



The Patriot

Latest News from the [Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York](#)

Vol. 1, No. 2 (December 2007)

Greetings from the President



SRNY President John Mauk Hilliard

Photo: Douglas Kiddie

November was a busy month at 54 Pearl Street. Chief among our activities was the celebration of the 224th anniversary of Evacuation Day on November 19. More than 100 guests (a capacity house!) enjoyed a delicious three-course dinner, 13 original toasts, and a fascinating talk by the engaging author Barnet Schechter. Our special guests included Anne Ware Teasdale, Organizing Regent of the Knickerbocker Chapter - DAR, and Nancy Shackelford Jones, Regent of the DAR's NYC Chapter. We also welcomed members of the Daughters of Holland Dames, the St. Nicholas Society, the St. Andrew's Society; and friends and family members visiting us for the first time. Scroll down to the Hear Ye section for more details.

Throughout 2007, we've commemorated the centennial of the opening of Fraunces Tavern Museum. 2008 will be another red-letter year, marking the 225th anniversary of Evacuation Day and Washington's Farewell to his Officers. Be sure to visit our [museum website](#) for an ever-growing list of talks and activities that will mark this important milestone for us and for New York City.

Exciting plans are afoot – so what could be a better time to submit that SR application that you've been thinking about for a while? Check the requirements for membership at the [SRNY website](#). We will be happy to help you along the way.

Speaking of new members, HUZDAH! and welcome to our newest: Stephen Goodwin Jones (ancestor: Agreen Crabtree); John Amos Logan (Mordecai Amoss); and Thomas Frederick Pike (Philip Titus). I was honored to induct these fine gentlemen at

our dinner on Nov. 19. We are delighted to have you with us.

Before I close, I'd like to remind you to mark your calendars for our SRNY Ball on February 22, 2008, at the St. Regis Hotel. It will be an evening of dining, dancing, and celebration surrounded by splendid city views. It's not often that we can celebrate Washington's birthday on Feb. 22 itself, and we'd love to have you join us. Invitations will be mailed soon, but if you have any questions, please drop an email to [Margaret O'Shaughnessy](#), our able administrator.

I hope you are enjoying our e-newsletter. We welcome your friends, family, and colleagues to join the list. Please [email](#) their names and addresses to us. Meanwhile, my very best wishes to all for a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, and a prosperous and Happy New Year.

Yours aye,

John Mauk Hilliard
President

[This Just In! SRNY Election Results for 2007-2008](#)

Congratulations to all those elected to office at the annual meeting on Dec. 3.

Officers

- President: John Mauk Hilliard
- First Vice President & Chairman of the Executive Committee: Charles C. Lucas, Jr.
- Second Vice President: Kenneth H. Chase
- Third Vice President: Stephen M. Noonan
- Secretary: Alan W. Borst, Jr.
- Treasurer: Donald Westervelt
- Registrar: P. Layton Sanders, Jr.
- Chaplain: The Rev. Christopher M. Cullen

Board of Managers

- Kenneth E. Brown
- Philip Coombe, III
- Bromme H. Cole
- Michael P. Coneys
- William M. Manger, Jr.
- Cornwell C. Martin
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- Frederick W. Pattison
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- William O. Reutelhuber
- Jonathan Ridgeway
- Andrew W. Russell
- Floyd Smith Sanford, III
- Brent A. Sims

- Steven P. Trusnovec
- William Unger
- Stephen T. Whelan, Jr.
- Stanley De Forest Scott, Honorary Past President

News from Fraunces Tavern® Museum

The Dunsmore Collection restoration continues with good results. Recently, Museum Director Amy Northrop Adamo received word from Pete Culos of the Artist Preservation Group, which plans to raise funds for conservation of "News from Yorktown" in their own online auction. The results will be announced in a future edition of *The Patriot*.

Wrapping up our November activities on the 20th, Arthur Piccolo, Chairman of the Bowling Green Association, delivered a lunchtime lecture on the history of this gem of a park. (It's just around the corner from 54 Pearl Street.) Art is an expert on Lower Manhattan history and his talk was well received.

Don't Forget: December 11 Concert

The museum staff looks forward to greeting SR and Museum members, friends, family, and colleagues at the December 11 holiday concert featuring Linda Russell & Companie. Remember, you can now buy tickets online or may send your check to Fraunces Tavern Museum Holiday Concert, 54 Pearl Street, New York, NY 10004. (See calendar listing for details.)

The Latest on Museum Education

Meet Our Docent: Kaitlyn Medley



Kaitlyn Medley

Photo: Jennifer Patton

Kaitlyn joined the Fraunces Tavern® Museum staff as an education intern and docent in September 2007. Currently, she is a senior at New York University majoring in history; she learned about our volunteer opportunities through the history department. Kaitlyn devotes eight hours a week to the museum, giving tours to visiting school groups, helping to keep track of school program supplies, and assisting the Museum Director with collection assessment.

Over the past few months, Kaitlyn has found her experience here to be both enjoyable and interesting. She has had more than just a chance to learn about the field; she has also greatly expanded her knowledge of the Tavern, Colonial New York City, and the Revolutionary War. "I'm working with people who are all very interested in this period of history and are happy to discuss it. It's nice to work in an environment where everyone shares your interests. And I've gotten to do a lot more than I expected."

When it comes to her tours, Kaitlyn has received very positive feedback from other docents and visiting teachers. She is

extremely patient and engages students with thought-provoking questions. "I tend to get a little nervous before I give a tour, but once I get started I always have fun. The students are often more interested than I'd expect them to be, and they make the tours exciting ... I don't think I ever give the same tour twice."

Once her internship is completed at the end of this semester, Kaitlyn hopes to continue volunteering as a docent if her schedule allows. Next year, she plans to attend graduate school with a concentration in museum studies. All the best, Kaitlyn!

Comments from Our Toughest Critics (the Fifth Grade) ...

I loved learning about the Revolutionary War ... I am really interested Mary Hayes (Molly Pitcher). I thought she was so brave to bring all those men water. I would be so scared seeing so many men die and risk getting killed.

-- Claire

I thought it was cool that we were in the same exact room where George Washington gave his farewell dinner. ... I liked seeing the lock of George Washington's hair, too! ... I hope I come back soon!

-- Vanessa

I really enjoyed looking at the diary, musket, hair and tooth. I also liked going into the Long Room and seeing what it was like in the tavern in the 1700s. ... I learned that colonists liked their houses near the water catch fish and other things to eat.

The writer closes with an intriguing question:

How short did colonists cut their hair when they wanted to wear wigs?

-- Ella

Perhaps our readers have an answer for Ella?

Calendar

Dec. 3: SRNY Members' annual meeting and dinner.

Dec. 11: John Nagy on Rebellion in the Ranks: Mutinies of the American Revolution, Flag Gallery 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Free with museum admission (\$4/\$3 students, senior citizens; members free)

Tuesday, December 11, 2007 6:30 - 8 PM

Sing We All Merrily: A Colonial Christmas Concert featuring Linda Russell & Companie Fee: \$20 (\$15 FTM Members). Tickets are required and are selling briskly. Mail your check to Fraunces Tavern[®] Museum Holiday Concert, 54 Pearl Street, NY, NY 10004.

THIS JUST IN! You may now [purchase tickets online](#) for this very popular event. Don't miss your chance to join us.

Dec. 13: James Del Bourgo on Electricity, Benjamin Franklin, and the American Revolution, Flag Gallery, 6:30 p.m. Free to members; general public \$6. Refreshments provided.

Looking Ahead to 2008 ...

Jan. 15: Carol Karels on The Revolutionary War in Bergen County: The Times that Tried Men's Souls, Flag Gallery, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Free with museum admission (\$4/\$3 students, senior citizens; members free)

Jan. 17: Jean Zimmerman on "The Women of the House - the Strong, Gutsy Women of Colonial New York," Flag Gallery, 6:30 p.m. Free to members; general public \$6. Refreshments provided.

January 28, 2008: New date for the Tallmadge Day Stated Meeting. It was originally scheduled for January 21, the observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

Celebrating Our Commander-in-Chief ...

Feb. 18: Washington's Birthday Open House, Fraunces Tavern Museum, 12 noon – 5 p.m. Free admission all day.

Feb. 21: Edward G. Lengel on The Papers of George Washington, Flag Gallery, 6:30 p.m. Free to members; general public \$6. Refreshments provided.

Feb. 22, 2008: George Washington's Birthday Ball - St. Regis Hotel, Manhattan. Dining, dancing, and a very special award. Invitations to be mailed early in 2008. Designated as Ordered Duty for the Color Guard.

Feb. 24, 2008: Annual church service at the Church of the Incarnation, 11 a.m. A prayerful, patriotic commemoration of General Washington, those who served with him, and those who give patriotic service today. Designated as Ordered Duty for the Color Guard.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Speaker and Event Round-up



Dinner guests, Bissell Room, Nov. 19

Photo: Thomas C. Williams

The 224th Anniversary of Evacuation Day was celebrated with great joy on Nov. 19. More than 100 SRNY members, family, and friends enjoyed a delicious dinner in the Bissell Room, preceded by a sumptuous reception in the colorful Flag Gallery. President John Hilliard presided over the festivities, through which were woven the 13 toasts first given on the night of November 25, 1783 at a dinner held in Fraunces Tavern. Among those in attendance that evening were General George Washington and Governor George Clinton. The Sons of the Revolution hosts this dinner each year to commemorate, honor, and as a reminder to never forget our brave Patriots.

This year, the toasts were offered by SRNY members and friends, as listed below:

1. To the United States of America – President John Mauk Hilliard

2. To His most Christian Majesty (Louis XVI of France) – SRNY Member Barrett Taylor
3. To the United Netherlands – John P.T. Blake (in a rousing recitation of the names of New Amsterdam’s first families, delivered from atop his chair)
4. To the King of Sweden – The Rev. Martin Chase
5. To the American Army
6. To the Fleet and Armies of France which have served in America – Michael Coneys, Board of Managers Member
7. To the Memory of those Heroes who have fallen for our Freedom – Past President F. Daniel LeVert Coleman
8. May our Country be grateful to her Military Children – Floyd Smith Sanford, III, Board of Managers Member
9. May justice support what courage has gained – Dr. Lauren Silberman
10. To the Indicators of the Rights of Mankind in every Charter of the Globe – Kenneth Chase, Esq., Board of Managers Member
11. May America be an Asylum to the Persecuted of the Earth – Sara Champion, Esq.
12. May a close Union of States guard the Temple they have erected to Liberty – P. Layton Sanders, Board of Managers Member
13. May the Remembrances of the Day be a lesson to Princes – Mr. Hilliard



Barnet Schechter

Photo: Charles C. Lucas

Our featured speaker on Nov. 19 is a favorite with SR and Museum audiences: Barnet Schechter, the author of *The Battle for New York: The City at the Heart of the American Revolution* and *The Devil’s Own Work: The Civil War Draft Riots and the Fight to Reconstruct America*. Mr. Schechter spoke about the extensive planning – and significant outlay of cash – leading up to the first Evacuation Day in 1783. He also mentioned the shifting moods surrounding the transition of power, emotions that ran the gamut from exhilarated optimism to a desire for vengeance in some quarters. Finally, however, moderation and the need for unity carried the day.

Amusing anecdotes drawn from eyewitness accounts were an integral part of Mr. Schechter’s talk, at the end of which our speaker stayed to sign copies of his books and chat with those who had questions.

Color Guard News

Earlier in November, eight members of the SR Color Guard – and one SR friend -- carried historic flags from our collection in procession at the Patriotic and Historic Societies’ Choral Evensong on Nov. 11. This observance is held annually at St. Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue. The event was attended by members of dozens of societies, each with a flag bearer carrying the organization’s colorful standard. Following the church service, participants relaxed at a festive reception in the ballroom of the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society. Our thanks to SRNY member Barrett Taylor for providing both the delicious

buffet and spirited live music.

Who Am I?

Although I held the lowest rank possible (militia private) at the start of the Revolutionary War, my rank at its end was that of Major General of the Continental Army. I advised a retreat from New York and the burning of the city so that the British might not use it and later was placed in command of Fort Lee on the New Jersey side of the Hudson River. On October 25, 1776, I succeeded General Israel Putnam in command of Fort Mifflin, across the river from Fort Mifflin. In October 1780, I was given command over all troops from Delaware to Georgia with full powers, "subject to the control of the Commander-in-Chief". In the Southern campaign, I was greatly assisted by Tadeusz Kosciuszko, Henry ("Light-Horse Harry") Lee, William Washington, and Francis Marion.

Who am I? The answer will appear in next month's *Patriot*.

The answer to our November quiz is Major General Philip Schuyler.

The SRNY *Patriot*

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