

## CELEBRATING 12 YEARS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

We have accomplished a great deal in 12 years of work. We could not have done it without you, our volunteers, supporters, and donors. It is your hard work, money, resources, and ingenuity that have afforded us the opportunity to help preserve Eleanor Roosevelt's legacy through preserving her Val-Kill home. We want to thank you all for your support.

Together we have:

- Raised over \$1 million dollars
- Produced an introductory film, "Close to Home" about Eleanor's life and achievements which can be viewed at Val-Kill or purchased as a DVD
- Established new exhibit space at Val-Kill
- Helped the Park Service "retrieve" artifacts that were dispersed but belong in the cottage
- Funded a summer NPS intern at Val-Kill (each year)
- Awarded Following in Her Footsteps Awards to:
  - Hillary Clinton, First Lady, Senator, Secretary of State
  - Cathy Douglas Stone, lawyer, environmentalist, political activist
  - Geraldine Ferraro, Congresswoman and vice presidential candidate
  - Judith Hope, Founder of the Eleanor Roosevelt Legacy in NY
  - Ernestine Schlant Bradley, teacher, author and advocate for breast cancer awareness



With your continued support we plan on extending the work we have done at Val-Kill and work on some new projects (as described in the Chair's letter).

Our organization has also been fortunate to have such a strong National Council and hard working Executive Committee. The organization has been an all-volunteer non-profit led by Founding Chair Claudine Bacher and Chair Carol Hillman. All of our efforts have made it possible for us now to hire an Executive Director not only to continue our work but also to take it to another level. It is our hope that with staff we will be able to ensure that Eleanor's home and legacy are preserved and invigorated for and by future generations.



Eleanor with college students (left), Marian Anderson (above) and John F. Kennedy (right).





FROM  
**CAROL HILLMAN**  
CHAIR

Carol Hillman and Hildie

Dear Friends of Val-Kill:

It's been a long winter, and spring has finally arrived in the Northeast. Our new Executive Director, Tommie Watson, and I were in Val-Kill on April 29 for a partners meeting and delighted in the tulips and other flowers blooming in Eleanor Roosevelt's cutting garden. We revisited the Cottage and came home with renewed commitment to preserve ER's legacy by restoring and preserving her home.

To that end I want to ask all of you a very special favor. We have not planned a major event either in New York or Boston for 2010 because we are focusing on planning and strengthening *Honoring ER's* organization for the future. But Val-Kill still needs your help. We have so much to do to preserve and extend ER's legacy. Some of the priority projects to be funded: the Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Garden; Stone Cottage Exhibits; ER's sleeping porch; acquiring Val-Kill Industries' furniture; rehabilitating the historic pool where ER entertained world leaders and ordinary folks.



So, I'm asking you, who have been such stalwart supporters, to make an annual contribution this year in the amount you have generously given us for our annual event in previous years. If you are not sure what that has been, just email me at [chillman96@verizon.net](mailto:chillman96@verizon.net) or call me at 617.566.0807, and I can apprise you of the number. We would be so grateful if you could do this as there is much to be done at Val-Kill.

We are also beginning our planning for a major event for spring 2011-- An Evening with ER, which will be on film with live commentaries from well known experts. We've already met with Chobee Hoy, a director of the Coolidge Corner Theatre Foundation, and Denise Kasell, executive director of the Foundation, to start planning for this event, which we hope will be held both in Brookline, MA and New York City. We are very excited about the friends who have already signed on to help us, and we welcome your advice, counsel, and involvement in this exciting project.

Grateful thanks to each of you for your deep commitment and years of support and encouragement. We at *Honoring Eleanor Roosevelt* wish you a lovely summer and look forward to hearing from you.

Warmest regards,

*Carol*

*Honoring  
Eleanor Roosevelt*  
A Project to Preserve Her Val-Kill Home

Hillary Clinton, Founding Chair, *Save America's Treasures*

Claudine Bacher, Founding Chair, *Honoring ER*

Carol Hillman, Chair, *Honoring ER*

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**National Park Service**

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**Staff**

Tommie Watson, Executive Director

Judith Ross Morris, Editor & Designer,  
*The View from Val-Kill Cottage*

We welcome your comments. Please contact  
[twatson@honoringeleanorroosevelt.org](mailto:twatson@honoringeleanorroosevelt.org)

Visit our website:

[www.honoringeleanorroosevelt.org](http://www.honoringeleanorroosevelt.org)

# MY DAY

MAY 8, 1953



By Eleanor Roosevelt

*Currently there is a raging debate going on in our country. The debate centers around the issue of immigration. Because of Eleanor Roosevelt's life-long*

*commitment to human rights, we thought it timely to share her beliefs on this very important subject.*

NEW YORK—Yesterday we were discussing point by point, the things that the self-styled crusader, Gerald L.K. Smith, stands for. These are detailed on a postcard, which I have before me. Let us continue. Point No. 5 says we must "protect and earmark national resources for our citizenry first." That is what always has been done, and the people of this country would hardly accept anything else, though they are occasionally fooled into handing over to private interests what should remain national resources.

Point No. 6 reads: "Maintain the George Washington foreign policy—friendship with all nations, trade with all nations, entangling alliances with none." This was a good policy in Washington's day and is still good, though the change in world conditions makes certain changes in its application necessary. Entangling alliances were one thing in George Washington's day; they are another thing today.

Cooperation in a world that has become so much smaller is far more necessary than it was in

George Washington's day. The next point made in these principles of a crusade makes me suspicious of what Mr. Smith considers entangling alliances. He says: "Oppose a world government and a super state." I know of only a few people in this country who believe there should be a world government, and even they think it should be strictly limited. I know of no one who believes in a super state, and yet I think these two principles can have no other reference than to the United Nations. This is an organization of sovereign states but certainly few people have called it a super state, and only a few have said that it might become a basis for world government.

The eighth point in this so-called crusade is that everyone in this country would do better under our American system than under any alien system. Now, who wouldn't agree to that? We hardly need a crusade to put this idea across. The next point would stop all immigration into our country on the basis that there are only enough jobs for Americans

and only enough houses for Americans. We built this country on the labor of immigrants and on the humanitarian principles that the Statue of Liberty personifies. We said we were a haven for the oppressed of the world. We can no longer open our doors as we did in the early days because ours is now a highly developed nation, but we are still able to preserve some of our humanitarianism and to profit by the skills and the strength of a certain amount of immigration. It would be wrong, I think, to say that we should take no one into our country from now on.

The last point of this crusade says: "Enforce the Constitution as it pertains to our monetary system." I am frank to say I am not a financier, but I do think we could not ignore the Constitution as it pertains to any subject, so this seems to me a rather bewildering and misleading remark.

In other words, this postcard, under the cloak of a religious crusade, gets across ideas that I think are misleading, confusing, and not altogether truthful.



# Personal Reminiscence

By Mary Neal Wheelock Alsup Shelton

*I was in high school (I was born in 1923) and writing a biography of Eleanor Roosevelt, who was one of my idols. She came to Chattanooga, Tennessee, for a speech and I was fortunate enough to be able to interview her alone at the Memorial Auditorium.*

*We were in a room alone, and I sat next to Mrs. Roosevelt-feeling every bit like a very important person and one who is very fortunate. Mrs. Roosevelt and I talked for about 30 minutes. Besides remembering that she made me feel very important, she had the softest hands I have ever felt.*

*Unfortunately, I cannot remember what she told me, I only remember that she made me feel like I was the only person in the world that she was interested in.*

*If you or someone you know has an ER reminiscence to share, please send it (along with a photo) to [twatson@honoringeleanorroosevelt.org](mailto:twatson@honoringeleanorroosevelt.org). We will be happy to publish it in the newsletter.*

# TOMMIE WATSON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Tommie and Maya

*Honoring Eleanor Roosevelt* is pleased to announce the appointment of Tommie Watson as our new Executive Director. Tommie was born and raised in the historic fishing port of Gloucester, MA, just north of Boston. He is a cum laude graduate of Wheaton College in Norton, MA, where he received his B.A. degree in sociology with a double minor of political science and psychology. He is a founding member of the Roosevelt Institute Campus Network,

the nation's first student think tank that works to build the next generation of progressive leaders, thinkers and activists through policy projects and a summer academy. As the Executive Director of Empower San Diego, Tommie developed it from an all-volunteer group to a successful and multi-faceted organization with non-profit education and advocacy arms, and a political action committee (Progressive San Diego). Tommie will work with us to move *Honoring ER* to the next level of achievement.

All correspondence:

Tommie Watson  
Honoring Eleanor Roosevelt  
8 Jasper Street  
Beverly, MA 01915



**"I have spent many years of my life in opposition, and I rather like the role."**