je Wanner Newsletter The Official Newsletter of THE BANNERMAN CASTLE TRUST, INC. 1st and 2nd Quarters 2012 Volume #31

Bannerman Castle Facing a Crucial Challenge/Opportunity



By Joshua Gran—Choice Words

Bannerman Castle stands today because those who love history stepped in to stabilize and preserve these grand ruins rising out of Pollepel Island in New York's Hudson Highlands State Park. The castle's impressive ramparts, turrets, and walls—visible to hundreds of thousands annually as they ride the Metro North railway Hudson River line—will only remain standing if those who love history maintain their commitment to this great symbol of America's Gilded Age.

The nonprofit organization, Bannerman Castle Trust, is facing both a challenge and an opportunity in its latest, crucial initiative: the Bannerman Island Arsenal Stabilization Project. After winning critical funding from New York State's Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), the Bannerman Castle Trust must procure approximately \$150,000 in matching funds necessary to access this money and begin the first essential stage. Completing this first stage of the Stabilization Project will, as the name implies, hold the line against future degradation of this important historic site, allowing the Bannerman Castle Trust the time necessary to improve the property further to realize its full potential as a significant tourist attraction. Decades of exposure to the harsh elements of winter and storms have The Tower Ruins left these edifices in immediate need of stabilizing intervention. Structural collapses to the castle's iconic tower during the winter off-

season—tours of the island are conducted from mid-spring to midautumn—caused unprecedented damage. Future loss can be pre-

vented though with proper intervention.

As a "friends organization", Bannerman Castle Trust works with New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to provide public access to the island via educational tours, and to preserve the island's historic structures, which include the massive Bannerman Castle, a unique Scottish Baronial palace. Thousands come to Bannerman Castle annually because of its rich history, embodying the opulence of the Gilded Age, and having been used as a manufacturing site to support America's war efforts during World War I. Since 1982, the complex has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Bannerman Castle Trust is requesting funds to support Phase One of the Bannerman Island Arsenal Stabilization Project. Phase One of its two-phased plan will involve immediate stabilization to make the structures safe enough to allow the architectural team to enter and perform a more in-depth analysis and documentation of need. Phase Two will address those needs, if any, with more lasting stabilization interventions. The Bannerman Castle Trust has secured 90% of the funds needed to complete the predevelopment stage of Phase One. The next step will be to complete the capital improvements to the Arsenal Structure, the bulk of the work for Phase One.

With additional stabilization and rehabilitation efforts, Bannerman Castle Trust can finally begin its ascent toward being one of New York State's most visited historic destinations. By opening to the public the most precious, never-before-seen parts of the castle, the Bannerman Castle Trust estimates that it will be able to surpass 100,000 visitors annually within ten years of Phase One's completion.

We need your help to stabilize the main castle this summer.

Get Involved! Donate!

Bannerman Castle East View Top Left Circa 1960s

Circa 2010 Photos by Thom Johnson





The Banner

Volume 31 May 2012 1st and 2nd Quarters EDITORIOL STAFF

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MISSION

The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. is a not-for-profit "Friends" organization of volunteers working with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Trust is dedicated to bringing together resources and funding to stabilize the buildings on Pollepel Island. The Trust aims to raise awareness and educate the public and government organizations on the value and history of the island. The Trust aims to raise funds for repairing the island, creating a master plan and eventually stabilizing the structures. The Trust is working to make the island safe for volunteers and for the public to enjoy the island as an educational, cultural, historical and recreational facility promoting heritage tourism in the Hudson Valley.

Become a "FRIEND" or a Volunteer

The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. invites you to become a "Friend of Bannerman Castle".

Help us preserve the castle.

For information call:

Neil Caplan, President (845)-831-6346

www.bannermancastle.org

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The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. POB 843 Glenham, NY 12527-0843



Check out our new website created by John Morzen

\$150,000 Match Needed for EPF Grant by September 12, 2012

The Bannerman Island Residence Emergency Stabilization Project was completed in July 2011 through a competitive Environmental Protection Fund Challenge Grant. This year, the Bannerman Castle Trust Inc. has a \$150,000 matching grant from the Environmental Protection Fund to help stabilize the main structures. We need to raise a minimum of \$150,000 to secure the EPF Grant by September 12, 2012.

<u>WE NEED YOUR HELP!</u> You can help save Bannerman Island by making a donation to The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. at www.bannermancastle.org or by sending your tax-deductible contribution to: POB 843, Glenham, NY 12527-0843

BCT RECIEVES \$10,000 Grant From The Dyson Foundation to hire Fairweather Consultants

Fairweather Consultants thrust for this project will be to create a focused action plan to enable the castle to fully realize its potential as a tourism destination. Fairweather Consultants will define the "critical success factors" for the castle to realize its full potential as a tourism destination and establish a prioritized work plan to achieve that potential. In addition, the work will create an estimate of the economic impact that could be realized as Bannerman Island becomes one of the premier sought after historic places to visit in the Hudson Valley. This information will be compiled into a prospectus for the Trust to assist in fundraising.

Fairweather Consulting's practice specializes in strategic planning and market/feasibility studies, including economic impact analyses. We have had substantial involvement in issues related to tourism and heritage tourism, in particular, including a strategic plan for Walkway Over the Hudson, Inc., market research and branding for the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor in the Adirondack Mountains of New York, the feasibility study and business plan for the Texas Center for Wine and Culinary Arts, and a cultural heritage tourism strategy for the City of Peekskill. The project is expected to be completed in the fall of 2012. The BCT would like to thank The Dyson Foundation for their generous support for this project.

J.M. Kaplan Foundation Donates \$25,000 to BCT to Match \$150,000 EPF Grant for Main Castle Stabilization

The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. would like to thank the J.M. Kaplan Fund of NYC for a grant for \$25,000. This grant will help to pay for architectural and engineering fees for construction drawings for the Phase One stabilization of the main castle structures on Bannerman Island. The J.M. Kaplan Foundation supports development of a movement to inventory and protect industrial architecture. Special thanks to Joan Davidson, Fred Osborn, Ken Lustbadder and J.M. Kaplan Foundation for their generous support for the Main Structure Stabilization Project.

BCT Hires Choice Words Grant Writers

Choice Words' grant writing team has a stellar track record, delivering significant grants from private, corporate, and government funders with awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$2.5 million. They also specialize in providing clients with focused funding research designed to identify the most suitable sources of funding from private and public resources. The BCT would like to thank Steve Densmore and Josh Gran for their work to secure grants for the Bannerman Main Structure Stabilization Project..

THE BANNERMAN GARDENS PROJECT

By Wes Gottlock



Our Wednesday volunteers have already begun shoveling, mulching, and planting. The Bannerman gardens have expanded each year since the initial work was started on the formal garden area at Wee Bay. The gardens now adorn many of our trails and add much to the island's appear-

ance. Tourists' comments have been most favorable.

Once again, the coordinator of the project this year is Donna Blakemore. We are indeed fortunate to have someone with her vision, expertise, and drive. Donna's cadre of dedicated volunteers spend a good part of each Wednesday beautifying the island. Donna is always looking to recruit new volunteers for this effort. The group boards our service boat at the Cornwall Yacht Club each week around 10:00 a.m. Bring along lunch and water and enjoy a day volunteering on this Hudson River landmark. The group usually winds up its work around 2:00 p.m.

If you would like to volunteer for this unique opportunity, call Donna at 845-542-1192 or e-mail Barbara Gottlock at bgottlock@hvc.rr.com.



BCT Volunteer
Gardeners on Route
to Bannerman Island
Left to Right:
Eugene Martin, Barbara
Gottlock, Karen
Schack, Donna Blakemore, John Lanc and
Melanie Lanc

Photo by Wes Gottlock

The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. Welcomes Rose Harvey, NYS Parks Commissioner and Linda Cooper, Taconic Regional Director

The BCT welcomes Rose Harvey as the new commissioner of NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, as well as Linda Cooper, who took over for Jayne MacLaughin, as regional director of the Taconic Region of NYS Parks. We look forword to working with both of you to continue to preserve Bannerman Island and enhance New York State Parks.

Leo Baltazar—New BCT Boat Captain and Steward

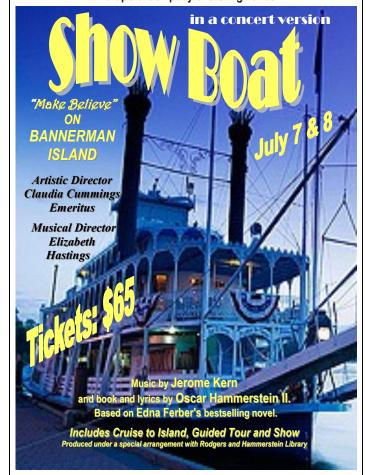
Leo Baltazar has been hired by the BCT as our new island steward and the captain of our workboat. Leo is an experienced licensed boat captain. We welcome Leo to The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc.

Jan Hird Pokorny, Associates Prepares Main Castle Stabilization Plans

Jan Hird Pokorny Associates will prepare the Main Structure Emergency Stabilization Plan and will supervise the project. Pokorny completed the Bannerman Residence Stabilization in July of 2011.

The Bannerman Island Performers Series M & T Bank, Mark and Sue Adams, Torches on the Hudson, The Piconne Group of Companies, Bill Diamond Productions

The Opera Company of the Highlands



Performed on Bannerman Island Reservations Call: 845-831-6346 or 845-562-5381

How To Help Preserve Bannerman Island?

Get Involved!

Take a Private Tour of Bannerman Island!

Become a 'Friend of the Castle'

Include Your Company's Matching Grant Application with Your Donation

Become a Corporate Sponsor or Donor

Consider a 'Legacy Gift' in Your Estate Planning

Have a Milestone Birthday or Anniversary

<u>Fundraising Party</u>

for the Preservation of Bannerman Island

Want to have a special event? Call us and let us know what you have in mind and we will be happy to discuss the possibilities and how we can help.

For Information Call: Neil Caplan at 845-234-3204

BANNERMAN ISLAND HUDSON HIGHLANDS STATE PARK OPENS MAY 4, 2012 BANNERMAN ISLAND DISCOVERY TOURS, CONCERTS AND MORE!

Fourth of July Bannerman Island Picnic Bash! July 4th

Spend the 4th of July with the Bannerman Castle Trust for an old fashioned 4th of July Picnic on Bannerman Island featuring all of your holiday favorites! Loughran's



July 7 and 8

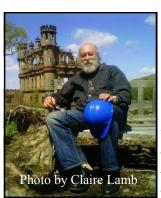
Restaurant of New Windsor will rustle up a full menu of hamburgers, cheeseburgers, grilled chicken, sausage and peppers, corn on the cob, baked beans, pasta salad, cole slaw, potato salad, cookies and soda. The event includes self-guided tours, the cruise on the *Pollepel* and live music. Proceeds from this event will help with the preservation of Bannerman Island. Tickets are \$70 for BCT members and \$75 for general admission.

For Reservations call ZERVE at 1-800-979-3370 Bannerman Island Performers Series

Performed on Bannerman Island in our Gardens
The Opera Company of the Highlands
Concert Production
of Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein's classic musical
SHOWBOAT

Tickets are \$65, and Include Cruise Tour and Show

Opera Company of the Hudson Highlands, is a professional, not-for-profit opera company based in Orange County, NY. Well known opera singer Claudia Cummings, founder and artistic director of Opera Company of the Highlands, will be presenting a concert version of the classic musical, Showboat on Bannerman Island with the castle as a backdrop. Songs from the musical, such as "Old Man River", "Can't Help Lovin' That Man", have become standards. This will be a unique production and the first time a musical will be presented on Bannerman Island. The play will be produced by the Bannerman Castle Trust and the Opera Company of the Hudson Highlands. (Sponsorships are available)



Reservations call: 845-831-6346 or 845-562-5381

CAREY HARRISON RETURNS TO BANNERMAN ISLAND POETRY THROUGH THE AGES — July 28

The Woodstock Players returns to Bannerman Island with renowned actor/playwright, *Carey Harrison* performing a one-man show, *Poetry through the Ages*, featuring the poetry of Shakespeare, Tennyson, and Dylan

Thomas. Mr. Harrison will present the poetry reading styles of the past 100 years, and how they have changed with the times, as famous poets and great actors have successively reinterpreted the way we speak verse. And all against the poetic backdrop of this island gem in the middle of the Hudson River—an island with a history as curious and mysterious as would inspire any of the great poets to put pen (or quill) to paper. Mr. Carey presented his one man show, *Rex Harrison in Hollywood*, last year to sellout audiences. He is the son of screen legends, Rex Harrison and Lilly Palmer.

Performance Date: July 28. Tickets are \$55 and \$50 General Admission for BCT Friends. Includes: Cruise, Island Tour and Lecture/Performance.





Top Photo, 2011 Chefs Dinner

Bottom Photo, 2010 Chefs

Hudson Valley Chefs Farm Fresh Dinner with Noah Sheetz Saturday — September 8th

A five-course gourmet meal will be prepared by five noted Hudson Valley chefs. \$150 donation .

Helen Bannerman's garden, next to the newly stabilized Bannerman Residence, was transformed into a five-star restaurant complete with linens and plateware crafted from palm leaves. The Hudson Valley Chefs Dinner was so popular that we sold out two sittings and had over 30 people on a waiting list. There will be two seatings this year. Noah Sheetz called the Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. Executive Director, Neil Caplan in 2010, after the disastrous collapse of the iconic tower walls, with the idea to help raise funds for the stabilization of the structures on Bannerman Island by holding a dramatic dinner among the ruins. Noah's vision developed into the creation of the Chefs Consortium which has presented numerous fundraisers for deserving not-for-profits. Noah, we are grateful that you chose Bannerman Castle to start the Chefs Consortium and look forward to this year's event. Reservations are advised because we sell out on this event.

To make a reservation e-mail contact Neil Caplan at neilcaplan@aol.com. 845- 831-6346

Tickets are \$150 per person and is \$100 tax-deductible.

BANNERMAN ISLAND THIRD SUNDAYS MUSIC, BOX LUNCH, SELF-GUIDED TOURS

Sponsored by Mark and Sue Adams, Torches on the Hudson, M & T Bank, and Bill Diamond Productions

Enjoy the mystery of Bannerman Island on this special self-guided tour that includes a complementary box lunch prepared by one of the Hudson Valley's finest restaurants, and a mini concert by one of New York's talented musicians. Bannerman Castle Trust historians will be on hand to answer questions about the castle and Bannerman history. Your Bannerman Adventure includes transportation on Hudson River Adventure's vessel, The Pollepel, and a video by Bill Diamond Productions, featuring stage and screen actress, Jane Alexander. Reservations are required by 9:00 p.m. the Thursday before the event. (Box lunches may not be available if you book later than the Thursday before the event.) Tickets are \$42 per person. **To make a reservation call Zerve at: 1-800-979-3370**

Please note: You will not be allowed inside the buildings and will need to stay on NYS approved paths for safety reasons. Box lunches will be served by one of the following Hudson Valley restaurants:

Torches on the Hudson, Newburgh River Grill, Newburgh Homespun Foods, Beacon Cup and Saucer Tea Room, Beacon



ADAM BOHANAN June 17

American born, English raised Adam Bohanan takes a great new look at the singer/songwriter category. With the mixture of folk, R&B, jazz and funk influences; Adam's music is continuously changing and evolving. His love for a variety of different styles of music is shown in the array of diverse genres he applies to the songs in his catalog. With a soulful voice and stimulating lyrics, he is a great storyteller who allows the listener to enjoy every word. He attributes his musical aptitude and his ability to jump from one genre to the next, to his migration around the world from a young age; giving him a strong assortment of styles.



TJAY July 15

Most recently, TJay received the honor of being selected as RELIX MAGAZINE'S JamOFF! Contest winner. His song "Goldfish" is featured on the January/February Relix Magazine Sampler along with notable artists such as Gregg Allman and Keller Williams. After receiving a scholarship to play Division I college baseball, TJay had been pursuing a career as a professional baseball player; playing gigs on the side to raise a little extra money. It wasn't long before crowds grew and word started to spread. From there, the choice was easy. Now, TJay is a singer/songwriter/guitarist, but don't let the singer/songwriter brand fool you. TJay's style of writing incorporates rock/pop with jazz and funk to create an independent sound with huge potential for crossover. Drawing on influences such as Blues Traveler, Steely Dan, Billy Joel, Steve Miller Band, Dave Matthews, Maroon 5, and John Mayer, TJay's music is uniquely timeless and speaks to any musical taste.



DAN LAVOIE August 19

Born and raised in Pawling NY, singer/songwriter, Dan Lavoie's style brings a fresh new sound to the table with influences of rock, blues, folk, classical, jazz, and funk jam meshed together to create what many have called traveling music. His music reflects personal life experiences through heartache, pain, love and hope for a better future. After the success of his solo instrumental album, "Little Noodles," Dan made number seven on Hudson Valley's TOP TEN Best Concerts with last year's appearance at the Towne Crier Cafe. Lavoie will be touring the U.S. this summer, promoting his album "To the Water's Edge".



THE MATTAWAN WINDS

September 16

The Mattawan Winds—named after a Native American name and a local region in Beacon—is a new ensemble of professional musicians. Started by Beacon resident, Deborah Simons, they are a group of friends who love to make music together. Their repertoire includes everything from Mozart to Gershwin. For more information, contact the Cortlandt Regional Music Association (www.cortlandtmusic.org).



THADDEUS MACGREOR

October 21

Musical Bard of the Hudson, Thaddeus MacGregor delights audiences with his spirited and soulful interpretations of classic 19th and 20th century songs. He brings the past to life, performing on guitar and singing, and playing cigar-box guitar, mandolin, flute and fife. Kids of all ages are especially enchanted with his "partner": Wee Jim, the Limberjack (a wooden dancing musical figure from times long past). A real entertainer, Mr. MacGregor takes his audience on a fun sidetrip through time!

JANE BANNERMAN TURNS 102

Jane Campbell Bannerman, the grand-daughter-in-law of the builder of Bannerman Island celebrated her 102nd birthday on March 15th. Jane is a retired interior designer and accomplished artist with a degree from Parsons School of Design. Jane spent many weekends, with her late husband Charles S. Bannerman, on Bannerman Island in the family residence. Jane



recalls the first time she painted the castle: "It was sometime in the early 1930s. I had painted a picture of a small tower on the island with a cart in front of it. I was so excited that I finished my little gem, and ran to show it to my fiancée, Charlie." I said to him, "So Charlie, what do you think of my painting" and he burst out laughing. I asked him "what is so funny about my painting" and he replied, "you painted the men's latrine!". I was so upset, I would not paint the castle again until 1993, when I helped Neil Caplan form the Bannerman Castle Trust.

Jane is one of the founding members of The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. and a member of the BCT Advisory Board and is so happy that The Bannerman Castle Trust has just stabilized the residence. Now...we need your help to stabilize the castle!. To celebrate Jane's milestone birthday, Jane is asking you to send a donation in her honor to The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. to help stabilize the main iconic castle structures on Bannerman Island. Your tax-deductible donation will help with the emergency stabilization of the castle buildings on Bannerman Island. Without your help, we will lose more of the majestic structures.

Your birthday wish will be sent to Jane to celebrate her 102 years, and will help us perform the Phase One Stabilization of the main castle structures. Your name will be listed in our 2012 Hudson Valley Journal. Help us save Bannerman Island. Please send your birthday wish and donation to The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc., POB 843, Glenham, NY 12527-0843, or call Neil Caplan at 845-831-6346 or go to www.bannermancastle.org



BANNERMAN
ISLAND
GALLERY
OPENS
WEEKENDS
AND BY
APPOINTMENT
DURING
THE WEEK

JUNE- OCTOBER.

Featuring Bannerman Inspired and Hudson River art.

For Information call Neil Caplan at 845-831-6346

MARY EVELYN WHITEHILL

1920-2012



The art world was changed with the death of Mary E. Whitehill of Newburgh, New York, on Tuesday, March 27, 2012. Born on March 9, 1920 to David J. and C. Evelyn Pope Perrott, she was a Newburgh resident all her life. At her 80th birthday celebration, she observed that her life had so far been divided into stages of twenty years each:

student, parent, librarian, artist. And the next stage?—-"A successful artist."

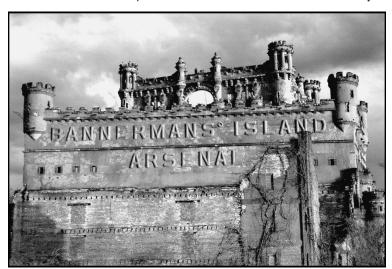
As a child Mary Evelyn (M.E. as she liked to be called) was set on becoming an artist; her great-grandfather was the Hudson River artist, Thomas B. Pope.

Upon her retirement in 1985, M.E. began her art career in earnest. A prolific painter, her art has preserved forever, much of the beauty of the Hudson River Valley. Many of her images are found today on greeting cards that she started as a donation project. She truly enjoyed depicting florals and land-scapes. She loved painting outdoors, believing the world needs its nature and the world needs its art.

M.E. exhibited an enthusiastic love of life. People who met her didn't forget her; she made a vivid impression in her purple hat. Always interested in learning about people's lives and new ideas, at 70, M.E. bought her first computer and created her own website.

At 89, Mary Evelyn realized her dream of opening her own gallery, combining her marketing and business skills with her love of art. On her 90th birthday, she arranged a celebration and benefit to help preserve Bannerman Castle, a scene she had painted many times. Mary was an avid supporter of the Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc.

Her art will continue to inspire. You will be missed and we will remember you.



BANNERMAN ISLAND PHOTO SHOOTS WITH THOM JOHNSON

Check out our website at www.bannermancastle.org under events.



BANNERMAN ISLAND COOKIE FUND RAISER

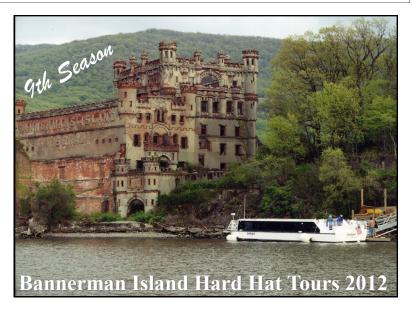
The BCT would like to thank Lelia Sweenie, a four year old who on her own, baked cookies to help Save Bannerman Castle. (Special thanks to her mom, Tina Chan Sweenie)

"I am selling chocolate

chip cookie to raise money for the preservation of Bannerman Castle. I really wanted to help rebuild the castle, but found out I wasn't allowed to. Instead there is a group called Bannerman Castle Trust that is raising funds to help save the Castle. My piggy bank wasn't enough, so now I am baking cookies to raise more money!" *Lelia Sweenie*

"My four year old daughter has already made 307 cookies and raised over \$310.00. Her cookies were also sold at Beacon Open Studios and at Truck City and Spire Studios" *Tina Chan Sweenie*

"Lelia, you are a special young lady and truly have helped to make a difference for Bannerman Island. Thank you again. Please save some cookies for me! *Neil Caplan, BCT Executive Director*



'Discover the Mystery, Explore the History' onboard **Hudson River Adventure's** vessel, **THE POLLEPEL.** Your Bannerman Island adventure begins at the Newburgh or Beacon waterfront every Saturday and Sunday, May through October. The Pollepel departs Torches Landing at the Newburgh waterfront at 12:00 noon and from the Beacon Ferry dock in Beacon, NY at 1:30 p.m. Book your Bannerman Island walking tour directly online by going to:

www.prideofthehudson.com/pollepelschedule.shtml

Call *Zerve* to book by phone at 1-800-979-3370



Visa

Swarn Irm of Beacon— Bannerman Island Tour Packages Get \$5 off room rate and \$3 off two Bannerman Island Walking Tours. Call us at: 845-831-6346

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Call: 845-534-7800
Call: 845-831-1997

BANNERMAN ISLAND

BECOME a BCT "FRIEND OF THE CASTLE" or a BCT SPONSOR!

Join The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. and receive a complimentary copy of *The Story of Bannerman Island*, by Charles S. Bannerman. You will also receive a subscription to the BCT newsletter, *THE BANNER*, along with a friendship card. See member article.

I WOULD LIKE TO BE PART OF "THE BANNERMAN SUPPORT SYSTEM" and make a tax-deductible donation to the Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc.

MasterCard

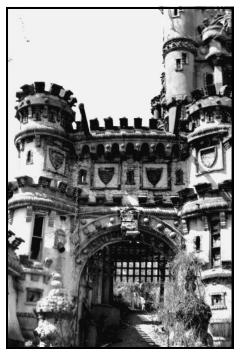
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Capital Campaign for Main Castle Structures

BANNERMAN ISLAND TOURS OPEN MAY 4TH

New This Year!

'Fourth of July Picnic Bash' on Bannerman Island

Bannerman Island 'Performers Series'

Opera Company of the Highlands performs 'Showboat' Concert on BI

Carey Harrison Returns to BI in 'Poetry Through the Ages'

'Third Sunday', Music, Box Lunch, Self-Guided Tours

BECOME A "FRIEND" OF THE BANNERMAN CASTLE TRUST, INC.

Join Today! Help Preserve a Hudson River Icon!

