



EDITOR:
Faith Compo

TYPESETTING/LAYOUT:
Norma Liuzzi

DISTRIBUTION:
Lottie Kittner

- ECHOES -

Fall 1994

Please Join Us For

- A CHRISTMAS WEEKEND at the ELMENDORPH INN -

7th Annual Old Dutch Village Garden Club Greens Show

Saturday, December 3, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

5th Annual Family Christmas Open House

Sunday, December 4, 1 - 5 p.m.

See Article Inside for More Details

Dear Friends,

The year is quickly coming to an end. It is such a wonderful time of the year. Thanksgiving is next and it is a time for all of us to be with our families and give thanks for all that we have. Here at the Inn we, too, need to give thanks — thanks for all of our friends out there who are helping make it possible to restore the Inn. Thanks to Shirley Brown and the great crew at the Etc. shop. They again have given freely of their time so that the shop generated sales of about \$16,000 this year. I believe that the shop is our single greatest source of income. That is something that you should keep in mind when you find that you have an item or two around the house that you can donate to the shop. But not until next spring, the shop is closed for the winter.

It was disappointing to find out that we are not going to receive a grant at this time to restore the north (tap) room. But the spirits of our hard-working friends have not lessened. They are busy thinking up alternatives so that the restoration can get under way as soon as possible.

On a positive note, Ruth Zipser did her usual fine job of heading up the art show. I believe that I overheard a comment that the quality of the paintings and other items of art at the show were the best ever. Thanks, Ruth.

And then there is my favorite event, the Christmas open house. It is a time when the Inn fills up with people enjoying the mulled cider, bread baked in the beehive oven, all kinds of cookies, Christmas tree decorating, a chance to meet old friends and maybe make a new one. It is truly a glorious time of year and an event that you don't want to miss. See you there.

Joe Kavaky, President

FRIENDS OF ELMENDORPH, INC.

As of November 10, 1994

NEW MEMBERS

Harold Bruggerman III
Georgia Englert
Jim and Diane Goetz
Fred and Marcia Julius
Eugenia King
Nancy Nuzzo
Gale Q. Schaefer
Grace M. Traudt

Barbara Ewing
Eleanor Friery
Donald and Ann Germain
Evelyn and John Givison
- in memory of Helen Garlinghouse
Jim Hardin
Lottie Kittner
Marion Lapinski
Jack McEnroe
Sophia Mumford
Joe and Margaret O'Brien

- in memory of Helen Garlinghouse

Pat and John Somma

Tag Thayer

- in memory of Amelia Lynn Donnelly

Jean and Allard Sutton

Dr. and Mrs. E. C. VanValley

Thomas E. West

Clifford and Natalie Walts

DONATIONS

Frank and Peggy Almquist
Susan Barich
Mr. & Mrs. Oakleigh Cookingham
Catherine and Terence Dewsnap
Marshall and Jan Dickman
- in memory of Helen Garlinghouse

Elmendorph Etc.

- Shirley Brown

That homely little brown building next to the historic Elmendorph Inn buzzed with activity four days a week from May through October.

Sustained by dreams of a restored Tap Room, faithful volunteers Elvira Nuccio, Elsa Kreider, Dorothy Wegman, Dorothy Blauvelt, Edith Kennedy, Edith Michael, Betty Franklin, Barbara Bruckert, Gussie Townsend, Bill Johnson and Bob Bielenberg kept the shop shelves stocked and attractive, clerked and greeted customers.

We opened in May with mended shelves, freshly painted walls and floors, all thanks to David Brown. Richard Coons was the Saturday and yard sale "Boss," assisted by Dave Brown, Bill Johnson, Gussie Townsend, and Millie Stutzbach. We were grateful to board members Joan Lewis and Betsy Wacker who recruited family and came and helped set up yard sales. Thanks Jack Lewis, Suzanne and Tim Muldoon!

We are saddened by the loss of the shop founder, Helen Garlinghouse. To the last month of her life, she was contributing to the success of the shop, sorting and packaging hundreds of packets of stamps for collectors.

You have been most generous with donations this season. Please continue to remember us when you have useful items you no longer need. When we open in May, we would like to see boxes marked "Elmendorph Etc." which you have filled during the winter.

Thank you all.

Gala Christmas Weekend at the Elmendorph Inn

- Barbara Bielenberg

Christmas comes to the Elmendorph Inn especially early this year, on the first weekend of the holiday month, December 3rd and 4th. We invite you to welcome the season at the Old Dutch Village Garden Club Greens Show on **Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** and at our very special 5th Annual Family Christmas Open House on **Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.** The Open House is scheduled so that participants in the Red Hook Village Children's Parade and Tree Lighting can stroll over to the Elmendorph for a warming mug of hot spiced cider and Christmas cookies.

This year, our Open House will again be a celebration of St. Nicholas Day, the traditional Dutch Christmas, with decorations of fruits and greens in the 18th-century manner. Wooden shoes, filled with hay and carrots for St. Nicholas' horse, will be placed by the fireplace and Dutch cookies will be hung on the Christmas tree along with garlands of popcorn and cranberries made by children at a special table set up for the purpose. Guests will be invited to visit the historic kitchen to sample treats hot from the brick bake oven and fireplace and learn about plans for the restoration of the kitchen and adjacent tap room, scheduled to begin in 1995.

The 7th Annual Greens Show, presented by the Old Dutch Village Garden Club on Saturday, will offer Christmas decorating ideas in a variety of styles to inspire your own Christmas preparations. Handmade ornaments and decorations will be available for purchase, and refreshments will be served. Admission is free to both of the events and all are welcome to attend.

Restoration Committee

- Barbara W. Bielenberg

With the newly restored Middle Room and Hallway receiving gratifyingly enthusiastic reviews from all who've seen them, we're looking forward to tackling the challenge of the badly deteriorated Tap Room and adjacent Kitchen. These two rooms, which provided hospitality and refreshment to local residents as well as travelers, are considered the key defining elements of an historic Inn. Our huge brick bake oven, which has already been reconstructed according to archeological evidence, was designed to produce dozens of loaves of bread at each firing; and the quantities of oyster shells and bones found whenever we dig attest to the hearty appetites which were satisfied at the Elmendorph! Although we don't intend to serve food and drink on a regular basis or run a gambling enterprise (see this issue's Historic Notes), we look forward to the expanded educational and recreational opportunities a large room furnished with appropriate chairs and tables will provide.

Herman Gorgens is already measuring and drawing up plans and specifications for the restoration of the two rooms for review by the Field Services division of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Our previous State grants carry a covenant giving the Office the right to review all new projects affecting the physical structure of the Inn and its grounds, whether or not state funds are being used. State review provides us the benefits of expert advice and counsel and assures that our handsome old Inn is restored according to the highest standards of authenticity and craftsmanship.

While we work on the plans and await final approvals, bidding, and the start of the work, the Friends of Elmendorph Board has authorized the Acquisitions Committee to search for appropriate (and affordable) chairs and tables. We are referring to period paintings and drawings of 19th-century tap rooms and kitchens as well as studying restored taverns at The Farmer's Museum in Cooperstown, Van Cortlandt Manor in Croton, Eastfield Village in Nassau, New York and elsewhere. Our intent is to create not a museum setting but usable spaces rich with the atmosphere of the 19th century. Cash donations to our Restoration and Acquisition funds are always welcome and offers of sturdy early 19th-century chairs and tables will receive a prompt response from the Acquisitions Committee. Call (914) 758-5887 to arrange an appointment.

Fourth Annual Art Show and Sale

- Faith Compo

Last Columbus Day weekend the fourth in the series of annual art shows, begun so auspiciously by Ed Fisher, once again brought forth a wonderful aggregation of local painters and photographers whose work was displayed with great panache under the guidance of Ruth Zipser, our devoted Art Show Chairperson. Along with her marvelously supportive doctor-husband, Fred Zipser, Ruth helped us to once again have a big success. We are happy that there were many old friends in the Inn during the weekend and a number of new people as well, among both the artists and attendees, and even more agreeable, a number of newcomers became "Friends" (i.e., Members).

There were twelve sales, of which the Friends received a quarter of the proceeds, and the show again netted a profit to go towards the Inn's restoration. But more important than the money we raised, we made a lot of people happy by having the Inn used for an activity open to the community at large. This, after all, is the utilitarian plan for the restored building. Personally, as a newcomer to Red Hook four years ago, I was overjoyed to see a beautiful old building on an accessible corner being restored beautifully — that was enough. Now I see how many lives are touched by the works in progress and how the events held in the Inn enrich our community.

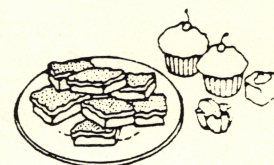
As always, we have many people to thank for helping with this event at the Inn. Without our volunteers we can do very little. Tim Muldoon, Vi Shaw, Eleanor Friery, Tag Thayer, Marilyn Foreman, Pat Loeber, Barbara Paul, Doreen Alexander, Harriet Norton, Mary Thorley, Joyce Riffenburg and John Kreider were most generous with their time, talents, and the giving of their various strengths. We are very grateful to them. We give special thanks also to Marj Wheeler, who graciously donated the entire proceeds of the sale of one of her lovely works.

Errata

We are all chagrined if we inadvertently miss YOU in our thanks - on any occasion. (We missed Jackie Appleby in the last newsletter from Joan Lewis's thank you list for the Ribbon-Cutting ceremony in August.) Please forgive us if we ever miss your name.

Call for Cookies

The Christmas Open House will be here shortly. We'll be calling our list of known bakers for more cookies as you read this. If you would like to join us in preparing for this favorite Sunday afternoon to the Inn, especially if you have never been asked or miss our call, and you would enjoy seeing the guests wolf down your treats at the Open House, please call Faith Compo directly at 876-4675.



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Genealogy Search

- Carol Brener

From the Egbert Benson Historical Society comes word of a new member, John Allendorph, who came to Red Hook for the Centennial, visited the Inn, and soon after joined EBHS. Mr. Allendorph lives near Troy and, although he is interested in Red Hook, his "big interest" is in genealogy. "I hope to meet and exchange information with local genealogists as my family married into many families in Dutchess County, especially in the towns of Red Hook and Rhinebeck. St. Paul's Cemetery, Red Hook, is full of my relatives. All of the Allendorf/Allendorphs, of course, and others are Bathrick, Bowman, Brenzel, Cramer, Feller, Fraleigh, Schoonmaker, Shook, to name a few." His multi-page list of names is too long to reproduce here, but Carol Brener, President of the Board of the Egbert Benson Historical Society, urges anyone with an interest in genealogy or who might just like to help out with some information, to write directly to: John B. Allendorph, P.O. Box 62, Wynantskill, NY. 12198. He would certainly appreciate hearing from you.

Bielenbergs to be honored with Crowley Award

- Clare O'Neill Carr

Barbara and Bob Bielenberg, founding members of Friends of Elmendorph, will be honored by Hudson River Heritage this month when they receive that organization's Richard C. Crowley Award in recognition of their many years of work in historic preservation in the Hudson River Valley and the region. The Rhinebeck-based historic preservation society will bestow the award at a special reception and lecture at the newly restored Watts de Peyster Fireman's Hall in Tivoli on Wednesday, November 30, at 7:30 p.m.

The Crowley Award recognizes those individuals who have made a significant contribution over the years to historic preservation and to raising public awareness of the historic significance of the region, and in particular the Hudson River Valley Federal Landmark District.

Besides their years of dedication and work at the Elmendorph, Barbara and Bob have helped launch — working often as a team and sometimes individually — such ground-breaking environmental organizations to recognize and market the Hudson Valley region as unique nation-wide.

Bob, an artist who worked as a graphic artist in New York, has painted the region he and Barbara have come to love, as well as been active in preserving its history and beauty. He helped build, with Pete Seeger, the Hudson River sloop Clearwater after the famous folk singer and a group of friends came up with the idea one summer evening on the porch of the Bielenbergs' home in Garrison.

Barbara first worked in historic restoration as a volunteer at Boscobel, a significant 18th-century house that was transported and reassembled in Garrison in the 1960s.

"They put out a call for volunteers," recalled Barbara, remembering the days when, as a mother and housewife, she had watched the beautiful site as it was reconstructed practically in her own front yard. "I thought that would be an interesting thing to do," she said. "And I've been doing it ever since."

Barbara left her work there to become the first site manager of Historic Hudson Valley's (then called Sleepy Hollow Restorations) Philipsburg Manor in Westchester. In the meantime, the Bielenbergs became Red Hook residents, moving here in time to help found the Friends of Elmendorph. They returned to live in Garrison when Barbara returned to work as assistant to the director at Boscobel. Later, at the Hudson River Valley Association, she pushed the then-unique idea of bringing cultural tourism to the region of the Hudson Valley.

When Historic Hudson Valley bought Montgomery Place in Red Hook in 1984, the Bielenbergs returned to their home on Fraleigh Street in Red Hook and Barbara became manager of the site, which opened several years later.

The Bielenbergs consider themselves self-taught as preservationists in connection with the important sites they have helped preserve, and the product of grass roots movements into the projects, such as Scenic Hudson and Clearwater, that they have espoused over the years. From an initial love of architecture, antiques and history, has come a lifelong vocation in historic preservation. As Bob puts it, with characteristic modesty, "Barbara and I have always had a certain curiosity."

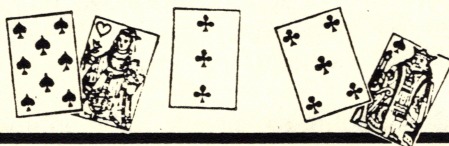
Organizations like ours, therefore, and our old house, can be thankful we were in the right place at the right time when the Bielenbergs came along.

Hudson River Heritage will present Barbara and Bob Bielenberg with the Richard C. Crowley Award on November 30th, 7:30 p.m., at the Watts de Peyster Fireman's Hall in Tivoli preceding a lecture by Ms. Beth Waterman of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation who will speak about the local Grouse Bluff excavation site at Tivoli Bays, especially in regard to governmental protection and public education. This is the last in a series of lectures sponsored by Hudson River Heritage and the Saugerties River Research Project exploring archeology in the Hudson Valley. It is open to all and refreshments will be served. Let's all be there in Tivoli on November 30th to honor the Bielenbergs.

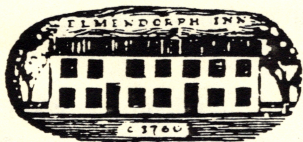
Historic Notes

"Gambling was another continuing preoccupation for many male citizens of the early Republic. Men played billiards at tavern tables for money stakes. They threw dice in "hazard" slamming the dice boxes down so hard and so often that tavern tables wore the characteristic scars of their play. Even more often Americans sat down to cards, often playing brag, similar to modern-day poker, or an elaborate table game called faro.

"Gaming, especially the playing at cards," the country lawyer George Davis recalled, had been widespread in the New England countryside since the post-Revolutionary turmoil of the 1780s. Most rural taverns "had their recesses for gamblers" and some of the rural communities' most eminent citizens, men who "claimed an elevated understanding," gambled in their "private retreats" along with far more ordinary folk. Lawyers and physicians would hazard their fees at the card table, and judges gambled after court had adjourned. . . . Wagering in the tavern bought the classes together as few other activities did."



From: *The Reshaping of Everyday Life, 1790-1840*
by Jack Larkin
Harper & Row, New York, 1988, p. 282-3



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

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