

Jamestown's organizations work to maintain Battery Park

By Rudd Hall

Located just off Beavertail Road, south of Fort Getty is the Conanicut Battery National Historic Park. The Battery, as it is referred to, is a 22-acre plot of land with historical significance – to Jamestown, and the birth of our nation.

The Battery, which is free and open to the public, offers marked trails that lead into the main attraction of the park, the earthen fortifications. It was here during the Revolutionary War that colonists constructed this crescent-shaped earthworks fort, under the order of the Rhode Island General Assembly. The idea behind it was very similar to that of trench warfare used during both World Wars. The colonists could attack by cannon fire, but also be concealed because they were partially underground. During the four-year British occupation of Aquidneck Island, the earthworks dug by the colonists were destroyed and rebuilt to what visitors to the park see today. They can get a good idea of how it all worked by reading the detailed plaques located on the grounds of the original fortification.

After the war, the Battery was used as private farmland until 1916, when it again was used as a military fortification, this time as an under-

ground observation area, and remained as such through WWII. In 1963, the land was deeded to the town and in 1972 was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, and has been preserved by the



Jamestown Historical Society.

Due to the site's historical importance, other groups have played an active role in the maintenance of the park and this has become a joint responsibility of the JHS, the Friends of Conanicut Battery and the town who work together to provide services, such as landscaping. Historical Society President Rosemary Enright promises, "The Friends and the Historical Society have no intention of letting the park fall into neglect." Enright said, "You should, however, get used to higher grass on the earthworks themselves. Too much traffic and too little rooted vegetation have

taken their toll and caused some erosion." She explained further that "the answer is to seed with native grass and to let it grow rather than mow it, especially since mowing it in and of itself promotes the erosion."

Rather than simply walking the park and reading the plaques about the park's history, visitors can see history in action during the Battery Day Celebrations that have taken place in May 2002, in June 2004 and 2005. After the 2005 celebration, the Friends of the Conanicut Battery and the JHS and Program committees waited two years to present the next Battery Day, held in May 2007.

This event was much better attended due to the involvement of community groups, like the Cubs Scouts, Boy Scouts, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Jamestown Community Band. On these days, flags of The United States, Great Britain, and France are flown, Revolutionary War reenactments are played out, national anthems played, and cannons fired across the West Passage. The Historical Society and Friends of the Battery look forward to the next Battery Day Celebration, now slated for spring of 2009.



Where in the World is the Jamestown Press?

Kathryn Conway and friends took the Press on a boat trip in the south of France.

Street painting contest planned

Artists of all ages can show off their talents on Wednesday, Aug. 13, in a one-day sidewalk art extravaganza to be held on sidewalks around the Recreation Center.

The event will be from noon to 3:30 p.m.

The cost to enter the contest is \$5 per sidewalk square, and each team or individual will be provided with a set of pastel chalks to create a drawing within a 4- by 4-foot square. Space is limited and will be given out on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The categories for judging will be children 12 and under, teens from 13 to 17, and families. Family teams must consist of at least one child under 12 years and one adult over 18. Children and teens can work individually or in groups. The category of the team will be determined by the age of the eldest member. Participants must register by noon and have until 3 p.m. to complete their drawings. Several community members will judge the squares and cash prizes will be awarded to the best square in each category. The public will also be able to vote for the People's Choice award. Tokens will be on sale, 5 for a \$1, and the square with the most votes will receive a prize.

Registration forms must be completed for all teams or individuals of any age and are available at the Jamestown Teen Center. Artists may register on the day of the event, but space is limited so sign-up fast. Call Debbie or Melissa at 423-7261 or email jamestownteens@yahoo.com for more information.

Quinn named a vice president at Brown University

Brown President Ruth J. Simmons announced this week that Marisa Quinn, currently assistant to the president, has been named vice president for public affairs and university relations.

Quinn, from Jamestown, who is currently a member of the President's Cabinet and the Executive Committee, will begin her duties Aug. 1 succeeding Michael Chapman.

"It would be difficult to imagine anyone better suited by education, knowledge, temperament and direct experience to the role of vice president for public affairs and university relations," Simmons said in an e-mail message to the campus com-



Marisa Quinn

munity. "Marisa's knowledge of national and international politics, community issues, communications practices, government relations and the Brown community will enable

her to lead the PAUR office in building on their exceptional work."

Quinn graduated in 1986 with a degree in political science from the University of Rhode Island and earned her master's degree from the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University in 1991.

Before coming to Brown, she served as legislative aide to Sen. Claiborne Pell on the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Education, Arts, and the Humanities; policy advisor to New Jersey Governor Jim Florio; chief of communications and public information at the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; and public affairs specialist at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Quinn has been at Brown since 1999.

Auditions ahead for community theatre

The Jamestown Community Theatre will hold auditions for its November production of "Miracle on 34th Street," on Sunday, Aug. 17, and Monday, Aug. 18.

Adapted from the book of the same title, this play tells the story of an elderly gentleman, Mr. Kringle, who has been living in a retirement home, and is hired by Macy's department store to play Santa during the Christmas season.

The JCT production of "Miracle on 34th Street" has singing and non-singing roles of varying sizes. This production is a play with music. There will be a chorus who will sing some standards and various Christmas songs. In addition, solos and smaller group madrigals will be highlighted; therefore singers of all ability levels are encouraged to join in this endeavor. Several dances will be integrated into the production.

Rehearsals, which will be on Sunday afternoons and Monday and Wednesday evenings, will begin right after Labor Day with the performances the weekends of Nov. 14 and 21.

For more information, call Patty Vandal at 423-0090.

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