

A VISIONARY NEW EDUCATION BARN FOR VAL-KILL

CULMINATING 20 YEARS OF SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES PROJECTS FOR THE SITE



BACKGROUND:

Thanks to Bobbie Green McCarthy, Val-Kill became an inaugural project of the Save America's Treasures program, a public-private partnership started in 1998 by the White House Millennium Council to commemorate the past as a way to imagine a better future by preserving connections among generations.



PROGRAM CONCEPT

The Barn at Val-Kill remains the last major restoration project at Val-Kill, culminating over 20 years of achievements of SAT projects for the site.



As the Director of SAT, Bobbie was integral to ensuring that places that say so much about our history and who we are as a nation, did not fall to disrepair or complete loss, so that young people today can know about the sacrifices, the struggles of those who came before us.

The Partnership and National Park Service are currently undertaking feasibility studies to convert The Barn at Val-Kill to an education and conference center, so that Val-Kill can accommodate larger groups, invite more collaborative partners for programming, and make it available for nonprofit retreats.

In the spirit of SAT's mission to imagine a better future for all people, the Barn at Val-Kill will be a compelling generation connector that convenes speakers from diverse backgrounds to reflect on Eleanor Roosevelt's story as a champion for social change and human rights, and highlight the importance of saving Val-Kill to make this story more accessible to the next generation.

***“When we preserve Val-Kill,
we preserve, in many ways,
a birthplace of the human
rights movement”***

--HILLARY CLINTON

*June 17, 2000, Save America's
Treasures visit to Val-Kill*



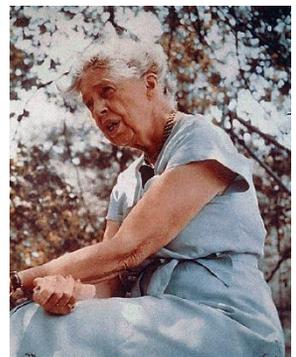
HOW YOU CAN HELP: Contribute online at: [The Barn at Val-Kill Project](#)

Mail a check or enclosed credit card gift to: \$5,000 2,500 \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100

The Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Partnership
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Contact Uri Perrin at (845) 372-3839 or uri@valkill.org.

Name _____ Address: _____
Email: _____ Tel: _____
CC # _____ Exp: ___/___ Code: _____

The Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Partnership's mission is to promote and sustain Eleanor Roosevelt's ideals as one of the world's most courageous leaders for social justice so that future generations can be inspired through her example. We accomplish this mission by revitalizing her life and work through our support of interpretive projects at her beloved Val-Kill home with the National Park Service. We also build engagement, awareness and action for her leadership on social justice issues through collaborative partnerships and programming dedicated to her ideals in our time. Visit www.valkill.org



*“Any change and raising of the
standards of civilization can
come only from the people within
the country itself.”*

~Eleanor Roosevelt

Some of the Partnership's accomplishments since Save America's Treasures founding in 1998:

- Crucial preservation of the cottages and grounds, including receipt of HGTV's *Restore America* grant in 2005, a joint project of the Save America's Treasures program, the National Trust, and HGTV, which funded a range of restoration work at Val-Kill, one of 12 sites selected from among 1200 SAT sites.
- Funded return of collection acquisitions of Eleanor Roosevelt's original papers, books, furnishings, artworks, family heirlooms, and original Val-Kill Industries furniture.
- Funded Val-Kill's first Visitor Center and gift shop
- Co-produced the award winning "Close to Home" documentary seen with every tour, which won the United Nations Association Film Festival Award in 2013.
- Through a GE Fund grant, underwrote development of on-line program *Teaching ER* by the Eleanor Roosevelt Papers Project, George Washington University.
- Funded transcription of Val-Kill oral history interviews.
- Primary sponsor of Val-Kill's first permanent, in-depth exhibits detailing Val-Kill's impact on Roosevelt personal life and politics, as an incubator for New Deal policies and FDR administration diplomacy, and Eleanor Roosevelt's emergence as a political leader. Exhibits brought family home video's and original objects to permanent public view for the first time.
- Through a Muriel Siebert Foundation grant, funded restoration, weatherizing, and re-furnishing of Eleanor Roosevelt's beloved Sleeping Porch with reproduction Val-Kill Industries furniture.
- Won a 2016 NPS Centennial matching grant, with support from Cathy & Douglas Stone to fund the reestablishment of the Val-Kill Swimming Pool - a central feature of Val-kill's historic setting and the active recreation used by the family and as a primary gathering place for diplomatic gatherings such as Winston Churchill and other world leaders.
- Funded Val-Kill era furnishings around the pool terrace and gardens for visitors to enjoy these central gathering areas at Val-Kill much as the Roosevelts did in their time.
- Set for Fall 2017, reestablishment of the Val-Kill tennis court as a playable court for special school groups and limited public play.

In addition, the Partnership led collaborative programming that highlights Eleanor Roosevelt's relevance today:

- Sponsor annual Val-Kill Picnic & Square Dance, drawing over 300 guests in the tradition of the Roosevelts' "Picnic Diplomacy" in their time. Restored the outdoor fireplace in 2016 for guests to roast their own hot dogs as Roosevelts and royalty did in their day.
- Co-sponsored with the EPA a *Women and Climate Change* conference in Hyde Park that highlighted the Roosevelt's early conservation work and activism.
- Teamed with DreamRocket to sponsor a student art exhibit entitled "*Keeping the Dream Alive: Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian and Civic Rights Leader*," reaching 890 students & 64 classrooms across the nation.
- Co-sponsored "*Arts in the Park*" en plein air painting at Val-Kill with the Woodstock School of Art.
- Piloted a new program with the [Sorensen Center for International Peace and Justice](#), an institute of the City University of NY (CUNY) dedicated to training social justice lawyers, which explored the creation of the Universal Declaration for Human Rights and shared their thought and ideas for how Eleanor Roosevelt's methods for social change and human rights remain relevant to the work they are doing worldwide.
- Annually host the Department of State and Bard College's [Study of the U.S. Institute on Civic Engagement](#) summer institute at Val-Kill, which welcomes foreign undergraduate students from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Palestinian Territories, and Tunisia, participating in exchange program designed to improve their understanding of the US and to develop leadership skills.