

Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge

BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA CHAPTER



2888 N.E. 25th Court, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33305 - Telephone: (954) 551-4107 www.ffvf.broward.org

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 5, Issue 3 February 9, 2009

2008-2009 BROWARD COUNTY CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Remembrance Fund Chairman

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Bankie Benton, President

Dear Broward Freedoms Member, Our George Washington Birthday Ball is almost here, Saturday, February 21st at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club. I hope to see you there with a table of friends. We need "bottles of cheer" and items for the silent auction. Do you have a weekend to give at your summer home or a hotel connection? Bill and I have enjoyed some interesting new friends through this in our Virginia Rappahannock River home. This can help fund a scholarship, which now costs approximately \$1000.00. Leave the bottles of cheer at my home on Tuesday or Friday morning or here at the club with my name on them. Linda Grassmuch, our Reservations Chairman, reports we are having some scholarships coming in with the reservations, how wonderful!

Pat McDougle had the students who are going to Valley Forge this winter to an orientation class on January 28th. Lt. Col. Connie Christensen gave them a mental picture of the campus. The chaperones: Ted Currier, Barbara Proctor, Jose' Pinera, Connie, Preston and Lynn Selvage, were there to register and welcome the students and get them acclimated to the plan. Three student alumnae, Katie Carpenter, Nicole Francois and Jessica Steffan, each shared a new prospective as to how the experience changed each life. They left with a Freedoms' tee-shirt all pepped up to go. They are given a red BCC baseball cap at the airport to wear, making it easier for the chaperones to spot our students.

(continued on page 2)

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

MR. & MRS. CLIFFORD BAILEY
MRS. ANN BEDERMAN
MR. WILLIAM M. BENTON
MRS. ROGER E. CARTER
LTC. CONNIE C. CHRISTENSEN (Ret.)
Southern Regional Director
MR. & MRS. HENRY COONEY
MR. & MRS. ALPHONSE DELLA-DONNA
MR. & MRS. ROY FERRARO
MRS. GLADYS GOODMONSON
MS. RITA GRETINA
MR. & MRS. RICHARD HANDLEY
MR. & MRS. FRANK HART
MAJ. GEN. & MRS. JOHN A. HOEFLING
MR. & MRS. JEROME HUBER
MR. AND MRS. WAYNE HUIZENGA
MRS. JACK HUTTON
MRS. AL JACKSON-KUZNETZKOFF
MR. CARLL JACOBS
MR. T. DENIS JOTCHAM
MRS. L. C. JUDD
MR. STEPHEN A. KELLER
MRS. JOSEPH KOVACS
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MR. & MRS. GAR OLSON
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MS. BILLIE PRICE
MR. LARRY R. ROWE
MRS. CLAUDINE RUTTER
SEN. DEBBY P. SANDERSON (Ret.)
MRS. BETTY SEDLAK
MRS. PEGGY SUDBRINK
MR. & MRS. WM. VON RUTENBERG
MR. WILLIAM WIKBERG
MR. & MRS. SAMUEL YOHANAN
DR. ZACHARIAH P. ZACHARIAH

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *(Continued)*

Bob Reich went with me to the Broward County Community Foundation to discuss the progress on the sale of Harriet's Property. We asked that a more realistic price be set on the property for this market and they consider some innovative financing to encourage a buyer. At present it is costing \$40,000.00 in real estate taxes a year. These are monies we could use to train more students and teachers! One good thing - they were able to get an underwater portion, about equal to the land portion of the property, included on the plat and deed. This will make the property much more attractive to a prospective buyer. We also requested that our organization have a representative on their board. I am following this up with a letter.

Gail Smith, our Charter Member, who has contributed so much of her time and talents over the years, has been chosen by your board to be our Woman of the Year representative at the 1000+ Club of the Cancer Society. The luncheon is at the Marriott Harbour Beach Hotel on May 5th. I invite you to honor Gail with an ad in the program and be at one of my tables at the luncheon. Please call me at 954-551-4107 for details. The ads start at \$25.00 and end with a color page ad for \$750. All monies go to Broward Cancer Society. Let's have a wonderful turn out for Gail!

Connie Christensen, Freedoms Southern Region Advisor, along with headquarters, has planned the first Southern Leadership Seminar to be in Birmingham, Alabama the weekend of April 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th. What a beautiful time to be in Birmingham. Plan to go for this fascinating weekend. Bill and I plan to be there. Call Connie now to count you in - Cell # 954-695-5957.

Pat McDougle just called me with great news that the teacher we recommended for the Leavey Award for Excellence in Private Enterprise Education will be presented this award in late March, which is a great affair with the honoree receiving \$7,500. I think this is the first time our organization has had a Leavey Award winner. Our thanks to Connie Christensen for learning about this outstanding teacher through her participation in the school board and to Pat McDougle for her work on the application. Pat has a more extensive report on this. Maybe some of you would like to attend this presentation? Look for more information in the March newsletter.

If you missed the meeting with our President, Mike DiYeso, he reviewed the goals that headquarters has set for the coming year and thanked our Chapter for our accomplishments. He also gave a pep talk to the alumnae group the evening before at C.R.Y.C. Let's pitch in to do a little more this year!

Our next board meeting is at 10:30 AM, Saturday, February 28th at C.R.Y.C. and any member is welcome to come. Your board voted at the January meeting to include 2 members of the alumnae group, to be chosen from their officers or committee chairmen, to be on our board.

SEE YOU AT THE BALL!

God Bless America,

Bankie Benton, President

Change of Event Date



March 18 is the correct date for the Irish luncheon

The date was changed from the date recorded in the yearbook to not conflict with the Auxiliary meeting at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club as many of our members are in the Auxiliary.



February Events

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Gail Smith is coordinating a **Lincoln Day Luncheon** with very interesting entertainment!

Location: **Coral Ridge Yacht Club**

Event Start Time: **11:30 AM**

Cost: **\$30.00**

Call Gail at **954-491-6683** to count you in!



Sunday, February 15, 2009

SOIREE' to be held at the home of Bill and Bankie Benton
2888 N.E. 25th Court, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33305

If you would like to attend the Soiree' and have not made a reservation.

Please call **Linda Grassmuck** for details: **954-568-6583**
or **Bankie Benton** **954-551 4107**

You may come to the Soiree' even if you cannot attend the Ball, but reservations are a **MUST!**

Cost for the Soiree' Alone: **\$100 per person**

Event Time: **6:00 - 8:00 PM**

Saturday, February 21, 2009

Our George Washington Birthday Ball

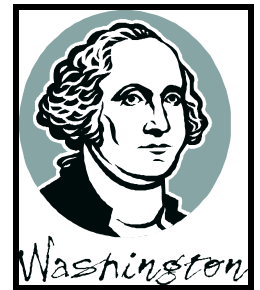
(with George & Anita Wortley as George & Martha Washington!)

Event Start Time: **6:30 PM**

Location: **Coral Ridge Yacht Club**

Cost: **\$100 per person for Ball only**

\$200 per person for Ball and the Soiree' on February 15, 2009



If you have not sent in your reservation call **Linda Grassmuck, Reservations Chairman**
at **954-568-6583** or cell **513-702-4778 TODAY!**

Cost includes:

- *Cocktails
- *Dinner
- *Dancing to the Eliot Varone Band
- *Special Entertainment by the Mumpers

The Silent Auction includes:

Fun, Fabulous Weekend Get-Aways, Beautiful Jewelry and other items of interest.

Saturday February 28, 2009

Our next Executive Board Meeting

Time: **10:30 AM**

Location: **Coral Ridge Yacht Club**



NOTE: If a board member cannot attend it is imperative you call

Rosemary Lindsey, Assistant Corresponding Secretary at (H) **954-771-5976** or
(O) **954-771-5906** to report your absence and send any necessary reports.



2009 PROGRAMS

Mission

To educate and inspire an awareness of principles upon which America was founded and the responsibilities of citizens in a free society.

Thursday February 12, 2009

Gail Smith Lincoln Day Luncheon
11:30 a.m. – Coral Ridge Yacht Club

Sunday, February 15, 2009

Soiree
2888 N.E. 25th Court, Fort Lauderdale, FL
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 21, 2009

George Washington Ball
6:00 p.m. – Coral Ridge Yacht Club

February 26 - March 1, 2009

American Leaders Youth Summit
Valley Forge Campus

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

St. Patrick's Day Luncheon
12:00 p.m. – Coral Ridge Yacht Club

March 12 - March 15, 2009

American Leaders Youth Summit
Valley Forge Campus

Wednesday, April 15, 2009

Music as Therapy with Gail Smith
12:00 p.m. – Coral Ridge Yacht Club

April 23 – 26, 2009

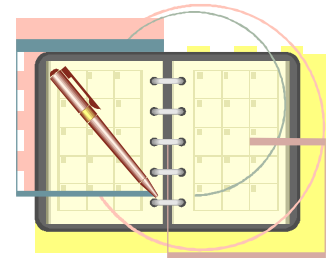
American Leaders Youth Summit
Valley Forge Campus

Sunday, May 17, 2009

Spirit of America Youth Banquet
1:00 p.m. – Coral Ridge Yacht Club

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Installation of Officers
12:00 p.m. – Coral Ridge Yacht Club



NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Saturday, February 28, 2008

10:30 a.m.

Coral Ridge Yacht Club





Membership Changes

ROSTER CHANGES

Please correct your Roster Booklet to reflect the following changes:

- 1) **Mrs. William Grassmuck (Linda)**, Reservations Chairman, Freedoms Foundation Ball
777 Bayshore Drive #1405
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304
954-568-6583
Cell: 513-702-4778
E-mail: lindag001@comcast.net

2) Please accept our apologies for indicating in December's newsletter that **Mrs. Edward Aubrey (Ogal)** was deceased. She is very much alive.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Aubrey

1281 Royal Palm Way
Boca Raton, FL 33432

- 3) On the address list, please make sure **Phyllis Steinberg's** address reads:
4280 Galt Ocean Drive
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308 (not in care of the Hi-Riser)

If any of your contact information changes please contact Anita Hansen Wortley via e-mail:

anitahwortley@ffvfbroward.org

And don't forget to submit your Membership Dues! Thank you.

History of George Washington Birthday Celebrations

Editor's Note: The Following is an excerpt from an article by Donald N. Moran as reprinted from the February 2000 Edition of the Liberty Tree and Valley Compatriot Newsletter.

By the time Washington became our first President, his birthday celebration rivaled that of the Fourth of July. For America, Washington was our National hero and honoring him was perfectly natural. The celebrations became increasingly elaborate. An editorial in the New York Gazette asked *"After the Almighty Author of our existence and happiness, to whom, as a people, are we under the greatest obligation? I know you will answer 'to Washington.'"*⁽⁵⁾

These celebrations were spectacular to say the least. Philadelphia, then the Capitol, awoke on Washington's birthday, February 22nd, to the sound of ringing bells and the firing of artillery. Schools were out, servants given the day off; militia, in their uniforms, strutted through the streets. At noon, the Artillery paraded to the center of the city and fired yet another salute. The ships moored along Philadelphia's waterfront displayed all of their flags from their masts, and flags were hung from many of the cities buildings. During the course of the day, Washington received Congressmen, the Governor, and the entire Pennsylvania Legislature in one group. The Society of the Cincinnati, holding their annual meeting in Philadelphia marched over to the President's residence, escorted by companies of grenadiers and light infantry and made a format address. Literally hundreds of citizens trooped past the Presidential house and rendered their respects. That evening some 1,200 gathered for a banquet and dancing at the Ricket's Amphitheater. Similar celebrations were held in every city and town in the Country.

To read the entire article please go online and visit
<http://www.revolutionarywararchives.org/birthday.html>





MATTERS of INTEREST & IMPORTANCE!!

Freedoms Foundation Broward Chapter Hosts National President of Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge

For Immediate Release
Contact: Kevin Lane (954) 467-2624

Fort Lauderdale, FL, January 21, 2009 -- Mike Di Yeso, the President and CEO of the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, flew into Fort Lauderdale recently to speak with the members of the Freedoms Foundation Broward Chapter at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club.

Mr. Di Yeso was welcomed by Elizabeth Eubank "Bankie" Benton, President of the Broward Chapter and expressed the members' appreciation of him making the special visit to address them. "Mike talked about the accomplishments of Freedoms Foundation, some exciting new ideas for their new Vice President of Communications and PR as well as the new Vice President of Education," she noted. "He congratulated the members of the Broward Chapter for having sent more students than any other chapter in America; over 1,700 students." Mr. Di Yeso also said there will be more summer programs for elementary students.

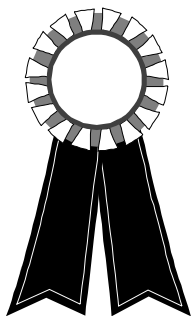
For the past 35 years, the Broward Chapter's annual George Washington Birthday Ball has generated the funding to send upwards of 75 high-school students each year to the annual 4-Day American Heritage Youth Leadership Seminars at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania; the hallowed grounds of George Washington's 1776 Winter encampment.

"The high school seniors that attend *The Spirit of America Youth Conference* at Valley Forge attend seminars and workshops to learn about America's history and the free enterprise system," "Bankie" Benton enthused. "These young people always come back, brimming with enthusiasm not only for their new found admiration and respect for the struggles and achievements of our founding fathers, but their interaction with other students from around the country". All expenses are paid by the Chapter. In 2008, for the first time, 75 high school students received scholarships to attend.

"Two students are recommended by individual schools throughout Broward County and then these students are interviewed by a committee of the Broward Chapter, who choose the students who are provided with full scholarships," Lorraine Fletcher explained. She further pointed out that choosing Juniors allows them to share their life-changing experience with fellow students throughout their senior year.

For information regarding the club, call (954) 566-7886. To find out more about the organization, visit www.ffvbroward.org.

Please continue to Page 9 and the Back Page to
view photos from this event.



Leavey Award Winner Announced Reported by Patricia McDougle

For the first time ever, our chapter has a Leavey Award winner - Frank Pizzo, a 12-year Business Education Teacher at Deerfield Beach High School for his *Button-up Mania Project*. The Leavey Award recognizes outstanding teachers for excellence in free enterprise and entrepreneurial education. Mr. Pizzo receives an award of \$7,500 and a four-day trip to Philadelphia and Valley Forge where the awards are presented.

Subject: Southern Region Symposium, Birmingham, Alabama**Dates: April 2-5, 2009**

It gives me great privilege to announce the first Southern Region Symposium, which will be held at the Hilton Birmingham Perimeter Park, 8 Perimeter Park South, Birmingham, Alabama, on Friday and Saturday, April 3 and 4, 2009. The Symposium will be hosted by the Birmingham Area FFVF Chapter and held in conjunction with the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. You will need to arrive on Thursday, April 2, and depart on Sunday, April 5. Registration will be open on Thursday from 5:30-8:00 PM, as well as the following morning at 6:30 AM. A Continental Breakfast will be available in our meeting area from 7:00-8:00 AM after which our Symposium, Part I, will begin. It will conclude at noon followed by a buffet luncheon in our Meeting Room. After lunch on Friday, we will travel by bus to tour the George & Martha Washington Museum. Upon our return to the hotel, dinner and the remainder of the evening will be on your own. A Shuttle Bus will be available to not only transport you to and from the airport, but also to transport you to the local restaurants and businesses within a five-mile radius of the hotel all at no charge.

Saturday morning, our schedule will be a duplication of the Friday morning schedule. Continental Breakfast will be served at 7:00 AM. Part II of our Symposium will be conducted from 8:00 AM –Noon. We will meet in the Hotel Lobby at 12:30 PM where we will board a bus to travel to the American Village for lunch and a tour of this incredible American Civic Education Center. Visit www.americanvillage.org for additional information. Saturday evening, we will have a Social Hour from 6:00-7:00 PM followed by a buffet dinner and program. It promises to be a very special occasion, and I hope that all of you who plan to attend the Symposium will plan to share this meaningful conclusion to our time spent together.

Our purpose in conducting this Symposium is to strengthen our commitment to the missions of our organization and to facilitate our goals and objectives with which we have been tasked in accomplishing by our leadership. This requires all of us to move into the 21st Century by utilizing communication tools available to us, tools that you will be provided with at this Symposium to utilize to heighten community awareness of who we are and what we do to educate America's future leaders about patriotism and to provide civic educational programs for our teachers. The value of Freedoms Foundation's Americanism educational programs cannot be understated. We must work together to promote the need for our citizens in our respective communities to get involved in the support of FFVF. We will discuss membership, conducting better meetings, parliamentary procedure, community involvement, and more. We need your feedback, your input, your suggestions, and your recommendations.

I invite all of you to attend and sincerely hope that you will join us. This Symposium is open to all of our members. Your Chapter Presidents and the Region Advisors will be receiving a Symposium Registration Form by mail plus a Symposium Activities Registration Form. The forms can also be obtained from National FFVF at Valley Forge. The Registration Fee will be \$125.00 and the cost of your hotel room will be \$89.00 per night. There will be an additional charge for some Symposium activities. The hotel's phone number is #205-967-2700. We have a block of a limited number of hotel rooms so you are encouraged to make your reservations as soon as possible. I have asked that this information be placed on our FFVF National web site. Points of contact At Freedoms Foundation are Russ Schulz, Carolyn Santangelo, and Jason Raia.

Hoping to see you in Birmingham! Together, we can accomplish the extraordinary!



Your Southern Region Advisor ~ **Connie C. Christensen, LTC AN USAR** (Retired Reserve)
working with.....

Your Birmingham Area Chapter President ~ **Mary "Sam" Jensen**



BECAUSE WE CARE

On January 16, 2009 **Arlyne Vollmuth Bentsen** passed away at Imperial Point Hospital. Arlyne was a past president of our chapter for two separate terms and her leadership will be greatly missed. She was a loyal, faithful and devoted member of Freedoms Foundation and was always ready to pitch in to help. Arlyne was very quiet about her condition. Your President went to see her on a Wednesday before I left to go to Virginia for a short visit. She was very upbeat and I had no idea she was so ill. Astrid called me two days later to tell me she had died. Astrid was her very close friend. Arlyne requested no service or obituary. We will miss her flamboyant and positive outlook. We do have a remembrance fund here at our Broward County Chapter for any who wishes to contribute.

Our sympathy goes out to **Gini Woodman** who has returned home to Massachusetts having lost one of her sons.

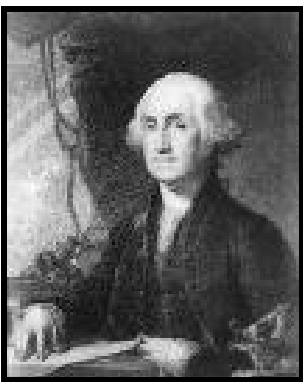
Our member, **Wayne Sladek** has finally returned home after a lengthy stay in intensive care at Holy Cross. I'm sure he and Joyce would like to hear from you and we wish a speedy return to good health.

Words From The Past



"I am still determined to be cheerful and happy, in whatever situation I may be; for I have also learned from experience that the greater part of our happiness or misery depends upon our dispositions, and not upon our circumstances."

- Martha Washington



"Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth." **- George Washington**



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www.dsquaredmedia.com

More Images From Mike Di Yeso Visit to Broward Chapter



(standing) Miriam and Dick Handley, Nancy Fitzroy, Marshall Nanninga
(seated) Patricia Hoefling, Anna Davis, Jack Hoefling, and Dick Davis



Frank Hart, Ann Della Donna, Mary Kay Follin, Al Della Donna



Anita and Hon. George Wortley, MC, Ret.



(l-r) Rita Gretina, Rosemary Larson, Gladys Goodmonson



(seated) Marion Judd, Diane Schuster, Amy Harley
(standing) Gloria Cashin and Bill Benton

Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge
BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA CHAPTER



**Please visit us online
at
www.ffvfbroward.org**

Mrs. Anita Hansen Wortley
VP, Membership
4280 Galt Ocean Drive, #18K
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308
anitahwortley@ffvfbroward.org

National President, Mike Di Yeso Speaks to Broward Chapter



(l-r) Kay Warren, Lorraine Fletcher, Mike Di Yeso, Bankie Benton, Jane Wikberg



(l-r) Richard and Nancy Wright, Guy Wright, Patricia McDougle, Minna Cohn, Astrid Hinz

