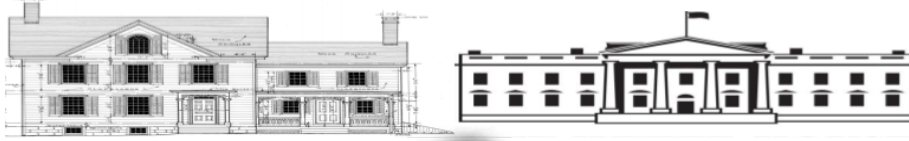


The Grover Cleveland Birthplace Memorial Association



The US President from Caldwell, NJ

Newsletter Issue # 2, March 2019

The Grover Cleveland Birthplace Memorial Association Announces Upcoming Events Related to Grover Cleveland Week, March 18-24.

Monday March 18th-- Special Program for Grover Cleveland's Birthday, 4:00-4:30. Members of the local community will take part in the ceremony at the Grover Cleveland Birthplace. The public is invited. Up to date details are available at presidentcleveland.org and on Facebook. (The Birthplace will be open from 1:00-4:00 p.m.)

Wednesday March 20th-- 7:00 p.m.-- "Coffee with Grover", Rock N' Joe, 339 Bloomfield Avenue, Caldwell. In honor of "**Grover Cleveland Week**", Caldwell Councilman Jonathan Lacey will lead a reading and discussion of President Grover Cleveland's most significant speeches. All are welcome.



Photo by Janet Markman

Grover Cleveland Birthplace Caretaker Sharon Farrell, Trustee Beverly Crifasi, Vice President Bunny Jenkins, and President Dave Cowell accept the Proclamation proclaiming the week of March 18, 2019 as Grover Cleveland Week in the Borough of Caldwell from Mayor John Kelley and Caldwell Councilman Lacey.

People Over Party

The following remarks were part of a talk which Caldwell Councilman Jonathan Lace made at last year's Grover Cleveland Birthday Celebration and Grover Cleveland Week.

An aspect of Grover Cleveland's legacy is his commitment to people before party. In today's often hyper-partisan, personally destructive political climate, that we see frequently in the news, in our mail, and online, President Cleveland offers a vision of politics that is grounded in the highest ideals of patriotism which transcend any type of partisan or personal agenda. In 1883, Grover Cleveland, a Democrat, was the Governor of New York looking for ways to reform the civil service system of that state. His ideas caught the attention of a young Republican, who had just been re-elected as a Representative in the New York legislature. His name was Theodore Roosevelt. Despite their different labels, they found a way to work together for civil service reform, much to the anger of both of their respective party's leadership. Perhaps more importantly, they cultivated a friendly respect for each other's desire for better government. In his 2nd term, President Cleveland would later re-appoint Theodore Roosevelt to the United States Civil Service Commission. This is just one example of how Grover was committed to people before party. In his first Inaugural Address, he stated:

"...the best results in the operation of a government wherein every citizen has a share, largely depend upon a proper limitation of purely partisan zeal...and a correct appreciation of the time when the heat of the partisan should be merged in the patriotism of the citizen."

Given the current political climate as reflected in national trends and social media, I believe that we can all agree that we live in such a time. Perhaps we should make a specific effort this week to remember that we are all Americans first and that parties are merely a means to a more perfect Union, knowing that we all want what's best for our community, even if we may disagree on how to achieve it. Let the days be forever gone when we are criticized for extending (or even shaking) the hand across the aisle or acknowledging good ideas, regardless of which side or school of thought offers them. Let us emulate Grover's commitment to people before party.

During this Grover Cleveland Week in Caldwell, the Borough encourages all residents who are able, to visit this birth house and learn more about his legacy. I hope you find his call to political responsibility and his commitment to people before party both motivational and inspiring. Perhaps President Grover Cleveland Week can become something more than encouraging residents to visit this birth house, as worthwhile as that always is. Perhaps it can become a week of celebration, education, and service for which Caldwell will also be known, enriching both our Borough and visitors from across the country.

In closing, I will leave you with a quote from President Cleveland's speech in Chicago in 1907:

"...our nation lives in us – in our mind and consciences. There it must find nutriment or die. The land we live in is safe as long as we are dutifully careful of the land that lives in us."

Our "Traveling Trunks" Program Goes To Cranford

The GCBMA offers a **Traveling Trunks Program** for educational institutions, service organizations, and other groups interested in keeping the legacy of Grover Cleveland alive, as well as getting to *feel* the historical past of how people of three different periods lived and were influenced by the historical events of their day. (There are three traveling trunks-- one for the 1830's, one for 1860's, and one for the 1890's.) Mrs. Therese Koellner, a Second Grade Teacher in Cranford recently used the items in the 1890's trunk to develop a "personal learning" project with her students. One student in her class was so enthusiastic when learning about Grover Cleveland and other presidents that he and his family made a special visit to the birthplace. For more details on borrowing the trunks, please contact Paul Maloney at EssexNewsMaloney@aol.com. See our website for additional details.

Grover's Corner: A Great Gift Store at the Grover Cleveland Birthplace

Trustee Akiko Axe oversees our wonderful store "**Grover's Corner**" which is located in our birthplace. "Grover's Corner" provides a great variety of items for sale including momentos and books relating to Grover Cleveland, the Presidents, and American History. Currently, we have new nylon tote bags and coffee mugs with Cleveland's picture. More best sellers include Trustee Louis Picone's books, **Where the Presidents Were Born** and **The President is Dead!**. Students might find of interest that free souvenir rulers are now available with each purchase. For more details, see our website or follow us on Facebook.

"Shout Out" to our Staff Members

Come and visit our New Jersey State Park Caretaker Sharon Farrell and Interpreters Paula Tomshe and Janice Caputo at our birthplace. Our staff will give you a great talk about the 22nd and 24th President's life and a history and a tour of the Caldwell Birthplace. See our information at the bottom of this page.

Find us at PresidentCleveland.org, our Facebook page, and the West Essex Memorial Day Parade

The short newsletter is designed to give a small "snapshot" of the Grover Cleveland Birthplace and Grover Cleveland Birthplace Memorial Association. For more details, be sure to check out our website and Facebook page. Of interest is our recent Inaugural Gala Reenactment and a visit from the Essex Running Club. We are currently planning participation at the Memorial Day Parade (look from Grover Cleveland himself), our 4th of July Ice Cream Social, participation at the August National Night Out, and an October Ghost Tour.

Membership and Information-- Join Online or by Check

Your membership in the Grover Cleveland Birthplace Memorial Association (GCBMA) allows you to connect with, share in, and experience a vital component of the history of New Jersey, as well as American history. Members receive the Association's newsletter, information on special events occurring at the Birthplace and locally, discounts at the Grover Cleveland Birthplace Gift Shop, and much, much more. **You can join online with credit/debit through PayPal or by check with the form on the reverse side.** If you're reading this newsletter online, you can find the traditional form on the website. See presidentcleveland.org. Another newsletter is planned for late June/early July.

The Grover Cleveland Birthplace, 207 Bloomfield Ave., Caldwell, N.J. 07006, 973-226-0001. The birthplace is open year round, Wednesday-Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. It is open to the public free of charge and is closed for all State and Federal holidays. The address of the Grover Cleveland Birthplace Memorial Association is PO Box 183, Caldwell, N.J. 07006. For more information, see www.PresidentCleveland.org and our Facebook site.