



- ECHOES -

Spring 1992

Dear Friends,

How very proud I am of our members! We had so many of you at our Annual Meeting and we heard such favorable comments. Our speaker, **Steve Yarabek, President of Hudson & Pacific Designs, Inc.**, held the members' attention with his enthusiastic presentation of the history of ecology in the Hudson River Valley.

After Committee reports were given, three Board members were elected and two hard-working, energetic, retiring members of the Board were praised for their dedication. **Lottie Kittner and Joe O'Brien**, although no longer on the Board, will continue to be active--Joe as co--chairman of the annual golf outing and Lottie doing the thousands of things she is famous for in holding the organization together! **Bruce Naramore** had retired earlier when his move to a new home in Kinderhook made it difficult to attend Board meetings. We deeply appreciate Bruce's continuing interest and generous offer of counsel.

I have agreed to continue to serve as President, and **Joe Kavaky** has been elected Vice-President. **Barbara Field and Mary Cioffi** will continue to serve as Secretary and Treasurer of the Friends of Elmendorph.

We are very pleased that the Friends of Clermont selected our South Room as the site of their popular annual Spring Lecture Series. The room continues to be used regularly by the Girl Scout Council, The Lions Club and the Egbert Benson Historical Society and, occasionally, by the Red Hook Chamber of Commerce. Thanks to our generous Friends, we can fill the South Room with windsor chairs for capacity audiences. Elsewhere in this issue, you'll learn about a new adopt-a program which will help us increase our service to the community. We are very grateful for the support of our generous members.

We were saddened by the recent death of **Arnold Pulver**. Mr. Pulver lived in the Elmendorph and gave us much information about its many special features.

Now we look forward to planning for another art show, golf outing and other fund-raising events and, perhaps, an exhibit on how the Town Board began meeting at the Elmendorph in 1815. There are so many projects on the horizon as we grow and beautify.

HAPPY SPRINGTIME TO ALL OF YOU!!!

Sincerely,

Rosemary Coons
President

EDITOR:
Barbara W. Bielenberg

TYPESETTING/LAYOUT:
Norma Liuzzi

DISTRIBUTION:
Lottie Kittner

GRANT REPORT

- Barbara Bielenberg

As those of you who attended the annual meeting heard, work on the exterior of the Elmendorph has been delayed because our original Environmental Quality Bond Act bids were rejected for failure to comply sufficiently with affirmative action provisions of the law. However, the delay has allowed us to negotiate with State personnel to increase the scope of work covered by the grant. Our new bid advertisements have been approved and, hopefully, by the time you read this, the expanded specifications and plans will also have been approved and the project rebid. Our sincere **thanks to Herman Gorgens** for the endless hours he has donated to the technical aspects of this project.

We have submitted an application for funding of the restoration of the Hall, North Room and Kitchen under the final phase of the EQBA grant program. The awards will be announced this summer. The competition for this last State grant is fierce, but, if we are successful, we will have one year to raise the necessary matching funds to make the ground floor of the Elmendorph a fully accessible and useful space, and a living reminder of the long history of the Red Hook community.

MEET YOUR NEW DIRECTORS

The new directors bring a wide variety of talents and experience to the Elmendorph Board.

FAITH COMPO brings the glamour of Broadway to Red Hook and the Elmendorph Board having performed in more than 40 musicals including revivals of *Oklahoma!*, *Carousel*, and *The King and I* at the New York City Center. For the past fourteen years she had been employed by IBM at the Thomas J. Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights and last year transferred to Kingston. She has already performed in two Rhinebeck Theatre Society productions and teaches singing at her studio in Red Hook in affiliation with the Kingston Conservatory of Music.

KIP EGGERT grew up in Barrytown and Red Hook, the son of active preservationists. His mother Betty hosted the first Save-the-Elmendorph meeting in her kitchen at Maizefield and served on the first Friends Board. A graduate of Bard College, Kip has been a teacher and registered nurse. He serves on the staff of the Rhinebeck Lodge for Successful Living, does restoration carpentry and, in his spare time, buys and sells antiques. His love of cats has led him to design a line of rustic, tiered furniture for cats marketed under the name Cat Perches.

VITO FONTANA came to Red Hook twenty years ago as a weekend resident seeking relaxation after a hectic week as manager of five furniture stores in Brooklyn and Queens. Upon retirement, he and his wife replaced their summer cottage with a full-time residence and Vito became an active volunteer for St. Christopher's Church, the Knights of Columbus, the Lions Club and Northern Dutchess Hospital. His popular fund-raising dinners have earned him the title, the Ziti Man! lately, Vito has begun to turn his hobby of woodworking into a furniture repair and refinishing business.

ELMENDORPH ETC.

- Shirley Brown

Red Hook's #1 Garage Sale opened in May with Better, More, Unusual, Rare, Collectible, Useful, Decorative, Practical, Sensational Items that less money can buy! During the month of May, we will have an "extra" furniture room in the Inn itself. Watch for the OPEN flag on Saturdays.

Donations of merchandise are always welcome. Please call **William Johnson (758-5261)**, **Elsa Krieder (758-3522)**, or **Shirley Brown (758-8604)** to make an appointment. Items should be in good, working condition. Volunteers to help clean, sort and price merchandise are always needed. Please call or stop by the Elmendorph Etc. to join in the fun.

ADOPT-A-CABINET

- Barbara Bielenberg
Acquisitions and Restoration Committees

One of the busiest rooms in the Elmendorph is the old kitchen where hard-working volunteers clean and prepare the many items donated for sale at Elmendorph Etc. and at our successful yard sales and where hosts and hostesses prepare coffee and the refreshments for meetings and social events. As plans progress for the restoration of the old kitchen and its cooking fireplace and beehive oven to its early 19th century appearance, we need to move this important workspace to a new location. After much consideration, it has been decided to create a modern, well-equipped kitchen in the adjacent room, currently used as an office and lunchroom by the shop volunteers.

This major improvement will greatly expand the possible uses of the Elmendorph for social and fund-raising events, provide storage for cleaning and hospitality supplies and give our volunteers a warm, clean, well-lit space in which to work. In order to raise money for this project, which incidently is not eligible for state assistance, the Board has voted to launch an **Adopt-a-Cabinet** fund drive. Donations in any amount will be appreciated, but gifts of \$100 or more will be acknowledged on a special donor plaque which will be hung in the kitchen. Big ticket donations such as a new refrigerator, stove, or dishwasher will be individually marked.

Just as the installation of central heating permitted the year-round use of the Elmendorph by community organizations, a modern kitchen will greatly expand the service our historic building can perform. Your generous participation in our **Adopt-a-Chair** program has enabled us to seat a capacity audience in the South Room without resorting to modern folding chairs. Now we hope you will just as generously help us make this major improvement in the usefulness of the Elmendorph Inn.

MEMBERSHIP

Every year we remind our old Friends to renew their membership, and we thank you all for your continued support. If we haven't heard from you yet, please use the enclosed envelope and add an extra donation if you can!

Please welcome the following **NEW** members who have joined this year:

Life Members: Mr. & Mrs. Richard Coons
Mr. & Mrs. Sal DeCanio

Annex Antiques & Accessories
Peter Fingar
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Georgulas
Mr. & Mrs. John Kennedy
Peggy Love
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Rhodes

Catherine Jones and Roger Scheff
Viola Shaw
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Totman
Mr. & Mrs. Craig Vogel
Robert R. Willets
Stephen A. Yarabek

DONATIONS

The restoration and maintenance of our increasingly busy Elmendorph Inn depends on the generous contributions of our Friends and supporters. We would like to thank the following individuals for their donations since the beginning of this year.

Windsor Chairs

Robert and Mildred Rockefeller in memory of Ruth Rockefeller
Phyllis Smith and the Children of Red Hook.

Shutter Hardware: Kip Eggert

Peat Moss, Manure & Grass Seed to Repair Lawn: Anonymous

Pruning Apple Trees: Gerry Hoss

(* IBM Match)

Monetary Donations

MR. & MRS. NOEL ANGELIER
APPLE VALLEY REALTY
LAWRENCE APSEY
MRS. CHARLES BACON
MR. & MRS. RICHARD BARD
BARBARA BIELENBERG
MR. & MRS. DAVID BORM
MR. & MRS. DAVID BROWN
BURNETT ROCKEFELLER HAND
FUNERAL HOME
MR. & MRS. JACK CAMPISI
FAITH COMPO*
MR. & MRS. OAKLEIGH COOKINGHAM
MR. & MRS. TERENCE DEWSNAP
MR. & MRS. JOHN DOWNING

BARBARA EWING
MR. & MRS. JOHN FERGUSON
MR. & MRS. LARRY HAGEN*
MRS. EVALENA HANLON
MR. & MRS. ROY KEUTE
LOTTIE KITTNER
MRS. CHARLES LAPINSKI
MR. & MRS. JEFF MARTIN
MIKE MATWAY
BETTY MILLER
FRIEDE MUNDHAUSEN
ALISE NORTON
MR. & MRS. JOE O'BRIEN
MR. & MRS. RAY RHODES*

ALICE ROCKEFELLER
SENATOR SALAND FAMILY
DAVID SCHULZ
MR. & MRS. BERTRAND STEPHENSON
ALICE TREMPER
MURRAY VAN NESS
DR. & MRS. E. C. VAN VALEY
MR. & MRS. WILLIAM WALSH
FLORENCE WALTER
ETHEL WILKEN
MARY WILLETS
DON WISE
ROSETTA WUNDERLICH
CAROLYN YABLONSKI

"Reports of travellers, in giving the character of a people, should be received with caution. Taverns are not always the best places for the acquisition of knowledge. The Americans revolt at the idea of those loungers which infest the taverns, in some particular districts of the country, being considered as representatives of the great mass of the people. In some of the principal inns, more particularly in young flourishing towns, the society to be met with is very valuable. It is the practice of lawyers, attornies, (sic) merchants, &c., to lodge at such places, which are generally the best built houses in the town. The ringing of a hand-bell is the signal that dinner, supper, &c. are ready. At no place which I have yet seen, is it usual to take more than three meals a day."



William Dalton, *Travels in the United States of America, and Parts of Upper Canada*
1821; quoted in *Upstate Travels, British Views of Nineteenth-Century New York*,
edited by Roger Haydon, Syracuse University Press, 1982



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