THE JOHN F. KENNEDY LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

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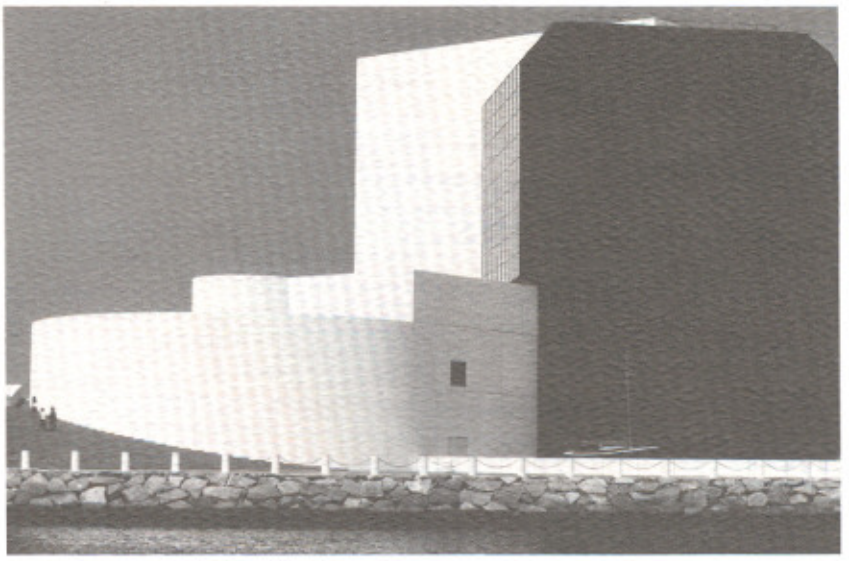
The Many Changes of Columbia Point



Situated on a beautiful peninsula in Boston Harbor known as Columbia Point, the Kennedy Library is a spectacular site. Wild rose bushes, dune grass and expanses of sea and sky convey a strong feeling of Cape Cod in a setting only two miles from downtown Boston.

When the Kennedy Library opened in October of 1979, it was not known that the area would soon become one of the most sought after locations in Boston. The Library has many prestigious neighbors which had established Columbia Point as their home before 1979 including the University of Massachusetts Harbor Campus, the Boston Globe, the Bank of Boston, and Boston College High School. Since then, the area has welcomed the Bayside Exposition Center, where you can see exhibits ranging from the New England Flower Show to the Car Expo; and The Massachusetts State Archives, which houses the Commonwealth Museum.

Perhaps, the most exciting change currently happening in the area is the renovation of the public housing units at Columbia Point. Designed to resemble Boston's beautiful tree-lined Commonwealth Avenue, the new mixed-income neighborhood will be known as Harbor Point. In addition to the 1,283 new or renovated apartment units, Harbor Point will bring landscaped parks and retail shops to the area.

With all the change at Columbia Point, it is no wonder that the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority is rebuilding a station on its red line service to increase the area's accessibility. Soon, all red line trains on both the Quincy and Ashmont branches will stop at the JFK/UMass stop.

Changes are not only occurring around the Kennedy Library and Museum, but within as well. Later this year, visitors to the Library will be able to extend their visit by enjoying a meal in the new cafe to open in the pavilion. Overlooking the Boston Harbor and President Kennedy's sailboat, the *Victura*, the cafe will provide Museum visitors a place to reflect on what they have just seen in the 18,000 square feet of exhibit space or to take a break before seeing more.

In addition to being accessible by car and public transit, the Library will soon be accessible via Boston Harbor. This fall, dredging will begin for a dock which is to be constructed off the Library's shore. From downtown Boston, the Library will be a quick ride across the Harbor on a small pleasure boat or on a Harbor tour boat.

Finally, plans are underway to build an addition to the Library. While we are still in the design phase of this major project, plans for the addition include a new multi-purpose room which would house changing exhibits and conference space.

Thus, the Columbia Point which welcomed the Kennedy Library in 1979 is a very different place today. We are very proud to be a part of these changes in our neighborhood, and look forward to playing an active role in this dynamic community.

Robert F. Kennedy Conference on Poverty in America

Each year the Kennedy Library holds a conference for high school students on an issue which was of special concern to Robert F. Kennedy. This year's topic was "The Poor in America." No problem troubled RFK more than the persistence of poverty in a land of affluence and opportunity. He spoke out against urban poverty in the North, against rural poverty in the backwaters of the South, and gave strong support to efforts to improve the lives of American Indians and farm workers.

Peter Edelman, who served as Senator Robert Kennedy's legislative assistant from 1965-1968, opened the conference with a detailed account of RFK's deep personal concern and the legislative efforts he undertook in the struggle against poverty.

Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the United Farm Workers in 1962, recalled RFK's key support in the 1968 farm workers strike in California and brought the issue very much up to date by describing the efforts of the UFW to eliminate the contamination of American produce with insecticides.

Finally, Anna Jones of the Boston Foundation, the Reverend Brian Kelley of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Katherine Mainzer of the Coalition for the Homeless and Paul McDevitt of the Bridge Foundation discussed the serious problems faced by the homeless in today's Boston.

For the students it was a thought-provoking look at a problem which bridges the gap between Robert Kennedy's generation and our own.

JFK Library Corps Works at Substance Abuse Center

"I like seeing the walls freshly painted," said Barbie Jo Graham, a junior at South Boston High School and a member of the JFK Library Corps. She and twenty other members of the Corps rolled up their sleeves on April 25 to help residents at Women, Inc. make spring improvements at their drug rehabilitation center in Dorchester.

The JFK Library Corps has been involving Boston students from grades six to twelve in public service projects, such as working with nursing home residents and organizing park clean-ups, since 1985. On April 25 the Corps helped Women, Inc. with painting, and planting flowers and shrubs.

Women, Inc. is a residential treatment center for women working to end drug and alcohol abuse problems. "I'm sure that kicking drugs is the hardest thing anyone could do and we were proud to help," said Graham. Candice Casin, Director of Women, Inc. was thrilled to have the teens from the JFK Library Corps pitch in and said, "We couldn't have done it without them."

Archival Research Grants Awarded

This spring the Kennedy Library awarded seven research grants to scholars who will study a broad range of topics related to the Kennedy presidency. Topics range from a comparison of the British National Health Service and Medicare to the enduring fascination with Jacqueline Kennedy.

All publications which may result from the researchers' work will become a part of the permanent archival collection at the Library.

Women in Politics

An audience of more than 300 was brought to its feet by Bella Abzug at a May 1 conference at the Library on "Women and Political Power in the United States." Ms. Abzug, discussing the challenges facing women as we approach the year 2000, urged them to alter antiquated power structures and laws which do not deal with the changes in American life. "Our responsibility," she said in her keynote address, "is to change the nature of power. Women must go back to their strength—their numbers—to lead a renaissance, a whole new approach to bringing about fundamental changes in society."

A morning panel on the "Current Status of Women in Politics: Taking Stock" featured Ruth Mandel, director, Center for the American Woman and Politics at Rutgers University; Joanne Howes, executive director, Women's Vote Project; Irene Natividad, chair, National Women's Political Caucus; and Richard Wirthlin, consultant and pollster to President Ronald Reagan. They discussed the changes in patterns of the political participation of women in the last two decades, both as candidates and as voters.

Ms. Natividad talked about the issue of gender gap, stating that in 1986 women provided the margin of victory in nine key U.S. Senate races which returned the Democrats to the majority. She said, "Given the fact that the number of women voters is increasing, women cannot afford to become an invisible majority."

Referring to a study done by the Women's Vote Project which showed that many women do not vote because they do not think they can affect public policy, Joanne Howes said, "We need to establish a direct relationship between women voters and public policy so women will recognize that they *can* focus the agenda and the debate in the political arena on those issues of importance to them."

During the afternoon panel, "Redressing the Balance: The Unfinished Agenda," the issues of elder women, family life, economic justice and gender bias in the courts were discussed by Lou Glasse, president, Older Women's League; Ethel Klein, professor of political science, Columbia University; Michele Lord, executive director, Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues; Nancy Mills, executive director, Service Employees International Union, Local 285, AFL-CIO; and Lynn Hecht Schafran, director, National Judicial Education Program to Promote Equality for Women and Men in the Courts.

Focusing on the issues of inadequate health care and spousal impoverishment, Lou Glasse warned that unless there are changes in basic policies many women will live at the poverty level in old age. "Women must see that issues for elder women are not just elder women's issues, and that life is a continuum."

Commenting on Ms. Glasse's remarks, Nancy Mills stressed that the future of all Americans is tied to a living wage which will enable us to live in the ways we expect. She added that given the economic reality of two-income households, issues of family and work have moved to the top of the agenda in collective bargaining.

"We are asking people to make a choice between family and work, and need to break down the division current policies put us in," Ethel Klein emphasized. To ensure the effective integration of women in the labor market, we need a social movement. "This is an arena for collective action; everybody has to be involved."

The day-long conference ended with a stirring keynote address by Betty Friedan who warned that "the assumption that those doors we opened will stay open and be opened for the daughters is an unsafe assumption." She urged women to mobilize their power and set the agenda not just on those traditionally women's issues, but on environmental and foreign policy issues as well.

A Look Back: Seventy Years Ago

John F. Kennedy was born seventy years ago on May 29, 1917. His childhood, adolescence and early adult years coincided with a period of tremendous upheaval and change in the United States and throughout the world.

President Kennedy's political views and his approach to problems were clearly shaped by all of these events. As Arthur Schlesinger points out in *A Thousand Days,* JFK was "the first representative in the White House of a distinctive generation, the generation which was born during the First World War, came of age during the depression, fought in the Second World War and began its public career in the atomic age."

As president, John Kennedy consciously invoked the memory of Franklin Roosevelt often, and placed himself squarely in the activist tradition of the New Deal. The social welfare aims of the New Frontier, it has often been said, were the logical extension, and at least partial fulfillment, of the programs initiated by FDR in the 1930s and pushed by President Truman in the late forties.

In his inaugural address, President Kennedy told the world that, "the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans—born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by a hard and bitter peace, and proud of our ancient heritage—and unwilling to witness or permit the slow undoing of those human rights to which this nation has always been committed, and to which we are committed today at home and around the world."

He was, as we know so well, both committed to removing the nuclear "sword of Damocles" that hangs over our heads and confident of his ability, and the ability of those who had seen and participated in the great changes of this century to take the necessary steps to reach this goal. His greatest concern and the issue that, more than all others, dominated his political career from 1946 to 1963, was that of lessening the chances of another war, especially a nuclear holocaust.

President Kennedy concluded his address to the graduates of American University on June 10, 1963 with these words:

"The United States, as the world knows, will never start a war. We do not want a war. We do not expect a war. This generation of Americans has already had enough—more than enough—of war and hate and oppression. We shall be prepared if others wish it. We shall be alert to try to stop it. But we shall also do our part to build a world of peace where the weak are safe and the strong are just. We are not helpless before that task or hopeless of its success. Confident and unafraid, we labor on—not toward a strategy of annihilation but toward a strategy of peace."

On the seventieth anniversary of President Kennedy's birth, we remember these words and hope that the new generation will heed his warning and forever work toward a world free of war.

Odds & Ends

Found in the Museum . . .

Children visiting the museum gather around "the report card." What attracts them so much could hardly have been so attractive to young John Kennedy—his now well-publicized "D" in a sophomore history class at Harvard. If only he knew what hopes would be kindled in an unborn generation by that disappointing performance!

Students tend to focus so exclusively on that one grade that it can serve as a good lesson in learning to look at the *whole* picture. The overall record shows an unmistakable improvement—evidence perhaps of a growing sense of discipline and purpose. After completing his senior thesis (also on display) JFK wrote to his father that ". . . it represents more work than I've ever done in my life." He went on to graduate with honors.

There is a very reassuring message here for young people, who are going through a similar process of self-discovery, and the inevitable pains that accompany all real growth. If you don't give up on yourself and work hard to develop your own particular talents and deepest interests, there is no telling how far you will go.

Found in the Archives . . .

Students and scholars working on research projects relating to the Department of Justice, civil and anti-trust matters, and California politics are making great use of the recently opened papers of Willim H. Orrick, Jr.

In 1961, Mr. Orrick, a prominent San Francisco lawyer and Democratic activist, was appointed assistant attorney general for the Civil Division of the Department of Justice. As he says in his oral history interview, he was at first overwhelmed and even bewildered by the dimensions of the job. He had been a practicing lawyer and knew how to handle his own cases, but now he was, in effect, a senior partner in one of the largest law firms in the world with three hundred lawyers, handling three or four thousand cases.

In an attempt to keep Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy informed of the important cases and actions of the division, he began preparing for RFK a brief daily report with a sentence or two about the most important events of the day. Occasionally, RFK would scribble a note in the margin asking for clarification and the memo would return to Mr. Orrick for further action. The system seemed to work well and was soon instituted for all assistant attorneys general.

In 1963, after a brief stint in the Department of State, Mr. Orrick became assistant attorney general for the Anti-trust Division and the daily reports continued.

Mr. Orrick has donated 15 boxes of his papers to the Library. In addition to the daily reports to the attorney general from the anti-trust period, they include Mr. Orrick's personal and official correspondence, speeches, and materials on meetings and conferences, judgeship appointments, and Justice Department cases.

THE ART OF DIPLOMACY — A Special Exhibit

THE ART OF DIPLOMACY refers to the ancient role of gift exchanges in political rituals, to symbolize friendship and goodwill, and to strengthen alliances.

The objects on exhibit illustrate the craftsmanship of artisans from many countries such as USSR, whose hunting horns decorated with silver were presented to President Kennedy from Chairman Nikita Khrushchev.

These gifts also illustrate the broad diplomatic activitiy of the Kennedy Administration, and the popularity of President and Mrs. Kennedy in the international community of nations.

The exhibit will be in the Changing Exhibits Gallery on the first floor of the Kennedy Library from May 22 through September 20, 1987.

Kennedy Library Events

June

11

Awards Luncheon for the grant and prize recipients of "The Project to Improve the Teaching of American Politics and Government" at 12:00 p.m.

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Reception honoring this year's recipient of the Dan H. Fenn, Jr. Award for Political Leadership at 5:00 p.m.

July

6-17

The Summer Institute for Secondary School Teachers co-sponsored by the University of Massachusetts—A Bicentennial Look at the Constitution.

Museum Hours

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day

Reservations are required for all events. For further information, please call the Kennedy Library at 929-4500

A Special Father's Day at the Kennedy Library

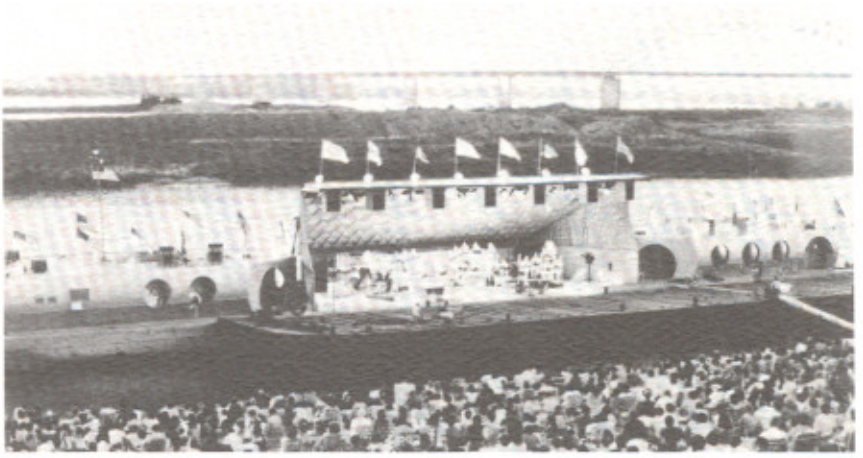
In celebration of Father's Day, the John F. Kennedy Library will be holding a very unique public event on Sunday, June 21, 1987 at 8:00 p.m. featuring the American Waterways Wind Orchestra.

This forty-two member Orchestra performs on a self-propelled, 195 foot long floating vessel with a seventy-five foot wide stage. The performers are young professionals who perform a repertory of contemporary music.

This year marks the 31st season for the travelling orchestra. Based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, this group has performed in cities throughout the United States and last summer participated in New York's Liberty Weekend Operation Sail festivities.

We hope that you and your family will join us for this very special Father's Day event. The performance will end at approximately 9:15, but be sure to stay for the surprise following the show!

Listen to WMJX, 106.7 on your FM dial, beginning on June 1 for information on how to get your *free ticket* to the event.



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