

GILLETTE GAZETTE

- Officers Elected for 2010-2011
- Friends "Insiders' Day" Event Hosted on June 5
- Gillette Drawing-Room Comedy Scheduled
- Castle Opens on May 22 Weekend

Castle, Gift Shop Open for 2010 Visitors' Season



"Mr. and Mrs. Harold Niver do not simply appear costumed as the Gillettes, they seem to embody these vanished actors. The depth of their research into the career and life of the distinguished actor/playwright allows them to speak easily and confidently in their roles.

They need no script but can simply move among us never stepping out of character. You will feel you are in the presence of William Gillette and his beloved bride."

—Susan Rice, speaking at the William Gillette luncheon; see www.sherlockholmesct.com

Over the fall and winter, park-goers enjoyed the pleasures of the estate over the crisp, snowy, and wet seasons...but now summer is beginning, and with it the fresh, emerging vistas of our green New England woodlands

and the outstanding Castle views of the Connecticut River. The Friends are here to make our visitors' stays more enjoyable and educational, and, with your help, we have many plans for 2010.

The Friends Gift Shop opens along with the Castle for the Memorial Day weekend in May, the first weekend in June, and then remains open all summer starting second weekend in June, seven days a week, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., until the Castle's closing in early October.

Friends Name New Officers, Board Members

At the March 2010 meeting of the Friends, Melissa Ziobron of East Haddam was named president; Jessica Young Ziegler of Lyme, vice-president; John Stratton of Old Lyme, secretary; Edward Winger of Westbrook, treasurer; Jenn Yuris of Moodus, membership chair; and Annlee Sortland of East Haddam, member-at-large. New committees are being assembled, and your ideas and leadership are earnestly sought. Among the planned projects are contributions of audiovisual material to a proposed "Train Room" in the Visitors Center, and a gala Wine Tasting on the evening of September 25.

"ALL THE COMFORTS OF HOME" IS BEING STAGED ON GROUNDS IN JUNE AND JULY

Once again, history and art meet on the grounds of Mr. Gillette's castle. The East Haddam Stage Company is planning summer-weekend performances of "All the Comforts of Home," a 30-minute, drawing-room comedy by Mr. Gillette himself.

Performances will be on the Castle grounds at 1 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays June 19 through July 31 and are free to the public. Presented through the East Haddam Historical Society, the play is sponsored by the Connecticut Humanities Council.

Old-and-New Friends Will Be Treated to an "Insiders' Day"

Saturday morning, June 5, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friends members (and their friends and families) are invited to an informal introduction to the estate of Mr. Gillette and its many small secrets, nooks-and-crannies, and fascinating tales. Light refreshments will be served: see you at the Visitors Center!