



## 'How I Love Sagamore Hill'

Written by Pat Aitken, [oysterbay@antonnews.com](mailto:oysterbay@antonnews.com) Friday, 22 March 2013 00:00

The Oyster Bay Historical Society is collaborating with Sagamore Hill National Historic Site to present "How I Love Sagamore Hill," a new exhibition of photographs by Xiomáro. The photos were all taken last February, as the house was being emptied of furniture and other artifacts to get ready for renovation. These photographs offer a unique and different perspective on a home and family that many Oyster Bay residents think they know so well. The title of the exhibit refers to words spoken by Theodore Roosevelt shortly before he died.

Xiomáro explained that in thinking about the exhibit, and what the focus of his essay would be, he realized that it would be easy to focus on Theodore Roosevelt, since he is such a dominant personality. However, Xio wanted to reflect the life of the family who lived there, as well as the servants. In all, 20 out of 144 photos are being shown in this exhibition. The pictures were chosen to be representative of all the residents of the home.

Text flows around the room and helps to tell the story of the exhibition and the family who lived in the home. When asked which of his photographs resonated most with him, he told a charming story of two of the boys, who carved an "E" in the doorjamb in an attempt to get their sister Edith in trouble. It's a very humanizing story and does much to portray the private life of a very public personality. He also spoke of taking some of his photographs late in the day as the light was fading, and how evocative a feeling that was for him as he worked in the home. These photos were taken over a seven- to 10-day period last February, as Sagamore Hill was being emptied and readied for restoration.

Xiomáro will be doing gallery talks at the Oyster Bay Historical Society on Saturday, March 16, Sunday, April 14, and Saturday, May 18. All the talks will be from 2:00 to 3:00 pm. For more information regarding the programs and events taking place at the Society, visit their website at [www.oysterbayhistorical.org](http://www.oysterbayhistorical.org). Xiomáro will also be participating in the John Gable lecture series. The John Gable series begins on March 21st with a presentation about Theodore Roosevelt's life in the badlands of South Dakota. Xiomáro's lecture will take place on Thursday, May 16 at 7 p.m. The Gable Lecture Series are hosted by Christ Church at 61 East Main Street, Oyster Bay. The Friends of Sagamore Hill at [www.sagamorehill.com](http://www.sagamorehill.com) has more information. Prints of Xiomáro's work are for sale, and may be ordered from his website at [www.xiomaro.com](http://www.xiomaro.com) 10 percent of each sale will be donated to Doctors Without Borders.



Hal Johnson, Jackie and Phil Blocklyn, executive director of the Oyster Bay Historical Society