



**THE GEORGE C. MARSHALL
INTERNATIONAL CENTER**
at Dodona Manor



**The mission of The George C. Marshall International Center
is to preserve and advance the enduring legacy of
General George Catlett Marshall by interpreting
and propagating its relevance to our time.**

The George C. Marshall International Center was founded to preserve Dodona Manor, the beloved home of George and Katherine Marshall, and to further the legacy of General Marshall, considered by many to be America's hero to the world.

Dodona Manor was the home of General George C. Marshall and his wife, Katherine, from 1942 until the General's death in 1959. During this period Marshall served as U.S. Army Chief of Staff, Emissary to China, Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, President of the American Red Cross, and architect of The Marshall Plan.

Although we cannot know for certain how Dodona Manor got its name, according to a 1942 magazine article about the Marshalls' purchase of the house, the Elys, who lived there between 1935 and 1941, named it "Dodona Manor." We know the Marshalls did not name the home, because a "for sale" ad in a local newspaper referred to it as "Dodona Manor" before their purchased. The property's many oak trees no doubt inspired the name. It is clearly connected to the myth about an ancient oak that grew on a hillside outside the Greek city of Dodona. It was said that Zeus and his wife lived in the branches of this mighty oak, and an oracle or priest interpreted what Zeus spoke from the rustling of the oak leaves.

In addition to preserving and supporting a house museum, The Marshall Center offers education programs, including student teacher workshops, exchange programs, teacher workshops, special exhibits, curriculum development, community enrichment programs and community outreach programs that increase understanding and awareness of George C. Marshall's role in shaping the history of the twentieth century. Dodona Manor also may be a venue for local service club events, corporate outings, weddings and other gatherings.

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History

Located in historic Leesburg, Virginia, Dodona Manor was the Marshalls' residence from 1942 until the General's death in 1959. During this period Marshall served as the U.S. Army Chief of Staff, Emissary to China, Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, President of the American Red Cross, and United States representative to the coronation of Queen Elizabeth. Marshall's name is forever linked to the post World War II European Recovery Act, better known as the Marshall Plan. For this program, now viewed as the most successful foreign policy initiative in United States history, George C. Marshall received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953.

The George C. Marshall International Center acquired most of the Marshalls' original furnishings and memorabilia of Dodona Manor from Mrs. Marshall's heirs. From original works of art (including gifts from foreign leaders) to family photos, linens, clothing, magazines, and books – the loving wear and patina exhibited by these original furnishings recreates the comfortable, modest appearance of the house during the 1950s. As historian William Seale notes, the "house reflects Marshall's most honored characteristics – humility, a tenacious work ethic, commitment to peace, and great love of family." Restoration of Dodona Manor, which is registered as a National Historic Landmark and a Virginia Landmark, began in 1999, and was completed in 2005. Dodona Manor formally re-opened to the public in November 2005. Since then the house has averaged more than 250 visitors per month. Highly-trained docents offer a rich learning experience to the general public and to students, teachers, and group tours.

In addition to preserving and supporting a Dodona Manor, The Marshall Center offers community outreach programs, curriculum development, education programs, student exchange programs, special exhibits, and community enrichment programs that increase understanding and awareness of George C. Marshall's role in shaping the history of the twentieth century.





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Restoration

Since the completion of Dodona Manor's restoration in 2005, the public has been able to enjoy the beautifully restored residence that was the General's home for 18 years. In the decades following his death, the property suffered from years of neglect. Normal repairs and general maintenance were delayed, flowerbeds and lawns became overgrown, and the property took on a reclusive air. The roof leaked, windows sagged, paint peeled, and water seeped into the basement. The Marshalls' furniture and personal artifacts – including the General's treasured book collection – exhibited significant signs of deterioration and damage.



When local economic conditions in the early 1990s made the town's purchase of the home impossible, a group of enlightened citizens established The George C. Marshall International Center, raised funds from private sources, and from the governments of many European countries that benefited from the Marshall Plan, and purchased the house and surrounding four acres to prevent the sale of the site for development.

Restoration of Dodona Manor began in 1999. The exterior work, funded by grants from the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Federal Republic of Germany, and private donations, was completed in late 2000.

Restoration of the interior, including the installation of modern utility systems, was completed on-budget and on-schedule in 2005. Detailed plans for the conservation and placement of the full house collection, as well as for the reproduction of the original floor and wall coverings, were developed by William Seale, a leading expert in this field. The principal funding for this phase was from the Commonwealth of Virginia, the National Park Service (the *Save America's Treasures* program), and a Congressional appropriation administered by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Restoration of the garden and grounds of Dodona Manor has been overseen by the Garden Club of Virginia, which provided funding for the development of plans for the landscape work. Implementation of these plans, which began in 2005, is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Fundraising for The Marshall Center's education programs, the preservation of Dodona Manor, and for the overall endowment of The Marshall Center is ongoing.



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Today: GCMIC Education Programs



The George C. Marshall International Center seeks to increase awareness of the crucial role that George C. Marshall played in nearly all aspects of twentieth century political, military, and diplomatic history through comprehensive education programs, curriculum development for primary and secondary teachers, and cultural immersion experiences for high school students in its expanding exchange programs.

Marshall was a key player in many historic events of the twentieth century. He was recognized for distinguished service in both World Wars; earned the rank of Five-Star General; and held positions as U.S. Army Chief of Staff, Secretary of State, and Secretary of Defense. He also served as the President of the American Red Cross; headed a U.S. delegation to the coronation of Queen Elizabeth; and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953 for what is now known as The Marshall Plan - his innovative and humanitarian approach to rebuilding Europe after World War II.

Exploring Marshall's extraordinary professional accomplishments and unbending integrity as a leader is an enriching and rewarding experience for students, teachers, and enthusiasts alike. It inspires us to reach our own potential.

With the restoration of Dodona Manor completed in 2005, The Marshall Center began to focus more time and resources on its education programs. From its successful Marshall Immersion Workshop for high school American history teachers (now in its fifth year); to the Student Partnership Exchange Program (now in its second year with The Marshall Center); to school presentations about Marshall's role in 20th-century history; to fieldstrips to Dodona Manor; and its Elementary Learning Package, The Marshall Center's education programs and materials are captivating, interactive, and compatible with Virginia's Standards of Learning.

In addition, the Center's Docent Training Program provides a meaningful opportunity for historians and preservation enthusiasts to learn more about Marshall's extraordinary accomplishments while preparing to support an historical institution.



Established programs include:

- An educational curriculum with materials for grades 4-6, and 9-12, to assist teachers in the integration of Marshall into their teaching units for the World War I, World War II, and postwar eras.
- A “Marshall Immersion” workshop to strengthen teachers’ understanding of General Marshall’s place in twentieth century history and to generate primary documents lessons based on his leadership. With new knowledge and inspiration, teachers use the curriculum materials The Marshall Center provides to better educate their students about the impressive leadership of General George C. Marshall. In its first years, the program has impacted an estimated 9,000 Virginia students.
- A Student Partnership Exchange Program that offers high school students a two-week total immersion in a foreign culture. The program was created as a key element of the Loudoun County, VA/Main-Taunus-Kreis, Germany (MTK) sister county partnership, and has been expanded to include students from Austria. Students cross the Atlantic to live with local host families, participate in career exploration experiences or visit classrooms.
- A robust docent-training program, ensuring rich educational experiences through tours of Dodona Manor and community outreach. The Marshall Center’s education program staff frequently hosts student groups for interactive house tours, and gives talks on a variety of issues related to Marshall’s career and the time during which he lived at Dodona Manor with his wife, Katherine. In the summer of 2011, the staff introduced Marshall, as a former resident of Leesburg, to participants in the St. James Literacy Program’s Reading Carnival Camp.
- Participation in “The Journey Through Hallowed Ground”, a consortium of historic sites located in a 175-mile corridor from Monticello in Charlottesville, Virginia to the Gettysburg Battlefield in Pennsylvania. The Center partners with its “Journey” colleagues to develop programs that link their respective histories in meaningful ways.




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House Museum Activities

Dodona Manor is open to the public year-round public from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. Highly-trained docents offer a rich learning experience to the general public and to students, teachers, and group tours. Group tours may be scheduled on weekdays, with at least two days' advance notice.

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linens, clothing, magazines, and books – the loving wear and patina exhibited by these original furnishings recreates the comfortable, modest appearance Dodona Manor had during the 1950s. As historian William Seale notes, the “house reflects Marshall’s most honored characteristics – humility, a tenacious work ethic, commitment to peace, and great love of family.”

The interior of the residence includes architectural details from the Federal, Greek Revival and Colonial Revival periods and houses almost 95% of the original furnishings donated

to the museum by the heirs of Mrs. Marshall, as well as mid-20th century decorative arts. The landscaping surrounding the residence reflects the Marshall Era garden. The garden plan was researched and produced by the Garden Club of Virginia.

In addition to weekend public tour hours and group tour opportunities, The Marshall Center offers a tour opportunity for *extended learning visits*. Extended learning visits are available for groups and include a tour of Dodona Manor and an informative presentation by resident Marshall Historian and Education Programs Director, Rachel Y. Thompson. Lunch or a tea may be included with this special presentation.



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Exhibitions and Events

In addition to its education programs designed to “teach the teachers”, The Marshall Center hosts an array of special exhibitions and community-enrichment programs with a view towards increasing public awareness of George C. Marshall and his legacy. Past programs included:

- A special exhibition entitled “With Affection and Admiration”, which examined the correspondence of two great twentieth-centuries leaders, George C. Marshall and Winston Churchill, whose relationship was forged in the crucible of world war. In addition to Marshall’s own editions of Churchill’s personal history drawn from the Dodona Manor collection, letters, photographs, and other documents loaned by the Churchill Archives Centre in Cambridge, England, and the George C. Marshall Research Library in Lexington, Virginia, revealed to house visitors the relationship of deep mutual respect held by the two leaders, despite personalities that seemed polar opposites;
- An exhibit entitle “Katherine Marshall: First Lady of the Army,” that featured photos and memorabilia never before displayed at Dodona Manor. The exhibit chronicled the life of Katherine Marshall from birth in Harrodsburg, Kentucky to her death in Leesburg. Her experiences at Hollins College in Roanoke, VA, in an English Shakespeare repertory company, as the wife and widow of prominent Baltimore attorney, as the mother of three children and as the wife of General George C. Marshall whose marriage was lived at least in part on a national stage, were represented in text and photographs. This special exhibit was officially opened by Sheila Casey, wife of U.S. Army Chief of Staff General George W. Casey, Jr..
- Dr. Chi Wang, godson of Madame Chiang Kai-Shek and a friend of the Marshalls, who was a guest speaker and officially opened a special exhibition titled “Marshall in China”. The exhibit used books from Marshall’s collection, and photographs loaned by the U.S.-China Policy Foundation to provide rich insight into Marshall’s second tour in China, where he sought to negotiate a cease-fire between the country’s Communist and Nationalist regimes;
- “The Marshall Plan: Vision of a Family of Nations”, an exhibition held in conjunction with the U.S. Department of State’s United States Diplomacy Center and the Bureau of Overseas Buildings that focused on the history, practice, and challenges of American diplomacy.



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Community Outreach

This past year, the Loudoun community enjoyed two informative exhibits on display in the media room of Dodona Manor. The first exhibit highlighted the many roles Katherine Marshall played during her years with General Marshall, while the second exhibit, currently on display through year end, features the letters between Marshall and Sir Winston Churchill, and reveals the lasting friendship enjoyed by the two leaders. In addition to its annual holiday open house in December, The Marshall Center is instrumental in bringing the community together to enjoy a vital part of our history by hosting the following events:

Veterans Day Commemoration



The Town of Leesburg and Loudoun County joined The George C. Marshall International Center in honoring Vietnam Veterans on the grounds of Dodona Manor on Thursday, November 11, 2010. Among the speakers were U.S. Senator James Webb, (D-VA) and Rear Admiral William V. Cross (Ret.). Before a crowd of more than 400 people, Senator Webb, a 1968 graduate of the US Naval Academy who served as a Marine Corps infantry officer until 1972 and is a highly decorated Vietnam War Combat veteran, spoke of the courage and sacrifices made by our Viet Nam veterans. Rear Admiral Cross, a graduate of the US Naval Academy who was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal and Combat "V", the Air Medal with 8 strike/flight awards and the Vietnam Campaign and Service Medals for his service in Vietnam, expressed gratitude for the service of all of the members of our armed forces.

Guest Speakers

The Marshall Center brought to Loudoun County a number of nationally and internationally known speakers, including: Ambassador Andrew Young, former United States Ambassador to the United Nations, and Co-Chairman of GoodWorks, International.; Lord Alan Watson of Richmond, High Steward of the University of Cambridge; Richard Rubenstein from the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University; and Keith Gibson, Director of The George C. Marshall Museum and Library on the campus of Virginia Military Institute



Easter Egg Hunt



The Marshall Center hosted its first annual Easter Egg Hunt this year, with more than 500 children sharing in the fun of face painting, egg decorating, old fashioned egg rolls, and egg hunts. Admission was free, thanks to the generosity of Morningside House of Leesburg, which sponsored the event.

Katherine Marshall Tea Series

The Marshall Center's new Katherine Marshall Tea Series featured Dodona Docents and staff speaking about Katherine Marshall and the gardens at Dodona Manor. Tea is served on The Stone Court (weather permitting) outside the manor house, where the Marshalls also enjoyed tea and lively conversation. Local author, Jan Neuharth spoke about the writing life at the September tea. More than 80 guests have enjoyed the teas, many coming to Leesburg and Dodona Manor for the first time.



July 4th Ice Cream Social

After the July 4th parade in Leesburg, The Marshall Center extended an invitation to the public to enjoy an Ice Cream Social on the grounds of Dodona Manor. Admission was free to more than 400 guests, 225 of whom toured the first floor of the manor house.

The Bluemont Concert Series

The Marshall Center hosted the Bluemont Concert Series on the grounds of Dodona Manor again this year. More than 600 people attended the concerts during July and August, emphasizing the importance of partnerships between organizations that highlight the many diverse activities that are available to visitors to Loudoun County.

All of The Marshall Center's community outreach events have brought tourists and newcomers to Loudoun County, and have increased awareness of our historically significant house museum and our unique education programs.





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Leadership

Overall direction for The George C. Marshall International Center is provided by a 16-member Board of Directors, led by Board President Stephen C. Price, Esq. Although most members are from Virginia, the Board also has international representation from Germany and Norway.

Operations of The Marshall Center are overseen by Executive Director, Pat Daly; Operations Manager, Richard Rohrer; Tours & Events Coordinator; Janet Vandervaart and Financial Officer, Anne Heacock. Operations of The Marshall Center's Education Center are overseen by Education Program Director, Rachel Thompson, Exchange Program Directors Alisa Soderquist and Keith Knusbaum, and Docent Director, Pat Black.

Together, more than 75 docents and volunteers play a vital role The Marshall Center's operations. Docents are expertly trained to manage tours and other functions.



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Membership & Donor Support

As a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, The George C. Marshall International Center relies on a combination of memberships, private donations, and grants to fund its mission and to maintain the manor house and grounds, enabling it to continue to share Marshall's story with visitors of all ages.

Contributions and memberships help support important education programs like the Marshall Immersion Workshop for secondary teachers of American history, enabling them to pass on valuable lessons of civic duty and life-long learning to high school students, and the Student Partnership Exchange Program which gives high school students in the United States, Germany and Austria cultural immersion experiences.

Contributions and memberships also help fund special exhibitions highlighting fascinating topics in history such as the correspondence between General Marshall and Winston Churchill, and the restoration of the magnificent building in Paris that served as Marshall Plan headquarters in the years following World War Two.

They help The Marshall Center host community events like its annual Easter Egg Hunt, July 4th Ice Cream Social and community-wide Veterans Day commemoration on the grounds of the home that Marshall occupied during the years of his greatest achievements.

The Marshall Center offers a variety of Individual Memberships, Special Memberships, and Corporate Giving Opportunities. Membership carries several privileges, including free visitation, a subscription to Five Star, The Marshall Center's newsletter, 10% discounts in Dodona Manor's bookshop, advance notice of special exhibitions and events, and more. Corporate sponsors enjoy highlighted visibility at The Marshall Center's Annual Benefit, in its newsletter, on its web site, and where applicable, acknowledgement in association with the special program they are supporting.

Supporters may also make an unrestricted, 100% tax-deductible donations. Unrestricted donations enable The Marshall Center to use contributions in those areas where help is most needed.

All gifts are truly valued, and help ensure that Marshall's legacy of leadership, integrity, and international cooperation is understood and remembered by future generations.



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Tomorrow: Our Vision

The George C. Marshall International Center plans to build an onsite Education Center to provide better support for secondary-level curriculum programs, and to expand our offerings to include university, government, and corporate audiences. Of particular interest is using the new Education Center as a forum for experiential learning, as well as research, testing, and promotion of strategies for the redevelopment of nations following wars and other major crises.