

Celebrating 65 Years



Building on Solid Success

Dear Members and Friends,

During 2015, while the Vanderbilt celebrated its 65th anniversary, we continued to make substantial progress in major gifts, collections support and restoration, education outreach, and membership building.

In its biggest news of the year, the Vanderbilt received two significant grants that have allowed us to perform crucial conservation and restoration measures on specimens in our rare marine and wild-animal collections. The Robert D. L. Gardiner Foundation gift of \$135,000 supports essential work on more than 1,000 wet specimens, part of the largest privately assembled collection of pre-atomic-era sea life.

The Roy M. Speer Foundation's second \$100,000 gift has made it possible for us to continue the extensive restoration, modernization and technological update of the Stoll Wing animal habitats. The gift is a continuation of the foundation's initial gift of \$100,000 in 2012.

The Stoll Wing modernization includes the installation of electronic information kiosks, from which visitors can learn about the animals exhibited in the dioramas, which were brought back from around the world by Charles and Merle Stoll during the early and mid-twentieth century.

We completed two crucial facilities projects this year – the total renovation of the public restrooms at the Museum gate house entrance and construction of a new, separate, ADA-compliant family restroom in the Planetarium.

Planning is underway for the creation of the Under the Stars Café in the Reichert Planetarium lobby. This summer, we plan to enhance Planetarium programming with the installation of a laser-light entertainment system with a wide assortment of shows and education programming.

Membership is booming. We now have more than 700 members, an increase of 200 percent over last year. Attendance is solid, too, with more than 105,000 visitors in 2015.

With the dedication of the board and staff, strong county support, fundraising, critical major gifts, and growing membership, the Vanderbilt continues to build with confidence on the gratifying successes of the past several years.

We are pleased to offer this report, a snapshot of the Vanderbilt during 2015, to our members and business partners, and to our friends old and new.



LANCE REINHEIMER
Executive Director

KONALD A. BEATTIE
President, Board of Trustees

Conserving

THE VANDERBILT MUSEUM COLLECTION

Conserving Rare Marine Specimens from Pre-Atomic Era

The Vanderbilt is home to the largest privately assembled collection of sea specimens from the pre-atomic era. Now, thanks to a \$135,000 grant from The Robert D. L. Gardiner Foundation, the Museum is performing crucial conservation measures on many of those rare specimens.

The foundation gave the Museum the two-year grant in January 2015. Since July, the curatorial staff has been working on some of the more than 1,000 wet (preserved in fluid) specimens exhibited on the second floor of the Marine Museum. An

additional 600 are on display in the mansion's Memorial Wing.

During oceanic expeditions in the early 20th century, William K. Vanderbilt II (1878-1944) found 67 specimens that were new to science.

Stephanie Gress, the museum's

director of curatorial affairs, said the finds – not previously identified – are called

“type specimens.” Most of the 40 ocean fish and 27 marine invertebrates have been on loan to the American Museum of Natural History since the 1990s.

Gress said the Gardiner grant is invaluable to the future of the marine collection, as many of the specimens have not been touched since the last major conservation-restoration project in the 1990s. The project is “very time- and labor-intensive,” she said. “Cracked seals on the specimen jars and containers let in air, which slowly evaporates the preservative fluid. When specimens are not immersed in fluid, it’s easy for infections and mold to develop.”

The marine collection was the first aspect of what became Mr. Vanderbilt's larger natural-history museum. He built his single-story Hall of Fishes in 1922, and opened it on a limited basis to the public. By the late 1920s, after more ocean voyages, his marine collection outgrew its original space. He added a second floor by 1930.

The two largest specimens are a 32-foot whale shark – the world's largest example of fish taxidermy – and a manta ray with a 16.5-foot wingspan. The collection of 13,190 specimens, housed in the Marine Museum, Habitat and Memorial Wing, includes wet and dry specimens and dry marine invertebrates (shells and corals).



Steve Clappitt and Amanda Jensen inventory marine specimens.





THIS BOOK TELLS READERS ABOUT THE VANDERBILT FAMILY, WHY MR. VANDERBILT CAME HERE AND BUILT THE ESTATE, HOW THE PLACE CHANGED OVER THE YEARS BASED ON CHANGES IN HIS LIFE, AND HOW WE USE IT TODAY.

Curator Publishes History of *Eagle's Nest*

Stephanie Gress knows more about the history of William K. Vanderbilt II than most people. As the Museum's director of curatorial affairs for eight years, she is a steward of Mr. Vanderbilt's legacy, his estate, mansion and museum collections.

Using that extensive knowledge and a trove of rare photographs from the Vanderbilt archives, Gress created a richly illustrated book, *Eagle's Nest: The William K. Vanderbilt II Estate*.

The book was published in June by Arcadia Publishing in South Carolina, the leading local-history publisher in the United States. (*Eagle's Nest* is available for purchase on the Arcadia Publishing, Amazon and Barnes & Noble websites, and in the Vanderbilt Museum Gift Shop and local bookstores.)

The release of the book was well-timed, because the development of the *Eagle's Nest* estate is in its centennial decade: "This book tells readers about the Vanderbilt family, why Mr. Vanderbilt came here and built the estate, how the place changed over the years based on changes in his life, and how we use it today," Gress said.

Known as Willie K., Vanderbilt purchased the first parcel of what would become 43 acres for his Northport Bay estate in 1910, and hired the eminent New York City architectural firm of Warren & Wetmore to design and build it. The

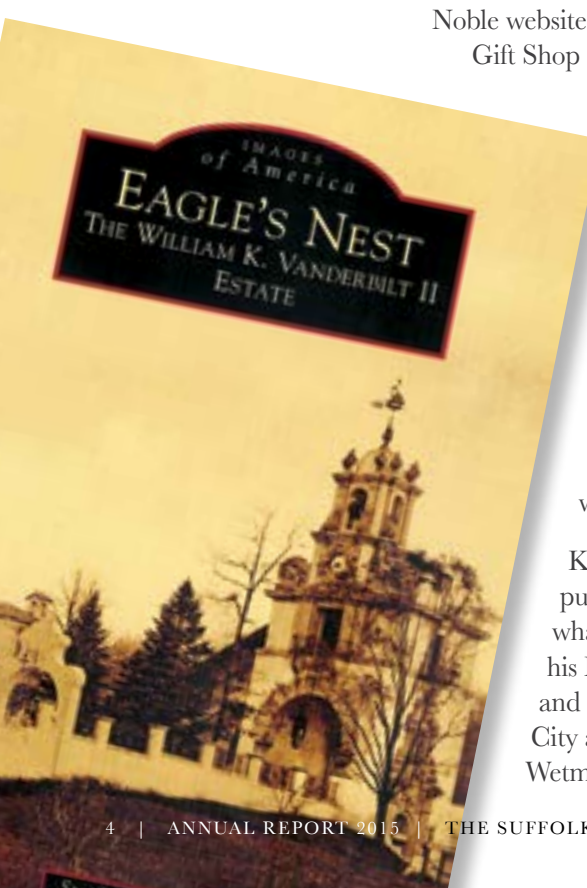
firm had created Grand Central Terminal in Manhattan for Cornelius Vanderbilt's New York Central Railroad. (Cornelius was William's great-grandfather.)

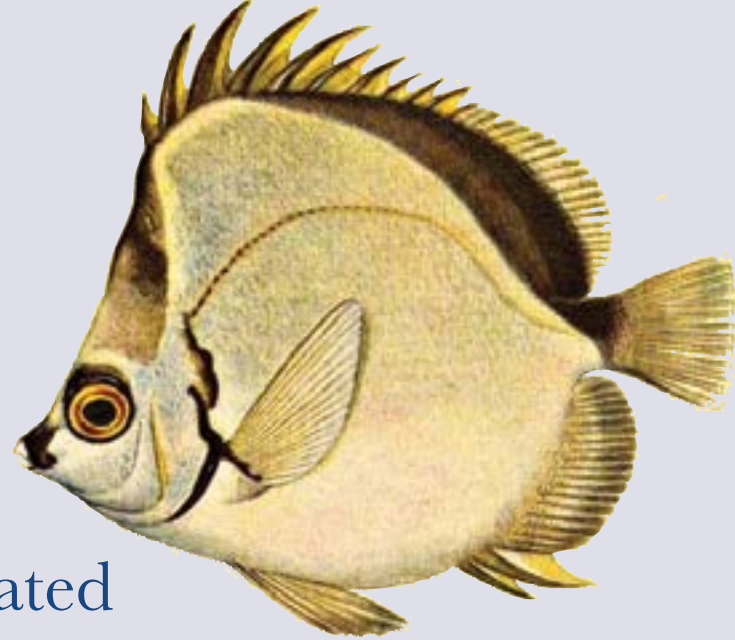
Eagle's Nest is the easternmost Gold Coast mansion on Long Island's affluent North Shore. From 1910 to 1944, the palatial, 24-room, Spanish-Revival mansion was Willie K.'s summer hideaway. There, he hosted intimate gatherings of Vanderbilt family members and close friends, including the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, legendary golfer Sam Snead, and the Tiffanys.

"Mr. Vanderbilt embarked on many of his legendary world voyages from *Eagle's Nest*," Gress said, "along with a 50-person crew and a few, fortunate invited passengers." During his global travels, he collected natural-history and marine specimens and ethnographic artifacts.

With the help of scientists and experts from the American Museum of Natural History, he created galleries at the Estate to showcase his collections. Vanderbilt bequeathed his Estate and Museum to Suffolk County, New York. In 1950, it opened to the public as the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum and is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

"Much to his credit, *Eagle's Nest* continues to fulfill Willie's intended mission," Gress wrote in the conclusion of the book. "Visitors from all over the world come to see one of the few remaining Long Island Gold Coast estates with its original furnishings. His collections remain on display and they continue to fascinate and entertain."





Renowned Artist William Belanske Celebrated

William E. Belanske already had an enviable job as an artist and taxidermist for the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) when he got a call from William K. Vanderbilt II. The year was 1926 and Mr. Vanderbilt was preparing for an expedition on his yacht *Ara* to collect animal and marine life.

The voyage would take Belanske to one of the most remote and scientifically diverse places on earth – the Galápagos Islands in the Pacific, off the coast of Ecuador. Mr. Vanderbilt needed an artist to record the live specimens he would bring back to his private museum in Centerport. To Belanske (1892-1945), it was the opportunity of a lifetime.

The Vanderbilt, which marked the 65th anniversary of its official opening on July 6, 1950, created a new exhibit in the Memorial Wing that honors Belanske's work. The installation features a recreation of Belanske's studio on the Vanderbilt Estate and includes some of the detailed paintings of the numerous marine specimens Mr. Vanderbilt collected from the oceans of the world. Large illustrated panels detail Belanske's work during the expeditions and at the Museum.

"The ship's artist, Mr. William E. Belanske, has been with me since 1926," Mr. Vanderbilt wrote in 1932. "He makes accurate paintings of rare fish. With every scale carefully drawn, every shade, every nuance of color exactly portrayed, his reproductions are true, lifelike, and of value to science."

In 1927, following the *Ara* expedition, Mr. Vanderbilt requested Belanske's services full-time at his museum, and Belanske resigned from the AMNH. He served as Mr. Vanderbilt's curator and lived in a cottage on the estate from 1928 to 1945. His work included taking part in the around-the-world cruises of the *Ara* in 1928-1929 and of the *Alva* in 1931-1932.

Notably, Belanske collaborated in 1930 with the renowned painter Henry Hobart Nichols (also of the AMNH) to create the Habitat, nine stunning dioramas that depict animal life from several continents. The centerpiece of the room is a 32-foot whale shark, the world's largest taxidermied fish, caught off Fire Island in 1935.

"On the *Ara*, they placed fish in holding tanks with saltwater to keep them alive," said Stephanie Gress, Director of Curatorial Affairs. "In the era before color photography, Belanske painted the fish immediately, to record the colors accurately." His color images of the specimens were displayed in the Marine Museum next to the faded, fluid-preserved specimens.



William Belanske sketching before a voyage.



Heckscher Bald Eagle Lands at Vanderbilt

The Vanderbilt Mansion library has a new resident, a preserved Bald Eagle on long-term loan from the The Heckscher Museum of Art in Huntington. The majestic bird, 23 inches tall seated on its mount, is a fitting addition – the Vanderbilt estate is named *Eagle's Nest*. The loan, from the Heckscher's legacy collection, was made possible by collaborative efforts among leadership of the museums and the Town of Huntington, which has owned the Heckscher Museum since 1954.

Dr. Michael Schantz, executive director and CEO of the Heckscher Museum, said the eagle was likely one of the initial Heckscher family gifts and is part of the museum's legacy collection. The vast assemblage includes fine and decorative art and diverse cultural objects, and numerous Egyptian and American Indian pieces.

Since the museum's focus is on fine art and not natural history or ethnographic artifacts, Schantz said the eagle had been in archival storage for decades: "We found the perfect home for it. The museum leadership wanted to keep this majestic bird local and have it be useful to the mission of another institution. We are pleased to place this fine specimen on long-term loan at the Vanderbilt where it will be used as an educational tool in a way not possible at the Heckscher."

The Vanderbilt natural-history collection includes 569 birds exhibited in various parts of the museum. The Bird Room is home to 323. The remainder is displayed in the Memorial Wing, Habitat, Sudan Trophy Room and Stoll Wing.

Gardiner Grant of \$135,000 to Help Restore Marine Collection

A \$135,000 grant from The Robert D. L. Gardiner Foundation has enabled the Vanderbilt to begin restoration of hundreds of specimens in its Marine Museum collection. The extensive collection is the largest privately assembled group of sea specimens from the pre-atomic era.

Jennifer Attonito, a foundation board member, said, "The Vanderbilt Museum is a long Island gem and a major anchor of local history. We are proud to help preserve this valuable collection to benefit museum

visitors and to help raise awareness of Long Island's heritage." The Gardiner Foundation supports the study of Long Island history, with an emphasis on Suffolk County.

"The Vanderbilt Museum is a living symbol of one of Long Island's most popular historic periods, the Gold Coast era, when private fortunes were unrivaled," said Kathryn Curran, executive director of the foundation.

"The site and collections along with the state-of-the-

art planetarium make it one of Suffolk County's unique and most valued cultural and educational centers."

"The Gardiner Foundation grant is helping us to restore and preserve many rare specimens in our collection that have long needed critical attention," said Stephanie Gress, the museum's director of curatorial affairs. "Our marine collection is the foundation for several key Vanderbilt education programs that serve Long Island schools."



Speer Foundation Increases Support for Animal-Habitat Restoration

The Stoll Wing wild-animal habitats are undergoing restoration and a technological update, supported by a second \$100,000 gift from the Roy M. Speer Foundation. The gift is a continuation of the foundation's initial grant of \$100,000 in 2012.

The gifts were given by Lynnda Speer, the granddaughter of Museum trustee and benefactor Charles H. Stoll (1887-1988) of Long Island, a noted explorer, naturalist and big-game hunter. Stoll created and financed the strikingly detailed animal dioramas that feature the wild game he and his wife Merle brought back from around the world between 1922 and 1969.

The latest restoration phase includes installation of interactive, educational, touch-screen kiosks with downloadable narration for each of the eight animal dioramas; conservation work on the 15 preserved animals; and building-safety improvements.

The new heating, ventilating and air-conditioning system ensures visitor comfort and preservation of the specimens. An artist and a taxidermist who undertake major projects for the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) created three new background paintings for the dioramas, and restored and preserved 30 mounted animal heads.

“Stoll and Vanderbilt were both members of the Explorers Club, a distinction reserved for the most adventurous among us,” said Stephanie Gress, director of curatorial affairs for the Vanderbilt. It’s significant that the sole addition to the Museum was achieved by someone of Vanderbilt’s caliber, she added.

Lance Reinheimer, the Vanderbilt’s executive director, said, “The Speer Foundation’s generous ongoing support will enable us to complete this phase of the restoration and the preservation of the specimens. Like Mr. Vanderbilt, Stoll had an educational

purpose in mind when he collected animals and brought them home to Long Island. Although it is unclear whether the two men ever met, their interests and expeditions had remarkable parallels. They also shared a love of the natural world and a deep commitment to public education.”

The Stolls collected animals in Africa, Alaska, the American West, the Arctic, British Honduras (now Belize), Canada, India and Nova Scotia. Specimens

range from a blue wildebeest, polar bear, walrus and Cape buffalo, to a kudu, ostrich, jaguar, Bengal tiger and leopard.

Stoll hired Dr. James L. Clark, a renowned taxidermist for the AMNH, to supervise the creation of the Stoll Wing dioramas. Clark chose accomplished taxidermists and background artists from among his colleagues. Opened to the public in 1970, the Stoll Wing complements the natural-history collections, Marine Museum and Habitat animal dioramas built by William K. Vanderbilt II – all key elements of the Museum’s education programs.

Stoll, also a lawyer and Nassau County judge, financed and led the famous 1928 Stoll-McCracken Siberian Arctic Expedition, undertaken under the auspices of the American Museum of Natural History. Stoll joined the Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees in 1967, was elected chairman in 1971, and served until 1975.



THE LATEST RESTORATION PHASE INCLUDES INSTALLATION OF INTERACTIVE, EDUCATIONAL, TOUCH-SCREEN KIOSKS WITH DOWNLOADABLE NARRATION FOR EACH OF THE EIGHT ANIMAL DIORAMAS...

News

Museum Observes 65th Anniversary

The Vanderbilt celebrated the 65th anniversary of its official opening on July 6, 2015.

William K. Vanderbilt II foresaw the potential for his museum to be used for, in the words of the institution's mission, the "education and enjoyment of the general public." That wish prompted him to leave his estate, museum and a trust fund to finance its operation, to Suffolk County.

Mr. Vanderbilt died in 1944. His wife Rosamund continued to live in the Vanderbilt Mansion in Centerport until her death in 1947. The county opened the museum to the public on July 6, 1950.

The anniversary coincided with Arcadia Publishing's release of *Eagle's Nest: The William K. Vanderbilt II Estate* by Stephanie Gress, the Museum's director of curatorial affairs. (See story, page 4.)

Today, the Vanderbilt Estate and Museum are an important part of Long Island history. They are a destination for regional visitors interested in natural history, the life of the oceans, armchair journeys through space, and the history of the privileged life on the Gold Coast from the Jazz Age through the Second World War.



Vanderbilt's Great-Great-Granddaughter Shoots Music Video at Mansion

After scouting locations for her latest music video, Consuelo Vanderbilt Costin selected on a place with personal and historic resonance – the Long Island Gold Coast mansion of her great-great-grandfather, William K. Vanderbilt II.

In March, Costin used the Mansion, courtyard and family living quarters as backdrops for the production.

Costin is a seventh-generation descendant of Cornelius Vanderbilt, the shipping and railroad entrepreneur who amassed one of the greatest fortunes of the nineteenth century. She is a singer and songwriter who has performed around the world and shared the stage with such notable artists as Mya, Tweet, Vanessa Carlton and the late Joe Cocker.

The video was produced for Costin's new single "Lose My Mind." The story is of an arranged marriage, Costin said, and looks at the societal pressures and family positioning that had plagued Vanderbilt women of the past, dating back to Consuelo Vanderbilt's marriage to the Duke of Marlborough at the end of the nineteenth century.

Costin wears her great-grandmother's engagement ring in the video. Consuelo Vanderbilt Earl (1903-2011) gave her the ring as a gift, and it served as inspiration for her new jewelry line, *Homage*. Her great-grandfather's custom-built 1928 Lincoln and a rare 1909 Reo

Gentleman's Roadster – artifacts in the Vanderbilt collection – served as props for the shoot.

Costin's last single, "Body Needs," released in 2014, broke the Billboard Dance Chart's Top 10 for six

weeks and Top 5 for one week. Over the past few years, her music has spent an accumulated 49 weeks on the Billboard Dance Charts, and she has been featured on prominent television shows in Germany.

"Filming at the Vanderbilt Museum was a great privilege and an incredible treat for me on a very personal level," Costin said. "Since I moved to New York, which is so rich in my family's

history, I've taken every opportunity to explore it. It's been a wonderful, eye-opening experience for me, but working at the estate and in the mansion on this project was the most extraordinary way to learn about – and even to live and breathe – a small piece of that history.

"The Estate and Mansion have been meticulously preserved just as it was when my great-great grandfather passed in 1944. Sitting in his vintage Lincoln Town Car, stepping through the doorway of the bedroom where my great grandmother and namesake spent her summers, was like walking through 70 years of time. I am truly grateful to the Museum and its dedicated and gracious staff for allowing me to film my new music video there, and for welcoming me with such warmth and enthusiasm."



Johnny Athas and Consuelo Costin in the Vanderbilt Mansion courtyard.

Photo by Vital Aghalov

“FILMING AT THE VANDERBILT MUSEUM WAS A GREAT PRIVILEGE AND AN INCREDIBLE TREAT FOR ME ON A VERY PERSONAL LEVEL”

Education Outreach

Middle School Students ‘Discover the Universe’ in Mobile Classroom

In early June, students and teachers, and even the principal, at Rocky Point Middle School on Long Island added an intriguing chapter to their science education when they climbed inside the Vanderbilt’s Discovering the Universe: Mobile Classroom.



The Mobile Classroom – which receives ongoing support from the National Grid Foundation – was a gift to the Vanderbilt from the American Museum of Natural History. The Classroom allows the Vanderbilt to enhance its longtime role as an adjunct to the science curricula of local schools.

“Our school strives to provide authentic learning opportunities for all students,” said the principal, Dr. Scott O’Brien, “and the Mobile Classroom offered a unique experience

to extend and support classroom instruction. The students enjoyed interacting with the hands-on exhibits, and this motivating program reinforced our curriculum.”

“The Mobile Classroom is the perfect way to help make astronomy cool and exciting to students,” said Bob Keller, president of the National Grid Foundation. “We are extremely pleased to partner with the Vanderbilt and hope we were able to spark the curiosity of the Rocky Point Middle School students and children all over Long Island to explore the Universe and excel in science.

“Helping children to become excited about science is one of the most critical educational priorities we have as a nation, and this stunning, traveling window into the universe has become a major resource for encouraging Long Island students to pursue careers in science. After a highly successful pilot year, we are thrilled to continue our partnership with the Vanderbilt, one of Long Island’s premier museums.”

Since the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year, more than 3,130 students have participated in the Mobile Classroom program. Districts served during the current school year were Central Islip, Westbury, Brentwood, William Floyd, Amityville, Freeport, Franklin Square, Sachem, South Country and Rocky Point.





Special Events

Year-round, the Vanderbilt offers events for all ages

VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER

Guests at the annual Valentine's Day dinner in the Vanderbilt Mansion enjoy a romantic dinner in a grand house where Hollywood stars and European royalty dined with members of one of America's richest and most famous families. The evening is a benefit for Museum education programs.

BUNNY BREAKFAST

Every spring, parents and children come for breakfast with the Easter Bunny. Held in the Planetarium lobby, the event often draws family groups of three generations. After a breakfast, children go on an egg hunt in the Vanderbilt Rose Garden, and see a special Planetarium show.

MID-SUMMER NIGHT DANCES

For the third summer popular dances were held in the Celebration Tent most Thursday evenings. Featured were ballroom and other types of dancing and a light dinner. Instructors taught new dance steps, and a deejay provided music for dancing and listening.

CLAM BAKE

This annual fundraiser offered a wide seafood-lovers' menu plus a deejay with music for listening and dancing. Participants could take part in a chip-shot contest in honor of Willie Vanderbilt's original estate golf course.

ALEX TORRES AND HIS LATIN ORCHESTRA

For the ninth summer, the orchestra performed *Spicy Sounds for a Hot Night*, featuring Latin music. Dance lovers bring picnics, take club-style Latin dance lessons, and then listen and dance to the music of these renowned musicians and recording artists.

LIGHTING THE TREE

Every year on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, the Vanderbilt holds its festive tree lighting in the Mansion courtyard. The popular free event features carols and holiday favorites by the Northport Chorale, the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Claus, and cookies and hot chocolate.

TOURS OF DECORATED MANSION

Each November, beginning the day after Thanksgiving, visitors take guided tours of the Mansion, decked in holiday elegance by local designers, decorators and garden clubs.

HOLIDAY DINNER IN THE MANSION

This popular evening fundraiser for education programs, held in the elegantly decorated Mansion, is a time-machine trip to the elegant Gold Coast life of the 1930s.

TWILIGHT MANSION TOURS

For a few nights each year, between Christmas and New Year's Eve, visitors take enchanted nighttime tours of the decorated Mansion.

CLASSIC CAR SHOWS

Shows of dazzling classic automotive designs were presented on the Great Lawn by The Antique Automobile Club of America-Vanderbilt Cup Region, and by The Jaguar Drivers Club of L.I. and the MG Car Club-Long Island Centre.



Grateful Fest



Alex Torres and His Latin Orchestra



Valentine's Day Dinner



Classic Car Shows



Tours of Decorated Mansion

Live Music

LIVE MUSIC IN THE PLANETARIUM

The Charles and Helen Reichert Planetarium is often the site of live-music events.

THE LIVERPOOL SHUFFLE

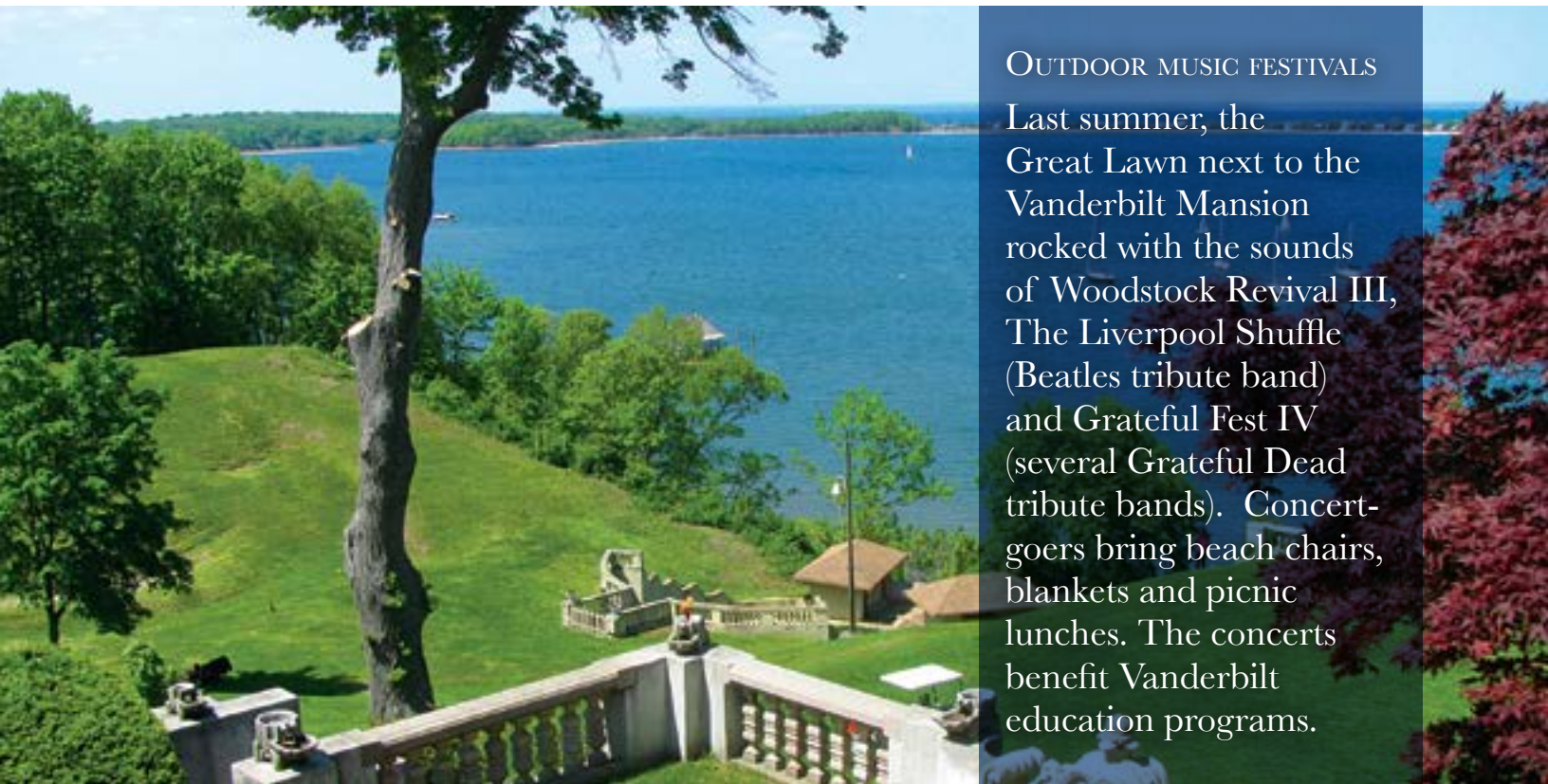
This Beatles tribute band, a regional favorite, played classics, accompanied by a montage of 1960s images on the Planetarium dome, including the band's American television appearances.

SONGS IN THE KEY OF EARTH

Award-winning singer-songwriter Patricia Shih and her sidekick Stephen Fricker performed a multi-media, audience-participation family concert for all ages, with images and video projected onto the Planetarium dome.

SPONTANEOUS FANTASIA

Using a computer interface, J-Walt (a performer, interactive designer, filmmaker, graphic artist, composer, and co-winner of an Academy Award for Technical Achievement) created landscapes, dancing figures, animated geometries and sea creatures on the Planetarium dome, accompanied by original music.



OUTDOOR MUSIC FESTIVALS

Last summer, the Great Lawn next to the Vanderbilt Mansion rocked with the sounds of Woodstock Revival III, The Liverpool Shuffle (Beatles tribute band) and Grateful Fest IV (several Grateful Dead tribute bands). Concertgoers bring beach chairs, blankets and picnic lunches. The concerts benefit Vanderbilt education programs.

Education



WINTER WORKSHOPS – When schools break for winter recess, the Museum’s Education Department offers creative workshops for children in pre-K and grades K-3. Projects ranged from sailor’s valentines and self-portraits, to animal masks and nests with snow owls.

SUMMER PROGRAMS – In summer pre-school workshops, children make paper sculptures, masks, and tee-shirts. Older children in grades K-3 take science and art workshops that explore the Museum’s marine and natural-history collections, cultural artifacts and wild-animal habitats, and they make creative projects.

Theater

ARENA PLAYERS REPERTORY

THEATER – Arena Players Repertory Theater main stage productions included *After Sex, Then What?*, *Kosher Lutherans* and *Beauty Queen of Leenane*. Arena’s 27th annual Summer Shakespeare Festival performed *Twelfth Night* and *Othello*, *The Black of Angola*. Arena Players Children’s Theater produced *The Clown’s Jack and the Beanstalk*, *The Incredible Tale of Sleepy Hollow* and *Beauty and the Beast’s Magical Christmas*. Nearly 1,600 people attended Arena Players performances.



Scene from *Twelfth Night*.

Progress

Major Capital Improvements

The Vanderbilt works year-round to maintain and repair its buildings, some of which are nearly a century old. The Museum also continues to make necessary improvements in facilities for the safety and convenience of its visitors.

Crucial projects completed this year were the total renovation of the bathrooms at the gate house in back of the security office, and construction of a new, separate, ADA-compliant family bathroom in the Planetarium lobby.

Along with the ongoing repair and restoration of building roofs and facades, the Vanderbilt is patching and waterproofing the exterior of the Marine Museum. Work continues throughout 2016.

The Vanderbilt works constantly to improve the visitor experience. Pre-construction planning is underway for long-needed food

service, to be located in the Planetarium lobby. The Under the Stars Café will be completed by the end of summer 2016.

Tree trimming and land management projects continue to beautify the Estate grounds. The Vanderbilt employs a gardener to do detailed strategic planting and maintenance of shrubbery, gardens and flower beds. This spring, for visitor convenience, three additional picnic tables have been placed in the Rose Garden outside the Planetarium.

The Reichert Planetarium will add a new laser-light entertainment system with a wide assortment of entertainment and education programming

In 2016, the Museum will purchase one or two new trams to transport visitors on the property. On the Museum's wish list for the next few years is a major restoration of the Mansion bell tower.



Volunteer Gardeners, Decorators Enhance Estate

During 2015, nearly 100 volunteers gave the Museum more than 1,200 hours in service. Volunteer jobs include master gardeners, holiday decorators, archival researchers, Museum greeters, and assistance with special events.

For the fourth consecutive year, Goldman Sachs & Company awarded the Museum a Community TeamWorks grant of \$1,500 to improve and beautify the plantings at the Vanderbilt, and to have its employees work for one day alongside volunteer gardeners to restore the Mansion's courtyard gardens.

Throughout much of the year, several dozen volunteer gardeners, led by master gardeners Bill and Gloria Hall, help to beautify the landmark Vanderbilt Estate. They maintain and enhance the plantings around the Mansion, including a large organic vegetable garden. Many of the three dozen volunteers are certified master gardeners whose work makes the Estate look spectacular.

The plantings include roses at the entrance

along the wall behind the arc of six Corinthian columns that grace the entrance and overlook the harbor, various gardens around the Mansion, and dozens of vintage planters that beautify the courtyard, and the pool and terrace area off the Northport Porch.

Volunteers from area garden clubs decorate the Vanderbilt Mansion each December for the holidays. The decorators spend many hours working within a theme to create custom decorations that transport visitors to a bygone era of grandeur and sophisticated living. Many rooms have brightly lighted trees with wreaths, garlands, greenery and lavishly wrapped gifts.

This year's decorators included the Dix Hills, Centerport, Honey Hills, Nathan Hale and Three Village garden clubs; Harbor Homestead & Co. Design; and the master gardeners of the Cornell University Cooperative Extension. All have participated in the project for many years.



Finances

Gifts, Sponsors, Memberships Strengthen Revenue

The Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum continues to build on its solid financial progress during the past five years. During 2015 the Museum increased revenue by \$240,000 (10.8%) over the previous year to \$2.5 million. Museum expenditures of \$2.2 million are virtually unchanged from 2014, resulting in \$268,465 in excess revenues over expenses, which helps the Museum to reduce its multi-year structural deficit.

During 2015 the Museum experienced a 54.3% increase in membership revenue to \$107,309, representing more than 400 new members. Revenue from the Gift Shop continues to climb each year, increasing by 18% during 2015. We attribute this growth to well-chosen and appealing merchandise displayed attractively in a pleasing atmosphere.

Special events such as outdoor music festivals, live shows in the Planetarium, holiday dinners, and the ninth annual outdoor performance by Alex Torres and His Latin Orchestra generated \$154,227, which is a 22.5% increase over 2014.

Several major gifts and grants totaling more than \$350,000 accounted for the greatest growth in revenue, an increase of 302% over 2014. This increase was made possible by the generous support of The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation, Roy M. Speer Foundation, Charles and Helen Reichert Family Foundation, and National Grid Foundation. Their significant support helps to fund the Museum's mission and programs.

In 2015, 105,000 people visited the Vanderbilt. Our future is bright, and we believe that 2016 will be the best year yet in the 65-year history of this institution.

| 2015 EXPENSES & REVENUE (Un-audited) | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Expense Item | 2015 Actual Expense | Revenue Source | 2015 Actual Revenue |
| Salaries | \$1,142,687 | Admissions | \$686,384 |
| Employee Benefits | \$299,029 | Membership | \$107,309 |
| Maintenance & Equipment | \$50,425 | Gift Shop | \$81,021 |
| Insurance | \$85,009 | Special Events | \$154,227 |
| Professional | \$252,410 | Government Support | \$880,194 |
| Museum Store | \$33,657 | Endowment | \$22,185 |
| Telephone & Communications | \$21,896 | Site Use | \$199,896 |
| Utilities | \$166,562 | Donations, Gifts and Grants | \$354,111 |
| Supplies & Program | \$93,330 | Misc. Revenue | \$4,444 |
| General Expense | \$76,301 | | |
| Total Expenses | \$2,221,306 | Total Revenue | \$2,489,771 |
| | | Excess Revenue Over Expenses | \$268,465 |

This presentation does not include prior years' deficits



Support

Major Grants and Gifts

The Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum and Planetarium gratefully acknowledges major funding from the Charles and Helen Reichert Family Foundation, The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation, Roy M. Speer Foundation, and National Grid Foundation. Additional gifts and grants were awarded by Steven P. Radgowski and Lisa Mathieson Radgowski, Long Island Depression Glass Society, Bank of America, and Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Generous support from Suffolk County, combined with charitable giving by many individuals, corporations, friends and visitors, helps the Vanderbilt to serve the public and to fulfill its mission to educate the people of Long Island and beyond.

\$100,000 AND ABOVE

Suffolk County
The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation
Roy M. Speer Foundation
Charles and Helen Reichert Family
Foundation

\$10,000 - \$49,999

National Grid Foundation

\$2,500 - \$9,999

Steven P. Radgowski and Lisa Mathieson
Radgowski
Long Island Depression Glass Society

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Bank of America
Goldman, Sachs & Co.
Steven Gittelman, Ph.D.

\$250 - \$999

Farrell Fritz, P.C.
Retired United Teachers of Northport
Lance and Maria Reinheimer
Robert J. Avallone
Andy Giffin and Donna Reid Giffin
Daniel Kahn
Robert and Cynthia Hoey
Vincent and Kristin Panettieri
Donald F. Combs and Lisa Grabowski-Combs
Peter and Mary Gunther
Seth Blumencranz



Membership

Membership Grows Dramatically

The Vanderbilt Museum and Planetarium gratefully acknowledges its members, who truly represent the heart of the institution.

Since the reopening of the Charles and Helen Reichert Planetarium on March 15, 2013, the Vanderbilt has added 735 general memberships. The Museum experienced an explosion of general memberships from 295 members to more than 700 during the last three quarters of 2015. The Vanderbilt remains engaged in an active membership campaign and looks forward to increasing its base to 1,000 memberships by the end of 2016.

Long Island libraries are also vital collaborative partners with the Vanderbilt Museum and Planetarium. Total library memberships for 2015 rose to 68.

Membership provides sound financial support that enables the Vanderbilt to enhance the visitor experience. These improvements include the expansion of education programs, and the planned construction of a café, Under the Stars. Additional enhancements include the purchase of a laser light-show entertainment system for the Planetarium, trams for transporting patrons, and picnic tables for the Rose Garden next to the Planetarium.

This list includes active memberships as of March 7, 2016:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Geralyn Abel | Leslie Arnedos | Nick Benimoff | Kevin Brown |
| Stephen & Rene Abraham | Althea Arnold | Sean & Joanna Berardelli | Karla Bueno |
| Paul Abrams | Jessica Asch | Carol Bergano | Derek Bungan |
| Marge Acosta | Robert Avallone | Robert Berger | Vincent & Caryl Burns |
| Darren Acquavita | Nicole Awerman | Nicholas Berios | JC Bussani |
| Frank Aiello | Christina Babzien | Robert Bernhard | Mariko Butler |
| Michele Albert | Bill Baker | Felicia Bernstein | John Byrne |
| Jeff Alfano | Mario Baldino | Santa Berry | C.T. Lappas |
| Mohamed Ali | Constadina Balis | Fred Betielle | Frank Caccamo |
| Elena Alieva | Patti Bansbach | Jennifer Biamonte | Donna Caiet |
| Chuckie Allen | Nydia Barbarise-Phillips | Christina Biesty | Josh Callan |
| Joan Altieri | Linda Barbera | Tara Bilello | Elizabeth Cambria |
| Carmela Alvino | Greg Barone | The Bisiani Family | Susan Cammarota |
| Kenneth Anderson | Saskya Barresi | Nancy Blace | AnnaMarie Canadeo |
| Mike Andrejkovics | Brian Barrett | Grace Black | Joan Cangro |
| Robert Angiletta | Monika Bartocha | Steven Blank | Sara Capitani |
| Natalie Ankowitz | Treavor Barton | Maricar Block | Maryanne Cardone |
| Christina Antoine | Karen Baumgart | Lori Bocard | Melissa Cardone |
| Helen Argasinski Heraty | Katherine Beamer | The Boland Family | Elaine Carey |
| Allison Argiro | Ronald A. Beattie | Christine Bonadonna | Carl Carinci |
| Deborah Armendinger | Roman Bekker | Bill Bouknight | Carinne Bach-Moran |
| Diana Arnao | John Bellia | AnneMarie Bradley | Darren Carlson |

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Hayley Carlson | Jack & Sue DeMasi | Elizabeth Flynn | Grabowski-Combs |
| Kelly Carrera | Maria Demopoulos | Jodi Flynn | The Graham-Mott-Roche |
| Michelle Casteleiro | Michael Denicola | Karl Foden | Family |
| Diana Castellano | Rosana DeOleo | Stacey Foley | Peter Granelli |
| Luis Castillo | Marilyn Depietto | Lynne Ford | Rudy Gray |
| Raquel Castillo-Perla | Raymond Desimone | Elizabeth Forese | Joseph Greco |
| Carmine & Alfonsina Cava | Kimberly DeSiovo | Leonard Forte | Matt Greene |
| Kristin Chagaris | Cynthia Destefano | Greg Fowler | Carmencita Greenhut |
| David Chambers | Anthony DeStefano | Jeanine & Rick Fox | Jennifer Greenspan |
| Man Chan | Roberto Diaz | James Fradella | Dennis Grieco Jr. |
| Chiling Chen | Daniela Digiacomo | Rhoulmela Freedman | Rebecca Griffiths |
| Lin Chen | Stephen DiGioia | Nancy Freeman | Denise Grillo |
| Brenda Chen | Robin DiGregario | Vasiliki Freudenreich | Faith Groody |
| Mona Chin | James Dineen | Barclay Frey | Anthony Guarnaschelli |
| Don Chowdhury | Lisa DiTolla | Lauren Fried | Peter & Mary Gunther |
| Chris Cimino | Nick Divico | Grainne Friedle | Flor Guzman |
| Joan Clemens | John Doherty | Dan Friedman | Sharon Ha |
| Michelle Clune | Lori Domeny | Ozlem Fuentes | Kim Hagstrom |
| Dorothy Cochran | Melissa Donellan | Jeanie Gabriellini | Peter Eicher & Cat Hainfeld |
| Brian Cody | Dawn Doscher | Meredith Gajowski | Bill & Gloria Hall |
| Regina Cofrin | Kelley Douglas | Priscilla Galiano | James Bardong & Patricia |
| Elvan Colak | Lynda Dreher | Di-aan Gamaroff | Hall |
| Tammy Colletti | Nan Du | Jennifer Garalza | Neil & Joanne Halloran |
| Kelli Collins | Laura Dunne | Ann Garamella | Richard Haner |
| Joseph & Samantha Condolff | Vincent Dunne | George Garcia | Davinder Hanian |
| Monica Conover-Tehomilic | Brian Dunphy | Anne Garcia | Abu Haque |
| & John Tehomilic | Amanda Edmonds | Geoffrey Gardner | Nicholas Harding |
| Aidan Conway | George Engels | Marguerite Garguilo | Jessica Hashagen Smith |
| Carolyn Cooney | Sean Entin | Carol Garofalo | Edgar Hausman |
| Benjamin Correa | Ronald Epstein | The Garrison Family | David Hayhurst |
| Ed Cosgrove | Mike Epstein | Melissa Gatto | David Hedges |
| Patricia Cotter | Nicholas Errico | Christine Cullinan Gawley | Andrew & Anne Heffernan |
| Stacie Crane | Nippa Esendal | Chris & Michelle Gegwich | Kristen Henshaw |
| Judith Cumbe | Jane Evancie | Michael Giamusso | Michael Herbst |
| Elizabeth Curran | Angela Fachlaev | Andy Giffin & Donna Reid | Jailo Hernandez |
| Brian Cusati | Yolanda Fagundo | Giffin | Loreley Herrera |
| Jennifer Czeisler | Lisa Failla | Patricia Gillespie | Brian Herz |
| Kym Dabney | Suzanne Fallon | Monika Gillespie | Stacey Heuser |
| Linda Dacey | Dan Faulk | Andrew Gillette | Patel Hiren |
| Rosemarie Dacosta | Noreen Feehan | Lindsay Gillian | Susan Hirschmann |
| Paula D'Aleo | Andrew Feigin | Danielle Girimonte | Patrick Hirt |
| Jessica D'Amore | Virginia Feinberg | Steven Gittelman, Ph.D. | Sue Hoagland |
| Matthew Danna | Marc Felix | Enrich & Barbara Glanz | Robert & Cynthia Hoey |
| Neil D'Aranzo | James Ferguson | Thomas Glasscock | Mary Horan |
| Brooke Dasilva | Darleen Ferrante-Maurad | Brian Goehringer | Cara Horigan |
| Tony D'Aulerio | David Ferruzola & | Kristi Goldsmith | Virginia Hotte |
| Lisa Davies | Ann Marie Barone | Jeremy & Gary Goldstein | Melissa Hough |
| Sergio Davila | Robert Figueroa | Shawn Gordon | Angela Howe |
| Susan Dean | Gregg Fiorentino | Laraine Gordon | Janelle Hradek |
| Anthony DeBonis & Maria | Julie Fischer | Joanne Gorman | Danny Hu |
| Vergata | Thomas Flaherty | Linda Gorney | Rich Hutter |
| Rachel Dechance | Sean Flannagan | Ann Grabowski | Maria Hutton |
| John Demarco | Andrew Floria Lee | Donald F. Combs & Lisa | Esther Hyneman |

(Member Names continued)

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Emil Ianonne | Daniela Leavitt | Christine McCarthy | Kristen Newman |
| Marcia Ikonomopoulos | Jason Leite | Patrick G. McCourt | Joanna Ng-Law |
| Ginger Indjeyiannis | Maria Leon | Maria McDonald | Karen Noack |
| Amy Jackrel | John LeViness | Suzanne McGee | John Novak |
| Chris Jacobellis | Matthew Levy | Joesph McGough | Dan Novello |
| Michael Jacobi | Beth LeWarn | Richard McKay | John & Kim O'Connell |
| Ilona Jagnow | Brent Lindstrom | Christine McKenna | Evelyn O'Connor |
| Dexter Jairam | Janine Lizza | Devon McLaughlin | Herb Mones & Gretchen Oldrin Mones |
| Wendy Jarva | Donny Lo | Mary McLaughlin | |
| Catherine Javier | Rosie Lobasso | Cindy McLoughlin | Kamil Olszewski |
| Alison Jaworowski | Mara Lopez Gaitean | Justin & Sheila McNally | Jacob Oreiro |
| Mark Jeacoma | Mary Lorthioir | Terry & Harriet McNamara | Melissa Orilia |
| Jennifer Gedulig | William Loscalzo | Glenda McNerney | Emilia Ortiz |
| Sharon Jones | Anne Lotito-Schuh | Angela McVicker | Mary Jay Ospina |
| Amy Jospa | Kathleen Lozefski | Danielle Medina | Christine Ott |
| Beth Kabaservice | Florence Lucker | Christine Mehilentze | Gloria Palacios |
| Kacinski Family | James & Denise Ludemann | Beck Melisa | Ntina Paleos Stemas |
| Robert Kald | Virginia Luft | Stephen & Ellen Melore | Charles Palmenteri |
| Chad Kamel | Metaxia Lukas | Andreea Merceanu-Vasilescu | Vincent & Kristin Panettieri |
| John Kamor | Shlomo Lupo | Christine Messaoudi | Megan Papagno |
| Elisheva Kaplan | Barbara Lynaugh | Jason Meyer | Ernest Pappas |
| Richard Stow & Nora Kaplan-Stow | Carmelina Lynch | Veronica Michaels | Al Paradiso |
| Jodi Katz | Robert Lynch | Melissa Michalik | Sam Pardee |
| Emily Kavanagh | Peter MacDonald | Rob Middleton | Rocco Parente |
| Laura Kearney | Gerad Mackey | Alison Midulla | Herbert Parmenter |
| Tara Kearney | Sethu Madhavan | Patricia Miller | Dina Pasciuta |
| Kenneth Kehoe | Ebele Maduekwe | Beth Miller | Susan Pascuzzo |
| Robert Kelly | Angela Maguire | Dennis Milone | Thomas Pastore |
| Serena Kemraj-Ramballi | Joe Maikowski | Laura Minniti | Christine Pata |
| Jennifer Kennedy | Gino Malatesta | Antigoni Misthos | Leslie Patrick |
| John Kenny | Grace Mammone | Theofanis Mitsinikos | John Patti |
| Audrey Kent | June Marie Manahan | Adam Miura | Allison Paveglio |
| John Kern | Ryan Mandelbaum | Joan Montbach | Dainna Pearlman |
| Robert & Beverly Kissam | Hope Mann | Richard Mooers | Nataliya Peichev |
| John Klaboe | Cheryl Manzella | Cathryn Mooney | Marla Pelle |
| Kelly Klinkenberg | Michael Marchese | Pamela Moore | David Penso |
| Silke Kluever | Kevin Marcus | Liz Morales | Daniel Penza |
| Cathleen Kneidl | James Maresca | Christine Moran | Sandey Perline |
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| Mike Kohlweiss | Tommy Marketos | Kimberly Motekew | Lillian Perulli |
| Patricia Kreinbihl | Johanna Marquez | Jessica Mott | Michael Petelis |
| Steven Kuhn | Erin Martin | Jennifer Mquade | Kevin Peterman & Joyce Gabriele |
| Elizabeth Kurjanski | Camille Masem | Susan Mulder | |
| Violet Kyong | Susan Massa | Dawn Mulvey | James Phelan |
| Fiona Larkin | Karen Massaro | Ginny Murphy | John Phelan |
| John Larocca | Christopher Maurischat | Therese Murphy | Anne Marie Phillips |
| Stefan Lasek | Danielle Mayer | Daniela Mushorn | Katrina Pietraski |
| Razia Latif | Victoria Mayes | Mary Napoli | John Pinto |
| Rich Lau | Layla Maynard | Silvia Narvaez | Sharon Pinto |
| John Lauro | Warren & Susan Mazek | Thomas Nasso | Mark Pinto |
| Samantha Lawniczak | Guy & Patricia Mazza | Jeanine Nasta | Barbara Pirone |
| Rebecca Leano | Silvia McCarte | Michael Nelkens | Gary Pisano |
| | Catherine McCarthy | Rachel Newman | Rebecca Player |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Kenneth Pohlman | Peter Rouvelas | Nino Storic | Marie Vovchik |
| Les Poinelli | Jeffrey Rudner | David Strauss | Jeanne Waldman |
| Barbara Pole | Monique Ruffini | Norma Stucchio | Goldy Walfish |
| Tracy Pollaccia | Jacqueline Russo | Ann Sturiale | John Wallace |
| Chris Polvere | Felix Russo | Kenneth Suhovsky | Josephine Wallower |
| James Porter | Anne Russo` | Surinda Sukhai | Colin Walsh |
| Shawn Potak | Kelly Ryan-Jimenez | Michael Sullivan | Thomas Walter |
| William Primavera | Antoinette Sabatino | Nancy Sulzer | Julio & Janet Walter- |
| Alison Printz | Susanne Sabella | Rick Surmanek | Machado |
| Eric Propper | Jennifer Salay | Janel Sydnor | Xiaotong Wang |
| Ann Puckett | Steven Sallese | Suzanne Taiani | Kerri Ward |
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| Dan Radzicki | Jay Schnitzer | Doreese Taylor | Michael Weiner |
| Morgan Rafferty | Kenneth Schorr | Quiana Taylor | Aviad & Lily Welt |
| Taliercio Ralph | Eric Scuola | Annita Tekverk | Jim Wendol |
| Rana Ramjas | Thomas Seery | Carolyn Tellone | Faley Wendy |
| Jennifer Rauch | Jennifer Segna | George Thomann | Li Wenzia |
| David Regina | Brian Seidman | Roger Thompson | Jessica Werner |
| Charles & Helen Reichert | James Seitz | Ryan Thompson | Robert White |
| Kathy Reilly | Kevin Senior | Jay Tini | James Wiegand |
| Lance & Maria Reinheimer | Alisa Shea | Amanda Tini | Roisin Willems |
| Eric Reisch | B. Sheehan | Natalie Tobar-Romero | Barbara Willis |
| Maureen Reyhanian | Yekaterina Sheremetyev | Janelle Todd | Kathy Wingert |
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| Bob Reynolds | Doris Siebold | Lisa Torres | David Witkon |
| Robert Rhatigan | Juli Siegel | Katherine Torres | Walter Woerner |
| Michael Ricciardi | Iuliana Siegel | Joanna Totten | Josephine Wong |
| Melanie Richards | Michele Silvestri | Barbara Trampel-Zulawski | Yan Hing Wong |
| Maricar Richardson | Susan Sima | Joanne Tranchina | Prospera Wu |
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| Rebecca Rios | Melissa Skula | David Tuck | Ray & Marianne Yager |
| Elizabeth Ritcey | Allen Sluzhevsky | Doug Tuohy | Alan Yang |
| Gabriela Rivera | Jane Smith | Phil Turano | Willis Young |
| Patricia Rizzuto | Charles Smith | Joseph Turecamo | Imran Zaidi |
| Tammy Robert | Devi Smith | Noreen Tusa | Jennifer Zeller |
| Douglas & Dana Robinson | Patricia Smyth | Corina Umanzor | Moshe Ziegler |
| Melissa Robinson | Amy Soojian | Bob Unger | Dorothy Ziminski |
| Douglas Robinson | Charles Sosnicki | Rosa Urmaza | Elizabeth Zimmerli |
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| Jason Roddin | David Sperling | Tony & Sharyn Valentinetti | Susan Zito |
| Jessica Rodriguez | Stanley Spichalsky | Gerjan & Judith Van Hekken | Chris Zublionis |
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| Jamie Rogers | Jeff Spiro | Alexandra VanDerlofske | |
| Kevin Rogerson | Joseph & Tania Stainkamp | Melissa Vargas | |
| Ronnie Ronen | Shannon Stapleton | Rajasekhar Varigonda | |
| Michele Rosado | Nick Starrinos | Michelle Varol | |
| Tinamarie Rosario | Donna Stein | Maria Velez | |
| Bruce & Alice Rosen | Ava Steiner | Luciano Ventura | |
| Wendy Rossi | Karen Steuerwalt | Brian & Debbie Vogel | |
| Joseph & Laura Rotondi | Marc Stevens | Danielle Volpicella | |

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