

The Patriot



Latest News from the *Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York*

Vol. 2, No. 3 (March 2008)



Opening ceremonies, GWBall; Anne Teasdale, Judith Bliss, Melissa Zack. Tallmadge Day: Museum visitor and Mark Sheldon; Steuben House Dancers. Ball photos: Charles C. Lucas. Tallmadge Day photos: Amy Northrop Adamo and Jennifer Patton.

A Festive Ball and a Generous Grant

February was an exciting month for the SRNY, and no event was grander than the 131st Washington's Birthday Ball on Feb. 21. Set against the white-gold splendor of the St. Regis Rooftop, the Ball was a perfect blend of military color and pageantry, delicious food, irresistible dance music by the Paul Errico Orchestra, and some very special guests.

Drum roll, please! Following a delightful cocktail hour in the Penthouse and Library, guests feasted on vol au vent, filet mignon, and crisp apple tart. The U.S. Army, 3rd Infantry Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, set the stage with their rousing military calls and signals, following which the US Corps of Cadets Color Guard, West Point, presented our nation's colors. Rounding out the ceremonies, the SRNY Color Guard presented their own historic flags with style and flair.



USMA Color Guard
Photo by Charles C. Lucas

Revelry 18th-century Style: Tallmadge Day

On Feb. 9, the Museum was full of delightful music, dancing, exciting hands-on activities, and the very special Second Continental Light Dragoons, Sheldon's Horse, who brought to life the sights and sounds of Revolutionary New York.

A steady stream of visitors enjoyed the lively stepping of the Steuben House Dancers led by Dance Master Richard Cuneo. The tunes of singer/musician Linda Russell filled the air, and she brought along her clever Limberjack, who had a few high steps of his own. Visitors also enjoyed the reminiscences of FBI Chaplain Tom Winslow, who is a lineal descendant of [Lemuel Cook](#). The last of the Second Dragoons survivors, Cook is also believed to be the last known survivor of the Revolution at his death in, reputedly, 1866. (He survived the Civil War, too!)



Linda Russell and Limberjack
Photo by Amy Adamo

More activities: Salvatore Tarantino gave an absorbing demonstration of quill-pen writing, while his wife, Carol, displayed and discussed 18th-century riding gear, including an antique saddle. One of the most popular attractions of the afternoon was an interactive demonstration of how to crack

Hats off to Chancellor Klein! The honored guest of the evening was New York City Schools Chancellor Joel I. Klein. He was presented with the SRNY's prestigious George Washington Award for Excellence in Education. (See photo). In his remarks, Chancellor Klein shared his thoughtful observations about General Washington and the importance of education to the well being of our republic.

Chancellor Klein's remarks were received enthusiastically by all, including special guests Ambassador John L. Loeb, Jr.; John Herzog; President of the Museum of American Finance; John Shannon, President, St. Nicholas Society; Floyd Smith Sanford, III, President, Huguenot Society of America; Paul F. Davis, General President, Sons of the Revolution; Peter Felix, President, St. George's Society; and Anne Ware Teasdale, Organizing Regent, Knickerbocker Chapter, DAR.

As the evening progressed, First Vice President LTC Charles C. Lucas, MD, welcomed the Very Reverend Philip Buckler, Dean of Lincoln Cathedral, who brought eloquent greetings from England. B. Charles Armstrong, Sr. Director of Advertising and Global Branding, American International Group, brought greetings and shared some wonderful news with the crowd:



Dean Buckler
Photo: AIG

AIG Awards \$1Million to SRNY for Magna Carta Exhibit and Center for Colonial History

Thanks to the generosity of AIG, the [Lincoln Cathedral's](#) copy of Magna Carta will be in residence at SRNY/Fraunces Tavern Museum later this year on its tour of the United States. We are very excited about this development, since there are only four extant copies of Magna Carta (one of which resides at the Lincoln Cathedral Archives.)

This spring, Magna Carta will be on display at the Contemporary Arts Center of Virginia, Virginia Beach, from March 30 - June 18, 2008. *The Patriot* will keep you updated on the dates, hours, and details of the Magna Carta exhibition at Fraunces Tavern Museum. Details about the Center for Colonial History are forthcoming.



Sil Gleissner and Friends
Photo by Jennifer Patton

Revolutionary War spy codes, led by expert Sil Gleissner, to the delight of children and adults alike.

Our thanks to everyone who made this event a success, and especially to Richard Cuneo and the entire corps of Sheldon's Horse, who donated their time, effort, and talent. Linda



Salvatore Tarantino and Mark Sheldon
Photo by Jennifer Patton

Russell's appearance was made possible by a generous grant from Doughty's Artillery Co./The Steuben House Dancers.

Calendar

Mar. 6: Arthur Lefkowitz on Benedict Arnold and 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.

Mar. 27: New Book! Francois Fursternberg, *In the Name of the Father: Washington's Legacy, Slavery, and the Making of a Nation*, 6:30 p.m. Free to members; general public \$6. Refreshments provided.

Apr. 24: David Wilson on The Southern Strategy: Britain's Conquest of South Carolina and Georgia, 1775-1780, Flag Gallery, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Free with Museum admission (\$4/\$3 students, senior citizens); members free.

More events will be posted in the April *Patriot*.

Honoring Those Who Died: The 118th Annual Church Service

More than a dozen SRNY color guard and several past presidents gathered to honor their departed comrades on Sunday, Feb. 24, at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Manhattan. The service of Morning Prayer began in procession with the parish clergy, followed by military and lineage societies. Their line of march was led by the USAF Honor Guard from McGuire Air Force Base; members of the U.S. Army Honor Guard; the Veteran Corps of Artillery, and, of course, the SRNY Color Guard. Also bearing their own colorful flags were representatives of the St. Andrew's Society, the United States Daughters of 1812, and the Society of Daughters of Holland Dames.

SRNY Color Guard member and Past SRNY President, Dr. Laurence Simpson, read the first Epistle and, later, offered a heartfelt prayer for those who died since the last annual church service in 2007. A solemn and moving rendition of Taps was delivered by Kyle Resnick, preceded by Dr. Simpson's reading of the necrology.

A Special Mention ...

We recently learned that Warren J. McEntee, a beloved SRNY member and generous supporter of the Museum, passed away on February 3rd. Mr. McEntee joined SRNY in 1985 and was elected to the Board of Managers in 1986. In addition to serving as Chair of the Development Committee, Mr. McEntee was elected Second Vice President in 1990 and First Vice President in 1991. We will miss him greatly.

Meet our Docent: Sheila Feivelson

In 1991, Sheila Feivelson decided to join the museum staff as a volunteer docent when she took a break from 30 years of teaching.

I always thought it would be great to volunteer at a museum. I remembered going to Fraunces Tavern Museum as a schoolgirl, and brought my own students there when I taught in Manhattan and Brooklyn.



Sheila Feivelson
Photo by Jennifer Patton

Sixteen years after first volunteering here, Sheila has led hundreds of school and adult groups through the museum, powered by her unflagging, lively energy and enthusiastic commentary. While reflecting on her time here, Sheila commented on how rewarding it is:

When I finish a tour, I feel that visitors are very glad they came, especially the school children. We keep them interested for an hour and a half - that's amazing! Everyone has been great to work with. There's a level of professionalism that I didn't expect when I started.

On February 14, Sheila was honored as a 2008 Sweetheart of a Volunteer by the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of the Community Service Society at recognition breakfast. The room was filled with more than 150 men and women, who volunteer their time to make a difference and make a positive impact on New York City each and every day. Sheila has made a genuine difference at the Museum, and we are forever grateful to her for helping us grow in our mission to educate all who walk through our doors. She has become a cherished member of the Fraunces Tavern Museum family and we look forward to Sheila's cheerful presence here for years to come.

Quiz

The answer to February's quiz is Ethan Allen. Our quiz master will return in April with a brainteaser to puzzle one and all.

The SRNY *Patriot*

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