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The President and the Painter

In honor of President's Day last month, White House curator, Bill Allman, recorded a [brief video](#) on how John Singer Sargent's iconic 1903 painting of TR, which still hangs in the East Room, came to be. As one scholar noted, Sargent, arguably one of the best portrait artists of his time, "seized upon two of the President's most salient characteristics, physical vitality and a self-assurance bordering on arrogance, and he painted a tour de force of nuanced blacks, grays, browns, and creams..."

"Mr. Sargent is staying with us and is painting my picture. I think it is going to be great. ... He is painting it on the landing of the big stairs where everything has been rigged up for it, because he said the light was best there."
 —Theodore Roosevelt, February 15, 1903

Norm Parsons: In Memoriam



The TRA notes with sadness the passing on March 5 of former TRA President and Trustee for Life, Norman Parsons. Norm, 81, and his wife, Linda, were long-time residents of the Village of Sea Cliff, NY, where Norm had served as mayor for eight years. He enjoyed a successful career in the human resources field, and served as TRA president from 2001 to 2006. Aside from Linda, Norm is survived by three children and six grandchildren. More on Norm's life and legacy is [available online](#).

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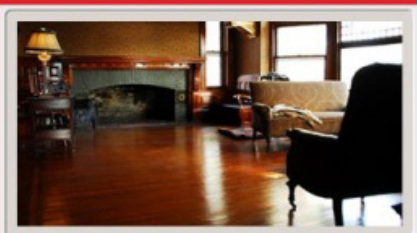
Still Calling All Bloggers



The TRA is on the verge of launching a new, revitalized website, www.theodoreroosevelt.org. One of the features of the website will be a blog, which will enable us to dialogue with members and other visitors to the site. The blog will give us an opportunity to bring out aspects of TR's life, times, and legacy that are too long for *The Arena*, yet too short and otherwise inappropriate for the *TRA Journal*. If you have an interest in contributing to the blog, please email [Genna Rollins](mailto:Genna.Rollins@tra.org), co-chair of the TRA communications committee, which is

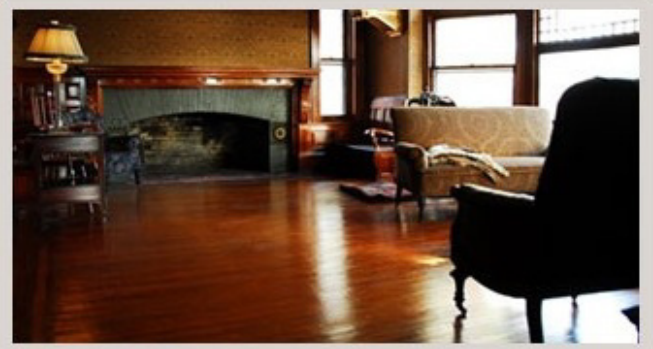


of TR's life and legacy. The latest looks at how TR's image was used in advertising, most notably his murky connection to the iconic slogan of Maxwell House Coffee, "Good to the Last Drop". Other Sagamore Hill podcasts explore Quentin Roosevelt's life and death, and race relations and the women's movement during TR's presidency.



Xiomáro on Sagamore Hill

The artist Xiomáro's photography exhibit "[How I Love Sagamore Hill](#)" will be on display until June 2 at the [Oyster Bay Historical Society](#). The National Park Service, which commissioned the work, gave Xiomáro unprecedented access to the vacant interiors of Sagamore Hill just as the site's three-year \$6.2 million rehabilitation project began. The resulting 144 photographs reveal new details and nuances of the historic property. Xiomáro is offering a limited number of [free ebooks](#) as a memento of the exhibition.



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