



- ECHOES -

Winter 1996

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Please join us for

CHRISTMAS at the ELMENDORPH INN

7th Annual Family Christmas Open House
Sunday, December 1, 1 - 5 p.m.

9th Annual Old Dutch Village Garden Club Greens Show
Saturday, December 7 & Sunday, December 8, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Egbert Benson Historical Society of Red Hook
The Legend of Saint Nicholas and other Christmas Stores
with Mirko Gabler
Tuesday, December 10, 7 p.m.

Dear Friends:

Since the last newsletter the Elmendorph Inn has been buzzing with activities and meetings which literally hundreds of people have attended or participated in. It is always so gratifying to hear the "oohs" and "aahs" from the first-time visitors as they enter the building and admire the restored interiors. We certainly have something of which we can all be proud!

This fall the Inn has hosted several major events and meetings of some new (to us) organizations, including the Old Dutch Village Garden Club Tea Party, a Hardscrabble Day Quilt Show, our Annual Columbus Day Weekend Art Show and meetings of the Red Hook Village Board, the Field Services Bureau of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the Dutchess Bebé's Doll Club and the Catskill Mountain Chapter of Dowsers, in addition to all the civic, historic and business groups which make the Elmendorph their regular meeting site.

It is especially gratifying to have the Elmendorph integrated into the local history curriculum of the Red Hook schools. Eight fourth grade classes visited the Inn this fall in a program developed by teachers Andrea Clark and Ann Donnelly in cooperation with the Egbert Benson Historical Society of Red Hook.

Upcoming events of interest, which we hope you all will attend, are the festive Family Christmas Open House, the Greens Show and the Historical Society Party, detailed elsewhere in this Newsletter. As the year winds down, I would like to wish all of you a Happy Holiday Season and a healthy and prosperous New Year!

Sincerely,

David Brown
President

Volunteers

This fall we received a very meaningful gift from one of our longtime faithful Shop volunteers, Dorothy Wegman. Quietly and without any fanfare, Dorothy has been saving newspaper clippings about the Elmendorph since 1976. This fall, she presented us with her red leather album, filled to capacity with the printed history of our restoration. The album is proudly displayed in the Elmendorph parlor for all to enjoy. Thank you, Dorothy, for your years of service, and for this very special gift.

Betsey Wacker and Nancy Hetzler have spent hours organizing our growing collection of books on architecture, furnishings and history and affixing library cards in pockets so that the books can be safely loaned for research purposes. For more information about the collection or to make donations to the library, please contact Betsey at 758-5330.

Our school program would not be possible without the skills of our volunteers, Barbara Bielenberg, Linda Keeling, and first-time helper, Sheryl Woods, a Friend from Kingston. The Historical Society would like to expand its school program and welcomes anyone interested in working with children. For more information, call Barbara Bielenberg at 758-2923.

Our new stone entrance walk was laid by volunteer Larry Thetford, who also repaired our sinking South Room hearth. Our thanks to Larry and his helpers for their good works.

You'll find volunteer thank you's sprinkled throughout this newsletter for, truly, we would not be where we are today without many hundreds of hours of volunteer labor. If we've failed to mention *your* contribution, please forgive us and know how much we appreciate *all* our good Friends!



Restoration Committee

- Barbara W. Bielenberg

This summer, while Bob and I were away on vacation, an energetic crew of volunteers led by Joan Lewis and Larry Thetford cleaned out all the construction debris which had accumulated on the second floor, carefully storing away original moldings and other artifacts which preserve the architectural history of the building. Shortly thereafter the Field Services Division of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation held a regional meeting at the Elmendorph. They're the folks who have to approve all our restoration activities, and Herman Gorgens was able to give them a tour of the second floor, gaining preliminary approval of our plans to create an Archive Center and exhibit gallery in the North Room and Central Hall.

At the direction of the Elmendorph Board, Herman is developing plans for heating, cooling and wiring the second floor and preparing a schedule of work which we hope can include some volunteer participation while maintaining our usual high standards for the restoration. Linda Keeling is working on a grant proposal to cover the cost of an air handling system which will protect the important historical treasures of the Egbert Benson Historical Society. We expect to formalize an agreement with the Society shortly for its expanded use of the building.

Your generous and faithful support as listed elsewhere in this and previous newsletters encourages us to continue working to bring the Elmendorph Inn to **full usefulness** as an historic and culturally focused center of community life for all of Red Hook and the mid-Hudson region. Our thanks to all of you for bringing the Elmendorph to life once again.

7TH ANNUAL FAMILY CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE and other Holiday Events

The Christmas season begins especially early this year, a few days after Thanksgiving. Our **Open House** is always held on the first Sunday of December in celebration of the Dutch Christmas and to coordinate with the Red Hook Chamber of Commerce-sponsored **Snowflake Parade** and **Village Tree Lighting Ceremonies**. Last year, more than 500 guests filed into the Inn to enjoy hot mulled cider, cocoa, home-baked cookies, bread fresh from the brick bake oven and Christmas music performed by local musicians. This year, we'll have the restored kitchen and tap room to celebrate as well.

Volunteers will be working around their Thanksgiving preparations to make the Inn festive with traditional decorations and, as usual, we'll be looking for lots of cookie bakers and servers. But whether you can help or not, we hope you will join us in welcoming the Holiday Season at our most exciting and festive Open House.

A week later, the Old Dutch Village Garden Club will hold its annual **Greens Show** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, December 7th and 8th. Ornaments from the Garden Club's Christmas Tree, which won first prize at the Dutchess County Fair, will be on sale and there will be lots of wreaths and decorations to inspire your own holiday preparations.

Finally, on Tuesday evening, December 10th, noted children's book author and storyteller, Mirko Gabler, will relate **Tales of Saint Nicholas and other Christmas Stories** at a special holiday meeting of the Egbert Benson Historical Society. Scheduled at 7 p.m. so children can attend, the story hour will be followed by traditional holiday refreshments.



Elmendorph Etc.

Our little thrift shop had its beginning shortly after the Inn was acquired. Helen Garlinghouse convinced the fledgling group, Friends of Elmendorph, that the homely cement block building should be used as a source of income for the restoration of the Inn. Furnished with card tables and the donations from the small group, it became a Garage Sale. It has grown every year since then. Counter, shelving and showcases have been donated; a small heater allows us to open in May and October. We are open three days a week (plus one workday to restock) and donations are so prolific that we have outgrown both the shop and the large storage shed we purchased as the rooms in the Inn were being restored and were no longer available.

For the past few years, we have pledged \$10,000 toward the restoration budget and, thanks to your generous donations and the dedication of a handful of volunteers, we have exceeded that amount 25¢ at a time. We like to think that we perform a community service in maintaining the shop, evidenced by the many bargain hunters who seldom miss a day that we're open.

Think about us this winter and pack away nifty, useful *working* items. We will be working in April in preparation for our first of May opening. Our half-price sale the closing week really emptied the shelves!

Sixth Annual Art Show

- Theresa Docherty, Coordinator

Many thanks to the community, the artists, and the helpers who made our Sixth Annual Art Show on Columbus Day weekend a great success. We had 44 artists participating, with a total of 150 works of art on display. The show was so big that we had to use the new Tap Room to extend our hanging space...and we were proud to do so. With record sales of \$2,635, the Friends of Elmendorph netted \$1,249 from commissions, hanging fees and donations. While we were ecstatic over the unexpected financial outcome of the show, our real pleasure came from enjoying the company of friends, old and new, who were able to be there.

On opening night, music flowed through the air, while visitors viewed the paintings and enjoyed the wonderful refreshments. Music was provided by some of our Red Hook High School musicians playing french horns and flutes, and was coordinated by Anne Oja. It was lovely.

Special thanks to the following for their invaluable assistance in making this show a success.

*Bob Bielenberg
Shirley Brown*

*David Brown
John Docherty*

*Peter Lawson
Ellen Phelan*

*Betsey Wacker
Dr. Fred Zipser*

Hostesses

*Diane Bauer
Melanie Babineau
Amelia Barringer
Mary Kelly
Bev Riley*

*Alma Bowman
Elvira Nuccio
Carol Scheuing
Phyllis Smith
Margaret Fitzmaurice*

*Joan Morrison
Mary Cioffi
Dr. Jane Ferguson
Ellen Hogan
Doreen Alexander*

Musicians

*Jessica Russo
Isabelle Sinistore
Petie Russo
Lauren Seko*

*Kathryn Docherty
Melissa Heiser
Hanna Nandor
Anne Oja, Music Coordinator*

*Natasha Hull
Sarah Ulfik
Lindsay Matthews*

We also want to thank the following artists for their generous donation of 100% of the sale of a picture: *Marj Wheeler, Edith Kennedy, and Dr. Fred Zipser, in memory of Ruth Zipser.*

We hope to have a joint show with the Red Hook Chamber of Commerce in May. Plan to join us for this Apple Blossom Festival event.



A farewell to our favorite redhead

Some individuals are almost irreplaceable! We sorely miss the energy, enthusiasm and skills of the incomparable Faith Compo who has left the Friends of Elmendorph Board to concentrate on her lifelong interest in music and theater. Faith served as Secretary and Newsletter Editor but, beyond her formal roles, she contributed a joyful personality to every meeting and work party in which she participated.

Dear Faith, we wish you all the best in all your endeavors and hope you will continue to brighten the Elmendorph with your presence as often as you can spare the time.

FRIENDS OF ELMENDORPH, INC.

As of October 31, 1996

New Members

Irene Castle
Veronica Ellis
Sloane Elman and Barry Radick
Dr. and Mrs. Julian B. Graham
Michele Robinson Greig
Hudson Valley Gastroenterology Associates, RLLP
- Dr. Jeff Monkash
Natalie Lunn

Alison and Robert MacFarlane
Sharon McIntosh and Glen Waggoner
Avis Morehouse
Debbie Morehouse
Margaret Picard
Susan Picard
The Sneddon Family
- David Sneddon and Kristine Fleisher
Susan Zucco

New Life Members

Mr. and Mrs. John Denter
J.T. Easley and Peter Freiberg
Mildred Stutzbach

Donations

Anonymous
Richard and Carleen Baright
Oakleigh and Jacquelyn Cookingham
Hedwig Cunningham
- in memory of Stephen Cunningham
Barbara H. Ewing
Linda Fell
Donald and Ann Germain
- in memory of Leonora Sanchelli
James Hardin
John Juranic
Richard Jenrette
Lillian E. Kapsa
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Maynard

Sharon McIntosh and Glen Waggoner
Marie Milbrandt
Romaine Odak
Elsie Quinn
Christine and Ray Rhodes
- IBM Matching Grant
Kathy A. Schmidt
George and Marguerite Sevigny
Karen Sipperley
The Sneddon Family
Thomas West
- memory of Mrs. Marie T. Barovich
Henry and Majorie Wheeler
- in honor of Edgar D. Fisher

Historic Note

- Mirko Gabler

The tradition of Saint Nicholas visiting the children on the eve of December the sixth was practiced not only by the Dutch. In the Czech Republic where I grew up, children, too, waited with some trepidation for the sound of the bell of Saint Nicholas as he approached the house. He comes with one or two angels bringing gifts, and with a wild devil whose antics, if he's any good, will send kids scurrying under the bed. In fact, from under the bed is the best way to observe the arrival of these shaggy visitors, and only when Nicholas has tied the devil to a banister is it safe to come out.....



Editor's Note: Learn more about Saint Nicholas and his colorful companions at the Historical Society's **Christmas Meeting** at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 10th, featuring children's book author and master story-teller, Mirko Gabler. Holiday refreshments and fun for the whole family.



Friends of Elmendorph, Inc.
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