

# The Patriot



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

Vol. 3, No. 10 (October 2009)





Top Left: Anthony Wellman interviews Amb. John Loeb at Magna Carta opening reception. Top Right: Close to 200 guests converse in Fraunces Tavern Restaurant. Middle: SRY President Dr. Charles Lucas, FTM curator Suzanne Prabucki and the very Reverend Philip Buckler, Dean of Lincoln Cathedral cut the ribbon to open the Magna Carta exhibit. Bottom Left: Mrs. Victoria Hughes, President of the Bill of Rights Institute speaks on the importance of education. Bottom Right: Collector Thomas Lingenfelter discusses his rare copy of the Declaration of Independence to guests.  
Photos by James Higgins.

## **Black Tie Crowd Takes Over Fraunces Tavern**

### **Close to 200 Attend Gala Opening of "Magna Carta and the Foundations of Freedom"**

The Restaurant was closed to the public and the Museum the center of attraction on September 14 as close to 200 people gathered for a formal reception to open Fraunces Tavern Museum's biggest exhibit on record: "Magna Carta and the Foundations of Freedom".

In the restaurant the wine flowed and the h'ordeuvres were served throughout the evening as guests, including exhibit supporters, contributors, and members of both the Sons of the Revolution and the Museum, hobnobbed from one end of the old Tavern to the other. After a few brief speeches, the ceremonial ribbon was cut and guests began to wind their way through the exhibit, viewing not only the 1215 Magna Carta on loan from Lincoln Cathedral, but an exceedingly rare copy of the Declaration of Independence, a signed letter where John Hancock declares "no taxation without representation" (displayed alongside the very tax stamp that precipitated the brouhaha) and more. A new kind of interactive display case, "The BA Clarifier" also made its national debut.

Be sure to see this exhibit before it closes on December 15. It is surely a singular event for our Museum. Order tickets online at [www.TicketWeb.com](http://www.TicketWeb.com) or by phone: 1-866-468-7619.

After visiting the exhibit consider dining conveniently downstairs at Fraunces Tavern Restaurant.

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### **Gala Photos Available**

A photo CD with over 200 high-resolution photographs from the 9/14 black tie gala is available for purchase for \$20, postpaid. Call the Sons office at 212-425-1776 or send a check payable to Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York to: Sons of the Revolution, 54 Pearl Street, New York, NY 10004 Attn: Administrator.  
Limited time offer.

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## Museum Tables at Oyster Fest

**FTM volunteer Michael LeCrichia reports on volunteering to promote the museum at Oyster Fest, an annual food festival in Lower Manhattan, on September 26, 2009:**

My FTM volunteer experience on Saturday at the Oyster Fest on Stone Street was a success.

The event kicked off at noon, and it was well attended by neighborhood folks as well as by people from other parts of the city and beyond.

Mostly, people were very receptive to learning about our membership program and lecture series – in addition to the Magna Carta and the Tavern itself.

The demographic primarily was 20s and 30s.

Between 12 and 4:30 the crowd was quite manageable, and I was able to teach people about the Museum and what we have to offer. By 5:30, Stone Street was packed to the gills.

I wore a ruffled tuxedo shirt reminiscent of colonial period garb, the tricorne hat, and black pants. Some folks mentioned that they appreciated a little bit of history at the festival.

On Saturday, the Museum had a well attended day with 128 visitors.



FTM volunteer Michael LeCrichia, in period garb, enthusiastically spreads the word at the Oyster Festival on Stone Street Festival on September 26. Photo by James Higgins.



## Ray Raphael Packs the House-CSpan TV Coverage

Ray Raphael, author of "Founders – The People Who Brought You a Nation" spoke before a full house at the September 24 installment of the Museum's Evening Lecture Series. His talk, titled "Taking Power--How the Founders, All of Them, Redefined the Polity" revealed some little-known stories behind the American Revolution. A C-Span TV camera covered the entire talk. Broadcast date(s) are still to be determined.



Above Left: Author Ray Raphael speaks in the Nichols Dining Room at Fraunces Tavern.  
Below left: C-Span films Mr. Raphael.  
Photos by Anthony Wellman.

## Magna Carta Arrives Quietly at Fraunces Tavern



SRNY President Dr. Charles Lucas, MD looks on as Lincoln Cathedral's conservator Chris Woods installs Magna Carta into its special case. The document arrived at the Museum on September 11 and was installed September 12, 2009.

Photo by Charles Gabeler

A few days before the opening of the exhibit, the 1215 Magna Carta quietly arrived from Lincoln Cathedral under the care of its conservation conservator, Chris Woods. With only with a small group of observers in attendance, all was made ready for the installation. A hush fell over the room as the lights were dimmed, a command of, "no photo flash" was announced, and the delicate 800-year-old document was removed from its travel case and installed in its special display case, not to be reopened until the close of the exhibit in December. A New York Times reporter was present and her article appeared in the September 13 edition of the newspaper.

## 2010 George Washington Ball Set, Honors to Take Place

This year's annual George Washington Birthday Ball is officially set for February 18, 2010. The dinner, celebrating the 278th anniversary of Washington's birth will again take place at the Metropolitan Club on Manhattan's Upper East Side.

At this year's ball, SRNY will be honored to announce that Ambassador John Loeb will

receive recognition as Honorary President of SRNY.

SRNY is also pleased to report that Dr. John Templeton, Jr. of the John Templeton Foundation will be presented with this year's George Washington Award for Patriotism and Educational Excellence. The George Washington Award is presented yearly to an American who has contributed to the continuation and preservation of patriotism and who has fostered educational excellence in America today.

The evening will begin with a black tie reception at 7 PM and dinner and dancing will follow at 8 PM. More details will be presented as the event draws closer.

## **October Lecture!**

### **Benjamin Franklin and the Constitutional Convention**

*Presented by Philip J. Briggs*

**Thursday, October 29th at 6:30 PM \***

Benjamin Franklin was the senior delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1787 and with the possible exception of George Washington, the most prestigious person present. He had achieved diplomatic greatness in Paris during the recent war for independence; yet important questions remained regarding his participation in the Philadelphia Convention. Had he become too "Francophile" during his long stay in and near the French capital? Were his well known political ideals too radical for his fellow delegates? Would his advanced age and various health problems seriously limit his attendance and contributions? These and other questions are addressed and an overall evaluation of his role is included in this presentation.

Tickets are \$8 (members are free) and can be purchased at the door only. We recommend arriving 15 minutes early to guarantee a seat. Light refreshments will be available.

***\* Lectures will take place in the Nichols Dining Room, located on the 2nd floor via the Fraunces Tavern® Restaurant elevator. Due to security regulations, the Museum will be closed to the public after 6pm. Please note that attending a lecture does not include admission to the Museum or the Magna Carta exhibit.***

The SRNY Patriot

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