April 7, 2021

VOLUNTEER DAY AT CARRINGTON PROPERTY

Background:

The Carrington property is a National Park Service property located in an undeveloped area between the communities of Cherry Grove and the Fire Island Pines. Three buildings are located on the Carrington property: the Carrington House (the "Main House"), the Guest House (or cottage), and a small utility shed. All of the buildings are clustered in the southeast portion of the property, on low sandy ground just behind the row of dunes along the oceanfront beach. The Guest House is located roughly 60 feet west of the Main House.

The Guest House on the Carrington property is composed of two buildings that were moved to the site ca. 1942 and joined together. They originally functioned as a wagon house/stable and an oil house associated with the Lone Hill Lifesaving Station that formerly occupied the neighboring property.

Frank Carrington, the original property owner and property's namesake, was said to have been interested in theater from his earliest childhood, writing plays by the age of six and working at the Pasadena Playhouse by twelve. As Frank Carrington grew up, he worked in a law office during the day and studied theater at night. Despite being discouraged by his father, he doggedly pursued a career in the arts. Mr. Carrington was a member of the Freemasons, and a member guide states that he was "with the US Navy in World War I." Carrington's profession is listed as theater director. Carrington was involved in establishing the Cherry Lane Theatre in New York and worked in several other theaters in New York City and New Jersey including be the founding father of the Paper Mill Playhouse that eventually became recognized as the States Theater. In 1927 Carrington purchased his summer home in Fire Island and the Guest House or cottage was purchased in 1947. In this Guest House Frank Carrington was known to host guests such as Truman Capote, designer Bill Blass, Henry Fonda, Katherine Hepburn, and play writer Eugene O'Neill. Frank Carrington also founded The Arts Project of Cherry Grove in 1948.

Vision:

The Carrington structures are on the National Register of Historic Places since 2013. The National Park Service, Fire Island National Seashore is working with community stakeholders to continue the spirit of Frank Carrington and his love for the Arts at the Carrington property and structures. This year the focus will be on restoring the Guest House for community use to support history, art, and the environment.

What:

The National Park Service, Fire Island National Seashore is working with community stakeholders to schedule TWO volunteer days at the Carrington property and Guest House.

When:

April 17 and rain date April 18 – Prepping site for construction. Cutting back brush, picking up debris and litter, removing boardwalk planks from boardwalk leading to Guest House and around the home.

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9:00 AM - Everyone must be signed up as a National Park Service volunteer in order to participate.

All debris and construction material will be disposed of in a local dumpster or collection area.

COVID19 protocols will be strictly followed.

Where:

Meet at the Main House to sign up. Someone from the National Park Service will be there to provide instruction and sign you in.

How:

All volunteers will be signed up as a National Park Service Volunteer for the day. The National Park Service, Fire Island team will supply volunteers with the tools needed for the work such as hammers, rakes, pruners, and crowbars. Volunteers are encouraged to bring their own leather work gloves during the pandemic.

Contact information:
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