with their interest, energy, and love of 'something old and something new' which is my way of describing our Friends of Elmendorph. Thirty years have passed since the **Coons, Lindsleys, Gorgens, Browns**, and many others decided to save the 'old girl'. Now 'she' has a young companion next door (much like my practice of getting a young pup as a companion to the older family dog. It's amazing, the effect of the 'young blood' on 'old faithful'). I believe this relationship exists between our old and new buildings and between our old and new members. This has been particularly noticeable on the current board, where we've had a significant influx of new members in the last year. This 'new blood' has steadily brought forth new ideas for projects and perspectives for pursuing them. With my term of service (7+ years) at an end, it is gratifying that I am able to leave, knowing that though the new board may have some learning to do, they are very well suited to the tasks ahead. The buildings are pretty much self-sustaining now, and the management of these resources becomes the bigger task. **Programs to conduct; ways to involve the community; personnel management to allow for smooth transitions; expanded use of the Inn.** These are items that now need to be more fully developed, as they have been in the background while the major emphasis has been on the restoration. The changing board comes along at the right time with people who will engage the community, and use technology to bring new ways of management.

Though names are just names, some have come to embody the history of the Elmendorph. So I will especially thank **Shirley Brown** and **Richard Coons** for their undying dedication to the 'Shop'. They and their team have done an exemplary job with the new building. Also, **Dave Brown** and son **Doug**, who have continuously made themselves available to help with upgrades to the shop facilities. The **Bielenbergs** have become personal friends, and as evidenced by their continuing dedication to both the EBHS and the FOE, their impact continues. **Larry Thetford** came back for more 'abuse' when we started the new shop building and he has remained, to become an advocate for the 'old' and a counsel for the 'new'. **Herman Gorgens** is now completing a 3 year term on the board, after heading up the construction of the Carriage Barn Shop. There's no denying his 'fatherly affection' for the 'old girl', and we will always be thankful. **Ellen Phelan** has kept us financially sound for the past few years as well as filling our bellies with that wonderful beehive oven bread the Elmendorph is known for. The rest of the 'old' board - **Nick Annas, Franca Cooper**, and the 'new' - **Jim Hegstetter, Dee Karpel**, and **Lisa Casabura**, have all been there when needed and are prepared to move ahead.

However, we would like to see more people involved with our community's historical landmark. With that in mind, I recently proposed to the board that we create a new category of service: **Member at Large**. This will allow those of us who still have an interest to serve, to do so without being on the board, and to also be recognized and accountable for our actions. I plan to do this for the next year or so and I hope others will too. And of course, any other members who have something to offer should contact the board and apply for this position, or to be a regular board member, as we need all the help we can get! **New board members and 2007 officers will be introduced at the annual dinner meeting on March 26th.** I hope to see many of you there. See the details in this issue.

So, though I'm 'gone', you'll still see my ghost around the 'old girl' for some time to come. It'll be a pleasure. And it's been a pleasure! **Thank you!**

Bill Hammond (outgoing Pres.)

EVENTS

HARDSCRABBLE DAY - Another success by Mary Kelly and her crew. Mary organized the baking of apple pies and secured a donation of ice cream from our neighbor, STEWART'S SHOPS, for apple pie a-la-mode sales which topped over \$600. Apples were donated by Hardeman Orchards, Miglorelli Farms, and Montgomery Place Orchards. Apple cider was donated by Miglorelli farms and Hardeman Orchards. The Red Hook Town Agricultural and Open Space Committee set up pens with farm animals on the front lawn which were very popular with the young folks.

The Sunday morning following Hardscrabble Day, The Red Hook Free Library hosted a breakfast to meet Ben Franklin at the Elmendorph. This turned out to be very popular with both children and adults as board member Jin Hegstetter can attest to. Ben was there in full 18th. century dress and spoke as if in the time period.

BOOK SALE - For several years the shop had been storing hundreds and hundreds of books so it was decided to just have a giant book sale inside the Inn late this fall. Again, Herman Georgins lassoed the 3 sons of Sara Taylor to haul out tons of books and a full crew organized them on table tops. Brenda Brocket and Diana Williams with daughters Samantha, Michelle, and Stephanie specifically set up a children's book section in the middle room which turned out to be quite popular. We did very well with sales, but in the end, poor Bill Hammond spent hours removing covers from books slated for the recycling bin.

AUCTION

The Friends of Elmendorph have conducted a benefit auction every other year which means we will be having a summer auction this year. We are looking for good items, furniture, antiques, jewelry, glassware, collectibles, architectural, large tools, or anything that may have a unique nature. Even small merchandise is acceptable and helps to diversify the auction.

It is a major effort to conduct this auction which takes the assistance of approximately 25 people and a lot of storing and transportation of items. Some of the job responsibility entails food services, book- keeping, marking, storing by lot sold, loading, set up and take down, account receiving and receipts. So please let us know if you and / or your friends would be willing to help. If you know of anyone who is moving or downsizing, please mention that the Elmendorph can accept items and can provide a tax deductible receipt. The Auction is tentatively scheduled for late August or early September. However, the earlier we can receive material, the earlier we can advertise the auction contents. We can also schedule pick-ups if needed.

For information on either the YARD SALE or AUCTION please contact:

David Brown (845) 876-2000
Larry Thetford (845) 758-4145

INN USE

BY LARRY THETFORD

In the days of old, when the Elmendorph Inn had an active tap room and kitchen for both the locals and the travelers, it became a focal point for the community. People met there to discuss politics, the wars (Revolutionary, 1812, and Civil), and exchange agricultural technologies. The first several county fairs (combined Columbia and Dutchess) were held in the field behind the Inn. Now that the restoration is complete, it is time again to encourage the use of the building by the community. The board has been very diligent in advocating the availability of the facility and we are very encouraged by the increased usage. A number of groups have been and still are utilizing the Inn on a monthly basis such as The Egbert Benson Historical Society, The Spinners Club, and The Doll Club and now new groups are signing up on a more regular basis like the Glynwood Keep Farming Comm. and The Town Agriculture and Open Space Comm. There has also been a significant increase in special one-time use such as family reunions, birthday and retirement parties, Antique Dealers Assoc. and political rallies. The increased use accomplishes two things: One - the building is being utilized as it should be by the community which has helped to support the restoration over the years. Two - the donations really help to defray the cost of building maintenance; insurance, utilities, and etc.

The board has developed guidelines and suggested donations schedule based on how many rooms are utilized and the amount of time the Inn is used. Considering the cost and availability of space in Red Hook, the Elmendorph offers a modern working kitchen, separate rooms to facilitate an event, two bathrooms (one handicapped accessible), a pull down projector screen, and a lot of ambiance for a very, very reasonable donation. Many groups have food prepared and served by local caterers.

We would encourage you to let people know about the availability of the building. The following are examples of possible use:

retirement parties	wedding receptions	anniversary celebrations
fund raisers	birthday parties	recognition parties
business seminars	craft activities	informative meetings
event planning meetings	general socials	discussion groups

We are making a concerted effort to involve the 4th. grade students who have Colonial History as part of their curriculum and we are also attempting to revive the Junior Friends at the High School level.

If you or anyone you know would like to reserve the facility--- please call 758 - 5887 or Bill Hammond at 758 - 6981

CARRIAGE BARN SHOP REPORT

BY LARRY THETFORD

Our new shop had an excellent sales year coupled with a huge yard sale. Richard Coons and Shirley Brown have spent countless hours separating, marking, and displaying new merchandise. Believe it or not, even with all the new square footage, we're still having difficulty in finding enough room for the number of items that have been received. Therefore, David Brown has installed several new wall display shelves and he has also built some heavy duty shelving in the storage room. Richard and Shirley have received some much needed help this year from Joy Peterson, Evelyn O'Brian, Bev Teator, Linda Keeling, Nancy Thorley, Elsa Kreider, and Elvira Nuccio. Gussie Townsend had for many years supported the Elmendorph Shop and yard sales. She was always willing to do what ever needed to be done and was a friend to all. We miss her and extend our sympathy to her family and friends.

The shop crew has also been working all winter with lots of new merchandise being received. We want to thank all those folks who have made donations throughout the year. Without you, we would not have a shop. Some changes have also been made to the interior and some new displays added to give a bit of an old barn look.

THE SHOP OPENING DATE FOR 2007 WIL BE MARCH 14

The yard sale was a tedious project to set up, but the event itself was a lot of fun meeting interesting people and doing some real dickering. I would like to relate three separate sales which really made my day. First we had several new, but very old style pairs of shoes and I had made the comment that to sell these a person would first have to like them, then they'll have to fit, then be the right price. A needle-in-the-haystack situation. Well wouldn't you know it, a Buddhist Lama in full robes came by, the shoes fit, he loved them, the price was right, he began wearing them immediately, and kept shaking my hand with joy -- over and over. We also had literally tons of unmatched wine goblets, glasses, stemware and numerous flower vases. We were just about at the point where we were going to get a heavy duty box and start breaking glass for recycling when this young lady came by and exclaimed that she was in charge of setting up for a friends wedding. Her idea was to have all different kinds of glassware at each table so as to be unique for each individual and could then be taken home. She wondered if we would make her a good deal if she took it all. Boy did I make her a deal, but she just kept buying and I kept loading until she probably spent over \$150. Then there was the super, super bargain hunter guy. He found one metal shoe stretcher and dickered and dickered with me because it was only one. So I finally gave in to get rid of it for 50 cents. About an hour later, after rummaging through a bunch of boxes, he came running up to me with the other, matching stretcher and exclaimed "oh I found the other one, can I have it for 50 cents also" to which I replied "Ah Ha, I got you now, buddy". He laughed and forked over the \$3.00.

SHOP REPORT CONTINUED

Linda Keeling set up a survival food service during the sale with the philosophy "full tummies make happy customers" and I think she was absolutely right. A lot of people kept returning both during the day and for several days in a row. Brenda Brocket spent hours and hours all bent over in the hot sun organizing our low end material that was spread out on the ground and because of her efforts, we hardly had anything left in that area after 2 1/2 days of selling. Lisa Casabura, Dave Brown, and Franca Cooper were indispensable in operating the sale. The set up was achieved only by Herman Gorgens who organized the 3 sons of Sara Taylor to bring down literally hundreds of boxes from the 2nd. floor storage area and then spread out the merchandise on table tops

If you want to have some fun and experience meeting some extremely diverse people, then give us a hand at the next yard sale. We will probably schedule one for late June - mid July and again mid to late fall.

BOTH SHIRLY AND RICHARD HAVE COMPLETED 30 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE ELMENDORPH SHOP. SO WHEN YOU'RE IN THE SHOP, CONGRATULATE THEM ON THEIR UNSELFISH DEVOTION.



The ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF ELMENDORPH, INC. will be held on Monday, March 26 at the Elmendorph Inn, North Broadway, Red Hook, NY. The meeting will be preceded by crackers, cheese, and punch at 6:15 followed by dinner at 6:45 PM.

Please send your proxy and or dinner reservations to Carol Annas, 51Aspinwall Rd., Red Hook, NY 12571 (845) 758-8154. All reservations MUST be made by March 19, 2007. You may choose to attend the annual meeting and program without attending the dinner. Please let us know so we can arrange seating for you. **Please make checks payable to RENNERS.**

The program this year will feature the Spinners Club who will set up their wheels and be able to explain the process of wool and flax from fiber to cloth. This will be a rare opportunity to personally discuss these processes directly with people who are very experienced.

NOW MAY BE THE TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2007. PLEASE CHECK THE DATE ON YOUR MAILING LABEL. YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IS DUE IN THE YEAR SHOWN ON THE LABEL. AN ENVELOPE IS ENCLOSED FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.

----- PROXY -----
(For 3/26/06)

I will NOT attend the ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF ELMENDORPH, INC. In my absence, I hereby appoint the President or his/her deputy or _____ to act as my proxy to vote on matters that come before the membership on March 26, 2007.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

-----DINNER RESERVATIONS-----

\$16.50 Per Person
March 26, 2007

MENU

Rolls and Butter	Multigrain Pilaf (wild rice, barley, brown rice, bulgar)
Chicken Basil	Roasted Vegetables
Apricot Stuffed Pork Loin	English Trifle with Walnut Diamond
	Coffee and Tea Service

Name _____ Amount enclosed _____

Name _____

Please send your proxy / reservations to CAROL ANNAS, 51 ASPINWALL ROAD, RED HOOK, NY 12571 by **MARCH 19, 2007.**

Please make checks payable to RENNERS

"THANK YOU" FOR THESE RECENT DONATIONS TO THE FRIENDS OF ELMENDORPH

Marlene & John Barr – in honor of Bob & Barbara Bielenberg
James & Susan Ellis – in honor the people who worked to restore the Elmendorph Inn!
Suzanne & Jerome Gold
Bill & Diane Hammond
Martha & John Hermans
Louis and Mildred Hubach in honor of Bob & Barbara Bielenberg
Stanya Jimenez
Beverly Kipp in memory of Dennis Kipp
Douglas Moat
Elizabeth Pagano & Harold Gruber
Stewart's Shop

MAILING LABELS:

Please check your mailing label. The date on the label is the year your membership is due for renewal. If you think the date is incorrect, please contact Ellen Phelan at 845-758-0964.

"Life" members do not need to renew - but we always appreciate the donations you send us!

PLEASE NOTE: With respect for the rights and convenience of the IGA shopper, please observe the parking signs at any Elmendorph event. You are requested to park in the George Cole Auction parking lot just North of the IGA.

Inkkeeper Bob Bielenberg

Director Dee Karpel

Director Jim Hegstetter

Director Herman Gorgens

Director Lisa Casabura

Director Nick Annas

Treasurer Ellen Phelan

Secretary Franca Cooper

Vice President Larry Thetford

President Bill Hammond

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Egbert Benson Historical Society
PO Box 397
Red Hook, NY 12571
2004

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL
The date on the label is the year
your membership is due for renewal.
Thanks for staying current!

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