

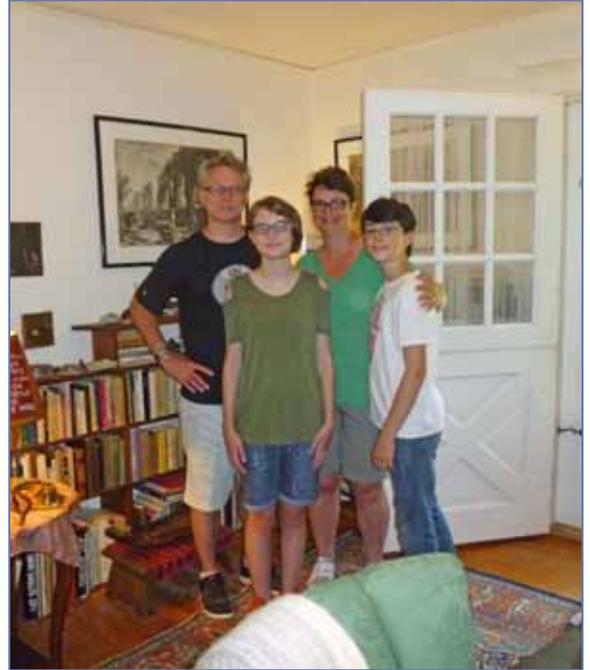
Petite Plaisance Conservation Fund Newsletter

December 2017

Pilgrims and Pilgrimages December 17, 2017, marks the 30th anniversary of Marguerite Yourcenar's death. The author died in 1987 after suffering a stroke at Petite Plaisance, where her bags were packed for a journey to Nepal. Among many pilgrimages made during her lifetime, this one was to include an audience with the Dalai Lama.

In the summer of 1988 Petite Plaisance itself became a site of pilgrimage. The 2017 season brought Yourcenar admirers and scholars from as far away as Abu Dhabi and China. Why so much interest in a writer's home thirty years after her death? Our guests often say that a visit is inspiring. Touring Petite Plaisance provides an intimate glimpse into Madame Yourcenar's world, a world of books, artworks, and objects of personal significance--from the treasured iron ruler forged by her father, Michel de Crayencour, that still sits on the author's desk to a clay tagine brought back from Morocco that was one of her favorite cooking implements.

Marguerite Yourcenar's visit with the Dalai Lama was not destined to occur, but the urge to draw near a special person or place lives on among people from all over the world who make their destination an old wooden farmhouse on South Shore Road in Northeast Harbor.



The Casinghino Family in the "Oriental Corner"
July 12, 2017



Thanks for helping us get things done!

Bearing Fruit

Several projects were completed this year at Petite Plaisance. The sweetest one of all was the restoration of the strawberry patch on the west lawn. Everyone cheered when the first berries appeared--organic ones, of course! Thank you to our project sponsor and to the gardening duo Jean Lunt and Beth Renault.

Donations to the PPCF also funded the professional removal of an unwelcome discovery in the basement, asbestos wraps around some of the heating ducts; the completion of the final section of post-and-beam fence along the northern edge of the wood garden; the reshingling of the cedar roof over the main entrance to the house; and continued progress on the backlog of tree work on the property.

Shutter Club sponsors Roger de Bree, Sue Lonoff de Cuevas, Françoise Provost, and Joan and Paul Van der Grift were joined by other donors in supporting the installation of beautiful new wooden shutters on the front and east sides of the house in the original color, Seal Harbor Green. We thank everyone who joined in this first phase of the shutter project and look forward to completing the job on the west and back sides of the house.

President's Message

Petite Plaisance is quiet in December. The off-season projects are done, and the house and garden have been "put to bed." Madame Yourcenar and Miss Frick celebrated each season, and they loved the holidays. Soon the apple tree nearest the house will be hung with Christmas bulbs and an evergreen wreath will adorn the front door, traditions going back to the 1950s. It is thanks to the generosity of donors that we are able to continue the traditions of the house. Please know how grateful we are for your support.

~ Jayne Persson



Petite Plaisance's caretaker, Elizabeth Renault, stands in her last vegetable garden. Retiring after eighteen years at the end of 2017, Beth says that what she will miss most about Petite Plaisance is the spring garden. What we will miss is Beth!

No one makes a dollar work harder than we do!

To contribute online, please click on <http://petiteplaisanceconservationfund.org>, or send a check to the **Petite Plaisance Conservation Fund**
P.O. Box 1112
Northeast Harbor, ME 04662

Thank You to All Our 2016 Donors!

HADRIAN, \$2,500-5,000

Space for Rent Here! ☺

ZENO OF BRUGES, \$1,750-2,499

Roger de Bree*

SOPHIE DE REVAL, \$1,000-1,749

Florence V. Burden Foundation, *at the recommendation of Jean & Ordway Burden*
Sue Lonoff de Cuevas*
Penelope P. Harris
Liz & Arthur Martinez
Françoise Provost*
Pierre E. Sorel

NATHANAEL, \$500-999

Edward & Laurinda Douglas
Ann & Gilbert Kinney
Janneke Seton Nelson

ALEXIS, \$200-499

Elly Andrews
Frank Blair
Emily T. Frick
Weston Milliken
Louise & Joel Sarnesh
Jane Gilkes Straßgüt!**

MARCELLA ARDEATI, TO \$199

Acadia Senior College
Françoise Ballagny
Judith & Ronald Benson
Jérémie Bouttier
Wilkes Brewster

MARCELLA ARDEATI, TO \$199, CONT'D

Pascal Chauvel
Hope Cobb
Brian & Ford Draper
Meg & Lawrence Eaton**
Richard Estes
Claire & Larry Feldman
Sylvia Garrett
Ann F. Gilkes
Marion & Charles Gogolak**
Lita & Fred Haack
Carol & Richard Habeman
Joan E. Howard**
Grazia Maria De Ianni
Alfred & Elyane Jones
Frances F. Judes
Arthur Keller
Lydia Fidler Kimball*
Walter H. Lippincott
Phoebe Milliken**
Béatrice de Pauw*
Nancy Pyme
Isabelle Estébe Rigault
John Ryan
Céline Sampson
Edith & John Schafer
Wolfgang Schatzler
Caroline Seeborn
Brigitte Van Tiggelen
Helena Van Dnессche*
Lynne Wheat
Edward Wood

* Shutter Club sponsors and contributors.

** In memory of Ann Fullan Gilkes.