

Dodona Dispatch



Official Newsletter of



THE GEORGE C. MARSHALL
INTERNATIONAL CENTER
Inspiring Leadership

Stirring Moments Lead to Hopeful Futures

“The truth of the matter is that Europe’s requirements for the next three or four years of foreign food and other essential products – principally from America – are so much greater than her present ability to pay that she must have substantial additional help or face economic, social and political deterioration of a very grave character.”

With these words, spoken on June 5, 1947, at Harvard University, Secretary of State George C. Marshall made the case for massive American investment in the devastated economies of post-World War II Europe. The call he issued that day was to shake off the American instinct to isolate after engaging in an international conflict and to stay engaged in the world at a scale that was unprecedented in American history.

His Harvard speech was the official kick-off of the long campaign to develop, promote and implement the European

Recovery Program, which history knows as the Marshall Plan. The influx of American resources to the 17 Marshall Plan nations helped restore their economies... and their confidence. The plan shored up democracy at a time when it seemed in peril, and it shaped the

world order we know today.

Next year will mark the 75th anniversary of this seminal moment, the moment when Marshall’s singular skills as an

ethical leader both contributed to a successful plan and generated the broad public and political support it needed to pass Congressional muster. It was his finest hour.

The Marshall Center is dedicated to the proposition that our nation and our world can still benefit from his example. It is in that spirit that we are preparing to dedicate our work in 2022 to “Celebrating 75 Years of the Marshall Plan.” In this issue, we will introduce you to some of our initial ideas and invite you to support this work.

We want to spend next year reflecting on those pivotal days in 1947 and 1948 (when President Truman signed the plan into law),

to share with a new generation of Americans the enduring lessons of Marshall’s leadership during crucial moments in our history. We hope you will join us

as we work to honor the past and offer hope and inspiration for the future. ★



THE GEORGE C. MARSHALL
INTERNATIONAL CENTER
Celebrating 75 Years of the Marshall Plan



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Inspiring Leadership

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Investing in LEADERSHIP

George C. Marshall was the first career soldier to earn the Nobel Peace Prize for his visionary leadership in developing and gaining acceptance for the Marshall Plan. He stood for order, high standards of performance and unfailing integrity. I have recently joined the team at the George C. Marshall International Center, located at Dodona Manor in historic Leesburg, Virginia. The home and gardens of this lovely estate are dignified and peaceful, reflecting the character of this legendary five-star general and his wife Katherine.

Through the efforts of hundreds of dedicated volunteers, staff, members and donors, the Marshall Center has restored and repurposed the Marshalls' home. We regularly host engaging events from holiday celebrations to educational programs.

As I've learned about Marshall's four decades of selfless service, unwavering integrity and visionary leadership, I've started to ask myself, what would George C. Marshall have to tell us today? How would Marshall view today's events? What guidance would he share with our national and world leaders? Would he propose a Marshall-style peace plan for our times?

As we prepare to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Marshall Plan, I encourage everyone to get involved. Enjoy a visit to the Marshall home, participate in the many in-person and remote events, volunteer and become a member.

Above all, please consider donating to the Marshall Center. Simply put, we would not exist and be able to maintain Dodona Manor or share General Marshall's example without our donors.

George C. Marshall is one of the most respected Americans in history. Let's celebrate his legacy by investing in a broader understanding of how that legacy can shape leaders today.



Dan Beckett
Director, Institutional Advancement

A FIVE-STAR FIRST

Inaugural George C. Marshall Ethical Leadership Conference



In 1958, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill wrote a letter to the president of the Marshall Research Library, urging that “succeeding generations must not be allowed to forget [George Marshall’s] achievements and his example.” We couldn’t agree more. That’s a primary reason we developed a new program to engage and inspire high school students with Marshall’s example. We are proud to report that the inaugural *Five-Star Character: The George C. Marshall Ethical Leadership Conference* was a rousing success.

On Friday August 20, 2021, 16 students and their families joined Marshall Center board members, staff and docents for a welcome reception on the grounds of Dodona Manor. After touring the house and walking the grounds, guests gathered under a tent on the lawn for beverages and hors d’oeuvres. President Emeritus Tom Greenspon welcomed everyone and introduced Marshall Historian Rachel Thompson. Marshall Center board member Lieutenant General Bruce Crawford followed with his remarks on leadership lessons from his career.

The next morning, students gathered at the National Conference Center in Leesburg to embark on an immersive, scenario-based program

about Marshall’s approach to leadership. Instructors guided them through episodes from Marshall’s life, unfolding them in such a way that enabled students to work through the questions, challenges and uncertainties Marshall and other historic leaders faced in real time.

Students broke into small groups with instructors to discuss the



challenges in more depth. They then reconvened to hear how the scenario ended historically before considering its application to their own lives. The conference also included sessions that allowed students to develop their own ethical framework of leadership using the pillars that guide our own work at the Marshall Center:

unwavering integrity, selfless service, and visionary leadership.

We’re proud to say that all of the 16 students reported that they would recommend the conference to a friend – the highest praise possible.

Just over a month later, we offered a condensed, online edition of the program for 14 students in Main-Taunus-Kreis in Hessen, Germany. Undeterred by time differences, an online learning environment and conversing in their second language, the students actively participated throughout the conference. We were delighted with the results and look forward to continuing to share this program with more students across the country and around the world.

We’re proud of the successful launch of this program, and we’re already charting a course toward the next edition early next year. These programs are possible because of the generous support of sponsors and donors. We greatly appreciate LMI’s sponsorship for our event in August. If you’re interested in supporting our next Ethical Leadership Conference or know someone who is, please email admin@georgecmarshall.org.

Finally, we’d like to recognize the efforts of those who played a key role in successfully inaugurating this program. To Valérie Beaudoin for coordinating so many logistical details, to Steve Chapin for serving as a conference speaker, to Pete Janhunen and Elizabeth Shannon for developing the curriculum and leading the sessions, to Kyle and Marina Ziemnick for joining us as discussion facilitators and, above all, to the students for their thoughtful engagement and active participation: Thank you! ★

LET FREEDOM RING July 4 Celebration



On Sunday, July 4, 2021, community members gathered on the beautiful grounds of Dodona Manor for a special celebration of our nation's history. This year, we commemorated the landmark

signing of the Declaration of Independence while also highlighting another expression of courageous leadership: George Marshall's tenacious efforts "to save the world twice."

A crowd of 150 people gathered after the Leesburg parade to hear noted historian David Roll detail Marshall's role in leading the Allies to victory in World War II and securing post-war peace and stability through European Recovery Program, known in history as the Marshall Plan. Visitors also enjoyed free

tours of the house's first floor as well as free ice cream to commemorate the holiday.

Thank you to our guests and generous sponsors for making this event a success! ★



Marshall Center Salutes Innovation

After rescheduling several times due to the pandemic, we held our Innovation Awards Gala at the Army Navy Country Club on September 10, 2021. One hundred and twenty guests joined us for a lovely evening including an elegant dinner, inspiring speeches and a lively auction. The George C. Marshall Innovation Award was presented to three recipients:

- For innovations in Defense Technology: Jared Shepard, founder and CEO of Intelligent Waves LLC and CEO of Hypori.
- For innovations in Healthcare Services and Humanitarian Action: Dr. John F. Tisdale,



- MD, for work and research centered on developing curative strategies for sickle cell disease.
- For innovation in Digital Transformation: The Department of Veterans Affairs for creating an easy-to-use digital platform for veterans

to synthesize their interactions with the VA.

Keynote speaker Vint Cerf enthralled the audience with a stirring speech. The generosity of our guests for both our live and silent auction items far exceeded our expectations.

Many thanks to our sponsors who made this evening so special: Accenture, REHAU,

Toth Financial, Cerf's Up, Intelligent Waves LLC, Jars Residential Properties, Cognitio, Keane Enterprises, Tom Greenspon, New Heritage, Lieut. Gen. Susan Lawrence (USA, Ret.), Bruce Roberts, The Rotary Club of Leesburg and Dodona Docents. ★

ATTENTION

Veterans Day Commemoration



Our 17th annual Veterans Day Commemoration will be held on the grounds of Dodona Manor on November 11, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.... and you're invited!

We're delighted to collaborate with the Town of Leesburg and Loudoun County for this special event honoring military veterans for their service to our nation. Loudoun County VFW 1177, the Marine Corps League of Loudoun County, Mayor Kelly Burk and Loudoun County Chair Phyllis Randall will join us for the festivities.

We're also excited to welcome one of our board members, Lieutenant General Bruce Crawford (U.S. Army, Ret.), as our keynote speaker this year. Veterans Moving Forward and Loudoun Therapeutic Riding will also be on hand to share about the work they do. Mark your calendars for this free event! ★

We want *you!*

A Friendly Membership Appeal

As you can see from this issue, our volunteers, staff and board members are actively engaged in preserving and promoting Marshall's legacy with a variety of projects, programs and events throughout the year. We're proud of what we accomplished in 2021 and excited to begin the work of 2022.

None of this work would be possible, however, without the commitment of our members. Your financial support enables us to maintain the house and grounds, to host educational programs for students and the general public and to bring the local community together for celebrations and events.

As we prepare to embark on a year of projects and programs commemorating the 75th anniversary of Marshall's leadership that led to the Marshall Plan, we ask you to consider renewing your membership and inviting others to join our mission as well. We believe that the coming months present us with unique opportunities to share Marshall's story and inspire others to follow his example today and in the future. For more details, visit:

georgecmarshall.org/membership ★

Board Member PROFILE

Why did you choose to join the Marshall Center Board?

Throughout my career, I have been a servant-leader and believe that as a Board member, I will be able to continue in this vein through inspiring and developing our youth. I've had exceptional mentors throughout my life, and this is an opportunity to pay it forward. I want to be an integral part of a dynamic team that acknowledges the need for embracing ethics and integrity in educational programs and the ultimate impact this will have on our society.

Why do you think Marshall's legacy is still relevant today?

His legacy is relevant because he is largely known for architecting the reconstruction of war-torn Europe through the Marshall Plan. His success was based on true leadership. He was an effective communicator, a non-conformist and a motivator of his team. Although we're at an inflection point in our nation through massive humanitarian challenges, leaders focus on opportunities. They know these foundational skills will help be their guide during times of transformative change.



Karen Britton, PMP
Vice President,
Communications and
Marketing, Chief Digital
Officer at LMI



Bob Pohtos
*Continuing a
Life of Service*

Docent PROFILE

In his two years as a docent of Dodona Manor, Bob has enjoyed carrying out the important and rewarding work of bringing the history of the Marshalls and their home to life for an array of visitors.

Although he was born in the Midwest, Bob and his sisters grew up in numerous towns and cities across the country. After graduating from the University of Michigan, he went on to serve as a U.S. Navy submarine officer. He and his wife and daughter eventually landed in Ashburn, Virginia. After leaving active duty in 1999, he worked as a not-for-profit executive until retiring in 2013.

After earning a master's degree in American History in 2018, Bob began exploring new opportunities. Shortly following a tour at Dodona Manor, he joined as a docent in 2019 and has enjoyed fulfilling the historian's role of bringing the past alive to inform the present for a better future.

"It is heartening to so often hear the common refrain from old and young visitors alike. That is that more citizens, in all walks of life, are needed today who possess the enduring bedrock principles of integrity and service in the life of George and Katherine Marshall. It is also rewarding, enjoyable and an honor to work with and learn so much from the other docents and the rest of the Marshall Center team." ★

SEEING INTO THE PAST

Window Restoration at Dodona Manor



Although Dodona Manor was officially restored 20 years ago, the work of historic preservation is never finished. Keeping the house and grounds as beautiful as the Marshalls knew and loved them requires regular attention and care.

In June of this year, our maintenance volunteers Larry Messner, Bill Sutton and Tom Watson began undertaking the enormous task of repair and maintenance work on Dodona Manor's 64 windows. The lack of proper ventilation in these windows has accelerated the wear and tear on these fragile frames.

The volunteers have spent hours treating, cleaning, priming, glazing, painting and installing vents in the exterior storm windows. It's been a long, tedious project, but they've been doing an excellent job. Thank you, Larry, Bill and Tom!

We're always looking for volunteers with the skills and experience to help us maintain and preserve Dodona Manor. If you would be interested in contributing your time and talent to partner in this work or have someone to recommend, please email us at volunteer@georgecmarshall.org. We deeply appreciate all that our volunteers have given to the Marshall legacy. ★

HOLIDAYS & *History*

The Marshall Plan Tree Walk 2021



The tradition continues! Our Marshall Plan Tree Walk returns to the grounds of Dodona Manor to kick off the 75th anniversary celebration for the coming year. This unique event combines the magic of the holidays with recognition of the Marshall Plan countries. Seventeen trees, one for each country that participated in the plan, will be decorated along the brick walk by the house for visitors to view and enjoy until the end of the year. Join us on December 4 for our lighting ceremony and be sure to vote for your favorite tree when you visit! ★

SNEAK PEEK

75th Partner Preview

We're excited to give businesses the opportunity to partner with us in special ways for the upcoming year's events and festivities.

Choose from SEVEN unique events. Mix and match the ones that best fit your brand or mission.

1 Event \$1,000

- Logo displayed at event(s) and in GCMIC social media posts
- 2 Annual Passes to Dodona Manor

3 Events \$3,000 - Added Benefit

- Framed watercolor print of Dodona Manor for display in your business

5 Events \$5,000 - Added Benefit

- Wine and cheese outdoor reception for 10-15 guests

All Events \$10,000 - Added Benefit

- Custom social media campaign highlighting your team member of choice with quotes about ethical leadership and the legacy of George C. Marshall
- Creation of a module within our ELC program customized to your business with video of a representative of your organization presenting the case study

These new partnerships offer the chance to support the work and events of the George C. Marshall International Center all year long with optional monthly automatic donations. Please email us at admin@georgecmarshall.org with any questions or to express interest.



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INTERNATIONAL CENTER**
Inspiring Leadership

**312 East Market Street, Suite C
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703-777-1301
georgecmarshall.org**

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Interior Docent-Led House Tours

**FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY
10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

Tours begin every half-hour

**For weekday private
tours please call:
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