# SPRING APPEAL 2010

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I/we understand that this contribution is not for renewal of my/our current membership and that gifts to the Annual Fund are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

Please make checks payable to:

The Olana Partnership P.O. Box 199, Hudson, New York 12534 Telephone: (518) 828-1872



Planting at Olana. Photo by Robert Burns



The Journey at the Wagon House Education Center. Photo by Cheryl O'Donnell









# THE OLANA PARTNERSHIP **YEAR-END REVIEW 2009** he projects outlined were accomplished through the combined efforts of

The Olana Partnership staff and our colleagues employed by New York State. Our success is a result of the strength of our longstanding publicprivate partnership. Curatorial: This year, reproduction wallpapers were created for the Church's second floor bedroom suite and will be installed in March 2010. The curatorial staff has been working to prepare the next exhibition in the Evelyn and Maurice Sharp

Gallery—Fern Hunting among These Picturesque Mountains: Frederic Edwin Church in Jamaica, which will open in June. Curatorial projects completed in 2009 include the reproduction of the corridor carpet, restoration and reupholstery of two collections chairs and a stool in the Court Hall, and the completion of the East Parlor stencil

Farm Complex/Education: River School, a new week-long dramatic arts summer program for children, was established to build upon and complement the two summer sessions of *The Journey*. The weekend *Art in the Barn* drop in art studio program grew tremendously to serve over 600 participants. Work on the historic main barn moved forward with the completion of a conditions survey and an architectural firm engaged to undertake design work for the restoration. Landscape/Viewshed: The Carriage drive drainage and resurfacing project was completed during the summer. Viewshed clearing continued on the remaining three acres along Ridge Road. A major grant was awarded from the Burpee Foundation to undertake our first significant replanting project in the park. The design and maintenance plan for the restoration of the kitchen garden and peach orchard was also completed.

Programming: Glories of the Hudson: Frederic Edwin Church's Views from Olana was the inaugural exhibition in the new Evelyn and Maurice Sharp Gallery at Olana. The exhibit opened in May with a public lecture featuring Frank Kelly, Deputy Director and Chief Curator of the National Gallery. A joint symposium organized in conjunction with the Thomas Cole House featuring papers presented by students from Bard, Vassar, Marist, SUNY New Paltz, Dutchess Community College and Columbia-Greene Community College was held at Bard's Fischer Center in April. Visitor Experience: The Olana sign project, installing uniform direction and informational signage throughout the site, was completed. An interactive kiosk for the Glories exhibition was installed in the visitor center to provide ADA access to the exhibit. For the first time in 40 years, access to the servant's areas and bedrooms on the second floor of the main house was opened for public tours. Fundraising: Several Quadricentennial-related grants were secured for Olana programs during the year. Due to increased challenges posed by a weakened economy, income from the Annual Fund, Membership and local events ended the year approximately 20% under budget. The Frederic Edwin Church award dinner honoring Jonathan Westervelt Warner and Franklin Wood Kelly was held in December and exceeded revenue goal, minimizing potential impact of decreased donations and memberships. Proceeds from the 2009 gala established the Jack Warner Fund for Creativity and Innovation to benefit the educational endowment and future exhibitions.

Community Relations: Olana enjoyed several successful collaborative initiatives in 2009, including work with Cedar Grove, Bard College, Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York, Scenic Hudson, Columbia Land Conservancy, Home Sweet Home on the Hudson, US-China People's Friendship Association, Columbia County Lodging Association, Columbia-Greene Mental Health Association, Hudson Lion's Club, Cooper-Hewitt Museum, Samuel Dorsky Museum, Greenport Garden Club, and Initiatives with Arts & Culture. Olana staff also presented at a NY Historical Society free afternoon program, Bard's LLI, SUNY Albany's Greater Hudson Heritage Network, Hudson Rotary Club, and the Chamber Tourism Development Council. Government Relations: Olana staff members participated in Arts Day in Albany and had meetings with Tourism committees, Senator Stephen Saland, Assemblyman Marcus Molinaro, Assemblyman Richard Brodsky and Assemblyman Steven Englebright throughout the year.

Visibility: Two recognition awards where received, one from the Greater Hudson Network and another from the Upstate History Alliance. Olana's landscape was selected by the Cultural Landscape Foundation for the Landslide program. The Olana Partnership was nominated as one of five finalists for the Columbia County Chamber Crystal Apple Award. The Olana website was completely redesigned and a Facebook fan site was created. Olana received significant media coverage throughout the year including articles in the New York Times, Albany Times Union, Register Star, Catskill Daily Mail, WDST, WAMC, NPR and a national television segment on the Martha Stewart Show.

While we make every effort to include every name, omissions are unfortunately inevitable. If we have omitted anything, or reported it incorrectly, please accept our apologies.

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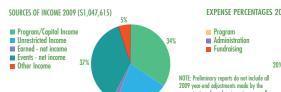
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2010 and beyond: Olana will open its second exhibition, Fern Hunting among These Picturesque Mountains: Frederic Edwin Church in Jamaica, in the Evelyn and Maurice Sharp Gallery and will publish a correlating exhibition catalogue. A free contemporary photography exhibit will also be displayed June through October in the newly revitalized Coachmen's House. The Viewshed restoration project along Ridge Road will be completed and plans to begin the second restoration phase will be undertaken. Additional 2010 landscape plans include the first phase tree planting throughout the park under the direction of a newly hired Landscape Curator.

We are appreciative of the individuals, foundations, corporations and governmental entities that generously support Olana. We are especially grateful to Governor David A. Paterson, Parks Commissioner Carol Ash, Senator Stephen Saland, Assemblyman Marcus Molinaro, and Taconic Regional Director Jayne McLaughlin. We particularly wish to thank Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand and Congressman Scott Murphy, as well as Roy Brown, Chair of the Columbia County Board of Supervisors and Edward Nabozny, Supervisor for the Town of Greenport for their leadership in support of Olana. Finally, we wish to acknowledge our colleague and friend Linda McLean, Olana's historic site manager.

Olana's dedicated volunteers make a huge difference to the operation of the site and we applaud their generosity of time and energy.





The Olana Partnership funded restoration painter Robert Hills in Evelyn and Maurice Sharp Gallery. Photo by Nelson Sterner

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espite tumultuous times, The Olana Partnership ended 2009 showing strong progress on numerous fronts, thanks to the steadfast loyalty of our members and donors. The support shown by so many individuals and organizations is most gratifying, as we work to ensure that Olana's reputation as a premier international destination continues to grow

We hope you agree that our accomplishments justify that loyalty. Probably the most visible accomplishment was the opening of our inaugural exhibition, Glories of the Hudson: Frederic Edwin Church's Views from Olana in the new Evelyn and Maurice Sharp Gallery. The gallery not only added a new dimension to the visitor experience, it opened the second floor to visitors for the first time in its history as a public institution. The gallery was made possible by a generous donation from trustee Richard T. Sharp and is named in memory of his parents. Additional support was provided by trustee Susan Winokur and her husband Paul Leach, and The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation

Another important accomplishment was our increased focus on Olana's designed landscape. While over the past few years, significant progress has been made on various pieces of the landscape (i.e. bringing the utility wires underground, restoring the carriage drives, opening new views each year), an important decision was made in 2009 to hire a landscape curator. Our hope was that a landscape curator would be able to help the public gain a better understanding of the importance of what many believe is Church's last and greatest work of art—the Olana site itself—and enable its complete restoration and permanent maintenance. (We are pleased to say that this has come to fruition—we now have the vastly talented Kate Kerin on board).

As part of our progress on the landscape, in 2009 we secured national recognition for Frederic Church's landscape design when the Cultural Landscape Foundation selected Olana for its Landslide program. We also secured a major grant from the Burpee Foundation for tree planting, which will begin later this year.

We are thrilled that in the past year we have continued our momentum in both educational programming and collections restoration projects. In its first full year of operation, the Wagon House Education Center held more than 250 free or low cost programs serving almost 2,000 participants of all ages. In the main house we have continued restoration of the second floor, recreated an oriental carpet for the corridor, and enhanced interior lighting through new and better placed torcheres. Outside, New York State Parks completed the exterior restoration of the carriage barn and coachman's house that are home to our museum shop and orientation center.

While we are proud of these many accomplishments, there is so much more to be done. We look forward to 2010 with great ambition and expectation but cannot continue without the support of Olana's vital friends.

Your support to our annual fund is pivotal to our sustainability, providing crucial unrestricted dollars that help to cover staff and operating costs. The care and advancement of Olana depends on you. If you share our passion for Olana and believe in our work, please consider a contribution to the 2010 Annual Appeal Just complete and return the attached annual appeal envelope. Your gift, no matter what size, makes a great impact on our ability to keep Olana moving forward. Please send your gift today!

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iMaGE: The Journey. Photo by Cheryl O'Donnell

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