



News, Views & Entertainment

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More of the best of the Valley

July 11, 2017

Actress portrays Eleanor Roosevelt at Derby Historical Society tea

By Patricia Villers

DERBY - Politician and civil rights activist Eleanor Roosevelt came alive Monday at La Sala Banquet Hall at the Sons of Italy thanks to talented actress Sheryl Faye.

She was the featured performer at the Derby Historical Society's 27th annual Silver Tea fundraiser. Close to 200 people attended.

Faye, a Massachusetts-based actress who portrays several prominent historical women, offered an interesting overview of Roosevelt's lifespan.

Roosevelt was the country's longest-serving First Lady. She served from March, 1933 until April, 1945, when her husband, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, died at age 63.

That earned her the sobriquet "First Lady of the World" from Vice President Harry S. Truman, who succeeded her husband in the office.

Faye spoke of Roosevelt's troubled childhood despite the family's great wealth. Roosevelt was eight years old when her mother died, and her father died a year later.

She apparently had a rocky relationship with her mother, who was beautiful and could not understand why her daughter, Eleanor, did not inherit her good looks.

She was much closer to her beloved father, who taught her "to be the person you want to be." Faye said Roosevelt's father reminded her they had an obligation "to help others before they helped themselves."

That teaching at a young age influenced Roosevelt's later life, when she became a leader in the civil rights movement. She was known to be quite compassionate toward the downtrodden in society.



Derby Historical Society executive director Paula Norton said she wanted to publicly thank the costumed docents for their help in making the tea a success.

They included Dawn Sotir, Jody Bishel, Elisa Uhrynowski, Barbara Planker, and Allegra Villers.

At the Society's 25th annual Silver Tea Faye brilliantly portrayed another famous woman of the 20th century, Helen Keller. She also portrays Clara Barton, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Amelia Earhart, and Anne Frank. Faye said she recently added Sally Ride to the performance list.

Comedy night to benefit Ansonia community programs Saturday



The Ansonia Rotary Club will host a Pasta Dinner and Comedy Show on Saturday, July 15 at 6 p.m. at the A.M. Club, 30 Hawthorne Ave., Derby. Proceeds will benefit the Club's Scholarship fund and First Responders Recognition program.

Highlighting the evening will be Dave Reilly, a comedian who works nationwide and resides locally. His comic material is a mix of off the cuff improv and real life situational material. Reilly has been performing his comedy for over 20 years.

Tickets are \$45 for the dinner and show. There will be a cash bar.

Tickets are available at Ion Bank at 75 Tremont Street, Ansonia or Seccomb's Men's Shop, 171 Main Street, Ansonia. You can also or call Rich Knoll at 203-887-3310 or Lori Veillette at 203-231-2578 to order tickets.

Shelton Historical Society slates 'Adventures in History' in August



SHELTON - A summer student enrichment program Adventures in History for children aged 7-12 is being offered by Shelton Historical Society.

It will be held Aug. 7-11, 9 a.m.-noon, at the Shelton History Center complex, 70 Ripton Road.

Participants will learn lessons about how life was during the early 1900s by playing period games, preparing snacks from fresh ingredients and creating useful objects using simple tools. Area educators volunteer to instruct the program.

The program is \$155/child for non-members. For Shelton Historical Society members the cost is \$120/child. Registration is limited and forms are available online at www.sheltonhistoricalsociety.org. Aug. 1 is the deadline for registration.

Children who participate in Adventures in History will become familiar with six historic 19th century buildings at the Shelton History Center including the Brownson House, the Trap Fall School, and the Wilson Barnall as they make comparisons between their experiences and those of their ancestors.

This is a press release from Tracey Tate, executive director, Shelton Historical Society.

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The Valley-Voice CT Publications

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The ValleyVoice CT Newsletter Is published by Alcam Writing & Admin LLC, Derby, CT

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