

# The ROOSEVELT HERALD



The RSC is located in Middelburg's Abbey

## New Board of Trustees Member

In 2014 the Roosevelt Study Center welcomed Wim van den Doel, Professor of Contemporary History and Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at Leiden University, as a new Board of Trustees member. Professor van den Doel is also Chair of LeidenGlobal, a cooperation of a number of research centers, including the Roosevelt Study Center, that have collections, research and teaching expertise in area studies focused on Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and America.

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## THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

2014 was another exciting year at the RSC. We were able to welcome a new Board of Trustees member. The RSC also served as the base for two American Fulbright scholars, one from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana and the other from the University of New Hampshire, who both worked on new book projects.

The RSC hosted a group of students and faculty from Roosevelt University in Chicago, welcomed another group of BA students from Plymouth University during their annual research visit to the RSC, and hosted two conferences, one on the U.S. Embassy in The Hague, and one on "The UN and the Post-War Global Order: Bretton Woods in Perspective." Furthermore, the RSC organized its Seventh International PhD Seminar with doctoral students from Europe's top universities. Public lectures in the RSC series Lectures on Transatlantic Relations were delivered by Professor Scott Bennett on "Nonviolent Security: Political Pacifism and Peace Activism in Modern America," and by His Excellency Timothy Broas, U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands, on "U.S.-Dutch Relations: Shared Priorities for a Changing World." Once again the prestigious annual Theodore Roosevelt American History Award was presented to an outstanding Master thesis. The RSC staff taught courses at the universities of Ghent, Leiden, Utrecht, Amsterdam, and at Middelburg's University College Roosevelt. To add to this Rooseveltian bustle, the staff also lectured abroad at the University of Gdansk, Poland, Dickinson State University in North Dakota, at Plymouth University, UK, and at the University of Venice, Italy. Activities in 2015 will include two conferences in July: the Transatlantic Studies Association Conference and a Conference on "American Evangelical Missions in Europe." Join us for these and other activities and visit our website for regular updates.

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# TRAHA 2014



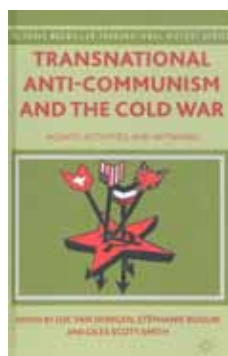
Prize winner Ruth van den Akker with RSC director Cornelis van Minnen

**Every year the RSC presents the Theodore Roosevelt American History Award (TRAHA) for the best Master thesis written by a Dutch graduate student on an American history topic. Sponsored by the New York-based Theodore Roosevelt Association and designed to stimulate the study of United States history and culture at Dutch universities, the award also encourages students to use the unique RSC archival resources.**

On March 28, 2014, the TRAHA was awarded to Ruth van den Akker, a graduate student of the VU University in Amsterdam, for her thesis “Under His Wings: Representations of Self and Other in American Missionary Wives’ Life Writing.” She won a trip to a number of Roosevelt sites in New York State. This trip was co-sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in The Hague.

Ruth van den Akker wrote about her prize and trip to New York: “It was such an honor, but perhaps an even greater surprise, to be the recipient of the Theodore Roosevelt American History Award 2014, which included a trip to New York State. This trip was an educational experience and I thoroughly appreciated the opportunity to become acquainted with the Roosevelts, a family that so obviously played a major role in the history of the United States. I also enjoyed looking for and discovering little indicators of Dutch history on Long Island and in the Roosevelt family, like the Dutch seventeenth-century Bible that was used when FDR was sworn in as president. I want to thank the Roosevelt Study Center, the Theodore Roosevelt Association, the Roosevelt Institute and the U.S. Embassy in The Hague for making this trip possible!”

NEW  
PUBLICATION  
RSC



## RSC-Plymouth University Undergraduate Research Program

In 2007, the RSC entered into a cooperative arrangement with Plymouth University in the UK to encourage and support undergraduate students of American history to come to Middelburg to use the Roosevelt Study Center’s research facilities. About 10 students each year make use of this opportunity. Thanks to U.S. history lecturer Simon Topping, the research visits to the RSC have become a built-in part of Plymouth University’s undergraduate history program. The research topics of the Plymouth undergraduate visitors have ranged from Civil Rights and the Vietnam War to the New Deal, the Space Race, and the Cold War. The results of this venture into undergraduate research have been so impressive that in 2011 a thesis award was created as a reward for the best output from the RSC-Plymouth Research Program. In 2014, the prize-winner was James Parsons who made a comparison between President Kennedy’s failed operation at Cuba’s Bay of Pigs to overthrow Fidel Castro in April 1962, and Operation Eagle Claw, President Jimmy Carter’s failed rescue mission in April 1980 during the Iran Hostage Crisis. After a prize ceremony on September 25 at Plymouth University, RSC director Cornelis van Minnen then delivered the 2014 Roosevelt Lecture.

## Chicago Roosevelt University Visit to the RSC

In May, 2014, a group of 14 students and their Professors Margaret Rung and Chris Chulos from Roosevelt University in Chicago visited the RSC as part of their European trip focusing on the history and memory of World War II. During that trip they visited Amsterdam, Middelburg, Paris, and Berlin. The RSC served as their base and offered the students their first experience in archival research. They used, among others, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Office Files and Map Room Messages to study the FDR administration’s handling of World War II and made a number of class presentations based on these collections. The program in Middelburg also included a guest lecture by Professor Tobias van Gent of University College Roosevelt on World War II in the Netherlands, a walking tour by Zeeland archivist Peter Sijnke showing traces of World War II in Middelburg, and a visit to the nearby Liberation Museum. The students very much appreciated the visit to the RSC and their faculty expressed the intention to include the RSC in future European trips of Chicago’s Roosevelt University.

*Transnational Anti-Communism and the Cold War: Agents, Activities, and Networks* is the product of a conference on transnational dimensions of anti-communism in the Cold War era which was held in Fribourg in 2011, where RSC’s Giles Scott-Smith delivered the keynote lecture. Edited by Scott-Smith and Swiss researchers Luc van Dongen and Stephanie Roulin from the University of Fribourg, the book (published by Palgrave Macmillan) provides unique insights on individuals and organizations not previously studied and was launched with a symposium in Fribourg in June 2014.



## RSC-UCR Cooperation in Course and Internships

In 2014, the RSC and University College Roosevelt (UCR) cooperated in a variety of programs and educational activities. First and foremost, the complete RSC research staff has been involved in teaching a highly innovative, 300-level research seminar titled “The Roosevelt Legacy: Power, Politics & Globalization.” With this course, the RSC offered UCR students the opportunity to investigate the legacy that all of the three leading Roosevelts -Theodore, Franklin, and Eleanor- have left in the United States’ trajectory to world power in the twentieth century. Through the study of literature and relevant primary sources in the RSC library and other media, the students were challenged to assess the political contributions made by each of the three Roosevelts to the development of a global order in the twentieth century. Moreover, they were offered the chance to

present their findings during a concluding conference that the RSC organized and hosted at the end of this course in December. Secondly, the RSC offered UCR students office space and advice for their for-credit internship programs. In 2014, two UCR students have worked as interns for a semester at the RSC.

Josje Goustra used that opportunity to investigate the possible educational cause for Dutch students’ critical attitude towards American foreign policy. Charlotte Berends has analyzed the speeches made by the recipients of the Four Freedoms Awards in Middelburg between 1982 and 2012 in order to determine the legacy of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Both students presented their results in seminars and produced useful papers about the Roosevelt legacy.

## RSC Staff on the Road: Teaching Courses



Cornelis A. van Minnen



Hans Krabbendam



Giles Scott-Smith



Dario Fazzi

**I**n the 2014 spring semester the RSC staff taught courses at four different universities: Ghent University (Belgium), Utrecht University, Leiden University, and University of Amsterdam.

*Professor Cornelis A. van Minnen*, director of the RSC, taught an American history survey course “From Columbus to Obama” for 90 Master students from the departments of history, languages, culture studies, art, and philosophy at the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy at Ghent University, Belgium. The course covered the main geographical, political, social and cultural developments in the U.S. from colonial times to the present and introduced the students to a number of primary source documents.

*Dr. Hans Krabbendam* taught a course on American Religion in the MA program of Utrecht University. The course analyzed the connections and differences between Europe and North America. In ten sessions of four hours a week, the students investigated core texts, explored the main trends, and decided whether Europe and North America are drifting apart or moving in the same direction.

*Professor Giles Scott-Smith* taught two undergraduate courses and an MA research seminar at Leiden University (Campus The Hague). The first-year undergraduate course, “North American History: An Introduction,” is part of the BA International Studies program.

This covered the political and social history of the U.S., Canada, and Mexico from 1945 to the present. The other was a second-year undergraduate course, “The Cold War: A Global History,” also part of the BA International Studies program. This course made students aware that the Cold War was a global phenomenon, which influenced political struggles across the Third World and which, as a result, had a profound impact on the world of the 21st century. The MA research seminar “Rise and Decline of American Empire,” was part of both the North American Studies MA and the International Studies MA at Leiden University. This course covered the 20th century as a uniquely ‘American Century,’ and addressed the political, economic, and cultural bases from which the U.S. can be understood as an ‘imperial power.’

*Dr. Dario Fazzi* taught an MA History course called “The Quest for Peace and Justice: Peace Activism in 20th Century America” at the University of Amsterdam. The course explored the development of pacifist theories and practices in the United States. The course examined two interconnected elements of peace activism in the United States. The first was represented by the ideals inspiring this activism, such as religious and secular pacifism, anti-militarism, internationalism, non-violence, social justice, and environmentalism. The second element was the living embodiment of these ideals in the form of organized social movements.

## RSC Staff on the Road: Lecturing Abroad

THE RSC STAFF WERE INVITED TO CONTRIBUTE TO CONFERENCES AND LECTURE PROGRAMS ABROAD WHICH HELPED SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE RSC.

### University of Gdansk, Poland

On September 5-6, 2014, RSC and Leiden University historian Giles Scott-Smith was the co-organizer of the international symposium “From Free Europe to Free Poland” which was held at the University of Gdansk, Poland. The event was designed to gather together experts on the range of activities covered by the Free Europe Committee (FEC) which was created in 1949 originally as a means to manage the many exile groups from Soviet-dominated Central and Eastern Europe and in doing so to promote the message of ‘Free Europe’ to the ‘Captive Nations.’ The FEC’s main achievement was the establishment of Radio Free Europe (RFE) in Munich in 1950. From the very beginning, the FEC was largely funded by the CIA and this lasted until its exposure in the late 1960s after which RFE (which is still running) was transferred to the State Department’s budget and most of the FEC conglomerate was closed down. The events in Ukraine gave the symposium’s theme an extra edge, particularly as the keynote speaker was Tomas Ilves, President of Estonia (and a former RFE employee).

### Dickinson State University, North Dakota

On September 25, 2014, Hans Krabbendam lectured at a Theodore Roosevelt conference at Dickinson State University, in North Dakota. He was asked to present a European perspective on Theodore Roosevelt and World War I and in his presentation he examined the contradictions between TR’s drive for conservation of nature and his similar call for military action that destroyed nature. The program included presentations on the causes of World War I, the Roosevelt family during the Great War, and the support for the war in North Dakota. The audience of scholars and lovers of history actively participated in the debate and enjoyed the excursion to TR’s ranch outside Medora.

While in Dickinson, Hans Krabbendam explored the opportunities for the RSC to participate in the TR Center’s digitization process of the TR letters and manuscripts. Both institutions are eager to solidify a transatlantic working relationship.

### Plymouth University, United Kingdom

Also on September 25, Cornelis van Minnen at Plymouth University delivered the annual Roosevelt Lecture, entitled, “‘We Ain’t Trash No More’: The Rise of the South in American Journalism since the 1970s. From the Nation’s No. 1 Economic Problem to National Trendsetter.” The lecture focused on the changing perceptions of the U.S. South in the American press from the 1970s to the present. The lecture was attended by an attentive audience most of whom were affiliated as faculty with Plymouth University. Afterwards the University hosted an elegant reception and dinner to underline the fruitful cooperation between Plymouth University and the RSC.

### University of Venice, Italy

The University of Venice in Italy, in cooperation with the Ca’ Foscari School of International Relations and the journal *Deportees, Exiles, Refugees* organized an international conference on the theme “Living War, Thinking Peace (1914-1921): Women’s Experiences, Feminist Thought and International Relations,” which was held in Venice on November 26-28, 2014. RSC postdoctoral researcher Dario Fazzi was invited to give a presentation on “Eleanor Roosevelt as a Modern Pacifist Leader: Pragmatism, and Political Efficacy in Interwar America” in which he explored ER’s peculiar approach to the issue of international peace in between the wars, defining it as a proactive and truly pragmatic one.



Co-organizer Giles Scott-Smith with speakers at University of Gdansk



Hans Krabbendam at Dickinson State University

# INTERVIEW

## with RSC Fulbright scholars

**William Harris, Professor of History at the University of New Hampshire**, held the Fulbright Distinguished Research Chair at the Roosevelt Study Center in the fall of 2014. While at the RSC he was working on his book project, “The South Since the Civil War.” He was interviewed about his work.

### What is the objective of your book project?

“One of the interesting things about Southern literature until recently, is that most of the famous works are historical novels. Peoples’ understanding of the South often comes from those novels rather than from traditional historical evidence. On the other hand, in the past thirty years there has been a great deal of excellent historical work on the South but a lot of it is very specialized. I am trying to synthesize both specialized historical literature and literary portrayals of the South and how those interact for general readers.”

### What will be your main argument?

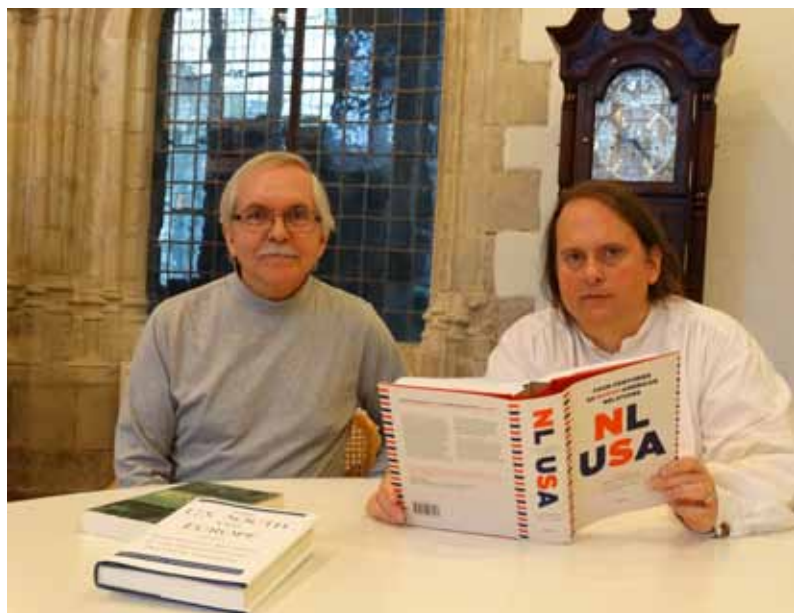
“My main argument will be that after the Civil War until the Civil Rights Movement the South was united by the Jim Crow segregation laws which severely limited voting by African Americans, and tolerated a level of violence in day-to-day behavior, all of which reinforced white supremacy. The Civil Rights Movement ended this. Therefore, the last chapter of this book is going to be titled “The End of Southern History.” Although there are still things that you could recognize as “southern” if you are in the South, the glue that made it all one region has dissolved.”

### What do you hope to find at the RSC library?

“In the 1930s and during the New Deal national power was injected into the South in new ways and on a new scale. It was also the beginning of what would later be called the Civil Rights Movement. Some people of the Roosevelt administration worked against discrimination. By the time Truman became president, the Democratic party – a party that had been the party of white supremacy – had a very strong Civil Rights platform. So the period from 1930 to 1948 is a crucial turning point and the library of the Roosevelt Study Center enables me to draw on scholarship for that era.”

### Will you also give some lectures while you are in Europe?

“Yes, while I am here, I will give presentations in Groningen, Utrecht, Berlin, Belfast, and Dublin. This gives me a chance to present my research to the audiences I am interested in. They are interested in the South and they have some familiarity with southern literature, but most are not experts. These are the kind of readers I hope to reach and their questions and feedback will be really helpful to me. But still I want scholars to think I have done good work, so there is a balance I am looking for.”



Fulbright scholars William Harris and Benjamin Radcliff

**Benjamin Radcliff, Professor of Political Science at the University of Notre Dame**, was the Fulbright Distinguished Research Chair at the Roosevelt Study Center in the spring of 2014. He stayed on for the fall semester as Visiting Research Professor while working on his book project “The Roosevelt Legacy and the Study of Human Well-Being.” He was interviewed about his work and experiences as a Fulbright scholar.

### Can you give a description of your research topic?

“My work is rooted in the new social scientific research program on human happiness (‘happiness economics’). I examine the relationship between public policies and well-being, attempting to determine what kind of policies are most conducive to ‘the greatest happiness for the greatest number.’ My prior book, *The Political Economy of Human Happiness*, offers such an appraisal, using differences across countries to assess the effects of policies on happiness.”

### How does your position at the RSC fit into this research?

“My current project is an extension of this study that is devoted exclusively to the United States. In addition to econometric analyses of data I am doing historical-interpretive work, attempting to compare political opposition to the New Deal to political opposition now against the policies of Obama by the Tea Party. In both cases accusations of socialism and un-Americanism can be found. The holdings of the RSC on the New Deal Era are extremely helpful in the historical recreation of this debate.”

### How are you experiencing life in The Netherlands?

“I came to Middelburg with my wife Amy. We like to explore the restaurants and the market in the old city center of Middelburg. Amy recently bought a bike and is planning to make some bike rides through Zeeland to visit the Delta Works and other interesting places. She is also trying to get some writing done on a non-fiction book of her own. Living and working here feels like a sabbatical. Though I am doing a lot of work here, we have temporarily escaped our lives in the United States. Leaving behind home, friends and everyday chores, we have adopted a much simpler back-to-basics lifestyle in a small apartment, focusing on the essentials.”



## The UN and the Post-War Global Order: Bretton Woods in Perspective

From September 17-19, 2014 the RSC held a conference entitled “The UN and the Post-War Global Order: Bretton Woods in Perspective”, to explore the international history of the original United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference (commonly known as Bretton Woods) held 70 years ago at the Mount Washington Hotel in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire.



The RSC invited an international assembly of scholars from across the globe to attend and participate in the conference, ranging from the United States, Canada, and Chile to the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Russia, and India. The conference started with a keynote lecture given by Dr. Eric Helleiner (University of Waterloo, Canada) on the international history of Bretton Woods. The participants engaged in an intensive two-day conference.

In-depth discussions ranged over North-South relations, bilateralism versus multilateralism, transnational actors and interests, and international development. The conference benefitted greatly from having top-level scholars from India and Russia adding new dimensions to the debates.

## The 7th International PhD Seminar

On September 10-12, 2014, the RSC has hosted its Seventh International PhD Seminar. This year, nine PhD students affiliated with some of the most important academic institutions in Europe (the London School of Economics, the Institut d'Études Politiques in Paris, the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies in Berlin, the European University Institute in Florence, and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva) gathered in Middelburg to present their research topics and preliminary conclusions to their peers and the RSC staff.

The broad variety of themes and approaches made the seminar an extremely valuable opportunity for all of the participants. The PhD students shared with the RSC staff and the guest professors their viewpoints on U.S. history, culture, politics, and society. The papers they presented spanned different fields of inquiry, ranging from post 9/11 U.S. literary production to Theodore Roosevelt's policies toward the UK and Japan, from human rights to the glo-

bal south, and from oil corporations to nuclear weapons.

The traditional informal atmosphere stimulated the debate among the participants. All of the three different panels, alternatively focused on the U.S. public arena, the Cold War, and the idea of empire, proved that the historical inquiry about the U.S. still represents a fertile and attractive ground in Europe.

Through this experience, the RSC achieved a twofold result. First, it accomplished once more its mission to foster the study of the transatlantic relations and the analysis of their historical development; and second, the Center crucially expanded its academic network and contacts. According to the students, in their own words, this PhD seminar in Middelburg served as “an excellent platform for a thorough discussion of their work with interesting and highly knowledgeable people, in a beautiful and relaxed setting.” For all involved, this was clearly a success and we look forward to the next PhD seminar in 2015.



*International PhD Seminar at the RSC*

## RESEARCH SEMINAR

### “The U.S. Embassy in The Hague, 1945-2010”

On January 23-24, 2014, a two-day research seminar was held at the RSC on the role of the U.S. Embassy in Dutch social and political life since World War II.

A project of Utrecht University’s historian Duco Hellema and Leiden/RSC historian Giles Scott-Smith, the seminar brought together twelve historians from Amsterdam, Groningen, Leiden, Rotterdam, and Utrecht to discuss the following topics: the architecture and location of the current embassy and future plans; the Marshall Plan; military aid; selling the ‘American Way of Life’; intelligence activities; Vietnam and protest movements; contacts with the den Uyl cabinet; cultural and educational exchanges during the 1980s; key ambassadors; and the impact



of the Afghan and Iraq wars 2003-2010. Each contribution is designed to lead to a chapter in a volume, planned for publication with Boom in Amsterdam. The project is the first such long-term exploration of the U.S. Embassy’s place in post-war Dutch life, and fits with other recent studies on the function and role of British and U.S. embassies around the world.

## Lectures on Transatlantic Relations

In 2014 the RSC organized two public lectures on transatlantic relations: a public lecture on nonviolent security by Professor Scott Bennett and a lecture on Dutch-American relations by the U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands.

On March 26, the RSC hosted Professor Scott Bennett, past president of the U.S. Peace History Society and Fulbright Visiting Professor in North American Studies at Leiden University, who gave a public lecture on “Nonviolent Security: Political Pacifism and Peace Activism in Modern America.” Professor Bennett discussed the development of antiwar dissent and peace activism in the U.S. and the numerous connections that this long-standing tradition of nonviolence and anti-militarism had with Europe and the Netherlands in particular.

On November 19, 2014, His Excellency Timothy Broas, U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands, delivered the second lecture this year in the RSC series on Transatlantic Relations. The title of the

lecture was “U.S.-Dutch Relations: Shared Priorities for a Changing World.” This lecture was organized in cooperation with University College Roosevelt and held at the beautiful Middelburg Town Hall which was filled to capacity. Before the lecture, Ambassador Broas visited the RSC where RSC director Cornelis van Minnen brought him up-to-date on the Center’s activities and collections.

In his lecture on Dutch-American relations, Ambassador Broas covered such aspects as the shared responsibility on global peace and security; shared economic prosperity; shared stewardship of our planet, notably in dealing with climate change, including sound water management; and shared values, such as celebrating our cultural and religious diversity. These shared priorities, in his view provide a framework for the Dutch-American relationship, which he considers to be a key component of joint American and European leadership in a rapidly changing world. The lecture was followed by a lively question and answer session and reception.



*Professor Scott Bennett, an attentive audience and Ambassador Timothy Broas*

# UPCOMING 2015



## TR American History Award

*April 17, 2015*

The 2015 presentation of the Theodore Roosevelt American History Award will take place in the RSC on April 17. A “bully” new element of the prize is that the winner this time will be the guest of the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation and Dickinson State University in Dickinson, North Dakota, which provides a unique opportunity to discover TR’s ranch life in the Bad Lands.



## Fourteenth Annual TSA Conference

*July 6-8, 2015*

The RSC will be hosting the fourteenth annual conference of the Transatlantic Studies Association in Middelburg. Established in 2002, the TSA is a broad network of scholars who use the ‘transatlantic’ as a frame of reference for their work in political, economic, cultural, historical, environmental, literary, and international relations/security studies.



## Workshop and Symposium on American Evangelicals in Europe

*July 12-15, 2015*

The RSC will be hosting a European-American research group preparing a publication on case studies of evangelicals in Europe as agents of American soft power, as mediators between the local and the global, and between tradition and modernity. This workshop will be followed by a symposium on “American Evangelical Missions in Europe.”

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## NEWSLETTER

We also have a digital newsletter. If you want to receive our digital newsletter please fill out your email address on our website in the section “Join the Newsletter.”

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