

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

MAY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 3, Issue 8 May 11, 2008

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Bankie Benton, President

Dear Broward Freedoms Member,
It was wonderful to see so many students and their parents and relatives at the student luncheon. Our gracious concert pianist, Gail Smith, entertained us with beautiful patriotic music before lunch. The program which Pat McDougale arranged was outstanding, with Benjamin Franklin, in period costume, relating exciting events in his life. Matthew Sabatella entertained with guitar ballads of revolutionary music. Pat published a program booklet with many of the students' comments, and she arranged for many of the students to speak of their experiences at the conference. We also were delighted to have our Coral Ridge Commissioner, Christine Keel, with us who brought greetings from the commissioners and the mayor. Please keep her husband in your prayers as he had some extensive health tests arranged which necessitated her leaving early.

Your board has recommended that we have an alumni group to continue the friendships and the dedication of these new leaders. We presented each student at the luncheon with the Freedoms Emblem Pin attached to the Mission Statement. We have prepared a job description for the Chairman of Alumni, and the person will report to our V.P. of Youth Education. Michelle Kayda has agreed to chair the Broward County Youth Alumni, and Pat has agreed to assist in

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

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this. Any member who would be interested in working with these alumni, please call Michelle 954-492-1265 or e-mail her at michellekayda@browardschools.com or Pat 954-791-5957 or e-mail mcdo90@bellsouth.net.

Our organization is more important than ever to instill patriotism and knowledge of our heritage in these new leaders. I am at present in Virginia. I was visited by a new friend from Wisconsin who had been to Washington to a Heritage Leadership Conference. I was distressed to learn that in the northern part of Chicago the Pledge of Allegiance has been banned from being spoken in the schools. Isn't this where Obama calls home? It appears there are a number of elements there that are trying to destroy our wonderful Country. We all have a lot of work to do! **(cont'd on page 7)**

2008 – 2009 Board Of Directors

President: Bankie Benton

1st Vice President: Roberta Rowan

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Nominating Committee:

Astrid Hinz, Patricia McDougle, Roberta Rowan, Joyce Sladek, Judie Wright

NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

The Next Executive Board Meeting

Saturday, May 17th 10:00 a.m.

Coral Ridge Yacht Club





June Event



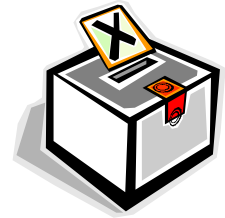
Installation of Officers



Date: **Wednesday, June 4, 2008**

Time: **12:30 PM – Registration**
1:00 PM SHARP – Luncheon

Place: **Coral Ridge Yacht Club**
2800 Yacht Club Blvd.
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33304



THE CLUB REQUIRES THAT RESERVATIONS BE MADE NO LATER THAN SATURDAY, May 31, 2008

Enclosed is a check for \$20.00 each for _____ reservations.

Please note that those who arrive *without* a reservation will be charged an extra \$5.00.

Make your check payable to FREEDOMS FOUNDATION, BCC and mail to:



Kay Warren
711 N. W. 71 Avenue
Plantation, Florida 33317
954-587-2615

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

I am unable to attend but please accept my donation of \$ _____

Spirit of America Youth Conference Luncheon



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

Freedoms Foundation Broward Chapter Hosts Youth Conference Annual Student Luncheon

Unbridled enthusiasm can best describe the mood of the several dozen students who attended the recent Freedoms Foundation's **Spirit of America Youth Conference Annual Student Luncheon**. They were guests of the **Broward Chapter** and were at the luncheon to share their life-changing experiences at one of the three separate weekend **Spirit of America Youth Conferences** at Valley Forge, where they attended seminars and workshops that explored the foundation of American democracy and the free enterprise system and that developed leadership skills and good citizenship.

President Elizabeth 'Bankie' Benton welcomed guests, asking **Dr. Roger Verse** to give the invocation and twin brothers **Gregor and Mark Rodriguez** to explain the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and then to lead everyone in the Pledge. She then introduced **Patricia McDougle**, Vice President Youth Education, who gave some background on the Youth Conference and some insights into what the students learned and experienced.

Benjamin Franklin, aka **Dr. Kenneth Keaton** of Florida Atlantic University, who recently celebrated his 302nd birthday, made a special visit to deliver the Key Note address. He spoke of some of the inventions he made, including the stove and his role in helping America become independent from England. One of the students asked him if the stories about his popularity with the ladies during his years in France were true, and with a twinkle in his eyes, he admitted they were.

Marie Mercado read her essay, 'Celebrating Our Differences,' telling about her transformation from her early years being uncomfortable with being a minority to her later realization, augmented by her Youth Conference experience, of the importance and value of diversity. Much like a modern day news team, **Catherine Ettman** and **Simone Holder** 'reported' on the news taking place on May 4th starting in 1776 and highlighting news headlines throughout the years, ending with the May 4th Student Luncheon.

Following lunch, **Matthew Sabatella**, a recipient of last year's National Freedoms Foundation Award, sang a few songs that were popular during the years surrounding the 1776 break with England. "These songs helped to promote the mood for change, much like contemporary songs have protested wars and national issues, like global warming," he said. Then a handful of students representing all 92 of the High School Juniors who attended the Youth Conference, reflected on different facets of their weekend programs. **Jamie Divers, Anna Lindsey, Marie Mercado, Robert Berg, Melanie Schaffel, Grant Kerwit, and Devin Nunez** shared their own personal experiences. Grant Kerwit not only shared some of his memories of the Youth Conference, but showed a slide-show presentation he created. The members, guests and family members rewarded the students with resounding applause!

Popular pianist **Gail Smith** was on hand to provide patriotic music throughout the luncheon. 'Bankie' Benton announced the formation of an alumni division made up of those students that have attended the Youth Conference, starting with this group. Some regular business was taken care of, including the nomination and election of the 2008-2009 Board of Directors. Mrs. Benton will return as President. Other officers and more information about the latest news about the Freedoms Foundation can be found on their web site, www.ffvbroward.org

Lorraine Fletcher, a charter member of the Broward Chapter, told people at her table that their first year, two students were sent. After a number of years, with successful fundraising projects, 50 students were being sent. This year, for the first time, 92 high school juniors were able 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 noted. She further pointed out that choosing Juniors allows them to share their life-changing experience with fellow students throughout their senior year.

-END-



Spirit of America Youth Conference Annual Luncheon



Students sharing their experiences include (Seated) Marc Rodriguez, Devin Nunex and Gregor Rodriguez, with standing) Grant Kerwit , Melanie Schaffel, Marie Mercado, Anna Lindsey and Robbie Berg



Bankie Benton, Benjamin Franklin (aka FAU's Dr. Kenneth Keaton) and Patricia McDougale with (seated) Fort Lauderdale City Commissioner, Christine Keel



Matthew Sabatella



All Photos by Kevin Lane.



Kay Warren and Lorraine Fletcher with (seated) Gail Smith



Dr. Roger Verse and Chaperones Ted and Susan Carpenter

Students and Broward Chapter Members at 2008 Student Luncheon



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Continued)

IMPORTANT! IMPORTANT!!! Call me to book your cruise to Bermuda April 29th, 2009. That is, IF YOU PLAN TO GO. So far the only one who has deposited the \$100 per person to hold their space is Dr. Roger and Selma Verse. THE SHIP IS FILLING UP as this is the only ship that is going to Bermuda round-trip from Fort Lauderdale. We have been holding this space for several months and SINCE NO ONE BOOKED EARLY WE LOST THE ALLOTMENT; therefore, if you want to go call me at 954-551-4107 with your credit card to deposit \$100 per person which is refundable up to 90 days before sailing. ASK YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN YOU. The ship is the new Italian ship, the MSC Orchestra and will come to Fort Lauderdale in January. You may go on line to MSC Cruises to view the ship and see the itinerary or call me and I will mail you a copy. We will receive at least \$100 per person to add to our coffers, which is an easy way for us to increase our treasury to do the things necessary to run this organization. I will also ask each of you to send to the board your suggestions for other money-making projects. Our V.P. Roger Verse will conduct the next board meeting as I will be with Bill at a business conference; therefore, please call Roger or a board member and give them your thoughts.

We need funds to operate the organization more efficiently as we need to buy a computer, a data base for our membership records and have someone work part-time as we are growing beyond the time that we can have volunteers to do all that has to be done. If anyone would like to donate toward this project, we would greatly appreciate it. Please send in your data sheets that were in your last newsletter. Thank you in advance.

See you on June 4th for the last meeting of this session until October. Have a wonderful summer. We will be traveling between Fort Lauderdale and Topping. Our number here in Topping is 804-758-5815; do call and come by if you are traveling through Virginia. We're 60 miles east of Richmond on the Rappahannock River.

God Bless America,

Bankie Benton



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BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA CHAPTER



Please visit us online at
www.ffvbroward.org

Jane Wikberg, Editor
2300 N.E. 18th Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33305
Phone: 954-565-0685

Change of Membership Status

Ms. Patricia Roy (Regular to Life)
1905 N. Ocean Blvd.
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33305
954-564-0437 FAX 954-565-3660

SAVE THE DATE



June 4, 2008

Installation of Officers – 2008-2009

This event will be held at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club
2800 Yacht Club Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

Students and Broward Chapter Members at 2008 Student Luncheon



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