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## Presidents Column

As I write this, I think about a great event that happened 225 years ago in New York: the evacuation of the British Army at the close of the War for Independence. In December 1783, General Washington said a tearful farewell to his officers in Fraunces Tavern, in roughly the same place where I'm now sitting.

Today, it is gratifying to think that the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York has kept alive the traditions and memory of our founding fathers in unique and exciting ways: a growing chapter; a

Museum devoted to the American Revolution; enhanced technology; expanded education programs; and growing collaborations with other patriotic societies.

The SRNY is moving energetically toward the new year. Next autumn, we will exhibit – in newly refurbished space – the Lincolnia Magna Carta (resident in Lincoln Cathedral, England), surrounded by key American documents. During 2009, Lower Manhattan will hold special celebrations in honor of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hendrik Hudson's exploration of the North River (now named in his honor), and the SRNY is working on related activities for our members and friends.

I remain excited and firmly optimistic about our future. Every organization, especially in New York City, has been affected in some way by the enduring effects of 9-11-2001. Recently, the crisis on Wall Street has made every individual, corporation, and organization concerned about the bottom line. But with the help of our expert Board of Managers and Officers, we are constantly reviewing our budgets and investments, working to keep our investments as stable as possible and our endowment fund intact.

In December, I will have completed my term as your President. The approved slate calls for the election of Charles Clement Lucas, Jr., MD, as my successor, and I couldn't be happier. I leave you in good hands as I remain

Yours aye, *John Mauk Hilliard, President*

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PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL THE SR OFFICE AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE WITH YOUR CURRENT U.S. MAIL AND EMAIL ADDRESS. DUE TO THE INCREASED COSTS OF PRINTING AND POSTAGE, WE WILL NOW USE EMAIL FOR MOST OF OUR COMMUNICATIONS.

## Magna Carta Exhibit

Preparation for the 2009 visit of Magna Carta is <sup>2</sup>underway. The contract between the SRNY and Lincoln Cathedral was signed on August 10<sup>th</sup>, clearing the way for much needed upgrades to the HVAC, Security and Fire Suppression systems in the Davis and Mesick Galleries. Construction is expected to begin October 13<sup>th</sup> and be completed before December 30<sup>th</sup>. The systems will exceed American Association of Museums (AAM) standards, enabling us to qualify for traveling exhibits and loans from Mount Vernon and other major lenders.

We expect that collaboration with several foundations, institutes and organizations with interest in the Magna Carta Exhibition will enhance and expand our education program. Examples are: The Bill of Rights Foundation, The Heritage Foundation, The New York Historical Society, The Gilder Lehrman Institute, The Mount Vernon Ladies Association and the Council on Foreign Relations.

*Richard A. Gregory, Executive Director*



*The Very Reverend Philip Buckler Dean of Lincoln Cathedral and SR President John Mauk Hilliard signing contract for the Magna Carta*

## George Washington Ball

*Join the Benefit Committee  
for the  
132<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
George Washington Birthday Ball  
at  
The Metropolitan Club  
One East 60<sup>th</sup> Street, New York City  
Thursday, February 19, 2009  
7:00 p.m.*

*(See enclosed response sheet)*

## SRNY Buildings To Be Improved

There are several significant developments with respect to the five buildings which comprise our Fraunces Tavern® Museum Complex (the eighteenth century Fraunces Tavern building (restored 1907) and four adjacent nineteenth century buildings).

As mentioned previously in other articles, in preparation for the Magna Carta Exhibit, scheduled for the fall of 2009, work has begun on installing new video security and fire suppression systems and improving the climate control systems in the Museum, especially in the Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Educational Center for American History (the “Flag Gallery”), the Adeline Moses Loeb Gallery and the Mesick Gallery. Planning is also underway to improve handicap access into our buildings. These improvements were financed by a grant from AIG International Group, Inc.

Work has begun to remedy the deficiencies in the architectural envelope of our buildings noted in the January 2007 report from WJE Engineers and Architects. Walter Sedovic Architects has been retained to prepare plans for the roof repair/replacement project for our five buildings. This firm was retained because of its expertise on the roofs of historic buildings. This project is financed, in part, by a \$800,000 matching grant from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

*Bob McKay, Chairman, Real Estate Committee*

## National Landmark Status

On May 27, 2008, Ruth Pierpont, Director Historic Preservation, The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation announced that Fraunces Tavern at 54 Pearl Street and home to the Fraunces Tavern®Museum was designated a Historic National Landmark. It is now listed in the National Register of Historic Landmarks.

This is a signal event in the history of Fraunces Tavern as it recognizes the importance of this building in the early colonial history of New York. With such recognition, we can apply for state and federal grants to preserve the architecture of the building.

There will be a special ceremony later this year when the official plaque designating this recognition will be unveiled. The plaque will indicate Fraunces Tavern was listed on the State Register of Historic Places January 15, 2008, and on the National Register of Historic Places March 06, 2008.

## SR/FTM Education Program Expanded

The past year has been quite an exciting and busy one for the Education Department. From September of 2007 to June of 2008, our volunteer docent program grew from 4 to 14 participants. Our docents range from retired teachers, experienced tour guides, to students majoring in history at New York University; every volunteer brings a great deal of knowledge and much enthusiasm to our institution. We have been very fortunate to work with the Federal Hall National Memorial in more than a dozen collaborative programs enabling more children to experience both sites in one visit to Lower Manhattan. Thanks to both our dedicated docents and our wonderful partners in history education we have been able to serve over 5,000 students as compared to just 2,000 students from the previous year.

Classes visited us from more than one hundred public and private schools in the Metropolitan area and from as far upstate as Poughkeepsie, New York.

Our educational programming has increased in quantity, and has improved in quality. As many visiting classroom teachers stated in their evaluations of our program, their visits during the 2007/2008 academic year were “much better than in the past.” By incorporating Colonial reproduction artifacts into every program along with engaging students in thought-provoking discussions throughout their visit, this has allowed the students to be “more involved in the learning process” and “stay focused.” Teachers have appreciated how student participation has been continually encouraged by our knowledgeable docents. Teachers also enjoyed how our cumulative activities of creative writing and object exploration brought “the entire experience together.” With positive feedback like this, it is no wonder that a visit to our historical site has “fit perfectly” into the New York City social studies curriculum for decades and will continue to do so for many years to come.

We expect to have another record breaking number of visiting students over the next 9 months. Already, we are completely booked until the December holidays and expect to conduct over two dozen collaborative programs with Federal Hall throughout the academic year. We have added three more volunteers to our extraordinary team of docents to help with the school program, and to assist with our increasingly popular Saturday public tours. Even though our programming has greatly improved over the past year, the Education Department will continue to reexamine our services and strive to constantly improve as our audience base continues to increase and expand.

*Jennifer Patton, Director of Education*

## Treasurer's Report

As this fiscal year ends, we find ourselves *under* budget in financial support, while operating *over* budget in regard to expenditures, resulting in a deficit. The bulk of support that we have received this year were for “earmarks” such as the Magna Carta Exhibit; Building Enhancements; and a Roof Replacement Grant, which requires us to raise an additional Four Hundred Thousand Dollars in matching funds. While writing this, on the last day of our Society's fiscal year, with America's Financial Sector in Crisis, I am reminded of an essay written more than 300 years ago by Thomas Paine, entitled “The Crisis”. **“These are the times that try men's souls”.** As I review next year's bare bones \$978,000 budget, I see an organization not in “Crisis” but lacking vital support in very troubled times. “The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country, but he who stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.”

We as a Society are duty bound to lend support to our fiscal needs. This is not the time to be a “sunshine patriot.” We are not being asked to shed our blood, as our forefathers were, but only to step up to our commitment to preserve the memory of *their* suffering and *their* gift of this, the greatest nation in the history of the modern world. It is *now* time for *us* to make a gift to succeeding generations and to preserve our proud heritage through *our* sacrifice. The way to do this is by giving financial support to the operation of the Museum and the Education Program designed for School Children. In this way we can be assured that the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York and Fraunces Tavern Museum will be here tomorrow.

*Donald Westervelt, Esq. Treasurer*

## Development Activities

The SR/FTM will soon begin a new Capital Campaign to raise one million dollars to help restore our five building complex. When you receive our request for assistance, please consider assisting. It should be noted that funding is also possible through **matching gifts by an employee's corporation.** For every dollar one donates, their corporation may match the gift. There are other creative ways to support the Sons of the Revolution and Fraunces Tavern® Museum. Please call or email me to learn more: (212-425-1776 x 18); [SpecialAssistant@SonsOfTheRevolution.org](mailto:SpecialAssistant@SonsOfTheRevolution.org)

*Allison Kristin White, Director of Development*

## Fraunces Tavern ® Museum Director's Report

Collection:

This past fall and winter, Director Amy Northrop Adamo inventoried and catalogued the SRNY's valuable manuscript collection, and began the painstaking process of scanning these important documents. Among them is Nathan Hale's last known letter, written to his brother Enoch on August 21, 1776. There are also several valuable orderly books and letters, including one letter to Elbridge Gerry (Massachusetts delegate to Continental Congress) written in George Washington's own hand, from Morristown NJ on January 29, 1780 – during the coldest winter of the war.

Work has also begun on the cataloging of the large collection of papers from General Henry Burbeck (1754-1848), an artillery officer who served 38 years in the United States Army, from the Revolution through the War of 1812. The Museum would like to thank volunteers Larry Bauman and Morgan Patrick for their help with this important project. We would also like to thank SRNY 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Ken Chase for his sponsorship of the conservation treatment of the Nathan Hale letter and two other important documents in the collection.

Much of the object collection has been rehoused in new acid-free containers thanks to grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the New York State Council on the Arts. The summer of 2008 the collection was inventoried with help from our intern Rachel Gershman from the Columbia University Graduate Program in Museum Studies. All collections records have been entered in to our special Collections Management database which allows for much easier access and intellectual control of the collection.

We are very pleased to note that the Museum has purchased several state-of-the-art computerized environmental monitoring devices to replace our old hygrothermographs in the galleries and storage areas. All data on temperature and humidity is now downloaded directly into our computers – no more tedious transcription of the data on charts. This information allows us to create better environmental conditions for our precious collection objects, both those in storage and those on display.

Several of our collection objects have been loaned to other institutions throughout the past year. The Lafayette Sash was loaned to the New-York Historical Society for their recent Lafayette exhibit; the Eastman Johnson painting *The Old Mount Vernon* was loaned to the Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston, SC for a traveling exhibit entitled *The Plantation in American Art*; the *Portrait of William Livingston* by Jon Wollaston was loaned to Morven Museum in Princeton, NJ for their exhibition on Princeton in 1783; several letters and a print were loaned to Raynham Hall Museum in Oyster Bay, NY for their exhibit on the Culper Spy Ring; and most recently, the John Ward Dunsmore painting *Washington and Staff at Fort Lee* was loaned to Drum-

thwacket, the NJ Governor's Mansion. We are looking forward to the upcoming loan of the Benjamin Tallmadge Memoir to George Washington's Mount Vernon for a new exhibit on Washington and his generals. We welcome these wonderful opportunities to expand our reach and aid our fellow institutions in serving and educating their audiences.



Our Dunsmore painting conservation project has continued to progress; in the past year seven paintings have been conserved thanks to the Bay & Paul Foundations, Lawrence K. Casey, Jr., The Artist Preservation Group, Mr. & Mrs. Chips Page, Harlow Unger and the Order of Lafayette; we are looking forward to the opening of the new Dunsmore Gallery (left and below) this fall.

#### Public Programs:

Lectures in the past year have included the following noteworthy authors: Thomas Fleming, speaking about his book *The Perils of Peace: America's Struggle for Survival after Yorktown*;

Harlow Unger on America's Second Revolution: How George Washington Defeated Patrick Henry and Saved the Nation; Edward G. Lengel, from the University of Virginia's **George Washington Papers Project**

speaking on his book *This Glorious Struggle: George Washington's Revolutionary War Letters* (the only NYC venue); David Wilson, *The Southern Strategy: Britain's Conquest of South Carolina and Georgia, 1775-1780*; Nancy Rubin Stuart, *The Muse of the Revolution: Mercy Otis Warren*; John T. Cunningham, *The Uncertain Revolution: Washington at Morristown*; and Anthony C. Wood, *Preserving New York: Winning the Right to Protect A City's Landmarks*



*Amy Northrop Adamo, Director*

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1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	COL Charles C. Lucas, Jr. MD
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## New Members Elected In 2008

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Jason Vadhan

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## Nominating Committee Report

### *Regular Ticket 2008-2009*

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Secretary	Kenneth H. Chase, Esq.
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*The SR Annual Meeting will be held on December 03, 2008 and elections will be held.*