



The Friends of the Vermont State House

# PROCEEDINGS

Winter 2005

## Audiotour Up and Running

June 15th was the official inauguration date for our long-awaited Audiotour, so generously financed by the National Life Group. A gala party was held that afternoon for all the participants: narrators, technicians, National Life sponsors, Vermont Public Radio personnel, and trustees of the Friends. Although the weather was still in its early summer storm mode, it was a festive occasion indeed.

Summer use was limited to hours when our usual guided tours were not available, but visitors from now on will be invited to self-tour with our wands, which are available at the Sgt.-at-Arms office. The tour wand actually holds almost two hours of narrative, which we think will appeal to our diverse visitors. Any individual is allowed only to choose the topics that are of particular interest: any of the major public spaces; Vermont's government; specific objects and paintings; Vermont's Civil War history; the architecture; and restoration problems and decisions, among them. Each of 28 topics can be accessed independently. They are easily identified on an accompanying site map.

Each topic begins with a musical segment, most performed by Vermont musicians and several composed by Vermont composers. A separate sheet that provides

names and contact information is available for each selection. In almost all cases, the music was donated by this wealth of Vermont talent. In addition, the Friends are greatly indebted to Vermont Public Radio for obtaining permissions and for helping to identify suitable selections.

Yes! The Audiotour is available to use. There is no charge for use of the tour, but borrowers will be required to be signed in and out and to leave a current driver's license or travel document, or swipe a credit card for \$200 (half the replacement cost of a wand) until the wand is returned.

Come test it out! Bring your friends and don't hesitate to send us your comments!



*Narrator Chris Graff listening.*



*Celebrants of the inauguration of Audiotour looking with renewed interest.*

## School Tours

### Lively Program for Vermont School Kids

This fall, the School Tours program partnered with the Department of Education and the Vermont Historical Society to produce a poster and brochure advertising the programs available to teachers planning field trips to the Capitol Complex. The information was sent to all public and independent schools and public libraries in the state. Legislators will receive brochures when the session begins.

While visiting Montpelier, students are able to: tour the State House; participate in hands-on programs as they tour the Vermont Historical Society Museum; participate in a mock trial at the Supreme Court; and enrich their curriculum with relevant videos.

Feedback from teachers has been very positive, and our new detailed scheduling has made the field trip experience more convenient and enjoyable. The Secretary of State has contributed to this by donating a supply of miniature Vermont flags and educational workbooks to give to elementary and middle school classes.

We welcome potential new Guides in our tour program for children and young adults during the school year. Special training for this rewarding experience will be provided. Please call: Alice Merrill at 828-1411.

## Fall Trip



*Volunteer trip to Hancock Shaker village.*

# Main Mission Mostly Accomplished -- Directors Note

It's time for a change. As you faithful members and volunteers realize, the major restoration of our cherished Vermont State House has been accomplished. Furthermore, the volunteer program of Tour Guides and Gift Shop is really self-sustaining. It seems proper to reassess our goals and remaining responsibilities.

As the way we live our lives has changed, it is increasingly difficult to find volunteers with the time and skills to do all the work that needs to be done. Although the possibility of hiring a paid director has been raised, the salary would take almost all the funds raised annually through membership and the Gift Shop! We feel strongly that the money we ask you for should go toward the explicit purposes of the Friends.

These purposes will, effectively, be to raise money for State House restoration or very desirable purchases when special needs and opportunities arise. We will continue to function with a Curatorial Advisory Committee to work with David and with an ad hoc legislative Advisory Committee to encourage the legislative commitment to State House needs. In addition, we will probably change the labor-intensive maintenance of a membership to an annual appeal that will briefly describe activities of the past year and anticipated needs for the coming year. The few recurrent financial commitments will

be maintenance of our web page and the new audio tour, contracted book keeping and tax preparation, occasional special events, and the annual appeal for funds based on expected commitments.

In the immediate future we plan to publish an updated history of the State House (long out of print) and a small illustrated souvenir book. With luck, we hope these can be printed with our existing treasury and, if necessary, a little more help from you.

Our trustees are splendid, and their combined wisdom and generosity on committees has been invaluable -- and will continue to be so, we are certain. You, our members and volunteers, have made possible this wonderful State House and the understanding of our history that is appreciated by so many thousands of visitors every year. When support groups from other State Houses call or write to ask for our "secret," we invariably tell them that our accomplishments depend on "dedicated volunteers who have always served with enormous satisfaction and appreciation as their only pay." (It is interesting to discover that a Director who is paid upwards of \$35,000 a year usually asks this question.)

We should all be proud of the strong support that the State and Legislature has developed. Our own original curator David Schutz, long since hired as State Curator, now has such a full plate as



*Pre-original Director Arthur Williams launched the Cedar Creek restoration campaign with Larry Reilly.*

curator of all state buildings that he has a slot for an assistant. Our pilot program for a school tour coordinator took only one year to persuade the legislature to fund its increased efficiency through the Sgt.-at-Arms Office.

With your continued help and our reduced responsibilities, we will continue to work for the upkeep of and education about our precious State House. Please read the changed Bylaws approved by the trustees. We hope they will be voted positively at this year's Annual Meeting early in December. Approval will make our new and svelte organization possible. It will also keep our mission and activities alive!

Genie and Arthur

## *Elinor & Edward Janeway: There was magic wherever they walked* by Elsie Janeway Apthorp

This biography of a prominent Vermont couple is so readable that I recommend it highly. Written by their daughter, it is more than a family memoir interesting to their many friends. It is a fascinating history of an influential family during a period of great change within Vermont.

Although Ed Janeway died in 1986, shortly after the Friends of the Vermont State House was inaugurated, he always championed the preservation of the State House and was an ardent supporter of the Friends. Both Janeways shared a passion for the cultural life of the state, which began with efforts to save the old Pavillion Hotel (during Elinor's tenure as Chair of the Vermont Historical

Society). This interest went on to promote and support the Marlboro Music Festival, the Stratton Mountain Arts Festival, the Southern Vermont Arts Center in Manchester and included Senator Janeway's service on the board of the Vermont Arts Council. Working with them on several projects, I was able to appreciate their effectiveness!

Senator Ed Janeway was an important moderate figure in Republican politics. I was fortunate to serve in the legislature while he was there, from 1952 as a Representative from South Londonderry and later as Senator through reapportionment and beyond.

Both Janeways had a passion for skiing

and for sailing. Their dairy farm also doubtless contributed to their concern for the environment. As Senator, Ed Janeway was active in the passage of Act 250, which has had such an impact on the preservation of Vermont's natural resources and scenic beauty.

This amply illustrated 138-page soft-cover book would do well to serve as a model for anyone thinking of recording the history of a family. Drawing on letters, interviews, and memories a warm and detailed record of a remarkable couple emerges. It is available at Under-the-Dome gift shop for \$ 20.

Arthur Williams

# Lola Aiken: Extraordinary Volunteer

On June 11th, Lola Aiken received the 2005 Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award in the House Chamber. Since the inception of the Friends, Lola has been a devoted and hard-working trustee devoted to our goals. She is the first to volunteer for everything from policy discussion to stamping mailings or testifying before legislative committees.

What many of us didn't fully realize, however, was how many other organizations have also benefited from her hands on labors. As Arthur prepared her nomination, we were flooded with detailed descriptions from her grateful co-workers at Champlain College, the University of

Vermont, the Historic Society, and a dozen other groups. Perhaps her first volunteer contribution to Vermont was continuing to manage the Washington office and constituent services of her husband, Senator George D. Aiken, after their marriage – without any pay. Although devoted to the “Gov's” memory, Lola works as a strong individual.

Her energetic and cheerful enthusiasm – even when designated “honorary” – continues to bring her broad experience to board and committee meetings. As we have known for almost a quarter of a century, Lola is indeed a State Treasure!



## BYLAWS of the FRIENDS OF THE VERMONT STATE HOUSE Proposed for Vote at the Annual Meeting on December 8, 2005

### ARTICLE I

#### Purpose

The Friends of the Vermont Statehouse is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the fulfillment of the Capitol building's full potential as the structure of first importance to Vermont. To accomplish this, the Friends focus on conservation and restoration of the Capitol's historic integrity and promotion of public appreciation of the building and its collections. We work in close cooperation with the Legislature, government officials and employees to ensure that the historic and symbolic dignity of the building continues to enhance the vital continuing function it fills.

### ARTICLE II

#### Funding

An opportunity to donate funds toward the restoration of, acquisitions for, and appreciation of the Vermont State House will exist through the Friends of the Vermont State House. The Friends will continue to inform current, recent, and potential donors of special needs as they arise and of activities or projects that need funding.

### ARTICLE III

#### Trustees

1. Powers. The affairs of the corporation shall be managed and controlled by the Board of Trustees. The Trustees shall meet at least twice a year, and the first meeting each year shall be designated the annual meeting. The Board shall have the power to do any and all lawful acts, and to engage in any and all lawful activities that may be necessary, desirable, or useful for the furtherance or attainment of any purposes for which this corporation is organized. Specifically, the Trustees shall have the power to make all determinations with regard to the use of corporate funds for the support of its purposes. The Trustees shall have the ability to elect officers from among its members. The Executive Director shall be appointed and removed by the Trustees. He or she will continue to work closely with the Trustees, particularly with the Chair of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee, to perform tasks specified by the Trustees. Such tasks may include, but are not limited to, fund-raising, delegating bookkeeping and tax preparation to paid professionals, organizing special events, and arranging for maintenance of educational services such as the audio tour, web page,

newsletters, and advocacy to the legislature. Subject to budgetary decisions, guidelines, and limitations established annually, the Trustees may delegate authority for expenditures to the Executive Director or the Executive Committee.

2. Number. There shall be at least eight (8), but no more than fifteen (15) Trustees.
3. Length of Service. A duly appointed Trustee may serve for life as long as s/he continues to participate in the activities of the organization and in meetings of the board. Vacancies on the board will occur because of resignation, death, or failure to participate. New trustees shall be appointed by vote of the remaining trustees.
4. Resignation. A Trustee's resignation will become effective by giving written notice to the Chair of the Board of Trustees.
5. Removal. A trustee may be removed from office by a majority vote of the Trustees if s/he fails to attend three consecutive meetings.
6. Compensation. No Trustee shall receive any compensation for services as such, but may be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in such service.

### ARTICLE IV

#### Meetings

1. All meetings of the Board of Trustees are open to the public. The Trustees may, from time to time, offer special events for the public or for specific groups.
2. Regular or special meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be held at such times and places as the Trustees, or chair of the Board of Trustees, may determine.
3. At any regular or special meeting of the Trustees, one-third of the Trustees will constitute a quorum, and any action may be voted and binding by a majority of those present or participating via conference call. Each trustee shall be notified at least seven days before a meeting.

### ARTICLE V

#### Officers

1. The officers of the corporation shall consist of a Chair, a Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer, who shall be elected by the Trustees at the first scheduled meeting of each year. Said officers shall constitute an Executive Committee of the corporation.

2. Term. All officers shall hold office for a period of one (1) year, OR until their successors are elected and qualified.

### ARTICLE VI

#### Honorary Trustees

1. Individuals may be elected as Honorary Trustees. Nominations should be in writing and shall be presented to the Trustees at any scheduled meeting provided such nominations are included as an agenda item sent to all Trustees prior to the meeting.
2. In order to qualify for nomination as an Honorary Trustee, the following requirements should be met: a) The nominee should have at least four years prior service as a Trustee and should have an on-going commitment and be an active participant in the projects of the Friends. OR b) An Honorary Trustee should already have served in that capacity for at least five (5) years in recognition of significant past service and active contributions.

### ARTICLE VII

#### Ex-Officio Trustees

1. Ex-Officio Trustees, who shall be invited to attend Trustee Meetings, shall be the State Curator, the Sergeant-at-Arms, and the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services.

### ARTICLE VIII

#### Committees

The Trustees may establish standing or interim committees as they see fit. A chair of each committee shall be appointed by the Chair of the Board of Trustees and shall serve at his or her pleasure.

### ARTICLE IX

#### Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended in whole or in part by the Trustees of the Friends of the Vermont State House, in each case by a majority vote at any meeting of the Trustees provided that notice of the proposed amendment has been mailed to each Trustee then serving at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting at which such amendment is scheduled to be considered.

# COMING EVENTS

## Annual Meeting Dec. 8th Marilyn Skoglund VT Supreme Court Justice to speak

“Art Appreciation in State Buildings” is the topic of our special program at this year’s Annual Meeting. Justice Marilyn Skoglund will illustrate her remarks with a slide show of works that she has hung in the Supreme Court Building over the years since 1998. These exhibitions of works by Vermont artists have been her initiative and have given rise to numerous adventures and stimulating encounters. In addition to her judicial activities, Justice Skoglund is well known, especially in Central Vermont, as a musician as well as a curator.

Beginning at 3:45 PM, the Annual Meeting program will start with a Members discussion and vote on new trustees and new Bylaws recommended by the Trustees. This will be followed by a brief financial report and thanks to our dedicated Volunteers.

Justice Skoglund’s talk will begin at 4:30 PM. The public is invited to her talk and to a reception in the Lincoln Hallway. RSVP to 828-0386 by Dec. 2nd and mark Thursday Dec. 8th on your calendars now!



## *Gift Cart for Legislative Session*

Once again we plan to open the Winter Gift Cart on Wednesdays from 11 AM until 2 PM beginning the week of February 6th and continuing through the session. We hope to schedule two volunteers for each Wednesday. Genie will try to be available in the Friends Office on Wednesdays in case help is needed.

Will those willing to volunteer to serve please phone the office, 828-0386 so we can start filling in the schedule? Special orders for merchandise that is not stocked in the cart or showcase may also be phoned to the office for delivery on a Wednesday -- or to a legislator during the following week.

Should anybody wish a training “refresher” -- or an experienced co-worker -- please let us know! This branch of Under-the-Dome is an important service. As with so many of our activities, we count on you, our wonderful volunteers.

### *Deck the State House*

*Thursday, December 1st, 9 AM will start the Christmas decorations and tree in the Lobby. Any eager Friend-Volunteers are welcome to join David and Alice to “gild the lily.”*

#### Friends of the Vermont State House

##### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

*Muffie Conlon  
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##### Curator

David Schütz

*Jane Sakovitz-Dale, chair*

**PROCEEDINGS is published by the Friends.  
For more information call 802-828-0386.**

#### Friends of the Vermont State House

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