



President's Message – Thank you! Thank You! Thank you . . . to all of you that stepped up to the plate during the past two months to help with so many of our projects:

- The membership telephone campaign
- The work with the national organization
- The work with the other chapters around the country
- The various fund-raising campaigns
- Help with the planned events such as the high tea in December
- The annual awards banquet in January
- The George Washington Birthday Ball in February
- Student trips to Valley Forge in February, March and April, and
- The student luncheon in May.

(Continued on Page 4)



COLONIAL CHRISTMAS TEA AT THE RIVERSIDE HOTEL. Members and friends of the Freedoms Foundation of Broward County: Begin your Christmas holidays by attending our First Annual Colonial Christmas Tea with family and friends. The beautifully decorated Riverside Hotel, Las Olas Boulevard and the shops will be something to see and enjoy. At left, members of the tea planning committee – Boyce Ann Bryant, Bankie Benton, Mary Kay Follin, are serving tea to the general manager of the Riverside Hotel, Heiko Dobrikow. See guys, all you have to do is come, look debonair, be a gentlemen and the ladies will handle the rest. Photo by Kevin Lane.



The National Awards Banquet will be held on Friday, January 14, 2011, at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club at 6 p.m. and our chapter will honor our nominees who were selected to receive the coveted Freedoms Foundation National Award. George Washington Honor Medals will be presented to eight individuals and organizations. Two others will be recognized for their efforts with a Certificate of Merit.

Be there to say thanks to this group of remarkable Americans who have contributed to our country and to our community with their efforts, their music, and their patriotism. Read more about each later in this newsletter. Our program chairman is planning a special program and the catering manager at the yacht club has proposed a superb dinner.

Mark your calendar right now — lest you forget over the holidays — that's January 14th.



American Leaders Youth Summits 2011 Update. In late October we received a third distribution from the Jack and Harriet Kaye bequest to us in the amount of \$35,317. As you know these funds are restricted to sending Broward students to Valley Forge. It was Harriet's dream to send one hundred students each year. For now, this amount falls short of realizing her dream but when combined with other donated funds and proceeds from our fund raising events like the George Washington Birthday Ball, it does make it possible for us to continue to send more than fifty students to the American Leaders Youth Summits. Our cost per student is a little less than \$1,000. The two previous distributions were \$20,000 – received January 2009 - and \$28,478 – received October 2009.



George Washington Birthday Ball and Soiree. Well it sure doesn't seem like a year has past since we started planning for the last George Washington Birthday Ball. This year's ball will be held at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club on Friday, February 25, 2011. We can look forward to dancing to the big band sounds of The Joe Kules Band and being entertained by The Mummers String Band.

100% of the profits from the ball and soiree are restricted for use in sending our Broward students to Valley Forge and for sending at least one Broward teacher to the Freedoms Foundation Summer Graduate programs.

The Sweetheart Soiree is scheduled for Sunday, February 20th, the *(Continued on page 4)*

2010 HONOREES FOR THE FREEDOMS FOUNDATION AT VALLEY FORGE NATIONAL AWARDS

The Plantation Historical Society
Project Title: *Winter Wonderland*
Category: Community
Nominated by: Patricia McDougle

Winter Wonderland had its beginning in 1976 when the society decorated a Christmas tree in celebration of the bicentennial – at that time it was known as the *Constitution Tree*. It has since been renamed the *President's Tree* (see below).

In 2009 *Winter Wonderland* had more than forty trees and exhibits on display for the holiday season in the Plantation Historical Museum. Around every corner, the *Winter Wonderland* exhibit was both beautiful and entertaining. But that is not what made the exhibit so special.

True, it was about the holidays. However, more than that, when taken in total it was the story the exhibit told about Florida and America, our history and our culture. Consider the cowboys, cowgirls, the *Victorian Tree*, and a doll house. The *Christmas Around the World Tree* with its adornment of flags from 144 nations reminds us that there is a great big world out there. Some of the trees — like The *Old Fashioned Tree* — conjure up memories of simpler times gone by.

The traditional icons were present in trees themed for a snowman, the circus, teddy bears, gingerbread, snowflakes, angels, and of course, Santa Claus. Transportation and music are part of our heritage and both were represented with lovely and appropriately decorated trees.

Winter Wonderland also incorporated Florida's Seminole Indian history and the dinosaurs with trees and displays. Every tree had so many ornaments that were unusual and that made every tree a text book for learning with parents and grandparents as teachers. The variety of the themes make for a course in Americana and that is what warrants the rating of *outstanding* to merit a Freedoms Foundation National Award.



2010 *Winter Wonderland* opens on December 2nd and will feature the United Methodist Youth Choir. The exhibit will run through January 8th. For more information about dates for other special presentations and visits by Santa Claus call Carol Cotton, 954-791-2156.

The President's Tree (left) has one ornament for each of our forty-four presidents. The tree also displays other patriotic symbols along with many traditional Christmas decorations.

The Oak Ridge Boys
(Duane Allen, Joe Bonsall, Richard Sterban, and William Lee Golden)
Project Title: *Colors*
Category: Community
Nominated by: Patricia McDougle

Colors is an CD album of patriotic songs sung by country and western stars, The Oak Ridge Boys. On the cover of the album is this dedication:

The Oak Ridge Boys dearly love these United States of America, and we are mindful of the fact that freedom is not free. There have been many sacrifices made so that we might live as we do—and we thank and support our young men and women who, even now, are putting their lives on the line for the Red, White and Blue. We pray for them daily. They are the best of us. *COLORS* . . . is for them.



One reviewer wrote about the album, "The theme of this album . . . is most decidedly Patriotic. It will also make you contemplate what being part of America is all about."

The words of the chorus of *Colors* are as follows:

Red as the bloodshed,
Blue as the wounded,
White as the crosses on our soldier's graves,
Through the rain, through the sun,
These colors never run.

Their National Award is based on this patriotic album and their support as musical ambassadors for the National Anthem Project — a multi-year campaign to renew interest in our national anthem and build support for the school music programs where most Americans learn the song. For three years, they traveled the country singing and teaching the words to our national anthem to untold thousands in schools, at concerts, and at sporting events.

In addition, their philanthropic activities list is long and includes both national and international endeavors.

Through the years, the Oak Ridge Boys have received almost every award the music industry has to offer. Beyond their music they are patriotic and bring their love of our country to the nation both professionally and as volunteers. The Broward County Chapter is delighted to have made this nomination and to add a different kind of award — a Freedoms Foundation National Award.

To learn more about the Oak Ridge Boys and other albums, visit their official web site at www.oakridgeboys.com/home/

2010 HONOREES FOR THE FREEDOMS FOUNDATION AT VALLEY FORGE NATIONAL AWARDS

Tom J. Day

Project Title: *Bugles Across America*

Category: Special Events

Nominated by: Jane Wikberg



Mr. Day began *Bugles Across America* in 2000 when Congress passed legislation stating Veterans had a right to at least two uniformed military people to fold the flag and play *Taps* on a CD player. *Bugles Across America* was begun to take this a step further, and in recognition of the service these Veterans provided their country, Mr. Day felt that every Veteran deserved a live rendition of *Taps* played by a live

Bugler.

He thought that it was stolen dignity if a veteran could not get live *Taps* and he felt that he "wants every family to have live *Taps* at the going away presentation of their veteran and it kinda tells the Marines that are guarding the gates in heaven - 'Live *Taps*', we're going to let this veteran in right away."

In ten years, the volunteers have played at more than 200,000 veteran funerals and currently play at 2,500 funerals a month. *Bugles Across America* now has over 7,500 bugler volunteers located in all fifty states and a growing number overseas. Since the Department of Veterans Affairs is expecting more than 1/2 million veterans to pass every year for the next seven years, *Bugles Across America* is ALWAYS recruiting new volunteers.

Buglers are volunteers and there is no cost to the family or the organization requesting a bugler to perform. They are of all ages and from all walks of life. They all share a pride in our country and those who have served it. The only requirement is that the Bugler be able to perform an appropriate rendition of the twenty-four notes in *Taps*. They may or may not have musical training and may be high school students, nurses, computer programmers or active duty military, among many others.

Headquarters for *Bugles Across America* is Mr. Day's basement. BAA often provides the bugles and uniforms to members who need them. Operating at a financial loss, Mr. Day personally makes up the annual loss from his own pocket. Mr. Day's accomplishments are an amazing story of the difference one person can make in the lives of so many.

If you want to request a bugler or if you want to help Tom Day either by playing the horn at a funeral or by donating money, go to his web site: www.buglesacrossamerican.org

Rafael Giraldo

Project Title: *Ride for the Republic*

Category: Teacher/Educator

Nominated by: Barbara Proctor

Rafael Giraldo began the *Ride for the Republic* on June 14, 2010. He would cycle 2,760 miles over sixty-three days on a *Tour of Discovery Inspiring Young Minds*. The cycling journey began in Bar Harbor, Maine, took him through the original thirteen states of the Union, and concluded in Key West, Florida, in August.

Mr. Giraldo is an eight grade teacher of US history at a Tequesta Trace Middle School in Weston, Florida. It's great to know that our history is being taught in middle school. However, this teacher is employing today's technology in ways that go the equivalent of *to the moon* in its reach beyond the normal text book.

On his website, *Tour of Discovery*, he posted a daily video blog of his journey, the places he visited and its history. For example, when he crossed the Delaware River, his camera panned the landscape and the viewer sees a lovely body of water and green trees. Along with the visual, Mr. Giraldo talks about the Delaware in the winter and George Washington's crossing thereof. His students were able to keep track of his progress through GPS and his daily blog.

Back home on his school's web page, more can be learned about Mr. Giraldo as a teacher. In an open letter to parents and students he says:

Studying our history makes us understand our present and in a magical way allows us to glimpse at our future. By learning what has taken place in the past, we forge for our families, our community and ourselves a better tomorrow . . . I look forward to a year full of marvelous discovery and intellectual adventure!

Is there any doubt that this teacher goes far, far above and beyond in his quest to inspire and educate his eight grade students? Mr. Giraldo is an exceptional talent, devoted to the acquisition of knowledge and imparting it to his students, and he is innovative in his approach — and for all he is doing on behalf of his students, Freedoms Foundation has selected him to receive a National Award.

To ride along on the *Ride for the Republic*, visit www.tourofdiscovery.com/tour2010.html



**2010-2011
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued from page 1

For those of you who are not yet part of these and other chapter events and activities, pick up the phone right now and call Boyce Ann Bryant, 954-306-7400 or Pat McDougale at 954-791-5957. Either of these ladies can help get you plugged into any of the above activities, and/or others not listed here, and/or that you would like to suggest.

As with any member service organization (i.e. Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, etc.) our impact on our community and the world is in direct proportion to the amount of the members' participation.

Also, every day I tell every member, and today is no exception, that: Our chapter will not exist in the year 2040, but for the new members that **YOU** bring in within the next 30 days.

It's just like a family that has no children – their legacy does not last beyond one generation. Don't be childless. Sponsor a new member today. Contact our "go-to" girl, Pat McDougale.

Our family would like to wish each and every one of you an explosion of positive days and weeks over the holiday season and beyond.

God Bless You! God Bless America! And God Bless the Freedoms Foundation!

Chase Adams, President
chase@adamslaw.org



CHANGE = CHANGE UPDATE

We are within fifty-eight dollars of reaching the goal of raising \$1,000 in one year by collecting those pennies, nickels, dimes, and

quarters. The tellers at the bank love to see us coming with our bag of loot. Reaching this goal means we can send one more student to Valley Forge.

**"If we don't teach it, they won't learn it.
And, if they don't learn it, they won't defend it."**

— William Bennett
Former US Secretary of Education

GEORGE WASHINGTON BALL AND SOIREE continued from page 1

location to be announced.

We will be sending out invitations shortly following the start of the new year. Our goal this year is to fill the room with 200 or more guests. If you can think of someone who is not on our guest list, please give their names to Boyce Ann Bryant to ensure 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.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, December 2nd
Board Meeting
6:00 p.m.
Coral Ridge Yacht Club

December 2nd – 9th
Hanukkah
The Festival of Lights

Sunday, December 12th
First Annual
Colonial Christmas Tea
Riverside Hotel
3:00 to 5:30 p.m.

December 15th
Newsletter Deadline
askaprp@yahoo.com

Saturday, December 25th
Christmas Day

Saturday, January 1, 2011
New Year's Day

Friday, January 14th
National Awards
Banquet
Presentation of
George Washington
Honor Medals
Coral Ridge Yacht Club
6:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 20th
Soiree preceding the
George Washington Ball

February 24, 2011 –
February 27, 2011
American Leaders Youth
Summit at Valley Forge

Friday, February 25th
George Washington
Birthday Ball
A gala with dining, dancing and
fun. Proceeds are used
exclusively for scholarships to
send Broward high school
students to Valley Forge
Coral Ridge Yacht Club

Saturday, March 12th
City of Fort Lauderdale
St. Patrick's Day Parade
and Festival

Sunday, March 27th
City of Fort Lauderdale
Centennial Birthday Bash

MEMBERSHIP MEETING UPDATE

The first two membership meetings of the new season have had interesting and excellent speakers. In October Abiud Montes (see page 6) talked about his experiences in Iraq, showed videos of his interaction with young students in a school where he and fellow Marines were working to make suitable class rooms. He also had the opportunity to visit Biblical sites in Iraq and talked about the spiritual feeling evoked.

In November, Chris Wren of the Fort Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority gave us insight into the future plans for the city including The Wave Streetcar - a system that will serve as a local circulator in downtown, capital improvement programs, streetscape improvements and treescapes - the DDA's mission to increase the tree canopy in downtown.

The December and January meetings are special events - the Colonial Christmas Tea in December and the National Awards Banquet in January.



NEWSLETTER MAILING SCHEDULE

Since receiving our permit to use non-profit postal rates in October 2009, we have saved \$1600 in postage in mailing our newsletter, the membership roster and the George Washington Ball invitations.

Until recently the slight delay in delivery from date of mailing to receipt has worked very well. The post office has changed its procedures such that zip codes 333 are processed from the Oakland Park Post Office and all other zip codes are sent to Jacksonville for processing. The result is that zip code 333 arrives within two or three days of mailing while other zip codes are taking ten to twelve days.

To make sure that everyone receives their newsletter in a timely manner we will be mailing the newsletter earlier. If you find that you are not receiving your newsletter early enough let our editor Barbara Proctor know by e-mail at askaprp@yahoo.com or by phone at 561-756-0570.

----- (Detach and Return) -----

RESERVATION FOR COLONIAL CHRISTMAS TEA AT THE RIVERSIDE HOTEL ON LAS OLAS

To make a reservation, use this form or return the response card in the invitation you should have received.

When: Sunday, December 12th, 3:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Prepaid Reservations only on or before, December 8th



We are delighted to make _____ reservations for the Colonial Christmas Tea on December 12th.

A check is enclosed for _____ (\$55 per person). Names of those attending are listed below:

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Contact Telephone Number: _____

Mail this reservation form and check payable to Freedoms Foundation – BCC to:
Patricia McDougle, 760 NW 73rd Terrace, Plantation, FL 33317

For more information contact:

Boyce Ann Bryant, 954-306-7400, 954-734-5373, boyceann@ewm.com

2010 HONOREES FOR THE FREEDOMS FOUNDATION AT VALLEY FORGE NATIONAL AWARDS

Fort Lauderdale Branch
Nat'l League of American Pen Women
Project Title:
Abraham Lincoln's 200th Birthday Party
Category: Special Events, Certificate of Merit
Nominated by: Gail Smith



The Fort Lauderdale Branch of the National League of American Pen Women celebrated Mr. Lincoln's 200th birthday on February 12, 2009. The objective was to pay tribute to President Lincoln's legacy and his preservation of the ideals of freedom and

democracy, upon which the Union was founded.

In celebrating the Pen Women wanted to remind us all of the greatest of the man and the contribution he made in preserving the principles of freedom and equality established by our founding fathers. The celebration was a birthday luncheon with many, many invited guests and a very special program which included:

- A patriotic tribute by The New Young Patriots
- Presentation of a Proclamation from the City of Fort Lauderdale
- A narrative, *The Penny*, which tells us what archeologist could tell about us from our coin, the Lincoln penny.
- The reading of winning student essay, *The Recession Address*, written in the cadence of the Gettysburg Address, but with a topic from today's headlines
- A poignant reminder of the Battle at Gettysburg by The New Young Patriots
- A very special and personal look at President Lincoln by his wife "Mary Todd Lincoln"

And yes, those in attendance sang *Happy Birthday* and shared birthday cake!

YOUTH ESSAY ENTRIES

The 2010 topic for Youth Essays was *What is Your American Dream?* The youth essays are sponsored by the Women's Overseas Service League, and open to youth through Grade 12. Two of our Broward students who attended the American Leaders Youth Summit in 2010 submitted an essay.

Susanna Botkin, now a senior at Westminster Academy, will receive a George Washington Honor Medal on a military style ribbon and a \$50 savings bond.

Michael "Alex" Serra-Jovenich, also a senior, and attending Chaminade-Madonna College Preparatory, will receive a certificate of merit for his essay.

Gunnery Sgt. Abiud Montes, USMCR
Project Title: Hometown Hero
Category: Community
Nominated by: Boyce Ann Bryant



This young man is so exceptional and all that he does is so extraordinary that it is difficult, if not impossible, to find a way to make a summary of why he is worthy of a Freedoms Foundation National Award.

Gunnery Sgt. Abiud Montes is a patriotic American, a Marine Reservist, combat veteran, firefighter, a paramedic, a mentor, an instructor, trainer, college student, public speaker, motivational speaker, realtor, home town hero, husband, and father.

The many facets of his service to community and country could qualify him for a National Award in any one of them. However, it is the combination of all of them that make for an outstanding American deserving of the highest of honors.

Details of his nomination were published in the November newsletter (available on our web site if you missed it).



"Posterity — you will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it."

—John Quincy Adams
Sixth president of the US

2011 ESSAY TOPICS ANNOUNCED

The essay topics for National Awards in 2011 have been announced and they are as follows:

- **Youth Essay** – *What Does it Mean to be Patriotic?* Open to youth ages K – Grade 12
- **Military Essay** – *What Does it Mean to Have Honor?* Open to personnel of the Armed Forces on active or reserve duty, members of the National Guard, ROTC and JROTC.

Encourage your eligible children or grandchildren to put pen to paper (obsolete though it may be) or to sit down at their computer and write an essay for submission. Pass the military topic along to any one you know who serve in any of the mentioned branches of the military.

2010 HONOREES FOR THE FREEDOMS FOUNDATION AT VALLEY FORGE NATIONAL AWARDS

First Baptist Church of Fort Lauderdale
Project: Fourth of July Patriotic Celebration
Category: Community
Nominated by: Patricia McDougle



The Sunday morning service on July Fourth at the First Baptist Church was both worship and a patriotic celebration. The church's choir and the congregation and guests sang favorite hymns, including *How Great Thou Art*. The Liberty Singers sang *The Star-Spangled Banner* and other songs as well. The church's senior pastor delivered a thought-provoking sermon titled: *Who Stole our Nation?*

The patriotic celebration further included the following:

- A musical (and rousing) salute to each branch of the armed services
- The popular John Philip Sousa march, *The Washington Post*, played by the church orchestra. Would any patriotic celebration be complete without a march by Mr. Sousa?
- Recognition of a ninety-two year old veteran of the WWII Women's Air Force Service Pilots
- The history of the ever popular *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*
- The song itself was sung by one of the member's of the Liberty Singers — his deep and rich voice beautiful and poignant.

John Adams had a vision about the celebration of the birth of our nation as expressed in a letter to his wife, Abigail:

The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.

The celebration concluded with fireworks, confetti cannons, and an enormous red, white, and blue balloon drop — to the delight of young and old alike in the audience of more than 2,400.

It was a grand patriotic celebration in keeping with the vision of John Adams and for that reason the national panel of judges has selected the First Baptist Church of Fort Lauderdale for a Freedoms Foundation National Award in the category of Adult Community.

The Junior League of Greater Fort Lauderdale
Project Title: *Making a Better Community*
Category: Community
Nominated by: Patricia McDougle

The Junior League of Greater Fort Lauderdale (JLGFL) is a 600 member strong organization of young women who are talented, professional, focused, and dedicated to improving the community through effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

Many are actively engaged in careers, many are married with young families while others are single. Their synergy and devotion to any project or fund raiser they undertake is a model to be emulated.

Fifty organizations have benefited from the assistance of JLGFL and an impressive list of organizations has been started by JLGFL over its seventy-two year history. One example is Jack & Jill Children's Center which was founded in 1942 by the Junior League to provide child care for the children of working mothers whose husbands were at war. Today, they continue to provide financial support.

More recently, the JLGFL raised \$600,000 to fund the creation of the Fort Lauderdale Independence Training & Education Center to meet the transitional needs of foster kids in Broward County who must leave their foster homes because they've turned eighteen.



In collaboration with the City of Fort Lauderdale, the Junior League built a signature playground facility within the refurbished Holiday Park Complex (above).

The league raised \$200,000 to build the train-themed playground. The playground is fully ADA compliant with wheelchair access and swings for young children with special needs.

The JLGFL Fitness and Nutrition Program will reach 16,000 Broward students.

In 2008/2009 they dedicated 17,517 hours to community service projects.

The JLGFL is a dynamic and positive force in our community and their many projects have made Broward County a better community. Their creativity and innovations have created new organizations or projects to fill a need not met anywhere else. These remarkable and energetic young women continue to address the needs of and improve our community.



Broward County Chapter

PO Box 4116, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33338

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The mission of the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge is to impart to Americans – particularly young Americans – an understanding of and commitment to our heritage, basic values upon which this nation was built, the private enterprise system, and responsible citizenship.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MERITORIOUS NATIONAL AWARD PRESENTED AT VALLEY FORGE

Evelyn Swensson of Hockessin, Delaware
Project Title: *Billy Lee's Washington, a Musical*
Category: Community, Meritorious Awardee
Nominated by: Gail Smith

Nation-wide, only one meritorious award is selected in each award category. The Broward County Chapter is thrilled that our nominee was the meritorious recipient for 2010 in the Community category and that Evelyn has been recognized not only for her talent but also for her vision in bringing George Washington to life in music.

Evelyn Swensson is a composer/lyricist/playwright, who has conducted over 80 productions — 30 for Opera Delaware at Wilmington's Grand Opera House.

Billy Lee's Washington came about because she felt that many people today do not know or appreciate George Washington's great accomplishments and contributions to this country. She says that "in this musical I have tried to present him through the eyes of his life-long companion, Billy Lee. By using paintings, costumes and music of the period, I hope the audience will better understand this great man."

Historically accurate — many of the facts in the musical were found in *Recollections and Private Memoirs of Washington* by his adopted grandson, G.W. Parke Custis, and *A Guide to All Things Washington* by Dr. Frank E. Gizzard Jr. former Senior Associate Ed. of the Papers of George Washington UVA.



Evelyn traveled from Delaware to Valley Forge to pick up her very special George Washington Honor Plaque. L to R, Michael DiYeso, President and CEO of Freedoms Foundation, Evelyn, and Richard C. Stazesky, President Emeritus of the George Washington Society.