



RESTORATION  
PROJECTS INC.

# Fort Nathan Hale BULLETIN

Volume II, Issue I

February, 2007

## *A Note from the President*

Happy New Year, one and all!

If you missed our annual meeting in November, you missed a terrific program. Actress, Anne Pasquale, who along with her assistant, portrays four different people with just the aid of a few props. She tells the story of Deborah Sampson, who served three years in the Revolutionary War by hiding her identity as a woman. It was so quiet in the hall, you could hear a pin drop. Her appearance was sponsored by board member Jake Epstein's firm RECOL. Our thanks to them for their continued support of FNHRP, Inc.

Volunteer Appreciation Day was also held in November where we planned to tour the Amistad, scheduled to be in New Haven harbor. Imagine our surprise when twenty of us arrived there to find the ship had changed plans and was in Mystic!

Since it was such a beautiful day, some of the group decided to tour the Long Wharf Nature Preserve and Vietnam Memorial, and others went off to the New Haven Museum and Historical Society to view the Men in Uniform exhibit. We all met up at Brazi's afterwards to enjoy lunch and a good time was had by all. Time did not permit us at our annual meeting to properly acknowledge and thank our loyal volunteers, but we could not function without their help. Thank you one and all.

We are working on plans for this season at Fort Hale. We plan to have two special meetings in the coming months. One this spring and our regular event in November. There are so many good speakers and programs available; we think it would be a benefit to offer them to our members. Plus, it's a way to get to know them in an informal gathering. You will be notified of additional events as plans are finalized.

*Marge Ottenbreit* President, FNHRP

### Inside this issue:

A Note of Thanks	2
Our Newest Board Member	2
Elm City Parks Conservancy	2
The Federal Art Project	3
Membership Application	3
Bequest is a Lasting Gift	4

## **Semi Annual Meeting**

This year's semi annual meeting will feature a presentation on preserving Fort Adams.

Fort Adams, in Newport Rhode Island, is one of the largest and most complex fortifications in the United States, built between 1824 and 1857. Built to protect Narragansett Bay from seaborne attack, the fort served the nation proudly until 1965 when it was turned over to the State of Rhode Island. While the State Park around the fort has thrived, the historic fortifications fell into disrepair and were in jeopardy of collapse in the 1990s.

The Fort Adams Trust, working with

the Newport Collaborative Architects (NCA), has successfully raised funds for restoration, attracted tens of thousands of visitors each year and completed several one-of-a-kind rehabilitation projects. Come hear how the Trust and NCA have worked together to successfully reinvigorate the Fort and restore its glory.

Arnold N. Robinson, AICP is a Senior Associate with (NCA) and has served as project manager for all work at Fort Adams over the past six years. Mr. Robinson will be speaking on various aspects including fund raising, strategic planning

## **April 1, 2007 - 2 PM**

and rehabilitation design that have contributed to Inca's winning of numerous awards for their work at Fort Adams. The meeting will be of interest to those interested in the history of forts in the United States and those interested in preservation of fortifications.

**Date: April 1st**

**Time: 2 o'clock**

**Where: Center Church Meeting Hall  
311 Temple Street**

**New Haven (behind the  
New Haven Library)**

## *A Note of Thanks*

Volunteerism at Fort Nathan Hale in 2006 was very productive. We had visitors from at least seven countries, 32 states, and 37 Connecticut towns. We had twenty people who volunteered time to help at the Fort. They all said that they were pleased to meet such interesting people from all over the world.

They were proud to be representing an "actual historic site" right here in Morris Cove. Visitors were pleased to think we cared enough to adopt and

maintain a previously abandoned "colonial site." The brochures and information we distributed, really made people feel they were part of "a living history." All of the volunteers enjoyed their time at the fort and are looking forward to being there again next summer.

A luncheon was held on November 1, 2006 for the volunteers, as a token of appreciation for their efforts. It was a great event.

Our volunteers have stated

that they receive personal satisfaction from knowing that they help our fort and keep our country's history alive.

We can always use more assistance maintaining our fort!

*Fina Doyle,*  
Volunteer Coordinator



## **Our Newest Board Member**

The FNHRP is both happy and proud to announce our newest board member, ***Nancy V. Ahern.***

A city native and longtime Westville resident, Nancy is on the boards of the New Haven Colony Historical Society and the New Haven Preservation Trust, among others, and represents the latter on Connecticut Preservation Action. She served on the New Haven Board of Aldermen for 12 years and is treasurer of the Republican Town Committee. She is a steward of the First Church of Christ in New Haven (Center Church). A retired newspaper editor – as is her husband, Jack – Nancy works for the General Assembly when it is in session. She is a direct descendant of John Beach, who came to New Haven from England in 1638. This personal connection to the past has fueled her abiding interest in New Haven history and historic preservation. We are glad to have Nancy on board!

## **Elm City Parks Conservancy Update**

**Each year, Elm City Parks Conservancy casts a pewter medallion representing one of New Haven's park statues or monuments.**

**This year at the request of the mayor, Cordilee Benoit, President of ECPC, has announced that the medallion will be the "Angel of Peace" which adorns the top of the Soldiers and Sailors monument on top of East Rock Park. You may have noticed she was missing, taken down for a much needed restoration and cleaning. The Angel of Peace has now been returned to East Rock Park.**

**The Soldiers and Sailors monument honors those who served their country with scenes from our major wars from the Revolution to the Civil War in 1861.**

**The medallions are offered for sale at \$12 each or three for \$30. They can be ordered from Marge Ottenbreit at 466-1596 or from ECPC at 946-5713. The medallions are lovely keepsakes representing the wonderful statues and monuments that grace our city parks.**



**FORT NATHAN  
HALE  
RESTORATION  
PROJECTS INC.**

Marge Ottenbreit  
84 Fort Hale Road  
New Haven, CT 06512-3603

<http://www.fort-nathan-hale.org>

*Interested in  
Becoming a Member?*

Contact us via email at  
[info@fort-nathan-hale.org](mailto:info@fort-nathan-hale.org)



<http://www.fort-nathan-hale.org>

## The Federal Art Project

Don't miss the exhibit of the Federal Art Project at the New Haven Museum and Historical Society on display until September 2007.

During the dark days of the depression, President Franklin Roosevelt created the Federal Art Project to give work to unemployed artists. The artist was given a small salary, but had to raise funds for his own art supplies.

The first project in New Haven was the portrait painted of Mayor John Murphy by Ferdinand Maiorano to be on view at City Hall. However, civic leaders and government officials were not of particular interest to the general public.

They then began theme art, the painting and sculptures of murals and statues of historic figures, prominent in our colonial history, as well as illustrations of children stories and commemorative events. This form of art, had much greater interest because they told a story, easily understood by anyone viewing it.

Some of this beautiful art work has been destroyed over time, but much can still be seen throughout New Haven. Beautifully painted scenes depicting the life of Nathan Hale can be seen on the walls of Nathan Hale School and photos of these murals can be seen at the pavilion at Fort Nathan Hale. Other art includes the Amistad mural at Troop School and the art work in the children's room of the New Haven Public Library, to name just a few.

The museum exhibit, under the direction of Amy Trout, Curator, covers much more information and pictures of art work done during this period of high unemployment after the depression.

There is a modest entry fee which covers the Federal Art Project exhibits well as all the other historic exhibits at the museum.

## Membership Application

What is Fort Nathan Hale?

- \*A 30 acre City Park located on the east side of New Haven Harbor
- \* A reconstructed Revolutionary War Fort – Black Rock Fort
- \* A Civil War Fortification – Fort Nathan Hale
- \* A designated New Haven Landmark
- \* An historic site listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- \* A source of educational programs for thousands of students
- \* A site visited annually by tourists from around the world.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 TELEPHONE( day/evening) \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ New Membership  Renewal

\$20 Lieutenant       \$25 Captain       \$30 Major       \$50 Colonel       \$100 General

I enclose payment of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the category indicated above. Payable to FNHRP  
 Does your company match employee gifts? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contributions are tax deductible within the limits permitted by law.

**Mail TO: Fort Nathan Hale Restoration Projects. P.O. Box 9181, New Haven, CT 06532**



**NOTICE!**  
**Membership**  
**Dues are due!**



# Your Bequest is a Lasting Gift

As a friend and supporter of Fort Nathan Hale Restoration Projects, Inc., you can make a lasting gift to this organization by remembering it in your will. Donations, whether they be cash, mutual funds, stocks, bonds, IRA proceeds, real estate, antiques or collectibles, will be merged with other invested funds to either generate income or be used for operating expenses for the on-going maintenance, restoration and preservation of this historic site.

When you write or review your will, please consider leaving a bequest to FNHRP, Inc. An example might be:

**GENERAL BEQUEST:**

*I \_\_\_\_\_, give and bequest the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to FNHRP, Inc. for the maintenance, restoration and preservation of Black Rock Fort and Fort Nathan Hale.*

Or if you prefer to leave a bequest for a particular purpose (flag replacement, educational programs, maintenance costs), wording might include:

*I give and bequeath the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to FNHRP Inc., to be used for \_\_\_\_\_ (purpose or program to be supported). If at any time the Board of Directors of FNHRP, Inc., deem it not necessary or desirable or practical to support the program or purpose specified, the Board may specify another project or program to be supported.*

Please speak with your own attorney for the appropriate language and a tax advisor regarding tax savings and implications. For the past 30 years we have depended on the generosity and assistance of our loyal friends and members. If we are to continue, we must ask that you consider making a lasting gift to ensure our future. Thank you.

## Mark Your Calendar!!!



### EAST SHORE DAY

May 19, 2007

featuring....

- ◆ U.S. Coast Guard Open House
- ◆ Living History & Flag Dedication at Fort Nathan Hale
- ◆ Guided Tours of New Haven Light House

*More info to follow!*

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