

The Patriot



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

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Members of the SRNY Color Guard and the Veteran Corps of Artillery present colors at a ceremony honoring Jewish Patriots of the American Revolution at Chatham Square Cemetery on May 23, 2010. Photo by Lynne Ridgeway.

Color Guards Decorate Graves of 18 Jewish Revolutionary Patriots

During the American War for Independence, the only Jewish congregation in New York City was Shearith Israel founded in 1654 by 23 Jews, mostly of Spanish and Portuguese origin. Their cemetery, located at 55 St. James Place, opposite Chatham Square, was purchased in 1683 and is the oldest surviving Jewish cemetery in North America. This burial place, where 18 Jewish Revolutionary Patriots were laid to rest, is listed on the National Register of US Historic Places (#80002689). Notably, several current members of the Veteran Corp of Artillery have ancestors interred there.

This year, for the first time, the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York's Color

Guard was invited to participate with the Veteran Corps of Artillery to present colors as part of an annual memorial prayer service and ceremony. On Sunday May 23, a week before Memorial Day, they decorated the graves of these citizens who were recognized for their important contributions to the struggle for national independence.

The procession included four VCA Color Guardsmen in standard parade uniforms, Jim Waddington, Julius Stein, Gary Hess, Robert Shapiro, Lt. Col. Ernest F. Grunenbaum in VCA dress blues, VCA bugler Ed Stone in parade uniform with red coat, SRNY Color Guard Chairman Jonathan Wolk Ridgeway with Color Guard colors and SRNY Color Guard Vice Chairman Philip Coombe III in Society colors, blue blazer and red tie. A Rabbi from Congregation Shearith Israel offered some remarks and the memorial prayer. Then descendants of some of the Patriots, school children and Mr. Ridgeway placed flags near the headstones of the Patriots. Before rendering Taps, bugler Ed Stone decorated the grave of his own ancestor.

Fraunces Tavern® Restaurant Update

Fraunces Tavern® Restaurant remains temporarily closed as The Porterhouse Group, its new tenant/manager as of April 1, 2010, continues to make preparations for the Restaurant's refurbishment and reopening. At this time the date of reopening, originally anticipated as on or about June 1, 2010 has been extended. A new opening date has not been specified at this time but an announcement will be forthcoming from the Restaurant shortly before it reopens.

“The Porterhouse Group is a highly experienced firm which owns and operates multiple bars and restaurants in Ireland. This will be their first restaurant operation in America and they are intent on doing it right, even if it means delaying reopening a bit,” said Anthony Wellman, spokesperson for building's owner, the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York, Inc., adding, “We are sure it will be worth the wait.”

The Porterhouse Group asks that any inquiries regarding Fraunces Tavern® Restaurant be directed to them at: info@theporterhousenyc.com. The Restaurant telephone will not be reconnected until time of reopening. The public is invited to also check the Restaurant's website: www.frauncestavern.com for upcoming announcements.

A Garden Party



Left to right: COL. Charles Lucas MD, Pres SRY, Mrs. Peter Knowles, Palm Beach, Florida, John Mauk Hilliard, Past President SRY, Ms. Kathleen Springhorn, 1st VP Colonial Dames of America

President Charles C. Lucas, Jr., MD (Left) , represented the Sons of the Revolution and Fraunces Tavern Museum at the Colonial Dames of America Garden Party, May 2 at The Mt. Vernon Hotel Museum and Garden on East 61st Street. After all the hard work he has been doing down at Fraunces Tavern we're glad to see him get out and have some fun!

June Happenings

June Lecture!

General Horatio Gates: New York's Forgotten Hero

Presented by James S. Kaplan

Thursday June 10th at Fraunces Tavern*

General Gates' defeat of British General Johnny Burgoyne at the Battle of Saratoga was the decisive turning point in the American Revolution and caused a number of men in the Continental Congress to believe Gates should replace Washington as commander in chief. Gates also was a key figure in the New York City elections of 1800, which led to the rise of Jeffersonian democracy and the democratic party. A New Yorker for the last sixteen years of his life, Gates is almost completely forgotten today, so much so that his grave, which is less

than half a mile from Fraunces Tavern, is completely unmarked.

\$8 admission (Museum members are admitted free of charge). Light refreshments will be available before and after the lecture.

* Due to security regulations, the Museum will be closed after 5pm. The lecture will take place in Fraunces Tavern Restaurant. Admission to the lecture does not include admission to the Museum at this time.

Flag Day Parade and Ceremonies: June 14

All are welcome to join SRNY for the 233rd anniversary of the adoption of the American Flag by the Continental Congress in 1777. The Flag Day Parade on June 14 is a public event conducted in New York City's financial district where the New York Society flies its vast collection of Revolutionary War flags. Joining in with the Sons are marching bands and hundreds of participants from other organizations and schools. It steps off at noon from City Hall Park and proceeds through lower Manhattan, culminating with ceremonies in front of Fraunces Tavern. The ceremonies at Fraunces Tavern include proclamations, awards, recitations and songs by school children honoring the American Flag.

Detailed directions to City Hall Park can be found at:

<http://www.nycgovparks.org/parks/cityhallpark/> .

Also that day is a special affair this year of interest to all Sons of the Revolution: a centennial celebration of the Society's founder, John Austin Stevens. It will entail an excursion to Green-Wood Cemetery, his resting place in Brooklyn, where arrangements have been made for a commemorative stone to be placed.

Green-Wood is a National Historic Landmark, with over 400 acres of splendid scenery. Founded in 1838 it is a tribute to the 19th century's orientation that cemeteries should not be simply burial grounds but enjoyed as parks as well. Over a half million tourists visit Green-Wood each year to take in its history, beauty and see where many famous names from the 19th and 20th centuries rest.

Detailed directions to Green-Wood may be found online at: <http://www.green-wood.com/index.php/GWC/30/48/detail>.

For all questions regarding the parade or ceremony at Green-wood, please contact 2administrator@sonsoftherevolution.org or call (212) 425-1776.

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