

## Fuller Bids Adieu to Park Service, But Not O'Neill Foundation

He served as superintendent of the Eugene O'Neill Historic site in Danville for 11 of his 28 years with the National Park Service, and now Glenn Fuller is looking forward to "getting tired doing nothing for a little while."

The emphasis is on "little while." Although he retired in December from his park service job, he is already working on projects and events for the John Muir Association and the Eugene O'Neill Foundation. The foundation paid tribute to him at its annual dinner, calling attention to his leadership in restoring and preserving Tao House.

Fuller acknowledges that he was unfamiliar with the world of theater when he reported for duty at Tao House. But not for long. Says a colleague: "He didn't know a great deal about O'Neill, but he learned and came out with an affection for both O'Neill's works and O'Neill himself."

Another dinner was arranged by colleagues from the park service who traced his career with the agency—a career that began in 1976 as a ranger in the Grand Canyon and ended with his oversight of the O'Neill site, the Port Chicago Memorial in Concord and the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez.



Carole Wynstra, O'Neill foundation immediate past president, salutes Glenn Fuller at foundation's annual dinner. She holds a spoof photo showing Fuller with the O'Neills.

He also served time on Alcatraz leading interpretive tours in 1983. The position was followed by a 10-year stint as ranger for Muir Woods in Mill Valley.

Replacing Fuller on an interim basis is John A. Dell'Osso, chief of interpretation and resources education at Pt. Reyes Station, CA.

## EON Student Days a Success

Bright sunny days at Tao House greeted the 46 high school students who participated in two Student Days in early February.

Photography Day attracted students from Bentley, San Ramon Valley, Pittsburg and Tennyson High Schools. Professional photographer Richard Gillette guided the students armed with a variety of cameras – digital, 35 mm, and selected lenses – through Tao House, the yard and barn.

A week later, Feb. 10, students from California, Monte Vista, Richmond and Tennyson High Schools took part in the art program of Student Days. Debbie Koonce, a painter of landscapes trained in fine arts at Rochester Institute of Technology and California College of Arts and Crafts, shared her expertise with the students.

The finished art work and photography will be exhibited during the Eugene O'Neill Festival in October.

Richard James and Kerri Shawn, both well-known local actors, made the trek to Tao House both days to do scenes from "The Triple Door" by Travis Bogard.

Board member Trudy McMahon was in charge of Student Days. Since Student Days became part of the Eugene O'Neill Foundation program in 1991, 1500 students from around the Bay Area have participated.

## Dedication of O'Neill Commemorative Planned for Fall

What began as a dream many years ago by Eugene O'Neill Foundation leaders is but six months away from reality.

A handsomely designed commemorative art project in honor of O'Neill, the Nobel Prize-winning playwright regarded as having reshaped American theater, will be unveiled and dedicated on September 28, in a picturesque pocket park in downtown Danville. The park is located on Front Street, across from the Danville library.

The dedication ceremony is scheduled as a prelude to the foundation's annual Eugene O'Neill Festival, which will feature events through October 2.

The foundation has raised nearly \$130,000 for the project, including donations from every member of the organization's board. The sum also includes a \$10,000 grant from the Dean and Margaret Leshner Foundation, a family foundation that provides grants to nonprofits in Contra Costa County in the areas of education, the cultural arts and services for children and families. Guidelines and application forms are available at [www.lesherfoundation.org](http://www.lesherfoundation.org).

The commemorative art project consists of a centerpiece and eight pedestals that will be installed along a pathway in the park. Enameled playbills, celebrating O'Neill's residency in Danville, will be mounted atop the pedestals and will feature photographs of O'Neill and his wife Carlotta, the Nobel Prize for Literature which he received in 1936, Tao House, and scenes from productions of the Tao House plays. Accompanying the photography will be relevant quotations from the plays and brief descriptions of O'Neill themes.

The centerpiece will be a sculpture in bronze letters that spell a key passage from O'Neill's classic play "Long Day's Journey Into Night."

Michael Manwaring, a noted Bay Area artist, is creating the design and execution of the project. He designed the pylons on Embarcadero Promenade along San Francisco's waterfront.



Artist Michael Manwaring displays a mockup of the centerpiece of the O'Neill commemorative art project in Front Street Park in Danville. The centerpiece will be a sculpture in bronze letters that spell a key passage from O'Neill's "Long Day's Journey Into Night," which he wrote at Tao House.



Artist Michael Manwaring and Eugene O'Neill Foundation president Claudia Nemir check out the design of a pedestal, one of a series that are part of the commemorative art project. Enameled playbills, celebrating O'Neill's residency in Danville, will be mounted atop the pedestals and will feature photographs of O'Neill and his wife Carlotta, the Nobel Prize for Literature which he received in 1936, Tao House, and scenes from productions of the Tao House plays. Accompanying the photography will be relevant quotations from the plays and brief descriptions of O'Neill themes.