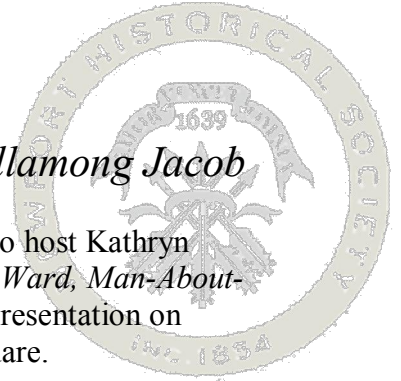


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

King of the Lobby

Newport Historical Society Hosts Author Kathryn Allamong Jacob

Newport, RI – (May 2010) – The Newport Historical Society is pleased to host Kathryn Allamong Jacob, author of *King of the Lobby: The Life and Times of Sam Ward, Man-About-Washington in the Gilded Age* (Johns Hopkins UP 2009), for an evening presentation on Thursday September 23rd at 6pm at the Colony House on Washington Square.



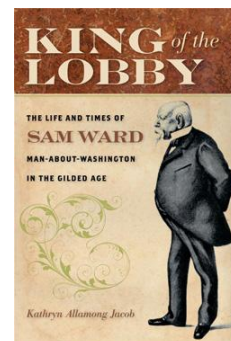
King of the Lobby tells how Sam Ward, a colorful character with a Newport connection, harnessed delicious food, fine wine and good conversation to become the most influential lobbyist of the Gilded Age. Scion of an old and honorable family, best friend of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and charming man-about-Washington, D.C., Ward lived by the motto that the shortest route between a pending bill and a congressman’s “aye” was through his stomach, he elegantly entertained political elites in return for their votes.

At a time when waves of scandal washed over Washington, D.C., the popular press railed against the wickedness of the lobby, and self-righteous politicians predicted that special interests would cause the downfall of democratic government, Sam Ward still reigned supreme. By the early 1870s, he had earned the title “King of the Lobby” and the style of lobbying he cultivated is alive today.

The Wall Street Journal writes that, “Jacob’s trim and surprising biography brilliantly shows how, in the hands of a master, lobbying can be lifted to the level of art.” *The Washington Post* commented that, “[Sam Ward] was an immensely able, influential and engaging character who has been rescued from obscurity by Kathryn Allamong Jacob.”

General admission costs \$5 per person, \$1 for Newport Historical Society members. Reservations requested; persons with mobility issues should call in advance. 401-841-8770 A book signing will follow the presentation.

King of the Lobby:
The Life and Times of Same Ward Man-About-Washington in the Gilded Age
by Kathryn Allamong Jacob
(Johns Hopkins UP 2009)



For additional information and/or to obtain media photos please contact: Elizabeth Sulock, Public Affairs Associate, 401-846-0813 x104, esulock@newporthistorical.org.

About the Newport Historical Society

Since 1854, the Newport Historical Society has collected and preserved the artifacts, photographs, documents, publications, and genealogical records that relate to the history of Newport County, to make these materials readily available for both research and enjoyment, and to act as a resource center for the education of the public about the history of Newport County, so that knowledge of the past may contribute to a fuller understanding of the present. For more information please visit www.newporthistory.org.

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