

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



CELEBRATING OUR
**PAST
PRESENT
FUTURE**

July 2019

Vanderbilt: Past, Present, Future



L to R: Ronald A. Beattie, Lance Reinheimer

Dear Members and Friends,

DURING 2018, the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum continued its ongoing program to restore buildings, attracted new donor-partners, created new education programs and special events, renewed efforts to restore the Estate waterfront, and launched a campaign to revitalize the Carriage House/Learning Center. (See stories within.)

The Vanderbilt—in a decision to restore and develop a valuable deteriorating asset—inaugurated the Museum's *Historic Waterfront Project*. The ambitious long-term proposal will stabilize, restore and maintain the boathouse, granite seawall, seaplane hangar, and esplanade. The project will transform a shuttered area of the Estate into a revenue source for the Museum's future and a magnet for visitors.

For years the Vanderbilt has been taking science and astronomy education on the road to local and regional schools. In 2018, the Museum created version 2.0, *Exploring the Universe: Traveling Astronomy Program*. The program, with updated curriculum and compact equipment, brings the program into the classroom.

To better serve groups in its community, the Vanderbilt created new programs. *A Day for Families* is a free, twice-a-year event exclusively for children and adults with special needs and their families. On *First Responders Day* in the fall, the Museum offers complimentary admission to those who risk their health and lives to protect us. The Museum also continues its commitment to veterans and active-duty military personnel with special programs. And the annual tree-lighting is enjoyed each year by the community. All these programs are sponsored by Northwell Health.

The Museum marked an anniversary in Vanderbilt family history in 2018. During World War II, Mr. Vanderbilt, at President Roosevelt's request, gave his prized yacht *Alva* to the U.S. Navy, which refitted it as a gunboat, and renamed it the *USS Plymouth*. It was sunk by a German submarine 75 years ago.

This report is a snapshot of a dynamic year in the life of the Museum. We offer it in the belief that the Vanderbilt family—and our members and friends—would be proud of our progress and our stewardship of the Vanderbilt legacy.

We hope to see you soon.

Lance Reinheimer
Executive Director

Ronald A. Beattie
President, Board of Trustees

Carriage House/ Learning Center Revitalization Project

THE VANDERBILT LAUNCHED THE CARRIAGE HOUSE/LEARNING CENTER REVITALIZATION PROJECT in September 2018 to enhance the Museum's valued education programs and to redefine a learning space for the more than 25,000 schoolchildren who visit the Museum each year.

The Carriage House, once William K. Vanderbilt II's four-bay garage, has long served as the Museum's center for education programs and workshops. In 2018, the Museum hired an architect and a designer to reimagine the nearly century-old building.



Their plans redesign and modernize the interior space, make more efficient use of the building, and create features that will transform the Learning Center and its exterior space into a flexible venue for education and will preserve the building's historic façade.

This new, multifunctional facility will house the Museum's history and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) programs and will serve as a hub for theater productions, workshops, social gatherings, and community outreach events and meetings.

At the launch event, Vanderbilt trustees, supporters, and friends reviewed the plans and intriguing architectural renderings (below) created by architect John Grillo and designer Grace Colby of JAG Architects in Port Jefferson, N.Y. The design and lighting will reflect the original industrial nature of the structure and incorporate colors common to the Spanish Revival style of the center and of the Vanderbilt Mansion.

The Museum accepted the gift of a SMARTboard, the center's first piece of high-tech education gear, from Vanderbilt friends Laura and Eric Gerde, in honor of Terry Clarke, former superintendent of the Bethpage school district.

The Vanderbilt has begun raising funds for the project's estimated cost of \$200,000. Donors will be recognized, and naming opportunities are available.





Successful Pilot Year for New Astronomy Outreach Program

THE VANDERBILT MUSEUM has long offered STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) programming centered in its Planetarium that is considered a valuable adjunct to the science curricula of local schools.

From 2014 to 2018, the Vanderbilt took astronomy and science education beyond the Planetarium to schools on Long Island and in Brooklyn and Queens with *Discovering the Universe: Mobile Classroom*. The classroom, a gift from

the American Museum of Natural History, was housed in a large customized recreational vehicle. The National Grid Foundation provided generous funding each year. The Vanderbilt retired the aging mobile classroom in January 2018.

Today, Museum educators are on the road again, visiting classrooms – at no cost to high-needs school districts. This new offering, *Exploring the Universe: Traveling Astronomy Program*, is designed to meet New York State science standards, and features an updated curriculum and compact equipment—a laptop, portable telescope and solar scope.

Using materials created by Vanderbilt science educators, students participate in a three-part astronomy course. A multi-media presentation opens the session with interactive demonstrations and materials, priming students to learn and inspiring them to consider a variety of astronomy topics.

Next, students work in groups to complete an activity with the educator, giving them the opportunity to explore and craft models of celestial bodies. Finally, in an open-ended laboratory, students explore the sun safely with a solar telescope (weather permitting) and answer questions through reasoning and observation. Topics include *Solar Astronomy; Gravity and Black Holes*; and the *Engineering of Telescopes*. This format encourages students to participate in science and to engage through scientific inquiry.

By the end of the 2018-2019 pilot year, the program had reached nearly 1,650 students in visits to schools and libraries. Feedback from teachers and students has been highly positive.

Summer STEAM Workshops: Astronomy in the Sun

The Vanderbilt Education Department offered its newest STEAM curriculum program, *Astronomy in the Sun*, throughout July and August.

The creative, three-hour workshops for grades 3-12 were taught by a Vanderbilt astronomy educator. Participants in grades 3-7 learned about the Sun, Moon and Solar System, made a model Solar System, and learned how energy from the sun turns into food. In a Planetarium show, they learned about the life cycle of the stars. The sessions included safe daytime observations with a telescope and solar telescope.

Students in grades 8-12 studied the science of sunlight, discovered how the Universe fits together, and built a scale model of the entire known Universe. In a Planetarium show, they learned the basics of black holes, and made solar telescope observations.



Vanderbilt Yacht Turned Navy Gunboat Was Sunk 75 Years Ago

WILLIAM K. VANDERBILT II (1878-1944) spent years dreaming of and designing his 264-foot yacht *Alva*. Named after his mother, Alva Vanderbilt Belmont (1853-1933), the ship was custom-built in Germany.

On March 5, 1931, William and Rosamond Vanderbilt began the ship's inaugural voyage from Europe to Miami and then New York. In July of that year, they boarded the *Alva*, anchored in Northport Bay, and began their epic, seven-month journey around the world. During the voyage, Mr. Vanderbilt collected marine life, invertebrates, and cultural artifacts for his Centerport museum.

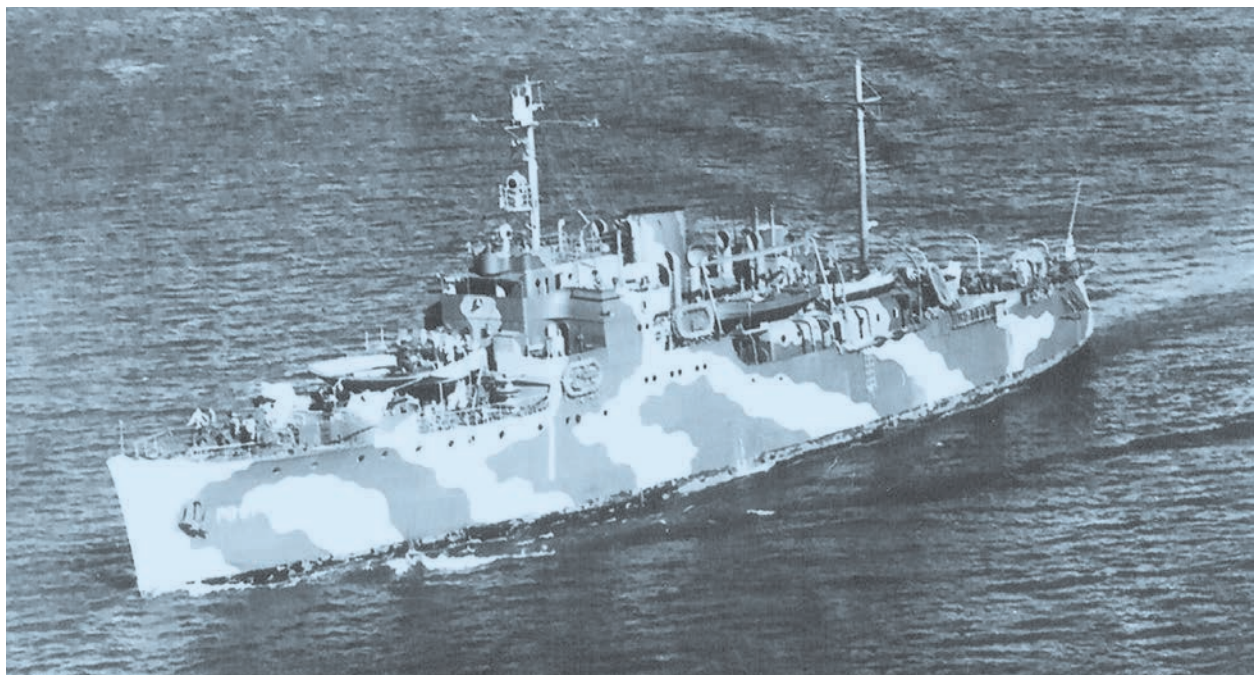
In November 1941, just before the United States entered World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked yacht owners to donate their boats to the U.S. Navy. On November 4, 1941, Mr. Vanderbilt gave his ship to the Navy, which converted it to a patrol gunboat and renamed it the *USS Plymouth* (PG 57).

On August 5, the Vanderbilt Museum marked the 75th anniversary of the yacht's wartime service and recalled its tragic sinking on August 5, 1943.

In April 1942, the *Plymouth* was commissioned and assigned to the 5th Naval District. During 1942-43, she made several convoy escort voyages between New York, Key West, and Guantanamo, Cuba. On the evening of August 5, 1943, the *Plymouth* was escorting a ship convoy 120 miles southeast of Cape Henry, Virginia.

The *Plymouth* was spotted by U-566, a German submarine, which fired a torpedo at 9:37 p.m. The torpedo hit the ship near the bridge. The *Plymouth* caught fire and sank moments later. Of the *Plymouth's* 179 officers and men, only 84 survived. They were picked up in heavy seas by the U.S. Coast Guard and arrived in Norfolk on August 6.

The commander, Lt. Ormsby M. Mitchel, Jr., was thrown violently against a bulkhead by the explosion. He sustained serious injuries, which later required amputation of his left leg. Despite his own condition, he directed abandon-ship operations and remained at his post until the ship went down. Mitchel was awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism.





Gloria Hall



Matthew Titchiner



Ellen Mason

Volunteers Make 'Invaluable Contributions'

THE SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT MUSEUM, like most museums, would find it difficult to operate without volunteers.

According to the American Alliance of Museums, the majority of people who work in museums are volunteers. Overall, U.S. museums have six volunteers for every paid staff member. And even in the largest museums, volunteers generally outnumber paid full-time staff two to one.

At the Vanderbilt, volunteers enthusiastically assist the staff by conducting tours, greeting visitors, beautifying the grounds, and undertaking curatorial and conservation projects. They also work as interns or staff aides in various departments, examine marketing and branding, decorate the Mansion for the holidays, and perform music on the 1,476-pipe Aeolian organ. Approximately 100 volunteers generously donate countless hours each year.

"Volunteers love this Estate, work hard, and make invaluable contributions," said Lance Reinheimer,

executive director. "Their work saves the museum a lot of money each year and helps us to support Mr. Vanderbilt's original educational mission. We're very grateful to them."

GLORIA HALL, a retired Northport elementary school teacher, leads the volunteer gardeners program she created in 2002 with her late husband, Bill. Both graduated from the Cornell University Master Gardeners Program. Today, an average of 20 gardeners work from May to October. "I was brought up 'playing in the dirt,' exploring seed catalogs, trading plants with friends, and just enjoying a calmness that being in the garden brings," Hall said. "To share my knowledge and enhance the Vanderbilt grounds gives me great pleasure."

"You feel like you're in a different world."

MATTHEW TITCHINER managed Harewood House, one of England's premier historic estates before moving to New York. His responsibilities included staff, operations, visitor experience, marketing and branding.

"My wife is a pediatric resident at Stony Brook University Hospital, and I wanted to familiarize myself with the American museum world before

starting full-time work," Titchiner said. "So, I reached out to the Vanderbilt."

Titchiner first researched and catalogued the Vanderbilt collection of ancient weapons, then undertook an in-depth project that examined the Museum's branding. This 66-page report analyzed signage, the website, communications, and the application of audience data and feedback.

"Matthew brought his deep museum experience and discerning eye to his analysis of how the Vanderbilt presents itself to the world," Reinheimer said. "His keen insights will be valuable as we continue to improve how the Museum reaches out to and communicates with its diverse and growing audience."

Titchiner said, "The Vanderbilt's interesting mix of historic mansion, park and planetarium is a unique selling point. It's a museum of a museum, a snapshot in time."

ELLEN MASON began volunteering in 2006, after retiring as a high school English teacher. She was invited by a colleague and friend, Gretchen Oldrin Mones, first vice president of the Vanderbilt Board of Trustees. Mason began as a greeter in the Hall of Fishes.

"I was asked to do a walk-on part during Living History tours," she said. "I played Olympic skating champion



Bill Caputi



Dr. Richard Elinson



Mary Schlotter

Sonja Henie, a close friend of the Vanderbilts. I spoke just two lines." Mason since has played many historic roles.

"I am very fortunate to be part of the Museum and have a strong appreciation for its physical beauty," Mason said. "For 13 years, I have repeated the same mantra when I arrive here: 'Thank you, Willie, for giving us this.' I constantly learn and laugh with the staff. We are all so protective of this magical place."

BILL CAPUTI plays beautiful classical music on the Mansion's grand Aeolian pipe organ. The retired electrical engineer has played for more than 20 years for guided tours, and during the Museum's annual holiday and Valentine's Day banquets.

"I studied piano as a boy," he said. "I took lessons from a music teacher on the school's huge pipe organ, and played occasionally in a nearby church. And I was the pianist for my college glee club.

"When we moved to Centerport, I learned that the Vanderbilt pipe organ had just been renovated. So, I volunteered to play."

"We are all so protective of this magical place."

Founded in 1887 by William Tremaine, the Aeolian Company grew to be the largest musical instrument manufacturer in America by 1920. Pipe organs were installed in most elite mansions in the early 1900s. The Vanderbilt organ was installed in 1926.

"I'm glad visitors and staff enjoy the music," Caputi said. "I often play Grieg, Rachmaninoff, and Broadway tunes. At Halloween, I like to play scary music."

DR. RICHARD ELINSON, wearing protective curator's gloves, has inspected nearly 1,400 vintage books in the Vanderbilt Mansion Library.

"The books had been catalogued, but needed to be examined closely," Elinson said. "I've been doing condition reports. I make note of damaged bindings, water damage, or just interesting things I notice."

A retired professor of biology at the University of Toronto and Duquesne University, Elinson has worked with the Curatorial Department for three years. The collection includes volumes that reflect Mr. Vanderbilt's interests – the chronicles of 18th and 19th century naturalists and explorers, and the women's suffrage movement championed by his mother, Alva.

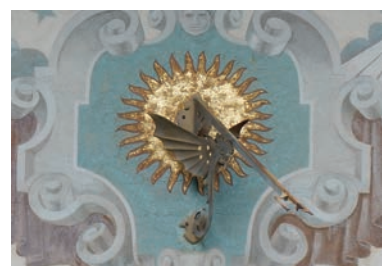
"It's an enjoyable three hours once a week," he said. "It's a real thrill to sit in that old library. You feel like you're in a different world."

MARY SCHLOTTER

and her daughter Krishtia McCord have volunteered their talents for years to create holiday magic in the Mansion, as have members of local garden clubs. The mother-daughter design team owns and operates Harbor Homestead & Co., based in Centerport.

"My love of design, history and flowers is what drives me to volunteer," Schlotter said. "I find myself brainstorming in June for the holiday designs. Volunteering is so important if we are to keep Long Island treasures like the Vanderbilt looking their best. I often refer to it as a jewel in my backyard!"

"One cold November night I had just finished my design and I looked back at the mansion. The lights were on and the Christmas lights were glistening. I wondered if William and Rosamond would like what we had done."



Designers Create First Gardeners Summer Showcase

ELEVEN LOCAL NURSERIES AND GARDEN DESIGNERS took part in the Vanderbilt's first *Gardeners Showcase* in 2018. After digging, planting and mulching vigorously in various areas of the William K. Vanderbilt II Estate, the participants showed the beautiful results to Museum visitors through the summer and fall. Each group was identified by signage at its showcase site.



Lance Reinheimer, executive director of the Vanderbilt, said "I am grateful for the enthusiastic response from local landscapers and gardeners to volunteer their talents to beautify this historic estate. These floral artisans, as well as our own veteran corps of accomplished volunteer gardeners, invested their time, labor and resources. Their enhancements were enjoyed by more than 30,000 summer visitors. We hope to continue this collaboration for many years."

PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED:

Carlstrom Landscapes Inc.

Centerport Garden Club

de Groot Designs Inc.

**Dina Yando Landscape &
Perennial Garden Design /
North Service Nursery**

**Gro Girl Horticultural Therapy
Landscapes by Bob Dohne Inc.**

Mossy Pine Garden & Landscape Design

Mother Earth's Landscape & Nursery

Pal-O-Mine Equestrian J-STEP Program

Sacred Gardens

Vanderbilt Volunteer Gardeners



Vanderbilt 2018 Events

Year-round Vanderbilt special events raise funds to support Museum STEAM education programs. The largest events are seasonal banquets. In 2018, more than 160 supporters attended the annual summer fundraiser. In December and February, guests attended celebratory dinners in the Vanderbilt Mansion, decorated for the holidays and for Valentine's Day.

In July and August, the Carriage House Players mounted productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Hamlet* for the 30th annual Summer Shakespeare Festival, performed outdoors on the courtyard stage. In August, Alex Torres and His Latin Orchestra played their 12th annual evening in the courtyard.

Classic car shows were offered on the Great Lawn next to the Mansion by regional Porsche, Cadillac, Jaguar and MG clubs. Throughout the year, music lovers attended concerts in the Reichert Planetarium by The Liverpool Shuffle (Beatles tribute band), Pure Led (Led Zeppelin tribute band), and the chamber ensemble Canta Libre.

The Museum created two free events for specific groups in the community. The first was a day exclusively for children and adults with special needs and their families, offered during the summer. The other event was a weekend for first responders and their families, who were welcomed as guests and given free admission.

Each Veterans Day weekend, the Museum holds a similar day to honor veterans and active members of the military. The Vanderbilt participates in the national Blue Star Museums program, which offers free admission to active service members and their families each summer. The Museum also extends that same invitation year-round to veterans.





Gifts and Grants

\$100,000 and above

Suffolk County

\$50,000 to \$99,999

Charles and Helen Reichert
Family Foundation

\$10,000 to \$49,999

BAE Systems
Laura and Eric Gerde
Anonymous

\$2,500 to \$9,999

Farrell Fritz P.C.
New York Community Bank
Foundation
Northwell Health
People's United Bank

\$1,000 to \$2,499

Russell and Marilyn Albanese
AVZ Certified Public Accountants
BNB Bank
Matthew DePace
Goldman Sachs
Palacios Law Firm
PSEG
The PFM Group
Zoot Shoot Photography

\$250 to \$999

Edith Cosban-Iserman
The Michael & Ronne Cosel Foundation
Filomena Farm to Table
Margy Hargraves
Hengstenberg's Florist
Peter Houmere
Robert and Beverly Kissam
Long Island Moving Supplies
Mill Pond Restaurant
Konica Minolta
Herb Mones & Gretchen Oldrin-Mones
New York Community Bank
James Spero
Stop and Shop

In-Kind Donations

BNB Bank
Kathy Dulanto
Filomena Farm to Table
Gardeners Showcase Designers
Goldman Sachs
Hengstenberg's Florist
Sandra Krolick
Mill Pond Restaurant
Northport Catering
New York Community
Bank Printing
Official Offset Printers
Stop and Shop
Teachers Federal Credit Union
Zoot Shoot Photographers



Special Events, Admissions, Retail Sales Generate Rising Income

The Vanderbilt Museum continues to thrive and build relationships with the Long Island community and beyond. A notable educational, historical and cultural institution, the Vanderbilt is evolving as an international destination and, in 2018, attracted more than 112,000 visitors from 35 countries.

The Museum started 2018 with a \$686,343 fund balance. Most of the fund balance, \$640,290, represented grant and reserve funds for specific Museum projects, including restoration of the marine collection, renovation of the Stoll Wing animal dioramas, and for maintenance and care of the collections, artifacts and the Planetarium.

Museum expenditures increased during 2018 by 5.3% to \$2.8 million. This rise was driven primarily by grant-funded expenditures that included a new Planetarium show, acquisition of major construction equipment, and the purchase of three custom-built, hands-on astronomy exhibits for the Planetarium lobby. Expenditures also included building restoration projects and maintenance of the Planetarium's projection system.

Revenue highlights for 2018 included an 11.5% increase in admission revenue to \$852,818; Gift Shop sales of \$86,219; and membership support— representing more than 600 families and 80 libraries – of \$102,267.

Special fund-raising events generated income of more than \$200,000 – including live music shows in the Planetarium, festive holiday dinners in the Mansion, a summer fundraising gala, the Carriage House Players Summer Shakespeare Festival in the Mansion Courtyard, and the 12th annual outdoor performance by Alex Torres and His Latin Orchestra.

During 2018, the Charles and Helen Reichert Family Foundation continued its long-term support for the Planetarium and its programming. Major corporate supporters include BAE Systems of Greenlawn, N.Y.; Northwell Health of Great Neck and New York, N.Y., and New York Community Bank of Westbury, N.Y.

The Museum ended 2018 with a fund balance of \$856,721 for programs, collections, and general operations.

The Vanderbilt's financial foundation is solid, and the Museum looks to the future with confidence.

2018 EXPENSES AND REVENUE (UN-AUDITED)

Expense Item	2018 Actual Expense	Revenue Source	2018 Actual Revenue
Salaries	\$1,484,650	Beginning Fund Balance	\$686,343
Employee Benefits	\$414,090	Admissions	\$852,818
Maintenance & Equipment	\$88,482	Membership	\$102,267
Insurance	\$42,596	Special Events	\$112,907
Professional Services	\$336,565	Government Support	\$1,158,127
Museum Gift Shop	\$38,093	Museum Gift Shop	\$86,219
Telephone & Internet	\$21,560	Site-Use	\$302,431
Utilities	\$166,969	Donations, Gifts and Grants	\$136,545
Supplies & Program	\$65,215	Misc. Revenue	\$9,083
General Expense	\$131,797	Endowment Revenue	\$200,000
Total Expenses	\$2,790,017	Total Funds Available	\$3,646,738
		Fund Balance 12/31/18	\$856,721
		LESS: Reserve Funds	\$706,362
		Unreserved Fund Balance	\$150,359



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