

# Gym Rat Rantings

by Bob Ring



## Inviting Historical Figures to Dinner

The question of the month is: What four historical figures would you invite to dinner?

I started thinking about this during a recent world history project, where I reviewed a book about the 100 most influential people in history.

That brought to mind an old PBS TV series from the late 70s and early 80s called Meeting of the Minds, starring Steve Allen. Mr. Allen interviewed oddly-matched groups of historical persons like Cleopatra/Theodore Roosevelt/Thomas Aquinas/Thomas Paine and Emily Dickinson/Attila the Hun/Charles Darwin/Galileo. I thought the series was fascinating – even for non history buffs.

So how would you choose four persons from history to invite to your dinner table? Would you pick from your heroes, people you most admire, perhaps Eleanor Roosevelt; people you have questions of, maybe to ask the pirate Blackbeard where he hid all his treasure; someone you'd like to get to know better like Gandhi; someone you'd like to slap around for his horrible actions in his lifetime, like Hitler; someone you'd like to dazzle with today's technology, like Thomas Edison; or a group that might spark interesting conversation like those from Meeting of the Minds?

I've filled out my dinner place cards below, but I've left room for you to put in your choices. Sorry, but you'll have to come up with your own menu.

