



The Patriot

Latest News from the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York & Fraunces Tavern® Museum

Vol. 5 No. 7 (July
2011)

July Museum Events

- July 1st - Naturalization Ceremony
- July 4th - 9th Annual Walking Tour of Revolutionary War New York lead by James Kaplan
- July 2nd - 4th - Museum celebrates Independence Day with an Open House: \$1.00 admissions
- July 14th - Monthly Lecture Series: *America Walks into a Bar* presented by author, Christine Sismondo at 6:30 in Flag Gallery

New on Exhibit

By: Jessica Baldwin

During the month of June there have been two Museum exhibit additions.

In the Loeb Gallery visitors can now see, ***Log Section***. This log is believed to be a piece of a birch tree that lived through the Continental Armies winter encampment at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania during the American Revolution (1777-1778). It has been loaned to the Museum by the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution.



Log Section on display in Loeb Gallery.

In the Mesick Gallery the generous loan from the New York Historical Society of the *Statue Fragment of King George III* was returned on June 28th. In its stead, visitors can now see a special object from the Museum's own collection, *Relic from the Colonial Bowling Green Fence*.

Bowling Green is the oldest public park in New York City. In the mid 1600s it served as a cattle market and in 1733 it was developed into a leisure park. In 1770, the British honored King George III by erecting an equestrian statue of him in the park's center.

In 1771, when relations between King George III and his colonial American subjects became tumultuous, the city built a protective wrought iron fence around the gilded statue. On July 9th, 1776, after the Declaration of Independence was read at the current site of City Hall, local Sons of Liberty and fellow Patriots went down to Bowling Green, toppled the statue and sawed off the fence post finials of decorative crowns. The fence still stands today and if one looks close enough saw marks can be seen.



Relic from Colonial Bowling Green Fence on display in Mesick Gallery.

Museum Admissions & Hours

By: Jessica Baldwin

To further the Muesum's mission to educate the public about New York City history as it relates to Colonial America, the Revolutionary War, and the Early Republic, as of July 1st, the general admission prices have been lowerd. Also, *new* to the admissions pricing list is a Family Group price, which permits a family of four or more, entry for one low price of \$20.00. Pricing is as follows:

Individual:

Adult (18+)	\$7 each
Senior (65+)	\$4 each
Student (w/ proof of ID)	\$4 each
Child (6-18)	\$4 each
Children 5 and under	FREE
Active Military (w/ proof of ID)	FREE

Group Rates:

Family Group (1 adult w/ 4+ children OR 2 adults w/ 2+ children)	\$20 total
General Group* (14+ adults)	\$5 each

*For School Group, Non-Profit Group and Guided Tour rates please contact the Director of Education: 212-425-1778 x1

From the Educator's Desk

By: Jennifer Patton



Jennifer Patton, Education Director

On Monday we said goodbye to our last class for the academic year. Thirty seventh graders from MS 51 in Park Slope, Brooklyn smiled and said “thank you” as they walked down the stairs, no doubt looking forward to their summer vacation more than anything else. Still, in the back of their minds, both I and the docents know that Fraunces Tavern has left an impression that will last a lifetime.

This year, the schools of New York City have most definitely seen their share of challenges. As more resources are stretched thin and fully productive school days are fewer and farther between, first-time and yearly visiting classroom teachers have said that both they and their students need historic institutions like ours to enhance their learning of our nation’s history.

Growing up in Loveland, Colorado, my school field trips consisted of learning about westward settlements & the natural vegetation of the Rocky Mountains. When it came to the subject of George Washington and American Revolution, mere geography along with the gap of centuries stood in the way of connecting with the subject matter in an enriching way. Needless to say, I am quite envious of these young visitors who are just a subway ride away from so many historic sites in the city that were significant in the founding of this country.

Among all these choices in the city, teachers continue to say that Fraunces Tavern is their favorite program to take part in when it comes to learning about early American history and the War for Independence. Focusing on small group discussion and using valuable paintings and artifacts to enhance visual learning skills, both the docents’ and my main priority is to make sure these students have an active role in their own moments of learning.

Still, at the same time, I have come to discover that we as educators have learned equally valuable things from them as they from us. This past academic year, we have had the privilege of working with amazing students from all walks of life. Teenagers from the Lexington School for the Deaf expressed impressive insight over the difficult decisions Washington had to make as Commander-in-Chief. Young girls from the Hewitt School envisioned themselves as the Quaker mother Lydia Darrah overhearing in her own home British plans to attack the Americans at Whitmarsh. Enthusiastic fourth graders from PS 154 in Flushing, Queens poured over replicas such as tinderboxes and powder horns, contemplating the hardships of Colonial life and comparing them to the modern conveniences of today.

Every day, a new class comes through our doors, experiencing basically the same program as the group from the day before, but they also add the unique element of their own presence that can never be replicated. As these students learn about the past within Fraunces Tavern's walls, they're making history as well by simply being here, expressing their opinions, and keeping the spirit of the American Revolution alive for many years to come. As always, I look forward to what next year has in store.

New York Celebrates Flag Day

Americans "Of All Stripes" Join Together

By: Anthony Wellman



Color Guard Chairman Jonathan Ridgeway (left) leads the SRNY Color Guard down Broadway during 2011 Flag Day Parade. Just behind Ridgeway General Society President Terry Davenport carries SRNY Flag to the right.

The weather was perfect and the turnout was superb for New York City's Flag Day Parade on June 14. The procession down lower Broadway and the ceremonies that followed in front of Fraunces Tavern honored the 234th anniversary of the adoption of the American flag by the Continental Congress in 1777. It was a great opportunity for Americans "of all stripes" to join together and celebrate the symbol that unifies us as one people.

Hundreds of enthusiastic school children marched along with representatives of the Armed Forces, musical contingents and representatives of the City's patriotic and historical societies. SRNY President Donald Westervelt welcomed the crowd to the ceremonies in front of the historic Tavern building followed by proclamations, songs by P.S. 150 Q Select Chorus and stirring bagpipe melodies from the NYC Department of Sanitation Pipes & Drums of the Emerald Society.



SRNY President Donald Westervelt speaking at Flag Day Ceremonies. New York City Fire Commissioner Salvatore J. Cassano looks on.

Two school children received awards for their compositions on “What the American Flag Means To Me.” On behalf of the Sons of the Revolution, New York City Fire Commissioner Salvatore J. Cassano presented a plaque and \$200 Savings Bond to each of the winners: Emily Rose, of P.S. 17K, Brooklyn, NY and Emily Mattelini, of Immaculate Conception School, Astoria, NY.





New York City Fire Commissioner Salvator J. Cassano presents
on "What the
Student Essay Award Winner Emily Rose her award.

Emily Mattelini reads her award-winning essay
American Flag Means to Me."

The Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York has hosted the event since the days of U.S. President Woodrow Wilson. This year's efforts were under the direction of Flag Day Chairman Steve Trusnovac and SRNY Color Guard Chairman Jonathan Ridgeway. And, as ever, Sons' Administrator Margaret O'Shaughnessy kept planning and arrangements running smoothly.

Check out our [Facebook](#) page for the latest Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York and Fraunces Tavern® Museum news!

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Previous newsletters can be found at

<http://www.sonsoftherevolution.org/Reports.html>