



The Patriot

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

Vol. 2, No. 1 (January 2008)



Board Members attending Annual Meeting 12/03/2007 (standing from left): Poekel, Martin, Ridgeway, Coombe, Westervelt, Noonan, President Hilliard, Lucas, Whelan, Chase, Oler, Russell, Trusnovac, Sanford
Photo by Richard Gregory

Greetings from the President

Happy New Year to one and all! This year, we celebrate the 225th anniversary of Evacuation Day in New York, when the British left our fair city at the close of the American Revolution. During this time — and of particular significance to the SRNY — General Washington gave his [farewell](#) to his officers, delivered on the second floor of our 54 Pearl Street headquarters.

The events of 1783 defined America's history. In commemoration of those heady times, our Museum will offer a full [calendar](#) of exciting activities. I guarantee you will be informed and delighted. I especially call your attention to our Tallmadge Day Stated Meeting on Jan. 28 — featuring author Harlow Giles Unger — and [Benjamin Tallmadge Day](#) on February 9.

George Washington loved to dance! So isn't it fitting that we celebrate 1783 and his birthday with a gala event? This year, our grand Washington's Birthday Ball is on February 21st — the eve of the day itself. We will gather on the beautiful St. Regis Roof for a gala reception followed by a delicious dinner and dancing all evening. Our honored guest is New York City Schools Chancellor Joel Klein, who will be presented with The George Washington Award for Educational Excellence. The SRNY is thrilled that Chancellor Klein has agreed to accept this honor, and I invite you to meet him at the Ball.

But in truth, you — and our entire SRNY extended family — are our most treasured guests. Without you, there would be no Ball. I hope that you will consider joining us for a wonderful evening. Invitations will be mailed shortly; table sponsorships are available now. Read on for more information.

More good news! Brent A. Sims, our Membership Chairman, reports that, during 2007, we admitted 21 new Senior Members and one new Junior Member. Six Juniors transferred to Senior status, and three members were reinstated. Sadly, eight members passed away, and we will remember them fondly.

Before I close, I want to acknowledge our good friend Thomas Gorin, President of the Capt. Matthew Mead Branch (Greenwich, CT) of the Sons of the American Revolution, who gave the fifth toast, To the American Army, at our Evacuation Day dinner last November. Tom writes that he chose a 17th -century English Boar's Head toast for the occasion. We're sorry we omitted your name in our December e-newsletter, Tom, and send our thanks for gracing us with your stirring and historic toast!

Yours aye,

John Mauk Hilliard
President, SRNY

News from Fraunces Tavern® Museum

Join us for a new series of talks and lectures that bring to life the issues, people and politics of the American Revolution. Our new schedule is [online](#) now. Visit us often!

More Comments from our Fifth Grade Visitors

When we were in one of the rooms it smelled really funny. I wish I went back in time to meet George Washington. But I will bring something heavy to test how strong he is. Also I would bring a measuring tape to measure his height.

—Jamie

I learned a lot of information about the Fraunces Tavern® for example, I learned that people gathered together in the Tavern. The Long Room only allowed men to be in it. In Fraunces Tavern®, women were not allowed. For me it's unfair because why weren't we allowed?

—Melissa

I never knew that George Washington was 6 feet tall! And he was very strong! I wish he were still alive so I could ask him questions about his life. But other stuff and people were fascinating, too.

—Gary

And finally, a note of concern for our docents:

You must be out of breath from speaking to us so much about the war and people from back then. Don't you feel scared working in that building?

—Donna

NEW! Color Guard Corner



Come on in! Here you'll find the latest news about our loyal and intrepid Color Guard, the men who carry our colorful, historic flags at SRNY functions and other events throughout the New York metropolitan area. Our thanks to CG Captain Jonathan Ridgeway for his contributions to this column.

Huzzah!

Congratulations to Steven Trusnovec on his promotion to Color Guard Sergeant! Steve is also the CG Treasurer and a member of the Board of Managers. Well deserved, Steve!

Color Guard Commerce



Photo by Jonathan Ridgeway

Have you seen our handsome red or blue CG ties on SRNY members and friends? Now you can have one — or more — of your own! Just \$30.00 will buy you a dashing, adjustable size bow tie, or a standard length or long necktie (great for tall guys!). Add \$7.00 for mailing (per order, not per tie). Make your check payable to SRNY Color Guard and mail it to Steve Trusnovec, Color Guard Treasurer, P.O. Box 241 - Yaphank, NY 11980. Wear it with pride!

CG Activities 2007

The colors were presented by CG members at Washington's Birthday Ball and the 117th Annual Church Service; Memorial Day observances on the USS Hue City (Staten Island) and the Little Neck/Douglaston (Queens) Parade; SRNY Flag Day celebration; Flag Gallery welcome reception for the Pennsylvania Color Guard; and the Patriotic Societies Evensong at St. Thomas Church in honor of Veterans Day. We look forward eagerly to many exciting events in 2008!

The SRNY *Patriot*

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Celebrate 1783!

join us for these special events...

Benjamin Tallmadge Day

Saturday, February 9, 2008

12 - 5 PM; free with Museum admission (\$4/\$3 students, senior citizens; members free)



Photo courtesy of Amy Northrop Adamo

Be on the lookout! The Second Continental Light Dragoons, Sheldon's Horse will once again occupy the Tavern! Benjamin Tallmadge, an officer in the Second Continental Light Dragoons, was George Washington's spymaster during the Revolutionary War. His memoir is now in the collection of Frances Tavern Museum, donated by his grandson, Frederick Tallmadge, a founder of the SRNY. On Feb. 9, Sheldon's Horse re-enactors will take you back to the exciting sounds and sights of Tallmadge's elite unit.

Washington's Birthday Ball

New Date: February 21, 2008

St. Regis Roof/Penthouse, 2 East 55th Street (at Fifth Avenue)

Treat your special guests to a wonderful evening. Patrons at the Patriot (gold) and Sponsor (silver) levels will be listed on the benefactors' board on the 21st.

Patriot Table(s) of 10: \$10,000
Sponsor table(s) of 10: \$5,000

Single tickets:

Individual \$300.00
Benefactor \$375.00
Patron \$750.00

Email SRNY [Executive Director Richard Gregory](#) for more information. You may also reach him by phone: 212-425-1776 or fax: 212-509-3467.

The maximum capacity of the St. Regis Roof and Penthouse is 180 persons, so be sure to book your reservations soon.

Calendar

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.

Jan. 28 (6:30pm): Special speaker! Tallmadge Day Stated Meeting. Renowned author Harlow Giles Unger returns to the SRNY to discuss his new book, *America's Second Revolution: How George Washington Defeated Patrick Henry and Saved the Nation* (John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2007). This is a compelling and dynamic account of, as Mr. Unger says, the ferocious struggle among America's Founding Fathers over how to govern themselves and their countrymen following independence from Britain. Following the talk, Mr. Unger will sign copies of his book; all proceeds benefit SRNY.

Feb. 9: [Benjamin Tallmadge Day](#).

Feb. 12: [Dr. Ronald Brown](#) on The Evolution of Religious Pluralism in New York City, Flag Gallery, 12:30-1:30 p.m.*

Mar. 6: [Arthur Lefkowitz](#) on Benedict Arnold & Aaron Burr: Ambitious Friends from the American Revolution, Flag Gallery, 6:30 p.m. Free to members; general public \$6. Refreshments provided.

Mar. 12: [Carol Berkin](#) on There is No Sex in Soul: The Woman Question Debate in the Early Republic, Flag Gallery, 12:30-1:30 p.m.*

* This *Speakers in the Humanities* lecture is free and open to the general public, and is sponsored by the New York Council for the Humanities, a state-affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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. 21: George Washington's Birthday Ball. Designated as Ordered Duty for the Color Guard.

Feb. 24: Annual church service at the Church of the Incarnation, 209 Madison Ave. (35th St.), Manhattan. Begins at 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

Books and More Books



Steven Trusnovec and Charles Poekel
Photo by Charles C. Lucas

Our December 17 holiday book party was a resounding success. SRNY Board of Managers member Charles A. Poekel, Jr., signed copies of his new book *Babe & the Kid: The Legendary Story of Babe Ruth and Johnny Sylvester* (Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2007).



Exec. Dir. Richard Gregory and John VanDerbeek
Photo by Charles C. Lucas

Sales were so brisk that we wonder if Charles suffered a (welcome) case of writer's cramp! We also welcomed special guest John B. VanDerbeek, IV, President of the Holland Society, to this festive event.

Who Am I?

I was given the name Marie-Joseph-Paul-Yves-Roch-Gilbert du Motier My ancestor fought for Joan of Arc.

Who am I?



The answer to our December quiz is Major General Nathanael Greene (May 27, 1742 - June 19, 1786). This portrait was painted from life in 1783 by Charles Wilson Peale. The original portrait was copied by C.W. Peale, as well as his son, Rembrandt, multiple times. (Please see Wikipedia for [info and permissions.](#))