



THE FRIENDS OF SAGAMORE HILL

2019 John A. Gable Memorial Lecture Series

Thursday, May 16, 7PM

Christ Church Parish Hall, 61 East Main Street, Oyster Bay

May 16, 2019

Paul Grondahl

"I Rose Like a Rocket: The Political Education of Theodore Roosevelt"

Paul Grondahl will discuss Theodore Roosevelt's early political apprenticeship in the state capital of Albany, as legislator and governor. He was the youngest New York State Assemblyman ever elected and took on the role of an aggressive, outspoken reformer who attacked Tammany Hall corruption. This brash newcomer also had many clashes with his own Republican Party establishment and GOP Boss Thomas C. Platt. Roosevelt gradually learned how to play the political game with great finesse and many of the causes he championed as New York's governor – conserving public land, fining water polluters, improving working conditions for public employees and breaking up corrupt trusts – were the ones he took up in The White House while becoming one of the most popular and productive presidents in U.S. history. TR was ahead of his time in many aspects of his brilliant political career and the progressive causes and positions he advocated are very much at the heart of the national conversation and public policy debate today. He was a forward-thinking modern leader a century ahead of his time as a preservationist, a trust-buster and defender of meritocracy in civil service.

Paul Grondahl is a biographer, award-winning journalist and director of the NYS Writers Institute at the University at Albany. He is the author of the political biographies *I Rose Like a Rocket: The Political Education of Theodore Roosevelt* and *Mayor Erastus Corning: Albany Icon, Albany Enigma* as well as other books. He spent 33 years as a reporter at the *Albany Times Union*, where his in-depth articles won local, state and national writing prizes. He continues to write a weekly column for the Times Union and is currently at work on a biography of Andy Rooney.

Free to all. Light refreshments will be provided.

