

# FRIENDS OF *Florham*

Fall 2003

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## *Remembering Thelma Tipson Dear*

For a number of years, Thelma Dear was a most valuable and esteemed member of the Friends of Florham board of trustees. She was a loyal and faithful supporter, participating in our monthly board meetings and giving the Friends the benefit of her knowledge and thoughts. She and her husband, the late William Dear, Jr., had a longtime relationship with Fairleigh Dickinson University, dating back to the 1960s and '70s. In this she followed in the footsteps of her parents, Alice and Leonard Dreyfuss, who were close to the founding president of Fairleigh Dickinson, Dr. Peter Sammartino.

The Dreyfusses contributed to the building of the Dreyfuss Theater and Building, and to the maintenance and refurbishing of what was then called Dreyfuss Hall, but is now Lenfell Hall — named after their estate in Essex Fells, N.J. (for LEoNard Dreyfuss and Essex FELLs!).

Thelma and her husband, “Billy” Dear, were very much involved at the University, particularly Billy, who had an office at Florham

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*The late Thelma Tipson Dear with her husband, the late William Dear, Jr.*

## *A Visit with Dick Simon*



*Dick Simon*

Without using the term “Renaissance Man” loosely, Dick Simon could easily qualify: he’s a person who has wide interests and is an expert in several areas. He is an artist and a scholar of history. He joined the board of Friends of Florham about 10 years ago, and, not surprisingly, is one of the group’s most active members. His official assignments are listed as long-range planning for gardens and grounds and lecture planning and presentation, but if you know Simon at all, you quickly discover that his scope is wide, his contributions imaginative.

Simon’s recent efforts certainly advance the Friends’ mission to “advise and assist the Board of Trustees and the administration of Fairleigh Dickinson University in the care and maintenance and historic preservation of the Twombly Estate buildings designed by McKim, Mead and White, the grounds designed by Frederick Law Olmsted,

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## *President's Letter*

After this strange, wet and humid summer, we all welcome the coming of autumn with its pleasantly warm and glowing days. The building of the new residence hall at the College at Florham is complete, and we are able to move ahead with our designation of the "Frederick Law Olmsted Cutleaf Maple Grove." You must come in (through the Danforth Road entrance to the campus) and marvel at its beauty when the leaves are red and golden! Also, during the summer, we restored an old portrait of George Washington, that is owned by the University.

On a more somber note, the Friends of Florham were saddened by the death of our beloved board member and generous supporter, Thelma Dear. We all enjoyed her enthusiasm for the Friends activities and, in particular, for our Annual Gala, for which she was our honorary chairman. The opening article details more about her life and contributions.

In answer to a number of questions about why our spring newsletter had a feature article on

Fairleigh Dickinson University's Wroxton College in England, we should have pointed out that a number of our members and board members have visited Wroxton and have returned to New Jersey inspired by the experience and by the restoration of the buildings and the beautiful grounds. It having been declared a Historical Landmark by the British government is also an impressive goal, and perhaps one day Florham will be declared a historical landmark by the United States government.

So onward we go — getting to work on our next projects: replacing the balusters in the Italian Garden and maybe even the missing heads on the statues, finishing the wall for the Olmsted Cutleaf Maple Grove, replacing the old lights around the Mansion courtyard, and possibly getting a new gate for the Mansion Road at the Crossroads.

We hope to have some more lectures and will definitely keep you informed of our progress.

*Emma Joy Dana*

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## *Former Friends Trustee Honored*



*John Fritz*

At the May 17 Commencement of Centenary College, Hackettstown, N.J., John Fritz was awarded the honorary doctor of humane letters degree.

Fritz, a long-time trustee of the Friends until his recent return to his native Indiana, was cited by the president and board of the college for playing "a major role in securing a grant for the construction of the U.S. Equestrian Center, an indoor arena, at Filly Hill, Centenary's 65-acre equestrian center."

Commenting on Fritz's long and distinguished career as one of the nation's leading equestrian figures, the citation referred to him as "a national and international leader" who served "as an equestrian judge at the 1984 Olympic Games and the Pan American Games." It also reminded the large commencement audience of Fritz's inclusion in "the Halls of Fame of the United States Eventing Association and the United States Dressage Federation" and his having been "named in December 1999 by the *The Chronicle of the Horse* as one of the 50

individuals who had the greatest influence on the development of equestrian sport in the United States in the 20th century."

Fritz, a former professor of history and dean of the College of Liberal Arts at the College at Florham of Fairleigh Dickinson University, has, as the citation also recalled, lived a life of exemplary service to numbers of organizations, in addition to the Friends, of which he was a vitally important member-trustee. Among them are the Arts Council of the Morris Area, the Morris County Historical Society, the Washington Association of New Jersey, the United States Cavalry Association and the Morris County American Revolution Bicentennial Committee (which he chaired).

Though now several hundred miles from his former Friends colleagues, Mr. — now Doctor — Fritz remains closely connected to the group's work, standing ready to draw upon his unusually rich experience to offer his always valuable advice and support.

*Walter Savage*

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## *Friends Annual Gala — A Delightful Event*

The sixth annual Friends of Florham Gala began the evening with drinks and hors d'oeuvres on the terrace overlooking the fountains and gardens at the Mansion. It was a delightful event as 150 guests gathered to enjoy a lovely spring evening, delectable food and wonderful company. After last year's drought, it was especially wonderful to see the fountains back in operation in time for the Gala.

The Gala raised more than \$30,000 for the Friends' ongoing renovations of the Mansion and its gardens. The Gala co-chairpersons Barbara Keefauver, Phyllis Conway and Dawn Dupak expressed appreciation to their committee and to everyone who supported the event.

Those associated with the Gala are especially grateful for the support of the late Thelma Dear (see Thelma Tipson Dear, page 1), the honorary chairman for each Gala, whose financial contributions aided our efforts and whose presence graced our annual event. She will be missed.

The Galas have raised more than \$180,000 collectively and are the primary source of funding for the Friends' renovations. Next year's Gala is planned for May 22, 2004, so save the date!



*Enjoying the Gala are*

*Above photo: from left, Henry and Audrey Parker and Nelson and Nancy Schaenen;*

*Top right photo: from left, Nancy and John Johnston;*

*Right photo: from left, Epsey Farrell, Maureen Ogden and Mary Clowney.*



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## *Elaine Earlywine, New Board Member*

Friends of Florham announces the nomination of Elaine Earlywine as a new board member. "Friends of Florham is a unique organization dedicated to a very special place. I am happy to join and become an active member of the Friends' board." Earlywine is a 1982 graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University's College at Florham. "I spent the spring semester of my junior year abroad at FDU's other treasure, Wroxton College," she said.

Earlywine is married to Mike Earlywine, an associate director of portfolio trading for Bear Stearns and an adjunct professor of graduate studies at the Silberman College of Business at FDU. Prior to living in Morristown, N.J., the Earlywines were residents of Hoboken and Chatham. They have three children.

Earlywine is a sustaining member of the Junior League of Morristown. She is presently involved in volunteer activities in her children's school. An avid horsewoman, she also shows, breeds and promotes American Saddlebred show horses.



*Elaine Earlywine*



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*Thelma Tipson Dear, continued from page 1*

where he came every day. He was, in effect, the ombudsman for the provost, James Griffo, and was known and loved by the students who flocked to his office. He loved Florham, and Florham loved him!

Thelma was a woman of a great many talents. Always interested in our gardens, she loved gardening, flowers and particularly herbs. She was a member of the Herb Society of America and frequently lectured to garden groups on herbs. Thelma was also a member of the Madison Garden Club, The Brooklyn Botanical Garden, The Cloisters of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and The Newark Museum. She was on the boards of The Macculloch Hall Historical Museum and the Arts Council of the Morris Area. She also was a member of the Junior League of New York, The Colony Club, the Morris County Golf Club, Somerset Hills Country Club, the Morris-

town Club and, last but not least, the New Jersey State Golf Association.

Her artistic side was apparent in her wonderful collection of “angels.” She loved gathering shells and created the most beautiful intricate and delicate “angels” from them. They are extremely imaginative, and it took a great deal of time and concentration to create these museum pieces. She called them her “Angels from the Sea.” They were exhibited in a wonderful show at The Newark Museum, the Morris Museum and Seton Hall University.

Needless to say, Thelma will be missed very much. Her interest and enthusiasm for the Friends and her reign as the honorary chairman of our Galas are indeed a loss. Her presence added grace and beauty to our lives.

*Emma Joy Dana*

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*A Visit with Dick Simon, continued from page 1*

and the gardens at the College at Florham.” He is working on the design of a wall for the cutleaf maple area at Florham created by Olmsted; finding replacement balustrades for the Italian Garden; designing a ramp for the disabled; researching the provenance of a portrait of George Washington; researching the Florham Daylily; writing articles for the quarterly newsletter; and designing and producing invitations and menu cards.

We sat down at his home one evening in July to discuss his associations, his interests and perhaps some objectives not yet realized. He had just returned from Vermont and France — not unusual for him, but a slight deviation from custom. Generally he “likes to get in his car and drive around,” but alas, France is not conveniently located for a drive. Simon did several things while in France, but the main purpose of his visit was to take a barge trip on the Bourgoigne Canal with friends.

Simon’s familiarity with France is quite specific: he had been in the U.S. Infantry in Alsace-Lorraine and the Vosges Mountains in France during World War II and was wounded and taken prisoner of war. During the current trip he visited the street and the building where he was captured and this time he captured them ...

in photographs. Simon does not often voice his politics, but he did say that if President Bush were to see the World War I ossuaries in Verdun where the bones of 130,000 soldiers lie he might have second thoughts about making war.

Sketching and painting are key hobbies of this talented man. One can often find Simon out and about with a sketchbook. In fact, he had a sketchbook with him on his trip to France, and he returned home with five full-page sketches of French chateaux and churches. Perhaps he was feeling nostalgic for the Florham mansion!

One could get the impression that Simon is a Francophile when learning about his travels and the Lafayette Ball he and Leslie Bensley staged at the Cross Estate in the summer of 1999; but, in fact, the ball was generated by his interest in George Washington. Simon is a former trustee and former president of the Washington Association of New Jersey. He continues to pursue his interest by serving as New Jersey representative on the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (known as W3R-NJ) and his research in connection with a Washington portrait at Florham. Simon has been trying to ascertain if Robert Edge Pine is the artist. His historical interests led him to

Drew University Graduate School where he took a course, History of American History Paintings, taught by Barbara Mitnick.

Simon applies his talents and interests to his work on the board of Friends of Florham. When the gardens were to undergo restoration, he spent several days in Brookline, Mass., in the archives of the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic site, where he researched hundreds of Olmsted's drawings for the Twombly's property and others.

As part of his board work at Florham, he gives tours of the Mansion and gardens. He is a great speaker and the tours are a manifestation of his interests in architecture and history. Simon also leads walking tours in Morristown, N.J., under the aegis of the Morris County Visitors' Bureau.

Simon lives in Morristown, N.J. He also owns homes in Vermont and the Adirondacks and on Cape Cod. The basement of his Morristown home is filled with furniture he has acquired and which needs just a touch of care, which he applies in his spare time. When he is not repairing or decorating furniture, he restores picture frames.

He earned a BA in history and economics from Amherst College in 1949, and an MBA from Harvard Business School in 1951, and served for two years with the United States Infantry in World War II.

He had a career as a business executive with General Electric Co., AMF and Litton Industries (Sweda International Division), spending many busy and enjoyable years on "rug row," as he calls it. When the board of the Macculloch Hall Historical Museum, Morristown, was looking for a treasurer, Simon was asked to join the board, but he never did serve as treasurer. Instead he served as president and trustee and was curator of seven of the museum's shows.

Since Simon is not famous for his shyness, it won't surprise you to learn that he has appeared on stage in a production of A.R. Gurney's "Love Letters" at the Community Theatre in Morristown. He is the president of the Shakespeare Club of Morristown (a group that reads the plays aloud) and was their casting director.

He is a trustee of the Canal Society of New Jersey, an outgrowth of his show at Macculloch Hall in 1991. His 4-foot-by-12-foot map of the



*Entrance to Wroxton College, England  
(Charcoal sketch by Dick Simon)*

canal was shown there, later at Waterloo Village, and is headed to Phillipsburg where the Canal Society has space to exhibit it.

He is a trustee of The Morristown Green and is writing a history of "The Green." Other organizations which benefit from Simon's talent are Advocates of New Jersey History and Morris County Heritage Commission. He serves on the boards of both.

We never did get to discuss his bicycle ride (starting from Morristown!) to Albany, N.Y. Maybe next time. Simon may be passionate about the past, but it's clear he doesn't live in it. While I was at his home I noticed that he uses a computer and has a new-fangled bicycle.

*Linda Langstaff Carrington with help from  
Malcolm Carrington and Carol Bere.*



*Gatehouse, College at Florham  
(Charcoal sketch by Dick Simon)*



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