

Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge Broward County, Florida Chapter



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DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

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2006-2007

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



"Giving is the purest
of all human pleasures"
- Frances Bacon

Dear Members:

As we usher in the New Year, may I propose a toast – "To the beginning of a prosperous, healthy '2007' to all our members and families."

We thank Dr. Roger Verse for opening our December meeting (by popular request) with the reading of Alice Clay Johnson's patriotic poem, "The Beauty of America."

We applaud VP Gail Smith for the holiday program, which not only included the "Drummer Boy" Daniel D'Onfrio, who then played a piano duet with his brother, Thomas. Greta Worden gave a brief piano solo. Everyone enjoyed these youngsters—America's future, our youth.

Donna McQueen, wearing her long white dress, shawl and cap portrayed a most interesting detailed history of her life with "George" which was avidly received by members and guest.

We look forward to our January meeting with "A Visit with Betsy Ross" portrayed by Betty Gray.

Our formal 34th George Washington Birthday Ball chairmen, Alice and Ed Johnson, are working diligently on the Ball to be held at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club, Saturday, February 24th. I encourage and invite you to mark your calendars and ask your friends to join us for an evening filled with a gourmet dinner, dancing with "The Aristocrats," and entertainment by "The Mummer" for only \$100.00 per person. Please reserve early with Roberta Rowan (954-563-6529).

With love and appreciation,
Arlynne Vollmuth Bentsen
President



BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

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"It's not the years in your life
that count. It's the life in your
years."
- Abraham Lincoln

View from Valley Forge

From the Desk of Aaron Siegel

A new study finds that even top undergraduates are woefully ignorant of history and civic government.

WEB EXCLUSIVE – By Pat Wingert, Newsweek

September 26, 2006 – Does going to college make students better educated citizens? A new study of more than 14,000 randomly selected college students from across the country concludes that the answer is often no. Not only did many respondents at the 50 participating colleges fail to answer half of the basic civics questions correctly, but also at such elite schools as Cornell, Berkeley and Johns Hopkins, the college freshmen scored higher than the college seniors. Josiah Bunting, III, Chairman of the National Civic Literacy Board of the Intercollegiate Studies Institute (ISI), the nonprofit that funded the study, decried “the students’ dismal scores” as providing “high quality evidence of . . . nothing less than a coming crisis in American citizenship.” Mike Ratliff, a senior vice president at the ISI spoke to Newsweek’s Pat Wingert about the study’s findings.

NEWSWEEK: What was the point of this study?

Mike Ratliff: We were really concerned about whether colleges and universities were teaching enough about the workings of American democracy and institutions to enable the next generation of leaders to be effective and informed citizens. So we had a representative sampling of students take a test to find out what they had learned about our basic institutions.

How did you pick the participating schools?

We surveyed 14,000 students at 50 schools as part of the largest study ever done on this topic. The University of Connecticut’s Department of Public Policy picked 25 schools on a random basis. Then we over-sampled among the most selective schools and added 25 schools like Harvard, Yale and Princeton.

This information confirms our need to fulfill the mission of the Foundation.

View from the Past

Betsy Ross



Betsy was born Elizabeth Griscom on January 1, 1752 in Philadelphia, PA to Samuel and Rebecca James Griscom. Young Elizabeth probably attended Quaker schools and learned needlework there and at home. When she married John Ross, an Anglican, in 1773, she was expelled from the Friends Meeting for marrying outside the meeting. John and Betsy

Ross began an upholstery business together, drawing on her needlework skills.

John was killed in January 1776 on militia duty when gunpowder exploded at the Philadelphia waterfront. Betsy acquired property and kept up the upholstery business and began to make flags for Pennsylvania as well.

In 1777 Betsy married Joseph Ashburn, a sailor, who had the misfortune of being on a ship captured by the British in 1781. He died in prison the next year. In 1783 Betsy married again – this time, her husband was John Claypoole, who had been in prison with Joseph Ashburn, and had met Betsy when he delivered Joseph’s farewells to her. He died in 1817 after a long disability.

Betsy Ross was an example of what many women of her time found as the reality in time of war: widowhood, single motherhood, managing household and property independently, quick remarriage for economic reasons (and, we can hope for companionship and even love, too.)

Betsy lived until 1836, dying on January 30.



January Event



JANUARY EVENT

Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2007
Time: 11:30 AM – Registration
12:00 Noon – Luncheon
Place: Coral Ridge Yacht Club
2800 Yacht Club Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

PROGRAM

**“A Visit with Betsy Ross”
Portrayed by Betty Gray**

Chairman: Connie Christensen
Reservation Chairman: Kay Warren
Decoration Chairmen: Mary Ann Timmins and Kay Warren

Hostesses:
Rita Gretina, Billie Price, and Carll Jacobs

* * * * *

**Please help us by making your reservation no later than
Saturday, January 13, 2007.**



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

**Please make check payable to
FREEDOMS FOUNDATION, BCC and mail to:**

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

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

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



2006-2007 Calendar Of Events



All events will be held at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club
2800 Yacht Club Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Theme: "AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL"
SAVE THESE DATES!

January 17, 2007	"A Visit with Betsy Ross"
February 24, 2007	George Washington 34 th Anniversary Birthday Ball
March 14, 2007	Distinguished Citizens Luncheon
April 29, 2007	Student Luncheon and Report
May 16, 2007	Installation of Officers & America's Future-Our Youth

Welcome New Member



REMINDER

Marilyn Ackerman
9503 N. W. 80 Street
Tamarac, FL 33321
Phone Number 954-772-7830

The next Executive Board meeting
will be held at
10:30 AM on Saturday, JANUARY 13, 2007
at Second Presbyterian Church.

Please notify Mary Ellen O'Donnell (954-566-7529) or Judie Wright (954-462-3206)
with information regarding membership needs or changes.

Spirit of America Youth Conference

The Broward County Chapter of the Freedoms Foundation each year sends 50 of Broward County's finest high school students to Valley Forge to participate in a weekend residential program. One group of 25 students will be on the Freedoms Foundation Campus March 1-4, another group of 25 students will be on the campus April 19-22. Students are able to attend without any cost to themselves through the generosity of members of our chapter.

In October, letters were sent to 41 high schools in Broward County (32 public and 9 private). Guidance counselors were invited to nominate two candidates each from their respective schools. Students will be interviewed by chapter members during Christmas break and the first week of January with scholarships awarded by January 15, 2007.

If anyone is interested in interviewing students, helping with orientation, or airport logistics, please contact Roger Verse at 954-564-7600.



George Washington Birthday Ball



Well it sure doesn't seem like a year has past since we started planning for last years George Washington Birthday Ball. However, Saturday, October 18th, a very active Ball Committee started our preparation for 2007. This year's ball will be held at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club on Saturday night, February 24, 2007. We can look forward to dancing to the big band sounds of "The Aristocrats" and being entertained by "The Mummers String Band."

Our Sweetheart' Soiree will be held at the home of Enyd Lee and Elliot Sokolow. Our reservation Chairperson this year will be Mrs. Roberta Rowan. We will be sending our invitations immediately following the start of the New Year. Our goal this year is to fill the room with at least 300 guests. Last year our attendance was 160. If you can think of someone who is not on our guest list, please give their names to one of our committee members to insure that they receive an invitation. Remember the more people, the more fun, excitement and profits and the more our chapter can accomplish. For sure you are promised a lovely evening all for a great cause and it will be the fun ball of the year.

For your information, our Ball Committee consists of the following: Arlyne and Arthur Bentsen, Bankie and Bill Benton, Boyce Ann Bryant, Anna and Dick Davis, Rita Gretina, Marge and Roy Ferraro, Mary Kay and Elmer Follin, Miriam and Dick Handley, Mary and Frank Hart, Astrid Hinz, Harriet Kaye, Beth and Richard Koh, Mary Ellen and Ed O'Donnell, Roberta Rowan, Enyd Lee and Elliot Sokolow, Jane and Bill Wikberg, Virginia Woodman, Judie and Guy Wright.

Look forward to seeing you at the Ball! - Ed Johnson



GEORGE WASHINGTON BALL SILENT AUCTION

WE NEED YOU TO CALL ME, BANKIE BENTON, AT (954) 537-4828 or MY CELL (954) 551-4107, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO TELL ME WHAT ITEMS YOU HAVE FOR OUR FEBRUARY 24th FREEDOMS FOUNDATION SILENT AUCTION!

Be sure to visit your favorite businesses and ask them to contribute. We welcome gift certificates to restaurants, dry cleaners, bookstores, etc., items from men's and ladies' shops, and objects of art. Perhaps your friends would be happy to contribute to support sending our students to Valley Forge.

BASKETS OF CHEER – We have the baskets, **WE NEED THE CHEER!** We make it easy for you to leave your contributions at the desk at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club with my name or Arlyne Bentsen's name on the bag. If you would rather, you can deliver it to my home, 2888 N. E. 25 Court. My home is off Bayview one block south of the 26 Street light, turn east and we are the last house on the right.

This year we will also have a recycle table, your extras will be another person's treasure. Special recognition will be in our program for our contributors. This is a good selling point to the businesses.

I'm counting on YOU!!!



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Christmas with Martha Washington



We're on the web!
www.ffvbroward.org

