

Date Sent Draft

From Gary P Kearney, MD

Subject Subject: Copy of The Arena Newsletter June 2020



Message from the Chairman

Dear Friends and Family:

We're deep into planning the *2020 Annual Meeting, Theodore Roosevelt's Statecraft: The Cornerstone of American National Security* with the National War College, and we have so many exciting adventures to unveil for you soon! We are continuing to make plans that will show off the stunning location and treasures of the Roosevelt Room at the National War College in a way that will keep attendees safe. Hotel reservations are open; please note that we expect the hotel to fill up quickly if things 'reopen,' so we recommend playing it safe and making a no-risk reservation below now. Keep an eye out for Annual Meeting registration information in June!

Congress has passed much legislation over the last three months. One item that may have gone unnoticed is for 2020: even if you take a standard deduction for your income taxes (which most of us do these days), the CARES Act entitles you to a deduction from your taxable income of up to \$300 for cash gifts to non-profit organizations such as the Theodore Roosevelt Association. So why not contribute today to our annual campaign? Please click the adjacent link to make a donation now: [2020 Fundraising Appeal](#).

Finally, a quick note about our partnership with the Wings Over America Scholarship Foundation (WOASF). Each year we sponsor up to five scholarships through WOASF. To be considered for these scholarships, individuals must have a family member serving on our ship or be a primary relative of a past crew member. The five scholarships awarded from the TRA this year are:

Bailey Kramari: Junior, James Madison University
Joshua Berger: Freshman, DigiPen Institute of Technology
Lylia Pearl: Sophomore, University of South Carolina
Nash Euman: Sophomore, Virginia Tech
Peyton Butler: Senior, Old Dominion University

VADM David Architzel, USN (Ret.)
Chairman TRA

Board of Trustees



If you have not had the chance to attend one of the Theodore Roosevelt Association's Annual Meetings, this is a great year to do so! You should have received a notice about the meeting to be held on October 23 thru 25. We are co-hosting with the National War College (NWC) at Ft. McNair in Washington, DC, bringing our partnership to a new and exciting level. The theme is Theodore Roosevelt's Statecraft - The Cornerstone of American National Security.

The TRA and NWC recognize there has been uncertainty surrounding scheduled events due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and its aftermath. Rest assured, we are planning the Annual Meeting with due care and have contingency plans to tailor the meeting as required. We can assure you that while we are confidently working toward a full in-person meeting in October (observing social distancing guidelines, there will in any circumstance be an event, be it fully in-person or fully digital -- or any combination in between -- that will include the *TRA's Annual Meeting, Theodore Roosevelt's Statecraft: The Cornerstone of American National Security.*



The great news is that our keynote speaker at our Saturday Gala Event will be General James N. Mattis, USMC (Ret.) who will speak and will also be presented an important TRA award. If you haven't had a chance to hear the General speak, you are in for a real treat. The agenda for the meeting, will be available soon on our website [Theodore Roosevelt Association](https://theodoreroosevelt.org), and includes a panel discussion featuring several prominent national figures.

Rooms can be booked NOW at the Marriott Residence Inn, 1233 1st Street, Washington, DC, SE near the Navy Yard, by calling (202) 770-2800 for reservations and ask for the special Theodore Roosevelt Association block rate. We have a limited block of rooms available for October 23 thru 25 at a rate of King Rooms, \$169 and Double Queen Rooms, \$189 (plus city/state/hotel taxes). These rates are available up to August 15th. The hotel offer includes a full American breakfast, free wireless internet and local phone calls. Discounted valet parking is available (current rate for discounted parking is \$35/day plus tax). Note that hotel reservations can be canceled without penalty 72 hours prior to check-in. This special rate is not available by booking via hotel website; by phone only.

USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71) is underway for the first time since its deployment was interrupted for 55 days to battle a COVID-19 outbreak that infected almost a quarter of the crew, USNI has learned. The aircraft carrier left the pier at Naval Base Guam with more than half of its crew to start workups to return to its deployment. This first underway will likely be brief and consist of basic drills to certify the crew can handle the carrier after the extended time away from sea, Navy officials told USNI News. The carrier has been in port since pulling into Guam



on March 27, after an outbreak of COVID-19 was discovered on the carrier in the midst of its Pacific deployment. The outbreak infected more than 1,000 of the 4000 sailors aboard and resulted in the death of Aviation Ordnanceman Chief Petty Officer Charles Robert Thacker Jr. Since the end of April, the Navy has undergone the process of moving sailors back aboard after keeping them in isolation for at least 14 days and requiring each sailor to test negative twice for COVID-19. As of Sunday, 2,900 sailors had moved aboard the carrier after the quarantine period on Guam. "We are scaling our manning on board based on our mission requirement," Capt. Carlos Sardiello, Theodore Roosevelt's commanding officer, said in a statement. "Carrier qualification requires fewer personnel than other missions, and bringing fewer Sailors on board will enable enhanced social distancing while underway." USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71) *US Naval Institute News* May 20, 2020

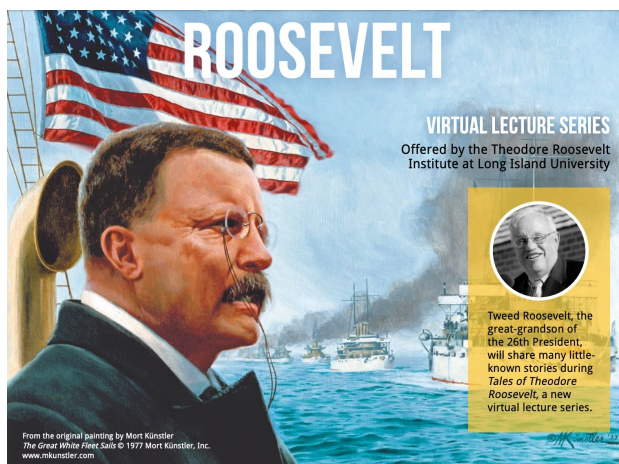
TRA Arena

In addition to the *Theodore Roosevelt Association Journal*, communications with our membership has primarily been through our annual meeting, travel, regional police awards, speaking contests, our website and The Arena Newsletter which has been dormant until recently. Re-establishing "The Arena" to our membership has been a priority. With help from Marie Kutch and Co-Editor Greg Wynn, *The Arena Newsletter* was reestablished in January 2020 and is distributed to over 900 emails. There are now 29 past issues of the TRA journal on the site as a benefit to TRA members, to be reviewed/read under the "What We Do" tab, under Publications/Theodore Roosevelt Journal.

To enter the TRA website, [Click here](#)

Tweed Roosevelt, President & CEO of Long Island University's TR Institute gave a webinar on "TR in the Badlands" in May. On Tuesday, June 16th at noon Eastern, Tweed will present the next in his series of on-line events entitled Tales of Theodore Roosevelt. This episode, "TR and the Navy," will treat the fascinating story of how TR built the modern U. S. Navy--from battleships to submarines and planes--and how he made our country an international force to be reckoned with. Registrants can sign up below. Tweed Roosevelt is the great grandson of Theodore Roosevelt and past Executive Director and President of the Theodore Roosevelt Association. [Click here to register.](#)

Also at this site is Tweed's Corner where you can see the video of the last episode "TR in the Badlands" and find answers to questions you did not have time for during the live program, you can also see the video on the following [Link](#).



—Theodore Roosevelt

The Theodore Roosevelt Association is partnering with the The Theodore Roosevelt Institute at Long Island University to present the National Theodore Roosevelt Public Speaking Contest. Thank you to all the high school juniors and seniors for participating and making this a highly competitive public speaking contest that truly honored the iconic legacy of President Theodore Roosevelt.



**THEODORE ROOSEVELT
PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST**

CONTEST AWARDS

GRAND PRIZE:
\$2,500 AWARD
CONTEST TROPHY

SECOND PRIZE:
\$1,000 AWARD
CONTEST TROPHY

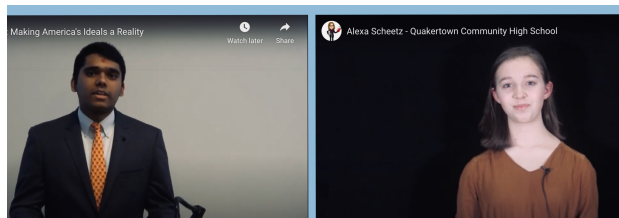
THIRD PRIZE:
\$500 AWARD
CONTEST TROPHY

FINALISTS WILL ALSO RECEIVE UP TO \$25,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY



Andrew Lichtblau of Fairfax, Virginia, won the national Theodore Roosevelt Public Speaking Contest, co-sponsored by the Theodore Roosevelt Association and the Theodore Roosevelt Institute at Long Island University. Lichtblau, who attends James W. Robinson Jr. Secondary School, received a \$2,500 cash prize. The topic for the contest was "Progress in the Face of Stagnance." To listen to his winning speech, watch [Video](#)

Finishing in second place was Avinash Thakkar of McDonogh High School in Owing Mills, MD for "Making America's Ideals a Reality", watch [Video](#), and in third was Alexa Scheetz of Quakertown Community High School in Quakertown, PA, for "World of Modern/Environmental Conservation", watch [Video](#). The top ten finalists in the competition, all of whom were high school juniors, are eligible to receive up to \$25,000 in scholarships from LIU.

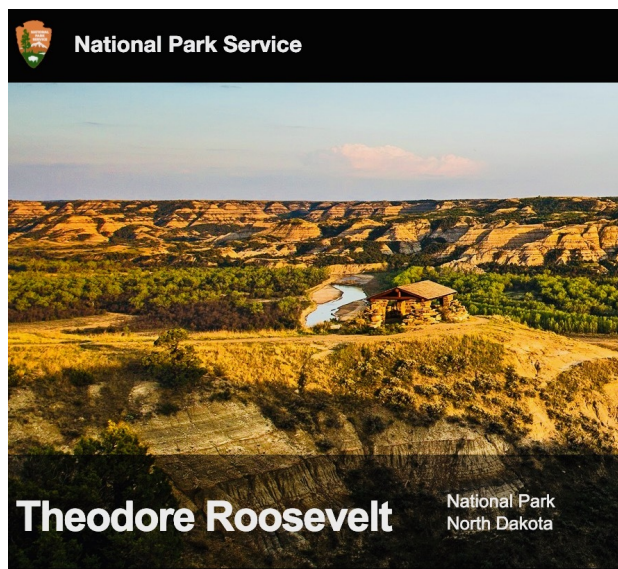


Once again, for this issue, we have partnered with the Theodore Roosevelt Center at Dickinson State University and benefit from their financial support in digitizing material. This month we reveal an audio recording of the October 27, 1955 Theodore Roosevelt Association event at the Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace to present the



Oscar S. Straus II, president of the Theodore Roosevelt Association, hosts the annual awards ceremony. Hermann Hagedorn, executive director, introduces Arthur Holly Compton, a nuclear physicist, and Thomas E. Dewey, Governor of New York, recipients of the Distinguished Service Medals in Science and Public Service. In their acceptance speeches, Compton speaks on public service and the

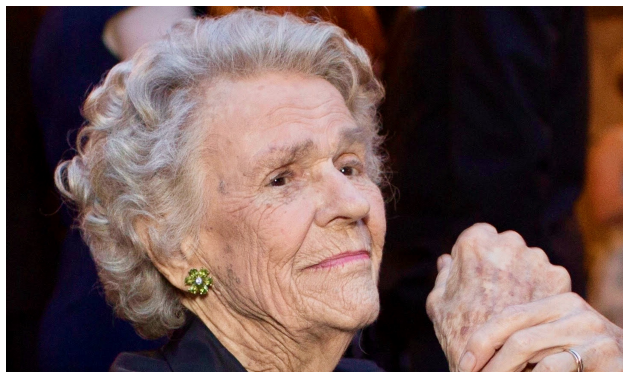
Distinguished Service Medals in Science and Public Service. Among the recipients is former New York Governor and 1944 & 1948 Republican Presidential Candidate Thomas Dewey (at point 29:30 on the recording). It is likely that his comments are being shared for the first time with this release. Hermann Hagedorn is the presenter. And, at the end of the recording, an announcement is made, along with some commentary, about the imminent merging of the Women's Roosevelt Memorial Association with the Roosevelt Memorial Association which formed today's Theodore Roosevelt Association!



importance of a free society working together towards a unified goal, as was done during the second world war, and Dewey speaks on the worldwide application of the "American Dream," and the shifting struggles between the United States and the Soviet Union. Additional brief remarks are presented by Anne Lyon Haight, who comments on an upcoming merger of the Theodore Roosevelt Association and the Women's Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Association. [Click button to listen](#)

Architecture firms Snøhetta, Studio Gang and Henning Larsen have been shortlisted to design a presidential library for Theodore Roosevelt in Medora, North Dakota. The three firms were selected from 12 practices that applied to the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) that the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Foundation made public in April to find a suitable architect for the project. "These architects share our vision and values," said Melani Walton, chair of the foundation's design and architecture committee. "They want to listen and spend time with the community, study the ecology of the Badlands, and embrace the complexities of Theodore Roosevelt's life." US firm Studio Gang, Copenhagen firm Henning Larsen and Snøhetta, which has offices in New York and Oslo, will begin developing concepts for the library and will be built in North Dakota. The foundation has found a plot in Medora, a city located in the state's rugged Badlands and abuts Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Eleanor Gibson / 20 May 2020 de zeen magazine



Members Corner

Helen Catherine Roosevelt, "Offie", born Helen Daae Sparrow, died peacefully on 25 May 2020 in New York City. Daughter of Edward Grant Sparrow and Catherine Groth Sparrow, she was born in Paris, France on November 6, 1927 and spent her first 12 years there. Her love of French culture included her dress styles and sharing potent after-dinner espressos and cigarettes with the unending stream of 'petits français' whom she welcomed into her home. In addition to being a relaxed, generous, and innovative hostess through the years, she was a lifelong patron of the arts, defender of animals and strays, and an accomplished equestrienne. Whether single-handedly fending off snakes on a family camping trip in Michigan, taking on the management of a working cattle farm in her 60's, or entering into matrimony for the second time at 73, her intrepid

spirit was an example to those around her. Helen's optimism, equanimity, fortitude and discretion inspired all those who met her, and leave those who loved her with an enduring legacy.

Always ready to contribute to her community, she served on the boards of St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital, The New York City Marble Cemetery, Youngs Memorial Cemetery, Big Sisters (now Partnership with Children), Theodore Roosevelt Association, and the Treadwell Farms Historical District. Helen was a member of the Colony Club and the Seawanhaka Corinthian Yacht Club.

She was a Lifetime Member of the TRA, a member of the Executive Committee 1988-1998, and Trustee since 1987 and a generous benefactor and passionate about the Teddy Bear initiative.

Helen is survived by her children Robert, Andrew, and Cordelia; her grandchildren Eloïse and Archibald; and her stepchildren Elizabeth, Frances, and Milo. She was predeceased by John Ellis Roosevelt, father of Robert, Andrew, and Cordelia; and by William Bright Jones. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to: <https://cornellleukemia.com/leukemia-fighters/>

From time to time we will feature TRA members and their activities not necessarily associated with Theodore Roosevelt. Please send suggestions to the Editors of "The Arena".

TRA Social Media

Don't forget, the TRA is on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)! Social media is a great way to stay involved with conversations about TR and keep up to date on the latest TR- and TRA-related happenings. We are regularly talking about interesting topics, both current and historical. So FOLLOW us on Twitter and LIKE us on Facebook!

Theodore Roosevelt Association

P.O. Box 719
Oyster Bay, New York 11771-1719
Phone: (516) 921-6319
www.theodoreroosevelt.org

Contact

The Arena Editors
Gary Kearney & Greg Wynn
Editors@theodoreroosevelt.org

Follow us



Done