

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

Saturday, March 29, 2008  
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

## 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

Cover: *Portrait of Louise Livingston (1781-1860)*. Painted posthumously by  
Theobald Chartran (1849-1907) after an existing miniature. Rome, c. 1872.  
Gift of J. Dennis Delafield. Historic Hudson Valley, Tarrytown, NY.

# 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/](http://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  Mastercard  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.



Staatsburgh



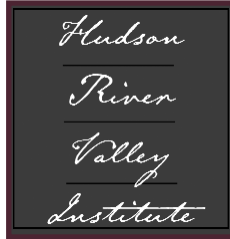
Olana



Locust Grove



FDR Presidential Library



Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt



Wilderstein



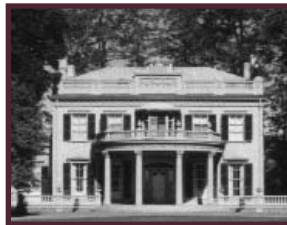
Cedar Grove



Val-Kill



Clermont



Montgomery Place



Vanderbilt Mansion

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](http://www.staatsburgh.org)

Olana State Historic Site  
Hudson, New York (518) 828-0135  
[www.olana.org](http://www.olana.org)

Locust Grove Estate  
Poughkeepsie, New York (845) 454-4500  
[www.morsehistoricsite.org](http://www.morsehistoricsite.org)

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

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

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

Wilderstein  
Rhinebeck, New York (845) 876-4818  
[www.wilderstein.org](http://www.wilderstein.org)

Cedar Grove  
Catskill, New York (518) 943-7465  
[www.thomascole.org](http://www.thomascole.org)

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

Clermont State Historic Site  
Germantown, New York (518) 537-4240  
[www.friendsofclermont.org](http://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](http://www.nps.gov/vama)

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

**Stewards & Visionaries:**  
Women of the Great Estates

March 29, 2008

Presented by the  
Great Estates Consortium

