

SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT MUSEUM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees was held on August 7, 2002 in the Planetarium Lobby, Centerport, New York.

The following were in attendance:

Dr. Steven Gittelman - President
Marjorie Kossoy Fuhrmann - Secretary
Carl Luecke - Trustee
William Macchione - Trustee
Edward J. Hahn - Trustee
Donna deLuca Periconi - Trustee
Robert LaBua - Trustee
Bertram E. Seides - Trustee
Dr. William Rogers - Trustee
J. Lance Mallamo - Executive Director
Legislator Cameron Alden - 10th Legislative District
Rita Beckman - Staff
Mark McHugh - Staff
Zach Studenroth - Staff
Lorraine Vernola - Staff
Bill Dieck - Staff
David Bush - Staff
Florence Ogg - Staff
Stephanie Gress - Staff
Wendy O'Donohoe - Staff
Maryann Zakshevsky - Staff
Anthony Camilli - Staff
Leslie Tannen - Todd Shapiro Associates
Ann Marie Pastore - Stenographer

Absent:

Gary C. Fiscoff
Michael Broxmeyer
Dr. Anthony Pecorale
Susan LeBow
R. Douglas Shaw

(Dr. Steven Gittelman called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.)

DR. GITTELMAN:

Good evening, everybody. This is a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum. Good evening, everyone. Do we have a list of guests in attendance?

MS. PASTORE:
Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:
I'd like to note that we have Legislator Cameron Alden present. Thank you for joining us. Are there any questions or comments from any of our guests? That probably makes the 50th meeting is a row that that's the case, but we don't have big public sessions.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:
We do.

DR. GITTELMAN:
I know. Okay, we're prepared to go ahead with the agenda. Approval of the minutes, please, Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:
On the advise of the Director, I move that the minutes be approved as written.

MR. LUECKE:
Second.

MS. FUHRMANN:
Thank you.

DR. GITTELMAN:
We have minutes from the last meeting that weren't approved.

MS. FUHRMANN:
I move that the minutes of the June meeting also be approved at the same time.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Do I have a second?

MR. LUECKE:
Second.

MS. FUHRMANN:
Thank you.

DR. GITTELMAN:
We have two issues on the table. Do we have any discussion regarding the minutes of the last meeting? No discussion, no exceptions, no changes? All in favor of accepting those minutes? Opposed?

MS. PERICONI:
I'm abstaining.

DR. GITTELMAN:

The minutes are approved. (Vote: 8/0/1/5 Abstained: Ms. Periconi. Absent: Mr. Fischhoff, Mr. Broxmeyer, Dr. Pecorale, Ms. LeBow & Mr. Shaw.)

Now on to the minutes of the prior meeting. Any discussion? Abstentions?

MS. PERICONI:
I'm abstaining.

DR. GITTELMAN:
At the last meeting we did not have a quorum, so we could not vote on approval of the minutes. That's the first time we didn't have a quorum in a long time.

MS. FUHRMANN:
Years.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Yes, years. (Vote: 8/0/1/5 Abstained: Ms. Periconi. Absent: Mr. Fischhoff, Mr. Broxmeyer, Dr. Pecorale, Ms. LeBow & Mr. Shaw.)

Okay, we have a Public Relation's Report.

MS. TANNEN:
We have two months' worth of presentations tonight. I wasn't able to attend last month's meeting. Please excuse my absence; I had a car accident that week, but here I am tonight.

As you can see, there were two focuses for June and July. One was unintentional, inadvertent, unanticipated. That was the problem with regard to wheelchair access. The other one was anticipated and very intentional, and that was the emphasis that we put on publicizing the Gershwin gala. We're not going to show all of these tapes concerning wheelchair access. We'll show a little bit of them.

VIDEO PRESENTATION 8:10 P.M. - 8:25 P.M.:

7/11/02	NEWS 12	WHEELCHAIR ACCESS
7/11/02	LI NEWS TONIGHT	WHEELCHAIR ACCESS
7/11/02	WABC-TV	WHEELCHAIR ACCESS
7/11/02	WPIX-TV	WHEELCHAIR ACCESS
7/11/02	WWOR-TV	WHEELCHAIR ACCESS
7/11/02	WNYW-TV	WHEELCHAIR ACCESS
7/11/02	WNBC-TV	WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

DR. GITTELMAN:

Let's hold off on the publicity or whatever else you have for us. First of all, the burst of laughter that occurred a few minutes ago was unfortunate. Lance and I were laughing because the Director for the Heckscher was listed as Lance Mallamo. It was inappropriate.

This was a very unfortunate event. I think that to some extent you have to understand the historic context in which the event occurred. Approximately four years ago the room in question, which is the room with the glass cases in the Memorial Wing with all the jars, was off limits to the handicapped even though it was clearly handicapped accessible. It was considered off limits by the prior Director. She established the policy because I believe, and this is my belief, that she was afraid that a wheelchair would hit the glass and that the shattered glass would injure the person in the wheelchair. As you saw, it's wide open, but it wasn't that there was a question of whether or not a wheelchair could navigate it. It was four years ago where there was a question of whether a wheelchair was to hit the glass, whether that person would be exposed to extreme danger.

There have been endless discussions about this. Lance, staff, security, myself, and a lot of other people have spent a lot of time discussing what happened and whether we handled it the best way we could.

First of all, there is no way of feeling good about hurting a little child's feelings, whether she's handicapped or not. We unquestionably hurt her feelings. For that, I am deeply sorry. The guard who handled the situation was not following Museum policy. The policy was issued in writing three years ago, and we believed all members of staff knew that that room was handicapped accessible. The guard's apparent choice of words was also uncomfortable. There had to be a more sensitive way of presenting that the room was not handicapped accessible, even if he mistakenly believed it to be the case.

There are two levels here. There is a level that - there is not a level of culpability that we did not have it handicapped accessible. It was handicapped accessible. That was the policy. Perhaps we could have reminded staff more frequently or made the policy better known. In any event, this particular guard apparently forgot the policy.

When the reporter from Newsday called and asked - because you have seen the electronic presentations. You provided us copies of the written presentations; the original article was very harsh. It gave the impression that we were not a handicapped accessible institution in deference to the law.

The fact of the matter is that we are and hope to be very compliant with the law. We had an employee who made an error. We have a study that the Legislature has funded \$10,000 for the study portion and \$65,000 for remediation. We expect those funds to be forthcoming.

There is a lot to be learned from this. One is, how do you handle that much of a deluge of press? We were overwhelmed with press. I don't recall the last front page of Newsday that we have ever gotten, and certainly this was not the reason I wanted to get it for. But as you can see, the electronic media picked it up full force. I think we took a big publicity blow. I think Lance was correct in issuing a full apology. I think that he was correct in stating that we would review this with the employee. I think there are steps that staff is taking to make sure it doesn't happen again.

But I will add another dimension. We made it our policy not to discuss who the employee was because we did not feel that that was appropriate. For those of you who don't know, I will limit my comments that the employee had suffered a recent traumatic event in his life within, I understand, a couple of weeks. That event was such that he had just returned to work. It is very possible that the employee was upset and maybe made a mistake. Well, I know he made a mistake, but maybe because he was upset, he made a mistake.

It's hard to apologize for everything that happened. It's hard to correct everything that happens, but this particular employee made a mistake. I have known him for quite a while. I think that the events in his recent life might have changed his way of approaching things during that day. I think it was the second or the third day back at work. I guess I now want to open it up for questions. Donna?

MS. PERICONI:

After the incident, which happened just a few weeks before we were planning this fundraiser for the Museum, how many calls or letters did the Museum receive in reference to this incident? Do you have any idea, Lance?

MR. MALLAMO:

I can say I received approximately four or five letters, some representing different groups with disabilities on Long Island or actually nationwide. A few were nationwide. Maybe I received ten phone calls.

MS. PERICONI:

In total?

MR. MALLAMO:

In total.

MS. PERICONI:

Have you received anything recently, or has it quieted down?

MR. MALLAMO:

No, we have received nothing for I would say since the second day, since the second article came out. I will tell you what we have done to address the issue. As I explained to each - each letter I answered personally and gave them the full details on what we have done in the past to become accessible and what we're doing in the future. This is an issue that we have taken very seriously.

I can tell you from my own perspective, back in 1999 just a couple of months before I confirmed the policy that that area was accessible, I attended a course in Washington, D.C., on handicapped accessibility and historic buildings because this certainly is a challenge here at the mansion. I know this past April or May when Florence Ogg, our Director of Historic House and Exhibits, and I went to the American Association of Museums meeting in Dallas, Texas, Florence attended a similar workshop on ADA compliance for historic buildings and how to design exhibits in that regard.

Ironically, when I first found out that this incident had occurred, and I think if my memory serves me correctly the date was Wednesday, July 10th at 4:30, I was meeting with the County Architect in Yaphank on our ADA compliance capital project, which we had the Legislature appropriate planning funds in the year 2000, and the funds are in this year's budget, \$65,000 for remediation expenses. The way that I understood, and I think I'm very well versed in the ADA law having taken the seminar and acquired the law and read as much as I can possibly read on the subject, the way I understand the law for buildings that are on the National Register of Historic Places, as we are, is that we must make our best effort to become compliant with the code. There is a very set code. If we determine that we cannot be compliant in all areas where the removal of architectural barriers would be destructive to the historic integrity of the property, we are authorized to develop a remediation plan. That can be historic photographs, slides, or videos that would be made available to persons to show them those areas.

Once that construction and remediation plan is complete, which ours is not complete because that is what we are currently working on, we then send the two components of the plan to the New York State Historic Preservation Officer. We request a waiver or request to implement remediation in lieu of actual construction. They approve or disapprove the plan and send it back to us. If they approve the plan, then we're authorized to proceed. That was the point we had not yet gotten to.

When this first came out, that's something we had been working on, so we did know that the area of the mansion was not accessible. Our mansion tour was not because of the number of steps. It's not even a question of ramps. I can tell you the main issue in the mansion is what we call the Juliet balcony, which connects the yellow bedroom with Mr. Vanderbilt's bedroom. That's a balcony that in total length is maybe twelve feet. It's twenty-six inches wide, and it has four turns in it. We know right away we are never going to get a wheelchair in that area. The balcony, if my memory serves me correctly and Florence can correct me if I'm wrong, is a historic balcony brought from Belgium. It's at least two hundred years old. The rest of the railing in that area was copied after that balcony. It's a major historic feature of the mansion. The adjacent wall is limestone that is probably twenty inches thick.

We have identified and our architect, David Swift, was working on this job with the county architect and he has determined, no, there is really nothing you can do here. The only thing we could do, we have identified that we would need a minimum to reach the second floor of three elevators. We have identified that there is no internal space to put those elevators. The only option would be to put them on the exterior of the mansion, which alters the roofline and alters the facades. The architects, I think, understanding that the cost would be so prohibitive for what you would achieve, it's been his recommendation that we go to remediation.

When this issue broke, the Director of the Suffolk County Office of Handicapped Services contacted me. He immediately wanted to know what happened to the ramps that were put in by the Eastern Disabled Veterans Association back in 1992. I wasn't aware that there were ramps. I said, "I've never seen ramps." He said, "Yes, in fact, the Museum so met the criteria for a historic building to be accessible it was featured in a videotape for museums nationwide on how to become accessible." He came with the County Attorney's representative the Tuesday after this incident occurred with a copy of that videotape and showed it to me. Knowing what I do know, knowing the code, I'll give you an example. The code for ADA compliance says that where you have your ramp, it must be one foot - for every foot in grade,

you need twelve feet to meet the incline. So if you have a one-foot high elevation, you'd need twelve feet. If you have a two-foot high elevation, you would need twenty-four feet. The videotape that he showed me was within the Moroccan Court. I said to him, "Bruce, the Moroccan Court is ten feet wide. The ramp you're showing me is approximately seven feet long. I know the grade is two and a half feet high. The ramp that should be thirty feet long here is only seven feet long. So, are you aware that a waiver was given for this ramp?" He indicated and it was his understanding that he could not recall that this had ever been submitted to the State Historic Preservation Officer for review. And I don't believe it was. I'm trying to check that right now. But at a minimum, even with a waiver, it would not meet the code. Bruce and I went down there. I brought my measuring tape and showed him this couldn't physically have met the code. When I talked to several of our guides, one of them in fact confirmed, "Yes, I do remember a ramp, but so many people tripped on it and fell, it was removed later."

DR. GITTELMAN:

I remember the same ramps. Of course, I was here. They were too steep. If you were negotiating them, and you weren't on a wheelchair, they were a hazard because they were steep. On a wheelchair, they would obviously be too steep because you would accelerate. I don't know if you remember the one when you go right into the entrance into the mansion, there was a ramp there. It was more difficult to walk down the ramp than it was to walk down the steps.

MR. MALLAMO:

So what we have done is we have explained to people who have requested what is our position is on this matter, and we have told what we have done to become compliant. We have added new walkways. We have instituted a tram system, which we didn't have several years ago. In fact, the County Department of Public Works sent me a study that was done by Cashin Associates in 1995 on the Vanderbilt Museum, ADA compliance. We did not have a copy of that study. I was very appreciative to receive it.

Interestingly, to cover every building owned by Suffolk County government, there were three volumes prepared. Volume one was the County Center Buildings. Volume two was the Vanderbilt Museum. Volume three was all other County facilities. What that did on Earth was that the problems here between the architectural barriers within the historic house, the simple typography of the estate, the steep hillsides, the slopes, that this property deserved its own volume. That's how serious they were. The study did confirm that some of the issues here were just going to be insurmountable, and that we would have to come with remediation. It did recommend that we secure golf carts, electric golf carts, to transport people on the grounds, which we have done. We have already done that, and we have that in place.

We have also added a complete video tour of all areas of the estate that are not now accessible. We have opened that up to anyone with a ground's pass. That is now on public view in the Lancaster Room at all times open to the public. That will be available. The Marine Museum and the Stoll Wing are included within that. A separate Capital Project from ADA compliance, our walkway project, and this was an ongoing thing, we have also determined in phase two we will be putting ramp walkways up to the Marine Museum. We're now looking at the possibility of possibly installing an elevator at the Marine Museum to access the second floor. That's going to be another major, major project.

Bruce and the County Attorney, I think, when they came to inspect that day, they agreed that we have done everything we could possibly do to make the estate compliant. Bruce saw the video. He accessed the room. He went on a complete tour of our facilities, and he's in a wheelchair himself. I think the only recommendation he made to us was to add a mirror in the Moroccan Court where people can see that end of the room. Within thirty seconds, we had a mirror adjacent. We put that mirror in, and that mirror is there to this day.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Despite the almost boastful statements of the Heckscher Museum and of the Walt Whitman House, the Walt Whitman House's new exhibit is one floor at ground level. The Heckscher Museum is one floor at grade level. It doesn't require anything extra other than you saw the ramp. But the first museum I called to find out if they were handicapped accessible was Mount Vernon. You cannot access Mount Vernon in a wheelchair. They will give you a wheelchair to negotiate the grounds, but you cannot go to the second floor. They apologize; you can't do it.

To some extent I think that for the rest of the history of this Museum, we will be forced to apologize for some of the things that we can't either. Donna?

MS. PERICONI:

But that is not unusual. It is a similar situation in - I'm a friend of Historic Deerfield, and I'm a friend of Colonial Williamsburg. There are some parts of these historic structures that cannot be accessed by wheelchair. It's as simple as that. It cannot be done.

I would like to mention this because I think we have an extraordinary staff at the Museum, a very kind benevolent staff. To have this unfortunate thing happen -- and it was wrong. He deserved more than a reprimand, as far as I'm concerned, because I am sensitive to people's tragedies, but we still have to behave properly. He was misinformed. He cost us an inordinate amount of damage. When I think of how this staff works with people and the letters we receive about this staff and the kindness of the people who work here, it was more than disturbing.

I thought Newsday brutalized us. I wrote a letter to Newsday. I cannot believe that this was front cover material. I'm curious as to Todd Shapiro's reaction to that front-page story, Leslie. How did he feel?

MS. TANNEN:

His reaction was horror. It was totally unanticipated, but I do think that Lance with Todd did a very effective and immediate job of controlling the situation. If you didn't hear anything further after two days, I think that speaks for itself because this kind of event could go on a much greater length of time at much higher volume. The fact that it died down within forty-eight hours I think speaks very well to Lance's effective as a spokesperson, as well as Todd's assistance in damage control.

MS. PERICONI:

And I also feel I have so many friends - obviously, I'm from a different community. I'm on the south shore. I have so many friends who also felt that was a brutal headline, a brutal cover page. They felt the Museum didn't deserve it. These are people who are not supporters necessarily of the Museum, but to pick on this one incident, it was very upsetting.

I would like to mention something that I dreaded, and it turned out to be a very positive experience. I came one day to the Museum prior to the Gershwin event to make phone calls to various companies and different supporters of the Museum. I literally dreaded having to make the calls. It was a few days after this article appeared in the front of Newsday. In fact, the first call I made was someone I know personally. I was about to say something, and he said he would be delighted to support the Museum. Every call I made was a positive response. So obviously what I dreaded didn't turn out to be a reality. I think we were very fortunate that the incident went as it did. Most people felt it was an overreaction.

MR. MALLAMO:

I have to tell you, we have hundreds, if not thousands of persons with disabilities come through here every year. In fact, when I discussed this with our educators and curators, all of whom are sitting here, the length we go to accommodate persons with disabilities -- they even told me we had an individual last year that required her catheter to be changed midday in a program. She needed a private space to lie down and do that. I don't know of any other museum on Long Island that can handle something like that. Our staff accommodated that.

Unfortunately, it's just one incident. After the incident happened, I have to say our attendance spiked because everybody was coming to the Museum. Now they read about the butterflies, the mummy, they all wanted to see the place. We had many, many people come in wheelchairs and experience it. We really haven't had any complaints. I think the facts speak for themselves. I'm sure we would have heard something if we weren't compliant.

MR. LUECKE:

I just wanted to mention that because the incident was on the front page, many of my Long Island corporate clients decided to include it in part of the discussion of the morning. Without soliciting it, they said that Lance did a superb job apologizing, explaining the Museum's policy, and that he was an excellent spokesman. I didn't ask them for that. They said that. That's appreciated, and I wanted to let you know that.

MR. MALLAMO:

Thank you.

DR. GITTELMAN:

You should know that I did not agree with the way Lance handled this, and I was totally wrong. Lance and I had a big discussion afterwards. I was upset with the way it had been handled. I think Todd and Lance had better judgment than I did. It was a good thing he was handling it and not me.

MR. MALLAMO:

Well, I think if you had an opportunity to look at all the facts, which, you, Steve, really didn't have because you were at home -

DR. GITTELMAN:

Well, I wasn't at home, and I didn't have my cell phone with me. I finally got the call that the press conference was in five minutes, and I was 45 minutes away. I was upset that there was a press conference that I couldn't go to. That's why you

don't see me in any of this because certainly I would have stood up for the institution. I was horrified by what happened and horrified that I wasn't there to do my job. That's the way it goes sometimes.

MS. PERICONI:

Well, we do have some good press to show.

MS. TANNEN:

I don't know how much longer you want to - we have a wonderful tape of the chef from the Whitsons preparing fabulous food for the Gershwin gala, and we also have Mark discussing asteroids. I don't know if you want to -

DR. GITTELMAN:

Well, I don't know. What your pleasure?

MR. MALLAMO:

I think we can move on.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I think we can move on. Good news is good news.

MS. PERICONI:

I would like to commend Todd Shapiro's group for their excellent coverage of the Gershwin gala. We had a nice piece in Newsday on last Friday and the week before we had a nice piece in the Long Island Business News. We are most appreciative.

MS. TANNEN:

Thank you. That's very kind.

MS. PERICONI:

Good work.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay. Thank you very much. Education and Exhibits, Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Thank you, Steve. Somewhere there are hand-outs. There is information being passed around for everyone to look at, and I will begin.

During the past month or so, Betsy has been very involved with the training and supervision of Planetarium personnel. We have at the Vanderbilt additional staff for the dinosaur exhibit for both weekdays and weekends. There is no net increase to full time equivalencies, but we do have additional people, as well as people to sell tickets at the mansion so that they don't have to come over to the Planetarium if they wish to buy a ticket to the mansion. She has also been involved with the set-up and execution of the Gershwin event.

One of the people that has been newly hired, again, we will not mention any names, unsolicited from the public, they have been receiving a lot of good comments about him. He did a wonderful job of taking some kids through the new dinosaur exhibit.

Attendance is not what we had been hoped for. We are hoping with the cooler temperatures, people will want to come to that outdoor exhibit.

The African Adventure Camp is going to start its last week coming up. To date it has taken in \$8,812.50.

This should be particular interest to you, Donna. On July 17th, a member of our staff, Sybil, went down to the Bay Shore, Brightwaters Library and participated in a library outreach program on your summer theme at your public library on the seashore. It was very, very well done. The program is with Bert right now so you will see it in a minute.

Our school brochure for September is at the printer and will be out next week. It includes three new programs; one is for pre-K through two, Discovering Dinosaurs. There is a new one for grades three through five, Dinosaur Dimensions, and a new one geared for a whole new area for us, high school arts students called Scientific Illustrations. For the first time, we will be sending our school brochure to high school art chairs highlighting this particular course for their serious art students' consideration.

In July, our day campers were 2,665 campers who took in \$9,314. The Planetarium campers were 3,680 and took in \$5,603. The dinosaurs, because the exhibit opened later, the camps could not prepare for them. They were offered a special deal for an additional dollar. They could then view the dinosaur exhibit; 714 campers took advantage of that for \$714 additional dollars.

Based on our July numbers, we are closely monitoring the attendance versus the revenue in the Planetarium now that we have shortened the program and reduced the price to see if it is adversely affecting our revenues and attendance numbers.

The dinosaur exhibit has been up and running since July 1, and as I said before, the heat appears to be affecting the attendance numbers. We hope with the cooler weather that will be reversing.

Due to the construction work that's been ongoing in the mansion, the butterflies and other natural history exhibits are being reviewed and detail condition reports are being prepared. The ethnographic collection reports are all being updated.

We are doing something totally new with the Town of Huntington Adult Education. We are doing a series of eight classes with them, which I will discuss later on in the report. Stephanie specifically has been working on a class on behind the scenes with the mummy, how it was acquired and how it was transported over from Cairo. She's been doing the research on that.

We also have a quarter page advertorial -- I have never heard of such a word, but there is it -- on the dinosaurs, which she wrote and is in the August/September issue of the "Long Island Parent and Child." This is a magazine that is generally seen in pediatrician offices, doctor offices, pediatric dentists, things like that, which is the audience that we want to go after for our dinosaur exhibit. It discusses what the dinosaur exhibit is, where we are, and information regarding it.

There is a meteor shower on August 12. Mark has been involved in updating our educational programs, getting them ready for September, including new photographs. The new Hubble images Howard downloaded and are being incorporated into these educational and public shows. He is also revising the high

school show, "Journey to the Solar System," including the new planetary pictures and the new probe information at the International Planetary Society meeting last week, which he attended. He went to some NASA workshops where he acquired some free videos on solar eclipses, which will be incorporated into our public shows, a CD Rom on the Cassini mission, which is to Saturn, again, to be incorporated into our public and educational programs, and a NASA sponsored planetarium show in total on the northern lights. This free planetarium show will be used as a public show.

Two years ago, as you may recall, Mark participated at the IPS in a contest. He ended up as one of the final twelve and received a small prize for it. This year he also participated in the constellation shoot out. He came in third overall. He got the highest score of everyone who attended the IPS in the written exam. He got 48 correct out of 50, which is quite outstanding. I saw the test. It's being passed around to all of you. I couldn't do half as well as he did. Because he was in the top twelve scores, he got to participate in the oral portion of which he came in third. So he was third overall in this very, very prodigious competition at the Planetarium Society meeting, which I was very impressed by. I hope you all were to.

At the Rose Center, which we all remember as the Hayden Planetarium, the Rose Center is working with NASA and has developed a 3-D atlas of the universe, as it is known now. It is all plodded in 3-D and is available as a free download, which we have done. At the present time, Mark is incorporating this 3-D atlas of the universe as known into our shows.

If anyone would like to see the Vanderbilt Cup, which usually is in Detroit and not available to us, it is currently on loan to the Museum locally in Stony Brook located in Stony Brook on 25A. If you would like to take a ride out there, that is where it is now.

The next LIMA meeting, which we all have information on in the hand-out, will be September 9 at the Children's Museum of Long Island in Garden City.

The book on Consuela Vanderbilt is in the works. The author has made her visit out here and was very impressed by our archives. She was only supposed to spend a couple of hours and ended up spending well over a day.

We have provided information and copies of photographs to the archives at the Newport Preservation Society to be used in the bedroom that Mr. Vanderbilt stayed in while he was at the Marble House between 1899 and 1910. We have provided specifications and history on columns of this estate for a professor in Canada for some material that he needed for research. She has completed and updated inventory of all albums in the archival collection by location and subject for research so they'll be more easily able to find things. In completing that process, she has completed a booklet to make it easier for them to complete this research.

In 2004, as you may know, we would like to put on the 1906 Broadway musical the "Vanderbilt Cup." To that end, Florence has received information on the copyright to allow the Museum to stage the production. A copy of the script has been located by the Billy Rose Theater collection of the New York Public Library. The sheet music has been located at the Lincoln Center Library. She should be receiving all this material within the next two weeks. At that time, she'll be able to figure out the cost of

putting on the production and begin looking for funding. The exact date of the first cup race was October 8, 1904.

Donations, we've received catalogs and books from the late 1930's, and they are included in exhibit areas in the mansion. We have on loan black and white photographs of guides from the 1939's World's Fair Telephone Company pavilion. They have started working on the UV filters in Mr. Vanderbilt's bedroom.

At the next Board Meeting in September, we will be requesting accession of two suits of Japanese armor and two spears. The information with photographs is being passed around. I guess it's at Donna at this point. This is all very exciting because this material has never been accessioned before. We do know that it has been here since the 1930's. We have photographs to show. It's all in the Marine Museum. In fact, in the corner of the picture, I don't know if any of you noticed, but you can see the corner of the mummy in the photograph.

Getting to the Town of Huntington Parks and Recreation Department in cooperation with the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum. We have formed a partnership to create a series of eight evening courses, which would be located at the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum. This brochure will be going out to 72,000 households in the Town of Huntington. We will be receiving two and a half pages of course listings with a promotion strip on the top of each page. I believe the blurb reads, "The following programs are offered by the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum, a non-profit organization, and are provided as the result of a cooperative agreement with the Town of Huntington Department of Parks and Recreation. The Vanderbilt Museum mansion, planetarium, and grounds are available for weddings, meetings and other occasions. For information, call -" and it gives the name, site manager, and her phone number. That will be repeated on each page. We could not afford to pay for that amount of advertising to the 72,000 households in the Town of Huntington. We are also putting in a small paid-for advertisement within the Town of Huntington Parks brochure, which should be out I believe next week.

MR. STUDENROTH:
End of August.

MS. FUHRMANN:
In two weeks. Florence will be teaching the first and the last of these eight classes. The first class is an introduction to our collection, some of the other classes covered will be depression glass, ship models, antique clocks, rugs, draperies, historic photographs, etc.

As I said, we passed it around. We have experts in all subjects coming in to give the lectures. For the very first time, the lectures will not be given at either the Harborfields School District or the Huntington School District but will actually be given here at the Museum. It's a very exciting opportunity for us here at the Museum. That, I believe, ends Education and Exhibits, unless anyone has any questions.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Questions or comments? Thank you very much for that report. Development Committee, Carl.

MR. LUECKE:

Sure, the Development Committee met weekly in July because of the Gershwin musical benefit, which was this past Friday. Since it's only been a week, we don't have the figures completely analyzed. We intend to analyze them and take a real close look at them at the next Development Meeting and the next Board Meeting. Basically, the results appear to be very positive. For example, the revenue generated was more than 50 percent greater this year than last year. For example, the profit generated was 70 percent higher this year than last year. In spite of that, there is a lot of room for improvement in a lot of areas. Using that same venue, I think that a lot of success around Huntington has been people who have kept the same venue, i.e., the wine in the courtyard given by someone else, and the boat trip around Manhattan, they're sold out every year. I think at some point, we can have this event sold out.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Not if it rains like that every time.

MR. LUECKE:

Well, there were some not positive things about it. Also I want to thank Donna. The whole concept was her idea two years ago. She did an excellent job, and unfortunately, we did have weather that made it a little more interesting. If we remember one ten years from now, it will probably be the one that we will remember.

I also want to mention that Michael Broxmeyer raised \$8,000. Now, a lot of people - I have seen a lot of people raise money, perhaps \$8,000. But this was raised almost one ticket at a time or two tickets at a time. This was not \$5,000 from this person or \$3,000 from this person. This was \$250 per couple tickets. I think that that's amazing. The Museum, I'm sure, appreciates it. He worked very diligently. He worked very hard.

MS. PERICONI:

As did you, Carl.

MR. LUECKE:

I didn't have the numbers he had; that's for sure. What we would very much like to do is the next time we meet, and we'd like to meet before the next meeting while everything is fresh in people's minds, is try to determine how we can make it better, how we could make more money, and how we could prepare for certain emergencies that will probably never happen again, but we should be prepared for. Did you have something you wanted to talk about, Zach?

MR. STUDENROTH:

About the Gershwin event, I just wanted to thank everyone on the Board. It's a full effort. We really got behind it again this year. I think the numbers, which we'll analyze at the next meeting - everybody was there, fully supporting it, doing their utmost to bring guests, friends, and business associates. It shows in the final results. It was a great reflection of that. So I'm personally very much appreciative of that level of support.

The other thing I wanted to mention, this is a copy of the Town brochure that Marjorie is mentioning. This is a real development coup for us because we are now

positioning ourselves, vis-a-vis all the households in the Town of Huntington, as a provider of not only evening leisure programming for adults and seniors, etc, but this comes out three times a year. This happens to be this past summer's booklet. The next summer booklet can advertise expanded programs that we can have the time between now and then to develop for children's programming. So it gives us a phenomenal opportunity to market these programs throughout the Town at no charge to us.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Do other towns have similar publications?

MR. STUDENROTH:

From what I understand, speaking with Bob Pendell who works in the Parks Department, to his knowledge the Town of Huntington is the only municipality on Long Island which has a contract with two local school systems for the purpose of providing the evening leisure programming which all schools do provide. Every school system has a program for providing evening lectures and courses, etc. But in the Town of Huntington, Ellwood and Harborfields have contracted with the Town itself to provide that programming and to do the children programming. Of course, when it's listed in a town booklet like this, everyone throughout the Town is eligible to take it. Whether they're in that school system or not is immaterial. But this is an unusual opportunity in which the Town itself is sponsoring a 90-page booklet, and we're going to get two or three pages.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Have we contacted the other towns?

MR. MALLAMO:

I can answer that because this was kind of a test case for us. Several years ago, we had initiated where we joined arts councils throughout western Suffolk, I think out to Brookhaven for advertising, etc, Babylon, Islip, Smithtown. Now that we have seen how successful this has been, we will be initiating contacts with other towns in western Suffolk County to see if we can get any brochures as well to expand our offer.

MR. STUDENROTH:

The way we're approaching this is we're using all internal staffing. The guest experts that we're talking about are people that we have befriended who are willing to come and spend an evening pro bono. The professional staff will be teaching each of these courses, so we're not incurring extra expenses to bring to deliver these programs. We're all just sort of pitching in and doing this, and we'll see how it goes. We'll do it again in the spring, and we'll have a chance to reevaluate. If we want to expand to other markets such as Smithtown or to the east, etc., the program will just have to get larger because we'll be drawing a much larger audience. This is news because it was just passed last night at the Town Board meeting to affect this.

MR. MALLAMO:

In the past we have also done educational programs on an outreach basis where school districts can't send the kids here, so we'll go to them. I can see us doing that in this case too, if this is successful.

MS. PERICONI:

Before we conclude, Carl, are you finished?

MR. LUECKE:
Yes.

MS. PERICONI:
I also wanted to commend Michael Broxmeyer. He is an asset to the Board, and he certainly did a superb job. I have never seen anyone take a chore so seriously and do it so well. Now he knows who Ira and George Gershwin are, so we're very happy about that too. I say that with great affection.

I'd also like to mention when the going gets tough, the tough get going. It was clearly illustrated Friday with the monsoon upon the Museum, literally a monsoon, how fortunate we are to have the staff and especially Lance Mallamo because when someone is in top position and rolls up his sleeves and starts clearing out the floods, the water, the broken centerpieces, and the chairs, you are indeed fortunate to have such an outstanding Executive Director leading the Museum.

MR. MALLAMO:
I just want to thank everyone on the staff who worked so hard to make that event so successful. I mean, so many people worked for days. A quarter to seven they had everything perfect and then at ten to seven to have it all blow away, I think that's what you're going to call the hundred-year party. It couldn't happen again like that for a hundred years. As testament, nobody went home, everybody stayed the full time, and the comments that I got back were that everyone had a ball.

MS. PERICONI:
Outstanding, and over three hundred tickets were sold to that event, and everyone seemed to have a wonderful time. We have always talked about - I remember discussing this with Alison when she was Director, getting umbrellas for the Museum. We certainly need them now.

DR. GITTELMAN:
A few days late.

MS. PERICONI:
And Steve brought up something very interesting, which we will address at the Development Committee, the possibility of perhaps purchasing an umbrella and sending it to the generous good folks who stayed the entire time and were good sports. As a result of Steven's questions, I already priced umbrellas with the Vanderbilt logo, fifty-six inch arc black fiberglass. If we're willing to talk about it, we'll have the mailing done, it just might be a nice thing to do to say -

MR. LUECKE:
We'll blow our profit.

MS. PERICONI:
No, we won't blow our profit. We'll talk about it.

MS. FUHRMANN:
How do you know who stayed until the end?

DR. GITTELMAN:
That's not the question. It's the people who contributed at certain thresholds.

MS. FUHRMANN:
Oh, I see.

MS. PERICONI:
Steve came up with the idea. I just did some research on it.

DR. GITTELMAN:
I thought we were going to do them next year when we were soliciting -

MR. LUECKE:
There you go, make it part of next year's budget.

MS. FUHRMANN:
Could I just state my thanks for everyone who helped when my friend needed help with the ambulance and everything. He was fine after a couple of days.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Okay. Anything else?

MR. LUECKE:
No, that's it.

DR. GITTELMAN:
There was one issue raised to me by Michael and by Carl. It's an issue that I would like the Development Committee to take up, and that is what is our expectations of Trustees in terms of fundraising. If you recall, you both called me in and said, "What do we do? How do we handle that?"

MS. FUHRMANN:
We've discussed this before.

DR. GITTELMAN:
I know we've discussed this before, and we can discuss it again.

MS. FUHRMANN:
Okay, I'll be quiet.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Since it was brought up as a request by Michael, I'm bringing it up here. I think a good forum is the Development Committee. Let us know when you're going to meet. Let us know how you want to frame the discussion. If you can't get it done in the Development Committee, we'll discuss it here at the Board on the record.

MR. LUECKE:
Okay.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Finance Committee, Tony Pecorale is absent.

MS. FUHRMANN:
That's me.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:
Okay, everyone should have received the Treasurer's Report for the actuals through June. You will notice that we are on budget toward the year-end projections. Site use has been very good. We have a nice number for that. June is traditionally a very slow month. If there are no other questions, that will be the Finance Report.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Any questions? Thank you. Personnel Committee, Gary Fischhoff is absent.

MR. MALLAMO:
There was no meeting this month.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Membership, Doug Shaw is absent. Ed, Dinosaur Committee.

MR. HAHN:
I don't have a report tonight. I will be contacting the Committee Members about meeting in the very near future to discuss where we stand in relation to the NYIT situation, the exhibit over there, where we go in the future in relation to that, and also the exhibit as a whole so we can have a better handle on it. I will have a report for the next meeting.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Buildings and Grounds, Bert or Bill.

MR. SEIDES:
Bill Macchione and myself have met with Bill Dieck. We stay in touch frequently. I would like to report on the following Capital Projects: First, the seawall restoration, we are making good progress down there. The old wall has been cleaned off of the old growth and debris has been power washed, examination of points of failure, cracks for restoration and the restoration of these points has begun.

Also, additional material has begun to be brought on to our site for the development of the new wall, which will extend south of this seaplane hangar, which is down by the water's edge.

The plumbing project has brought forward the removal of the old furnaces from the mansion and considerable asbestos abatement.

Key Span Energy is now right across the street and should be on the property either this week or certainly the beginning of next week. Gas lines will be run to all the buildings on this campus and to Normandy Manor.

The irrigation project is scheduled to start sometime in early fall, which will provide sprinkler heads for all the public green spaces so that we can maintain a beautiful appearance during summer seasons.

The Department of Labor has supplied us, once again, with some help to repaint the cottage. The cottage is the building at the south end of the south parking lot.

I would like to say that we are now the owners of the Normandy Manor, and everyone on the Board is very pleased with this acquisition. We look forward to using this beautiful Normandy Manor for enhancing our exceptional educational Museum. We have begun to use it in a very subtle manner; the 1928 Lincoln is currently being stored in the garage over there. That's the end of my report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Since you bring up Normandy Manor, I was wondering, Bert and Bill, with the addition of Susan LeBow who made the request, would you quickly put together a committee, of course working with Lance and staff, to hone out exactly how we will be managing it, what improvements it needs now that we - we only acquired it Wednesday. Let's get going. Let's turn it into a revenue source as soon as possible. Let's have a short-term plan for use and a long-term plan for use. But I would ask you if you would be available. If you're not available, let me know, to accelerate because we've got to get going on it.

MR. SEIDES:

I know for myself, I will certainly be available. I'm looking forward to the challenge, and Donna has offered to join our team. I know Bill and I have spoken already.

DR. GITTELMAN:

If you would jump right on it -

MR. SEIDES:

We look forward to it.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I think there are a lot of people who made it happen. I think it's something that we're very fortunate to have had happen. It's been the dream of this Board since I have been on it. What has it been, Carl, thirteen years or something like that? I know it preceded me in terms of a dream. It's in excellent condition. I was there today. We were there earlier in the week. I think when you go through it, and I don't know if you have recently, the interior is gorgeous. The exterior is in reasonably good shape. The remnants, the formal garden, well, the green stuff needs a little work, but it's got great open space, a lot of potential, good out buildings. There is not a lot more that we could ask for, and it's a jewel. There is no question about it. It's the missing jewel.

Gary Fischhoff, I think, was a driving force in working with the seller keeping us informed as to where the seller's mind was to help us with the negotiations. We owe endless thanks to the Legislature because without them, we could never have purchased the site. All around it's a triumph. Now let's prove that it was the right decision. I'm looking forward to that. Lance, your report.

MR. MALLAMO:

I'd just like to note that we received a proclamation unsolicited from the Town of Huntington. I think our relationship with the town continues to grow year by year. They made a financial commitment to the Museum last year by funding or arranging to have funding for the Cornell Marine Science Research Program here at the Museum through a project that they were doing with a cross Atlantic cable that came into the Town of Huntington. The revenues from the cable go to the Cornell Program

for marine science research at the Vanderbilt Museum. If I could just read this, it's not too long, it says:

"Whereas the Vanderbilt Museum has long been a staple of pride and tradition in the Town of Huntington and serves as a model for our nation's greatest educational tools and education.

"Whereas the Town of Huntington is proud to boast that the Vanderbilt Museum sponsors Long Island's largest education program now providing services to an amazing 70,000 Long Island school children annually.

"Whereas the development of its new and exciting interpretation programs, including the unusual Living History Program greatly adds to the Museum's immense commitment to education.

"Whereas the Vanderbilt Museum has fostered a lasting partnership with the people of the Town of Huntington and Suffolk County, and for that we consider it a treasure here in the Town of Huntington.

"Now, therefore, we the Town Board of the Town of Huntington, New York, on behalf of our fellow residents do hereby present a special proclamation to the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum to recognize and applaud the staff and volunteers who have made such a difference to the Museum's vast education programs and commitment to our great Town and County.

"In witness whereof we have set our hands and caused the seal of the Town of Huntington to be offered the 2nd day of August, 2002." We will make this a cherished part of the Museum's archives.

I'd also like to inform the Board that we now have a new web site. This was a project that Michael Broxmeyer has graciously arranged with an organization called Web Tech, Incorporated. Under Zach's tutelage and prodding staff to cooperate and produce - Zach, I have to tell you, I went home the other night and was on it for hours. It is truly amazing. Our web site has literally links to go to any Vanderbilt property in the country and any member of the Vanderbilt family. It was just amazing the amount of links. We have a whole ADA statement right on the front page. It says what our policy is. It is absolutely phenomenal. I think at the next meeting we're going to give a presentation.

MR. STUDENROTH:

We'll try to give a live demonstration.

MR. MALLAMO:

I'm telling you right now you don't have enough time. When I got on, by the time I looked at the clock, it was three hours later, and I don't think I was on more than four pages at that point because of the many, many links that this site has. It's extremely well done, beautiful, and informative. It's just thrilling, particularly thrilling to have it right now as we enter the final stretch of our reaccreditation self study. We have received notification from the American Association of Museums that they will now be viewing any museum's web site for reaccreditation and to have this done beforehand. As you know, we've been preparing that self-study for two years. We're coming down the home stretch. It's due in November, so I'm working on the

final draft right now. So for the next couple of months, don't expect too much. That's what I'm going to be focusing on, finishing that up.

I thank everyone for their input and support in making the Museum as strong as it is. I think we're entering this at a very stable format right now. Let's hope we keep it that way.

MS. FUHRMANN:
What's the name of the site.

MR. MALLAMO:
It's Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum. You can go under www.vanderbiltmuseum.org. If you go through Vanderbilt Planetarium it also directs you to that site, and we have a wonderful link - a wonderful page for the Planetarium that explains all our web programs, has links to NASA and the Long Island Astronomy Organization that has meetings here. It's just really a phenomenal undertaking. I know you were a pain in the neck, Zach, hounding me for many, many things for that, but it was certainly well worth it. I had no idea it was going to come out so well. I think you will all be thrilled. That's my report. Yes?

MS. PERICONI:
Have you selected a date for an opening ceremony at Normandy Manor yet?

MR. MALLAMO:
No, we haven't. I thought we would do something in September.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Let us get it swept up, first.

MR. MALLAMO:
We will be having a press conference to announce it beforehand. I'm not exactly sure when that's going to be. That's just being confirmed right now, but we'll let you know when that will be, the same with the dinosaur exhibit. We're going to be doing a press conference on that as well in the next few weeks.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Okay, any other questions for Lance? It's up to me. Well, we took our knocks. We had our thunderstorm. We had our publicity storm. We fulfilled our dream, got Normandy Manor. We're fiscally stable. We're moving toward accreditation. I think we should all take a deep breath and have the next meeting in Normandy Manor. I volunteer the wine. I think it's time for a toast. It's just sometimes you have to roll with the punches. I'm truthfully sorry about your friend getting ill, as I am sorry about the young lady having a bad visit. We try our best to have the best visits we can for everybody who comes here.

I was very proud of the way that fundraiser ended up because, boy it was a toughie. Sometimes this place is difficult. You can't make some of these stories up. When I walked up and saw those umbrellas rolling across the courtyard, it was like, oh boy. When I read that newspaper on that morning, oh boy. But when I walk through Normandy Manor earlier this week and saw what we have in the way of potential, I said, oh boy. So we have a lot to do. Let's take a deep breath and go forward. I thank staff for all they did to make the event happen. I thank staff and everybody who helped make Normandy Manor happen. I thank the Lord for giving us the credit

of ending the drought on Friday and bringing in a change of the weather and not only that but the stock market began to go up. So, look, you have to look at the positive side. A little bit of rain, but we made it through it.

Okay, do we have any unfinished business? There is no unfinished business. Any new business? Has there been a request for an executive session? If not, may I have a motion to adjourn?

MS. FUHRMANN:
Motion.

MR. LUECKE:
Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:
All in favor? Opposed? We are adjourned. (Vote: 9/0/0/5 Absent: Mr. Fischhoff, Mr. Broxmeyer, Dr. Pecorale, Ms. LeBow & Mr. Shaw.)

(Dr. Gittelman adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m.)
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