

Paas Heritage Ball, April 10, 2015

SOCIETY AND HOLLAND DAMES SPONSOR PAAS HERITAGE BALL



Dutch Consul General and Mrs. Rob de Vos, Kyra Anne Toomre, President Richard R. Vietor, Elbrun Kimmelman, Holland Dames Directress General, Adele Catlin Bernhard and Ambassador and Mrs. Karel J.G. van Oosterom

Two lovely young ladies—Miss Adele Catlin Bernhard and Miss Kyra Anne Toomre — made their debuts at a thronged Paas Heritage Ball, the increasingly popular annual event jointly sponsored by the Saint Nicholas Society of the City of New York and the Society of Daughters of Holland Dames, which was held on Friday, April 10, 2015 at the Racquet and Tennis Club, 370 Park Avenue (52nd Street), in Manhattan.

Attending the ball as special honored guests on this occasion were His Excellency the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations and Mrs. Karel J. G. van Oosterom and Dutch Consul General and Mrs. Rob de Vos.

Contributing to the feeling of shared Dutch heritage and deep roots in New York were

the prominent historical and patriotic societies that were represented, including The Colonial Dames of America, The Daughters of the Cincinnati, The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, The Saint Nicholas Society of the City of New York, The Society of Colonial Wars in the State of New York, The Society of Daughters of Holland Dames, the New York State Society of the Cincinnati, among others.

Following a notably lively and thronged cocktail reception, the multitude of formally attired guests sat down for dinner. The program began with warm words of welcome by the convenors of the ball, Mrs. Peter Kimmelman, Directress General, The Society of Daughters of Holland Dames, and Mr. Richard R. Vietor, President of our Society.

Continued on page 3

May Stated Meeting, May 21, 2015

Author Missy Wolfe Receives Irving Medal for Historical Work at Spring Stated Meeting

Our Spring Stated Meeting is always a special occasion because it includes the election of officers. And this year it also featured the award of the Society's Washington Irving Medal for Literary Excellence to Missy Wolfe for her exciting historical saga, *Insubordinate Spirit: A True Story of Life and Loss in Earliest America, 1610–1665* (Guilford, Connecticut: Globe Pequot Press, 2012).

The medalist earned an MBA at Columbia University and began a career in advertising, but soon pursued a variety of other interests. She has an associate's degree from the New York School of Interior Design, and is a graduate of the New York University program for Appraisal Studies for Fine and Decorative Arts. Her interest in the decorative arts dovetails nicely with her passion for history and historical research.



President Richard R. Vietor and Missy Wolfe

As noted in an article on our author in *The Hartford Courant* (December 20, 2012), by Susan Dunne, Missy Wolfe didn't set out to research the life of Elizabeth Fones Winthrop Feake Hallett. Her initial interest was in a Colonial-era Indian massacre in Cos Cob, Connecticut. But, she explained, "During the course of that, I kept coming up with references to Elizabeth and William Hallett. . . . How they knew this guy who did the massacre, and how their daughter married him, and how Elizabeth was defamed as an adultress.

Continued on page 5



John K. Kinnear with President Richard R. Viotor



Andrew Williams and Gary L. Dycus



Andrew B. Jones and Brian Gill



Chance Heath and Max Cadmus

ST. NICK AND COLONIAL WARS FALL MEMBERS' RECEPTION

This merry event on September 17th shared with the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of New York, whose office is just down the hall from ours at the headquarters of the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen, 20 West 44th Street, 5th floor, has become an entrenched popular tradition for both societies. Many of us are members of both so it makes for a comfortable social blend. There is no program to these events—just lots of excellent hors d'oeuvres and a wide-open bar. So we will let the photos tell the story.



Andre Demarest and Meredith de Rham



Christian Burke and Jonathan Koonings



Greg Byrnes and Chris Allis



George Elston with Scott MacWhinnie



Kent Miller with Charles R. Mackenzie



William N. Ambler with Louise Milliken



Charles R. Mackenzie and George Grealy



Ed Gynn and Ross Allan



John K. Kinnear and T. Michael Martin



Greg Byrnes with Sam Van Allen

HERITAGE BALL

Continued from front page

After the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Mrs. Kimmelman and Mr. Vietor, there followed the much-anticipated presentation of the two debutantes, in a ceremony presided over in a practiced and dignified manner by Mrs. Kimmelman and Mr. Vietor.

Miss Adele Bernhard, by right of Abraham Isaacsen Ver Planck was presented by her father, Mr. Jason Ruggles Bernhard, and escorted by Mr. Dylan Rhys Williams.

Miss Kyra Ann Toomre by right of Paul Grimball was presented by her godfather, Mr. Thomas J. Dillman, and escorted by Mr. David West.

Before dinner was served, Mrs. Jaan Edmund Vaino, President General, The Colonial Dames of America, offered grace.

The fine repast started with an elegant trio of smoked salmon with garniture and black bread, followed by a main course of grilled breast of duck with orange sauce, accompanied by a selection of excellent red and white wines.

There were toasts, as might be expected in such a setting. Guests stood and raised their glasses as Mr. Charles W. Neuhauser, Jr., proposed a toast to Their Majesties King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima of the Netherlands; Ambassador Van Oosterom proposed another to the President of the United States; and President

Continued on next page



Elbrun Kimmelman and President Richard R. Vietor



John M. Baker with Ian Fraser



Ambassador and Mrs. Karel J.G. van Oosterom



Scott DeF. Shiland, President Richard R. Vietor and Charles W. Neuhauser



President Richard R. Viotor with his sister Polly Sheehan, wife Rosemary Viotor and brother-in-law Robert W. Sheehan



Mrs. John H. Updike and Mrs. John H. Briggs, Jr.



Sharon Vaino and Jaan E. Vaino

Continued from previous page

Viotor proposed a third to the Current and Former Heads of the Heritage Societies.

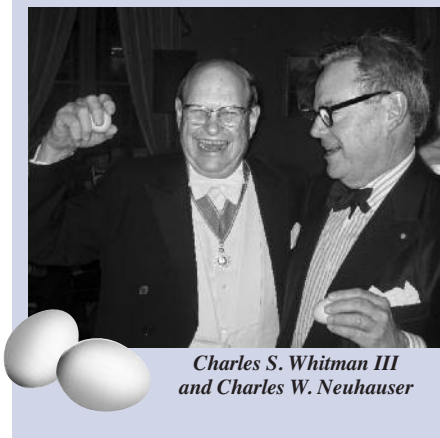
Inevitably the moment arrived for the traditional egg-cracking contest, presided over by two former débutantes, Miss Annabella Campbell Pierpont Rockwell and Miss Stirling Palmer deVères Smith. Past guests of the Paas Heritage Ball, and all members of the Saint Nicholas Society are of course familiar with this ritual but for the benefit of those readers who are not, this is how it is carried out: a basket of colorfully dyed hard-boiled eggs, one for each guest, is placed at each table. Table guests turn to their neighbor and tap their eggs together, more or less decorously or violently—with a little or a great deal of jockeying and maneuvering of position for attack—until one (or both) of the eggs has cracked. The one with the intact egg then approaches another guest with a still uncracked egg at the same table and they renew the contest until there is only one person with an uncracked egg left at the table.



Sheila Baltzell, Ashley Bernhard and Stephen Horsch



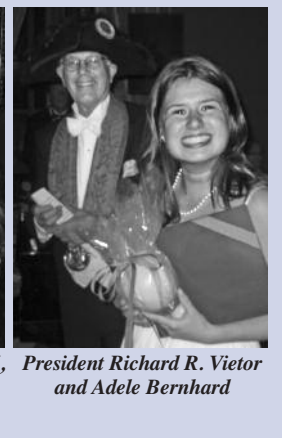
Peter and Gina Dodge with William F. Yonkers



Charles S. Whitman III and Charles W. Neuhauser



Egg-cracking contest winner Charles S. Whitman III, President Richard R. Viotor, and the runner up, Miss Adele Bernhard



President Richard R. Viotor and Adele Bernhard

The table champions then move on to the dance floor and continue the contest, which by now becomes an entertaining spectator sport for the diners who watch them battle it out until only two contestants are left with uncracked eggs. This year's champion egg-cracker was Mr. Charles S. Whitman III, and the runner-up was Miss Adele Bernhard. Each received a grand prize.

Strawberries Romanoff, served with coffee and tea, concluded the dinner. Dancing to lively music by The Bob Hardwick Sound continued on into the evening.



Stephen and Rebecca Madsen



Joseph VanB. Wittmann III, Barbara Wittman, Liddy Baker and John M. Baker

May Stated Meeting, May 21, 2015



President Richard R. Vietor, W. Seton Ijams and Missy Wolfe

Author Receives Medal at Meeting

Continued from front page

One thing snowballed into another.” Enthralled by the ramifications of her story she pursued them until they developed into a whole book of their own: “You can’t make this stuff up. The story just went on and on and on.” Please see further details in the book review in this issue of *The Weathercock*.

The event was a black tie dinner on May 21 at the Racquet and Tennis Club, 370 Park Avenue, a most attractive venue, where many of our recent events have taken place, including the Paas Heritage Ball in April. After cocktails and hors d’oeuvres in the anteroom, members and guests enjoyed a hearty steak dinner accompanied by lavishly flowing wines.

Officers elected to serve during the year 2015–2016 were: Richard R. Vietor, President; Charles W. Neuhauser, Jr., First Vice President; Robert A. Naud, Second Vice President; George H. McNeely IV, Third Vice President; Charles R. Mackenzie, Fourth Vice President; Michael S. Ferrara, Secretary; W. Seton Ijams, Treasurer; Francis J. Sypher, Jr., Historian; Michael S. de L. Neill, Genealogist; Charles R. Mackenzie, Assistant Genealogist.

Chaplains elected were: the Reverend Dr. Thomas F. Pike; the Reverend Martin Leslie Chase; and the Reverend Barry C. Howard. Physicians elected were: Stephen Bates Billick, MD; Paul Cushman, Jr., MD; and Francis Persse Powers, MD.

The following were elected to serve on the Board of Managers: *Class of 2016*: D. Campbell McCrary; Arthur P. Sultan; Douglas C. Wright III. *Class of 2017*: Daniel Oliver, Jr.; David N. Platt; Michael Sivy. *Class of 2018*: John A. O’Malley; Brian R. Owens; Peter S. Schermerhorn. *Class of 2019*: George Boyd V; Gary L. Dycus; W. Wells Van Pelt, Jr.

For the Board of Stewards were elected: Scott M. MacWhinnie, Chief Steward; Maximilian de Cuyper Cadmus; William E. E. Campbell; Nathaniel Kluttz; T. Michael Martin; Sean G. O’Sullivan; Thomas F. Pike, Jr.; and Gordon B. Stewart IV.



Arthur P. Sultan and President Richard R. Vietor inducted four new members: (from left to right) Meredith de Rham; Douglas Reid Weimer; William Nash Ambler; and Robert Douglas Desmond



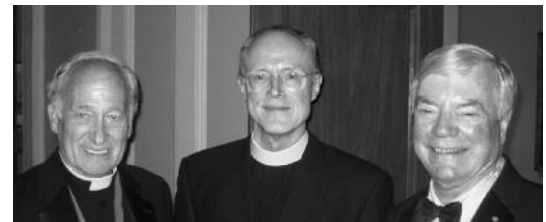
Stephen Bates Billick and Sigourney B. Romaine



George Boyd V, Elaine Mitchell, Sandra Boyd and William N. Ambler



Ian H. Fraser with Craig H. Weaver



Rev. Thomas F. Pike, Rev. Martin L. Chase and John P.T. Blake



President Richard R. Vietor in “civilian” with Rosemary Vietor



Brent H. Feigenbaum and Brian A. Blake



George H. McNeely IV and Charles R. Mackenzie



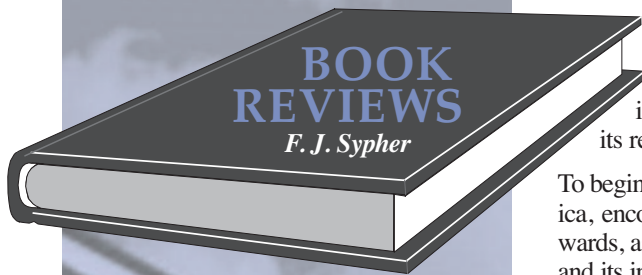
Scott MacWhinnie and Arthur P. Sultan



George Boyd V and Douglas R. Weimer



Rev. Martin L. Chase, Charles W. Neuhasuer and W. Seton Ijams



MISSY WOLFE. *INSUBORDINATE SPIRIT: A TRUE STORY OF LIFE AND LOSS IN EARLIEST AMERICA 1610–1665*. Guilford, Connecticut: Globe Pequot Press, 2012. Pp. x + 262. Illustrated; with source notes and bibliography. Price \$16.95, paperback.

Two things for which New Netherland is particularly remembered are its diversity and relative tolerance—especially by comparison to Puritan New England—for people of different beliefs and lifestyles. The moving story told by Missy Wolfe in *Insubordinate Spirit* vividly illustrates the complexities of life in New England and its relations with New Netherland.

To begin with, one should keep in mind that New Netherland, the Dutch colony in North America, encompassed far more territory than Manhattan and immediately adjacent areas. Northwards, as is well known, the Dutch had numerous towns and villages along the Hudson Valley and its interior as far as Albany and the Mohawk River. Westward, the Dutch territory extended across present-day New Jersey to the Delaware River, known as the South River (*Zuijdt Rivier*), now the border with Pennsylvania. In addition, New Netherland extended through southern New Jersey past Cape May and across Delaware Bay to Cape Henlopen.

Less well-known is that to the east of the Hudson, New Netherland also claimed territory as far as the Connecticut River, known to the Dutch as the Fresh River (*Versche Rivier*), where there was a Dutch outpost called the Fort or House of Good Hope (*Het Fort of Huijs Goede Hoop*) at the present site of the City of Hartford. Thus, the area around present-day Greenwich, Connecticut, although largely settled by colonists from New England, was claimed by the Dutch as part of New Netherland.

Missy Wolfe, as mentioned in the article about the Winter Stated Meeting, at which she was presented with the Society's Washington Irving Medal for Literary Excellence, began her research with an investigation of a notorious massacre of Indians that took place near Greenwich in March 1644 during Director General Kieft's wars with the Indians in 1643–1644. In the course of her research she came across references to Elizabeth and William Hallett and soon found that she had uncovered a fascinating, wide-ranging story.

Wolfe's heroine, Elizabeth Fones, was born in England in 1610, the daughter of Thomas Fones and Anne Winthrop, who was the sister of the famous John Winthrop, an early New England settler and later governor of Massachusetts. As a teenager, Elizabeth Fones married, against the wishes of her family, her cousin Thomas Winthrop. In 1630 he sailed to New England, leaving his young wife behind because of her pregnancy. But on the day of his arrival, he accidentally drowned while swimming across a river. In response to John Winthrop's pleas from America, she, with her small child, came to New England the next year. In 1632 she married Robert Feake of Watertown. They had several children and moved in 1640 to southern Connecticut where they were among founders of the town of Greenwich. But Feake's mental state was becoming unbalanced and he eventually abandoned her and their children.

While living with her children as if single, Elizabeth met and fell in love with William Hallett around 1647. Because Elizabeth's husband was still living, the couple could not marry, and divorce was not an available option under the conditions of the time in New England. The couple's relationship was regarded as adulterous, sinful and illegal, which made it difficult if not impossible for them to live in the New England colonies. However, under New Netherland jurisdiction they were able to obtain a divorce, and then to marry, also under Dutch law, although neither the divorce nor the marriage was recognized as valid in New England.

However, just at this time the New Netherland claim over western Connecticut was becoming tenuous as more and more New Englanders moved into the area and the Dutch, who had never been very numerous there, found it impossible to defend their claim effectively. Under Petrus Stuyvesant, who in 1647 had replaced Kieft as director general, most of the claim was eventually ceded to Connecticut. Consequently in 1650 the Halletts moved to Long Island to a point near Hell Gate in what is now Astoria, and well within the territory of New Netherland.

Nearby the Halletts was the home of John Bowne, a leader of the Quakers and author of the Flushing Remonstrance to secure toleration for the religious beliefs of the Society of Friends. Elizabeth was understandably impressed with Quaker ideas of toleration, and she became a leading adherent of the movement. Having lived through so much colonial turmoil, including the cession of New Netherland to the British in 1664, Elizabeth died in the early 1670s.

In Missy Wolfe's book the complex drama of colonial events in New England and New Netherland is presented on the same stage as Elizabeth's own personal and marital history. As Missy Wolfe sums up Elizabeth's story (p. 189): "her own identity evolved as she struggled to maintain her life, her spirit, her property, and her family in a wilderness frontier that made a mockery of the established ways of her old world."

POLLY GUÉRIN. *THE GENERAL SOCIETY OF MECHANICS AND TRADESMEN OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK: A HISTORY.* Charleston, South Carolina: The History Press, 2015. Pp. 222. Illustrated; with bibliography. Price \$21.99 paperback.

For several reasons, Saint Nicholas members should be keenly interested in the history of the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen. First of all, since 2007 our Society has had its headquarters in the Mechanics and Tradesmen's handsome and imposing building, originally constructed in 1891 for the Berkeley Preparatory School, which however occupied it for only eight years. In 1899 the structure was acquired by the General Society and, with generous financial assistance from Andrew Carnegie, a member of the General Society, the building was substantially enlarged, as mentioned in an the article in *The Weathercock*, no. 68 (Fall 2007); see also no. 77 (Fall 2013) on Robert Boyd, Jr., first president of the General Society, and ancestor of current Saint Nicholas member George Boyd V.

As Polly Guérin explains in an Author's Note at the beginning of her book, this is the first-ever book-length history of the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen. She was advised by Victoria Dengel, the executive director of the General Society (and daughter of a past president of the Society) that, although there are extensive archives, and several published pamphlets about the Society, no book on it had appeared, and so Ms. Guérin was authorized to delve into the archives to work on the project that resulted in the present warmly-welcomed study.

The General Society was founded in 1785, two years after the conclusion of the American Revolution and the departure of the British from New York in November 1783. The physical fabric of the city was in poor condition after years of warfare and enemy occupation. Little maintenance had been done and a great many structures had been damaged or destroyed. There was a tremendous demand for work by the members of the construction and allied trades.

Initially a major aim in the formation of the organization was mutual aid for members and their families at a time when there was no social security program and little in the way of insurance for working people. Also, what we would today call networking would have been a powerful motivation. Members pursuing different lines of work would be able to make valuable contacts that would help them find employment on new projects.

In 1802 the General Society decided to build its own meeting hall at 239 Broadway, the northwest corner of Park Place—near the new City Hall, and just a short distance from the campus of Columbia College. Work proceeded rapidly and the dedication of Mechanics Hall took place a year later, on January 4, 1803.

Since at that time there was no public school system, the members of the Society felt that it would be particularly desirable to establish educational facilities, such as a school, a library, and a reading room. Initially the school was a free day school for children of members of the Society and for others on payment of affordable fees. The first school was opened in 1820. Education continues to be a major function of the Society today, although at present the focus is upon education in subjects related to building design and construction. The Society also continues to operate a lending library and reading room for students and members. The library is also open to the general public upon payment of a modest fee.

Interestingly, the organization was way ahead of its time in offering education to women, especially in teacher training; and in establishing a night school for students who worked during the day and were otherwise unable to pursue their education. The evening school of the Mechanics Institute was opened in 1858. Evening classes remain an important aspect of the Society's programs today.

The earlier locations soon became too small to accommodate these ambitious activities. In 1877 the Mechanics Institute was established at 18 East 16th Street, which the Society had purchased and altered for its purposes. But by the late 1890s this space also had become too small for effective use, and, as mentioned above, they then acquired their present quarters at 20 West 44th Street.

This outline covers only a portion of what is offered in Polly Guérin's volume. She also presents a number of brief biographical sketches of prominent past members of the General Society, such as Robert Fulton, Duncan Phyfe, and many others. She discusses the tradition of offering Lecture Series, a continuing aspect of the Society's activities at present, and the role of the Small Press Center / New York Center for Independent Publishing at the Society—as well as many other aspects of this vigorous and multifarious organization.

CORRECTION — We regret that *The Weathercock* no. 79 (Spring 2015) contained an inadvertent error in the name of Brett Michael Decker (known as Brett).

■ SALMAGUNDI ■

■ **Brian A. Blake** married Emily Cristin McIlwaine, of North Babylon, New York, September 5, 2015, in an afternoon service at Saint Joseph's Church, Greenwich Village. A reception was held afterwards at Alger House. The bride is the daughter of Mr. Kenneth and Mrs. Doreen McIlwaine. Emily and Brian have settled on the Upper East Side and look forward to enjoying many congenial years of St. Nicholas events to come.

■ **Mr. and Mrs. John Blake** are delighted to announce the birth of their first grandson, Jack Lewis Roberts, born in Danbury, Connecticut, June 26, 2015, son of Ashley and Jeffrey Alexander Roberts, who were married on October 20, 2012.

■ **Charles R. Mackenzie** (noted as 9th great-grandnephew of Elihu Yale) has made an interesting book donation to the library of the Yale Club: *The Yale Genealogy and History of Wales* (1908) by Rodney Horace Yale. Charles added extensive genealogy of the Yale family from his own research. He commented: "On the occasion of the Clubhouse's 100th anniversary, I thought it would be an ideal gift."

■ **The Reverend Tom Pike** is forever captured on film with the searching lens of David Battel's Leica in an uncaptioned, undated candid photo featured in *The New York Times* of June 7, 2015. See the profile on Tom in *The Weathercock*, no. 73 (Fall 2011).

■ **Adam Van Doren** is featured in a *New York Times* interview (Monday, April 20, 2015, p. A15) about his beautiful artist's studio on West 57th Street, where the television series *Mad Men* filmed scenes for its shows. The first tenant in the studio, from 1908 until 1925, was the American impressionist Childe Hassam. Afterward Charles Baskerville used the studio until 1994 when Adam took over as the third tenant in the course of now over 100 years—an amazing record of continuity in our city where so much else seems to be in constant flux.

Also, Adam has a new book out featuring his artwork: *The House Tells the Story: Homes of the American Presidents*, on which he collaborated with historian David McCullough.

■ **Douglas Wright** appears in a gorgeous write-up on the website *New York Social Diary* (August 28, 2015) about his beautiful house in Maplewood, New Jersey, built in the 1920s to designs by Clifford Charles Wendelhack, and beautifully decorated with fine antique furnishings as well as comfortable contemporary pieces. Please take a look at these wonderful rooms that just invite one to step in and relax and admire.



The Saint Nicholas Society
of the City of New York
 20 West 44th Street, #508
 New York, NY 10036-6603

New Members Elected

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Election</i>	<i>Ancestor</i>
Thomas Ralston Brooke	May 4, 2015	Robert Livingston
Claiborne Alexander Livingston Smith	May 4, 2015	Robert Livingston
Timothy Christopher Fenton	May 4, 2015	William Symons
William Nash Ambler	May 4, 2015	Johannes de Peyster
Douglas Reid Weimer	May 4, 2015	Peter van der Linde
Robert Douglas Desmond	May 4, 2015	Cornelius Barentse Van Wyck
Michael Scott Swisher	May 4, 2015	Hendrick Theunise Wiltse
Samuel K. Van Allen	May 4, 2015	Laurens Van Allen
Charles Edward Felix	May 4, 2015	Robert Livingston the Elder

NECROLOGY

The Society has received notice of the death of the following members:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Election</i>	<i>Date of Death</i>
David E. P. Lindh	September 30, 1957	April 24, 2015
Henry C. B. Lindh	September 30, 1957	July 3, 2015
Arthur Newton	January 19, 1966	March 26, 2014
Richard Cook Egbert	October 1, 1973	February 9, 2015
William O. Reutelhuber	May 18, 2004	August 9, 2015
H. Ashton Crosby, Jr.	April 20, 2006	September 10, 2015
Thomas Riggs Cox III	January 11, 2007	May 9, 2015
Lewis Stetson Allen	September 20, 2007	January 7, 2015
Charles Francis Clement 3rd	January 13, 2014	February 25, 2015

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
October 15, 2015	Fall Stated Meeting	Racquet & Tennis Club
November 5, 2015	Prospective Member Event	Coffee House
December 4, 2015	Feast of St. Nicholas	Union Club
February 4, 2016	Winter Stated Meeting	Coffee House
April 1, 2016	Paas Heritage Ball	TBA

THE SAINT NICHOLAS SOCIETY OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

20 WEST 44TH STREET, ROOM 508
 NEW YORK, NY 10036-6603

TELEPHONE: 212-991-9944
 FAX: 646-237-2767

EMAIL: info@saintnicholassociety.org

OFFICERS

RICHARD R. VIETOR
PRESIDENT

CHARLES W. NEUHAUSER
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

ROBERT A. NAUD
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

GEORGE H. MCNEELY IV
THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

CHARLES R. MACKENZIE
FOURTH VICE PRESIDENT

W. SETON IJAMS
TREASURER

MICHAEL S. FERRARA
SECRETARY

THE WEATHERCOCK

AN OCCASIONAL PUBLICATION
 OF THE SOCIETY, WRITTEN, EDITED,
 AND PRODUCED BY

FRANCIS J. SYPHER, JR.
 JOHN McC. SHANNON