

March 16, 2017 Bay Shore Historical Society Meeting Notes

Barry called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The St. Patrick's Day parade was a lot of fun. There was good participation marching. There were three cars and members threw candy and beads to the crowd. Kelly read the minutes of the February 16, 2017 meeting. JoAnn reported membership was at 233. The Chowder Bar has become a lifetime member. Joe reported expenses were \$889 and income was \$4,011. Most of the income was the result of membership renewals.

Gene Horton presented American First Ladies Part II: Edith Roosevelt thru Michelle Obama.

26. Edith Roosevelt – She is the only First Lady buried on Long Island (Youngs Memorial Cemetery in Oyster Bay); She was the one to start hanging portraits of former First Ladies in the White House
27. Helen Taft – She was the first First Lady to ride with her husband from the Capital to the White House after the swearing in; She had the cherry blossom tress planted around the tidal basin in Washington DC; She started the collection of First Lady gowns in the Smithsonian; She was the first First Lady to own and drive her own automobile; She is the first of two First Ladies buried in Arlington National Cemetery
28. Ellen Wilson – She died in the White House; She planted the first rose bush in what is now known as the White House Rose Garden
29. Edith Wilson – She was the second wife of Woodrow Wilson; She accompanied her husband on his many trips to Europe; After Woodrow Wilson had a stroke Edith controlled and determined what matters were important enough to require his attention; Woodrow and Edith Wilson are the only President and First Lady buried in Washington DC.
30. Florence Harding – She was the first First Lady to vote; President Warren Harding died unexpectedly less than 3 years into his term and she died a little more than a year later
31. Grace Coolidge – She was outgoing, warm and social (the exact opposite of her husband) which helped soften her husband's image
32. Lou Hoover – She was the first woman to earn a degree in Geology from Stanford; She enjoyed traveling the world and spoke fluent Chinese; She was the National President of the Girl Scouts; She was the first First Lady to host her own radio broadcast

33. Anna Roosevelt – She went by Eleanor Roosevelt; Franklin D. Roosevelt was her distant cousin; She was the first First Lady to hold press conferences and to write a newspaper column; She was the longest serving First Lady
34. Elizabeth Truman – She was known as Bess; She was an intensely private person; She lived longer than any other First lady has
35. Mamie Eisenhower – Her looks and charm made her a popular First Lady; She estimated that her and Dwight D. Eisenhower had moved 27 times in 37 years; Dwight D. Eisenhower changed the name from “Shangri-La” to Camp David, after his grandson
36. Jacqueline Kennedy – She was born in South Hampton; She is the only First Lady to win an Emmy (for her television tour of the White House): She is buried in Arlington National Cemetery next to JFK
37. Claudia Johnson – She was known as Lady Bird Johnson; Her favored cause was the beautification of America’s cities and highways; She had wild flowers planted along roadsides and launched the Highway Beautification Act
38. Thelma Ryan – She was better known as Pat Nixon because she was born on the eve of St. Patrick’s Day; She was the first First Lady to visit the People’s Republic of China and to wear pants; She created tours of the White House for the handicap
39. Elizabeth Ford – She was known as Betty; She was a member of Martha Graham's Dance Company; She spoke openly about Breast Cancer and established the Betty Ford Center for treatment of alcohol and drugs
40. Rosalynn Carter – She was the first First Lady to walk Pennsylvania Avenue with her husband on inauguration day; She was the first First Lady to attend cabinet meetings and to have an office in the White House; She and Jimmy Carter have been married for 71 years
41. Nancy Regan – Ronald Reagan called her his ‘costar’; She concentrated on the fight against drug and alcohol abuse among young people and introduced the ‘Just say no’ campaign
42. Barbara Bush – She was called ‘everybody’s grandmother’; She focused on the issue of literacy; Barbara and George H. Bush have been married for 72 years and are the longest married President and First Lady; She is the second First Lady to be a wife and mother of a President
43. Hillary Clinton – She was the first First Lady that was a lawyer and the first First Lady to hold public office; She focused on the issue of health care
44. Laura Bush – She was a teacher and Librarian; She focused on the issue of literacy; She and George W. Bush have twin daughters - Jenna and Barbara

45. Michelle Obama – She was the first African American First Lady; Her mother lived in the White House to help care for her two daughters; She planted a vegetable garden on the South Lawn of the White House; She focused on the issues of poverty, healthy living and education
46. Melania Trump – She was born in Slovenia; She became a U.S. citizen in 2006;

Barry thanked Gene for his presentation and invited everyone for refreshments.

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Zebro