The Great Estates Consortium presents

Stewards & Visionaries: Women of the Great Estates

An all day symposium
Saturday, March 29, 2008
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Stewards & Visionaries: Women of the Great Estates

When
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Where
Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site
Route 9, Hyde Park, New York

Registration fee
$55 per person
Includes Lunch and Wine & Cheese Reception

Presented by
The Great Estates Consortium

Hosted by
Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site

Sponsored by
The Great Estates Consortium
With additional funding provided by:

Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

Dutchess County Tourism

Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corporation

ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

Stewards and Visionaries: Women of the Great Estates will focus on the importance of women to Hudson Valley estates from the 18th to the 20th centuries. It will also examine the role that women played in saving and preserving many of these important historic properties. Symposium attendees can begin the day by participating in an optional tour of FDR's home, Springwood, and the FDR Presidential Library and Museum. The tour will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will depart from the lobby of the Henry A. Wallace Center.

Dr. Ann K. Wentworth, of Excelsior College, will open the symposium with a look at Margaret Beekman Livingston's life as an individual and as a reflection of the social and political changes that influenced elite women's roles during the 18th century. In addition, the talk will examine the effect of changing women's roles on material culture recovered from archaeological excavations at Clermont State Historic Site. After a brief coffee break Kathleen Eagen Johnson, Curator, Historic Hudson Valley, will discuss four energetic and creative women who were largely responsible for fashioning and caring for the Montgomery Place estate over a period of 150 years. In addition to estate creator Janet Montgomery, design devotees Louise Livingston and Cora Barton, and modern mover Violetta Delafield, Ms. Johnson will also examine the contributions of enslaved African Sally Gilson, farm daughter and wife Freda Dorsey, garden designer Helen Page Wodell and other women who shaped the design of Montgomery Place.

Following lunch, Denise Doring VanBuren, co-author of Historic Beacon and Beacon Revisited, and Editor in Chief, American Spirit magazine, will explore the life and contributions of Madam Brett, arguably Dutchess County's first "First Lady." Settling in 1709 on "land in the Wappins" inherited from her father, Francis Rombout, Catheryna Rombout Brett quickly established both a mill and a cordial relationship with the neighboring Native Americans. Her sharp intellect and business acumen made her one of the most important early settlers of Dutchess County. Her original homestead still stands in Beacon, New York. Information about visiting the historic site can be obtained at www.geocities.com/melzingah/.

The remaining afternoon presenters will focus on the role of women as inheritors of historic estates and their efforts to save these properties for future generations. Kenneth Snodgrass, Executive Director of the Locust Grove Estate, will present a case study focusing on the continuing legacy of Annette Innis Young, benefactor of two important local history collections in the Hudson Valley, Locust Grove and Rosewood in Poughkeepsie, and the Locust Lawn farm in Gardiner, Ulster County. Her life's work, in her words, was to protect the legacy of these two properties "for the benefit of those who come after." Mr. Snodgrass will be followed by Linda McLean, Historic Site Manager at Olana State Historic Site who will examine the myths and the facts about the women who saved Olana. These 20th century "Ladies of Olana" stepped forward, some to maintain, others to actively campaign to reclaim from the jaws of the developers and the auction houses one of the most important sites and collections of the American Art Movement.

The symposium will conclude with two additional presenters, each exploring the contributions of women to the preservation of important historic sites. Duane Watson, Curator at Wilderstein Historic Site, will examine the important social, cultural and financial impacts that generations of females had on the history of Wilderstein. These contributions stretch from the Beekman Patent of 1697 to Margaret (Daisy) Suckley's creation of the Wilderstein Historic Site as a public institution. Sarah Olson, Superintendent of the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites will discuss how women have been instrumental in the many important preservation initiatives in Hyde Park through the years. From Eleanor Roosevelt’s accidental role as celebrity guide, to the grass-roots effort to save Val-Kill, to the restoration of Hyde Park's treasury of historic gardens, the imprint of women in preserving the legacies of our past (and the stories we tell) is cause for celebration.

Stewards and Visionaries: Women of the Great Estates is made possible through the generous support of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, and The Dutchess County Tourism Promotion Agency. Additional funding has been provided by Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corporation. The Great Estates Consortium is an alliance of historic properties and affiliate groups located in Dutchess, Columbia and Greene counties.
AGENDA

Saturday, March 29

8:30 - 9:30 am  Optional Tours: Home of FDR National Historic Site and the FDR Presidential Library and Museum
Meet in Henry A. Wallace Center lobby

9:30 - 10:00 am  Registration and coffee

10:00 - 10:15 am  Welcome Remarks
Cynthia Koch, Director, FDR Presidential Library
Sarah Olson, Superintendent, Roosevelt-Vanderbilt NHS

10:15 - 11:00 am  Margaret Beekman: Woman of Business or Lady of the Manor?
Ann K. Wentworth, Ph.D.
Division Coordinator for History and Social Sciences
Excelsior College

11:00 - 11:15 am  Coffee Break

11:15 - Noon  Earth Mothers: Women, Landscape, and Nature at Montgomery Place
Kathleen Eagen Johnson, Curator
Historic Hudson Valley

Noon - 1:00 pm  Lunch

1:00 - 1:45 pm  Madam Brett: First Lady of Dutchess County
Denise Doring VanBuren, Editor in Chief
American Spirit Magazine

1:45 - 2:30 pm  Saving the Past: Women Stewards in the Hudson Valley
Locust Grove: Annette Young
Kenneth F. Snodgrass, Executive Director
Locust Grove Estate

The Ladies of Olana: The Myth & The Monument
Linda McLean, Historic Site Manager
Olana State Historic Site

2:30 - 2:45 pm  Break

2:45 - 3:30 pm  Wilderstein: Margaret Suckley
Duane A. Watson, Curator
Wilderstein Historic Site

Places of Her Own: Women and Preservation in Hyde Park
Sarah Olson, Superintendent
Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites

3:30 pm  Wine & Cheese Reception

Conference attendees will receive free admission to the FDR Presidential Library and the Home of FDR National Historic Site from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
REGISTRATION FORM

Name ______________________________________________________
Address ______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________
City _________________________________________________________
State ________________________________________________________
Zip __________________________________________________________
Telephone____________________________________________________
Email_________________________________________________________

The registration fee is $55 per person. This includes coffee and tea in the morning, lunch at the Wallace Center and a wine & cheese reception after the conference. Seating is limited. Checks should be made out to: Friends of Mills Mansion.

Please charge $____________________to my \[\square\] Mastercard  \[\square\] Visa
Card #__________________________Expiration Date_______________
Name (as printed on card)______________________________________
Signature _____________________________________________________

Mail payment with this form to:

The Great Estates Consortium
c/o Friends of Mills Mansion
P. O. Box 416
Staatsburg, NY 12580

For Additional Information call (845) 889-8851.
Create a special weekend around the Great Estates Symposium, visit [www.dutchesstourism.com](http://www.dutchesstourism.com) for more information on where to go and where to stay in Dutchess County!
Located in the heart of the historic Hudson River Valley, these magnificent properties offer great art, architecture, gardens, landscapes, hiking trails, special events, astonishing views, house tours, picnicking, museum shops, and more.

Staatsburgh State Historic Site
Staatsburg, New York   (845) 889-8851
www.staatsburgh.org

Olana State Historic Site
Hudson, New York   (518) 828–0135
www.olana.org

Locust Grove Estate
Poughkeepsie, New York   (845) 454-4500
www.morshistoricsite.org

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum
Hyde Park, New York   (800) FDR-VISIT
www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu

Hudson River Valley Institute
Marist College, Poughkeepsie, New York   (845) 575-3052
www.hudsonrivervalley.net

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site
Hyde Park, New York   (845) 229-9115
www.nps.gov/hofr

Wilderstein
Rhinebeck, New York   (845) 876-4818
www.wilderstein.org

Cedar Grove
Catskill, New York   (518) 943-7465
www.thomascole.org

Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site (Val-Kill)
Hyde Park, New York   (845) 229-9115
www.nps.gov/elro

Clermont State Historic Site
Germantown, New York   (518) 537-4240
www.friendsofclermont.org

Montgomery Place
Annandale-on-Hudson, New York   (914) 631-8200
http://www.hudsonvalley.org/web/mont-main.html

Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site
Hyde Park, New York   (845) 229-9115
www.nps.gov/vama
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