



RESTORATION  
PROJECTS INC.

# Fort Nathan Hale BULLETIN

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## *A Note from the President*

After a long, cold winter we are excited to welcome Spring with the entire community. We have exciting plans in store for you as we begin our 2006 season.

We are planning several events this Spring for our Opening Day Ceremony.

Opening Day ceremonies are scheduled to be held on Saturday, May 27, 12 noon, at the Fort. We will have the color guards along with Boy Scout Troop 401 to raise the flags at the dedication in the Memorial Flag Court. A few local dignitaries will speak to us about Memorial Day and the symbolism of the flags. After the ceremony, there will be a lecture about the Fort's history and a guided tour through the site will be provided. Folks in period costumes will be around the park and visitors are encouraged to ask questions about their clothing and equipment. The Bunker will be open and cannons on display with folks available to explain their workings and surroundings.

Refreshments will be provided on the Pavilion and the public is invited to attend. There is no charge for this event, so bring your entire family and make history come alive for them. I look forward to seeing you; Happy Spring!

*Marge Ottenbreit* President, FNHRP



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As a reminder.....  
Membership Dues  
are now due!!

## What is Fort Nathan Hale?

Fort Nathan Hale is a 30 acre City Park located on the east shore of New Haven Harbor. In 1921 by act of Congress, Fort Nathan Hale, a Federal fortification, was deeded to the State, which turned it over to the City to maintain. The site was turned into a popular

bathing and picnic area but pollution and the hurricane of 1938 brought such recreation to an end. The site, neglected, became overgrown and the fort fell into decay.

Today this historic site includes a reconstructed Revolutionary fort, Black

Rock Fort, and a partially restored Civil War facility. It is open to the public, free of charge, from Memorial to Labor Day weekend.

Come visit the Fort for an exciting and educational adventure into our country's history!

## Opening Day Ceremony May 27, 2006—12 PM

Fort Nathan Hale will officially open on Saturday May 27 at 12 noon. The planned program includes a uniformed Color Guard parade marching to the fort's "Flag Court" for the annual flag raising ceremony. Each of the five flags represent different times in the history of the Fort. The funds for these flags have been donated by several historic organizations and they will have representatives there to participate with

the flag ceremony. Boy scouts from Troop 401 will also help raise the flags.

Reenactors will also be present in uniform to give information and conduct tours of several of the "bunkers" and "barracks," which are being restored, as a "Taste of Living History".

There will be local officials present, who will speak about the great value the Fort has

been in the Life of the New Haven Community for over 200 years.

The Boy Scouts will be cooking hot dogs and hamburgers for lunch. Admission is free. The Gift Shop and Information Center will also be open. The weather should be great and it will be a fun day for all. Please join us for our Opening Day festivities!

*"History gives context for human activity.  
History is the foundation for sound judgment.  
History extends human knowledge beyond what individuals experience on their own"*

### Flag Etiquette

**The fundamental rule of flag etiquette is: treat all flags with respect and common sense.**

The Stars and Stripes takes precedence over all other flags when flown within the US. It should not be flown lower than another flag nor should it be smaller than another flag flown with it.

Other flags may, however, be flown at the same height and in the same size. Other national flags should not be smaller nor flown lower than the Stars and Stripes when displayed together. If it is not possible to display two or more national flags at the same height, it is not proper to display them together at all. The point of honor is on the extreme left from the standpoint of the observer ("the flag's right").

The order from left to right of flags flown together is: the Stars and Stripes, other national flags in alphabetical order, state flags, county and city flags, organizational flags, personal flag.

If one flag is at half-staff in mourning, other flags flown with it should be at half-staff also. The Stars and Stripes is raised first and lowered last. A salute (hand over heart for those not in uniform) should be rendered when the flag is raised, lowered, or carried by on parade; when the Pledge of Allegiance is recited; and when the national anthem is played. It is proper to fly the Stars and Stripes at night, but only if it is spotlight.

No flag should be flown during weather which might damage it, based on common sense

interpretation.

When a flag is no longer of dignified appearance and cannot be repaired, take it to a Veterans group or organization for disposal. If no group is available, it should be destroyed in a dignified way (burned or sealed in a bag or box before being sent out for trash collection).

In a public gathering, the Stars and Stripes should be to the right of the speakers or on a wall behind them. The canton of the flag (the blue field with the 50 stars) should always be to the observer's left except when displayed on a casket, when displayed as a decal on the right side of a vehicle or when worn as a patch on the right arm (use on left arm is preferable).



The Stars and Stripes should be in the center of a group of flags on when the center pole is taller than the others or when a fan-like arrangement makes a center pole higher than the others. It is not illegal or improper to fly any flag (state, ethnic group, organization, etc.) alone, but it is always preferable to display the Stars and Stripes at the same time.

*On April 4, President James Monroe signed into law the Flag Act of 1818. The flag as we know it today was born. Almost. The committee had not specified the arrangement of the stars. While President Monroe preferred them in rows, Congress, in a most independent American fashion, had left the pattern flexible, "whether in the form of one great luminary [a star shape], or, in the words of the original Resolution of 1777, 'representing a new constellation.'"*

*The United States of America began to take its place on the world stage. The mysterious words were prophetic—a new constellation was indeed ascendant on the horizon.*

**FORT NATHAN  
HALE  
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*Interested in  
Becoming a Member?*

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

**Marge Ottenbreit**, President FNHRP, is retired from 20 years in banking as a CFP and now works part-time for LCI at City Hall. She has been a board member for 16 years, serving as Treasurer and then as President in 1995. She is a member of the Morris Cove Gardening Club, the Annex Ladies Auxiliary and a board member of Elm City Parks Conservancy.

**Jacob (Jake) Epstein**, Vice President FNHRP, has been working with the board for over 4 years, developing its web site and helping promote various activities and projects. Jake is the Chief Technology Officer and a founding principle of RECOL, LLC, a New Haven based Internet services firm. RECOL hosts the Fort Nathan Hale web site as a service to the greater New Haven community. He has served on the board of other organizations including one that works on local, state and national security and feels that FNHRP and Black Rock Fort tie into his sense of importance as a service Veteran of America's need to remember and revere those and their families that have made sacrifices for our communities, state and nation.

**Theresa Silla**, Secretary FNHRP, is a recent addition to the Board of Directors. She is a recent Yale graduate with a B.A. in Economics and Ecology, with a Masters in Environmental Management from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Sciences. She currently works at the Livable City Initiative, a department at the City of New Haven. As Project Manager at LCI, she administers a variety of subsidy programs assisting affordable housing developments within New Haven. Theresa was born and raised in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and came to the U.S. to join Yale University 7 years ago.

**Anthony M. Santino**, Treasurer FNHRP and son of Peter and Josephine Santino, was born on December 27, 1970 in Yale-New Haven Hospital. He attended St. Bernadette's Catholic Grammar School from 1975-1985 and graduated from Hamden Hall Country Day School in 1989. He then elected to continue his formal education at Stetson University, where he studied Political Science,

## Meet the Board

International Relations, and History. Highlights of his college years include working as an intern for U.S. Senator Connie Mack in Washington, D.C. and serving as an Office Assistant for U. S. Representative John L. Mica. Additional college experiences / accomplishments include serving as a ranking member of the Model Senate, Secretary for the College Republicans, and Cinema Division Chair for the Stetson Union Board. In 1993 Santino graduated from Stetson University with a B.A. degree in Political Science, minors in International Relations and History. He was elected to the Board of Alderman in 1995, and served the Morris Cove area for two terms. He has served as a member of the Tweed New Haven Airport Authority, as well as a member of the East Shore Association. Currently he serves as the Director of MIS for Laurel Woods, Inc. a state-of-the-art health care center in East Haven, CT. He is a communicant of St. Bernadette Church and a life-long resident of Morris Cove.

**Harry Townshend** is a retired banker and manufacturer. He is very interested in the forts because of his grandfather, Capt. Charles H. Townshend's connection as custodian of this government property in 1890. He has directed the reconstruction of Black Rock Fort and restoration of Fort Nathan Hale from the beginning and continues to oversee the strategic maintenance. He has served as president of FNHRP.

**Deb Townshend** is a historian and writer about local people and places and has had seven books published. The restoration and development of Black Rock Fort and Nathan Hale have been of prime interest with her. She has served on the board of FNHRP since its inception in 1969, including the role of President, and has sponsored many events in her home for the benefit of the organization.

**Dodie Cummings** grew up 3 blocks from the fort and has been a volunteer in the pavilion for 11 years. She has been on the board for 8 years as a volunteer chairperson. She is on the board of the Fair Haven Parent's Ministry which is a local food pantry. She is also the

secretary of the board of her church credit union and regularly volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House. Dodie is a former member of the Civil Air Patrol in New Haven and flew with them as a private pilot. She works part-time for a family-owned accounting business.

**Agatha Tina Doyle, R.N.B.S.**, is a retired psychiatric nurse. She is current President of the East Shore Neighborhood Preservation Association, as well as President of the Morris Cove Garden Club. She also serves as Chairman of the East Shore Management Team as well as the Tweed New Haven Airport Liaison Committee. Tina formerly serviced as the President of the New Haven League of Women's Voters and is currently a coordinator for her church parish group.

**Tim Odaynik** moved to Morris Cove in June, 2004. He currently works at Yale University as an Administrator for the School of Medicine. He became a member of the FNHRP to pursue his interest in Fort Hale and New Haven history.

**Christopher Cinque** is new to Morris Cove and a new member of the FNHRP. He is employed by the City of West Haven as a police officer and services the West Haven community children as a Drug Abuse Resistance Education officer. He received a B.S. degree in Business Management from SCSU. Christopher is strongly interested in preserving the history of Fort Nathan Hale for future generations to come.



## History Tidbits



### SIP INTO SPRING !!!

Elm City Parks Conservancy (ECPC) will again sponsor their annual wine tasting extravaganza at the Lighthouse Carousel on May 11, 2006 from 6 to 8 PM.

This is not your usual wine tasting. There will be great food, gourmet dessert table, coffee and punch. An art exhibit of local artists will be on display and an on-site artist will be available to sketch attendees. Rides on the carousel will be available, while a silent auction takes place. Area merchants and restaurants have again generously given donations and certificates, so bring your check-book! For tickets, call Marge Ottenbreit at 203-466-1596.

ECPC is a non-profit organization of volunteers who are advocates for New Haven's 103 parks. They raise funds to subsidize programs and events that would not be available. ECPC has generously provided grants to Fort Nathan Hale.

In preparation for fortification of the harbor prior to the Civil War, the U.S. Government bought up land around the disused Fort Nathan Hale of the War of 1812.

William Landcraft was employed by the government as assistant superintendent to remove sod from the salt meadow for embankments at the new fort. He also felled a number of timber trees, dammed up a spring to make a reservoir and laid pipes to conduct the water from it to the cook-house at the fort. The water was used freely every day by the 200 workmen on the project.

All was well and good except that these doings were on the farm of Leonard Pope who was annoyed at the disruption of his property. He brought suit against the government, stating that the men trampled his grass and crops in the summers of 1863, 1865 and 1866. He complained that the men took apples and wood repeatedly and took down a fence so that his cattle escaped and wandered off. They also deprived him of another spring.

Pope stated that during those years his farm was overrun, trespassed upon and so sorely used that no portion of it could be made profitable. The 8.5 acres, if farmed, would have been worth \$400 per acre and loss and injury to the rest of the land amounted to \$2000.

The outcome of the suit is not known, but what is certain is that the new Fort Hale was built in time to play part in the protection of the harbor and the City of New Haven.

## Notes from the Web.....



Fort Nathan Hale's WEB site is growing and expanding. Board members are also beginning to use technology to enhance their ability to share information with the board, our members, work parties, volunteers and the public. At the same time, the board remains sensitive to the needs of those that do not have access to technologies such as the Internet and will continue to provide printed information such as announcements and newsletters distributed via the US Postal Service. Our address is <http://www.fort-nathan-hale.org>.

If you do have access to the Internet, please check the site periodically for news on activities and information about the facility. If you know of anyone that could be interested in Fort Nathan Hale, please share the WEB address and, if you have questions or would like to offer suggestions or comments, please feel free to email us at [info@fort-nathan-hale.org](mailto:info@fort-nathan-hale.org).

**The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag** originated on Columbus Day, 1893 and contained no reference to God. On April 22, 1951 the Board of Directors of the Knights of Columbus adopted a resolution to amend the Pledge by adding the words "under God." At their next annual meeting, copies of this resolution were sent to the President, Vice President and Speaker of the House. They rallied long and hard for this change.

By Flag Day, June 1954, President Eisenhower signed the change into law. He proclaimed, "these words remind Americans that we must remain humble."

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