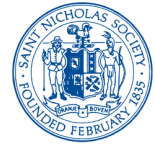




The Weathercock



NO. 91

THE OCCASIONAL PUBLICATION OF THE SAINT NICHOLAS SOCIETY WINTER 2026

NEW YORK EGGCEPTIONALISM PAAS 2026 PREPARATIONS ARE UNDERWAY

Excitement is building in the highest strata of social spheres as preparations continue for the Paas Festival Ball and Presentation of Debutantes, to be held on Friday, April 17th at the distinguished Racquet and Tennis Club. This year's Ball promises to be an evening of elegance, tradition, and celebration in one of the city's grandest settings.

The Weathercock recently had the opportunity to interview Ball Chairman **Paul Nelson** regarding the preparations. "We are working hard to provide our debutantes with a warm, memorable evening where they are celebrated," he remarked. "We want to make sure attendees have an equally memorable event. Events like the Paas Ball are becoming more rare every year. At a complicated point in time, I love the idea that we are conserving a wonderful tradition."

In presumably dark, wood paneled, smoke filled rooms, the Board of Stewards has been diligently attending to the ceremonial, and logistical minutiae of the event. In a characteristically proactive move, Chief **Owen Kloter** and 1st VP **David A. Disi** have executed the purchase of egg futures contracts to ensure an adequate supply for the egg cracking contest, in the event of any seasonal shortage, underscoring its commitment to preserving the symbolic and festive elements that define the Paas Festival Ball.

This year's Ball will carry an added level of significance for the Society, as the daughters of steward **Brooks Clark** and past president **William Follett** will make their debut before friends, family, and fellow members. Their presentation will stand at the heart of the evening's festivities, honoring both family tradition and the Society's enduring spirit.

Correspondents for *The Weathercock* worldwide inform that interest in the event has reached unprecedented levels, and members are strenuously encouraged to secure tickets for themselves and their guests at the earliest opportunity. If present enthusiasm is any indication, the Paas Festival Ball will be a full and festive celebration, one that continues a cherished tradition with renewed vitality and grace.



President McCrary greets an exhilarated Peyton Carter

BEAST OF A FEAST A SOLD OUT EVENING OF YULETIDE CHEER

On Friday evening, December 5th, the 189th Feast of St. Nicholas was celebrated in splendid fashion at the distinguished Union Club. The event proved to be one of the most highly anticipated gatherings of the season. Tickets were entirely sold out well in advance, and a waiting list formed in the days preceding the celebration, clear testimony to the enduring popularity of what justly is known both far and wide as the signature event of the New York holiday social season. The remarkable demand serves as a timely reminder of the importance of securing tickets early for the Society's marquee events.

The entire affair was presided over with dignity and warmth by President **Campbell McCrary**, whose steady leadership and gracious presence set the tone for an evening at once festive and moderately well ordered. Guests arrived in festive black tie, lending the rooms an atmosphere of elegance and holiday brilliance. The dining rooms shimmered with seasonal décor, and the assembled company reflected the convivial spirit that defines the Feast.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

101st President Dennis Campbell McCrary Thus Spake

As the long winter loosens its grasp upon our fair city and the first gentle breath of spring begins to stir the Hudson and its neighboring hills, it is my happy duty to report that our Society prepares for a season of uncommon fellowship and agreeable adventure. Indeed, the coming months promise such a lively succession of gatherings that even the most sedentary Knickerbocker may feel tempted to dust off his traveling cloak and venture forth.

Foremost among these diversions is a journey of a most romantic character. From the 9th to the 13th of April, a merry company of our members and friends proposes to wander far beyond the familiar precincts of New Amsterdam and pay homage to the storied landscapes once roamed by our Society's illustrious patron of letters, Washington Irving himself. Our destination is Granada in Spain, that ancient city where Moorish towers and Christian bells mingle their echoes beneath the Sierra Nevada. There, amidst orange groves and whispering courtyards, stands the incomparable Alhambra Palace, whose enchanted halls so fired Irving's imagination that he peopled them with legends of princes, sentinels, and wandering spirits.

It is our intention to follow, in a modest way, the very footsteps of the good Geoffrey Crayon, strolling through those same arcades where he once mused upon the vanished grandeur of Moorish kings, and perhaps pausing at twilight upon some marble terrace where the fountains murmur as softly now as they did in his day. Already some fifteen adventurous souls have signified their intention of joining this expedition, and the prospect of their company alone would be sufficient inducement to make the voyage worthwhile.

Continued on page 3

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2025 FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS

Following an animated and extended fireside cocktail hour, the formal program commenced with the introduction of the President by Chief Steward **Owen A. Kloter**, and was followed by an invocation offered by **Gary Dycus**, whose words set a tone of gratitude and reflection. Particularly notable was the presence of many ladies representing other hereditary organizations, whose company added not only distinction but an air of refined civility to the gathering. Their participation served as a reminder of the shared traditions and fellowship that unite kindred societies. Among the distinguished guests were Past President General of the Society of the Cincinnati, Jonathan T. Woods and past honoree and acclaimed actor Simon Jones.

The traditional toasts were then given by officers of the Society, each delivered with decorum and in accordance with custom, reinforcing the continuity of ritual that has marked the Feast for generations. Members and guests then began dinner with a velvety crab and corn soup, one guest noting that “its delicate sweetness and briny depth provided a most agreeable opening to the meal.” The entrée followed in the form of a roasted stuffed poussin accompanied by mushrooms, the bird prepared to tender perfection and enriched by its savory filling and earthy accents. To conclude, a classic rum baba was presented for dessert, offering a festive and satisfying finish. Choice vintages from the Club’s cellar were also on hand, Past Publications Chair **Randall Hammond** telling *The Weathercock*, “The Champagne Nicolas Feuillatte lent brightness and celebration to the table, while I counted upon the 2018 Château Caronne-St.-Gemme Haut-Médoc, which paired sublimely with the main course, to provide a much needed semblance of structure, depth, and grip.”



Pillars of the Society



Strategic Planning



St. Nick and his elven stewards distribute favors with equal munificence to both the naughty and the nice alike

Following dinner, **Peter Kimber** delivered the Knickerbocker Toast with great flourish, his impassioned and confident recitation summoning members to their feet and drawing enthusiastic applause from the assembled company.

Adam Paige Hess presented a spirited reworking of “A Visit from St. Nicholas”. His adaptation of the beloved poem was by turns witty and reverent, eliciting both laughter and warm appreciation while preserving the meter and structure of the original verse. In a moment that brought particular cheer, **St. Nicholas** himself made a ceremonial visit to the Feast. Clad in orange, he moved jovially through the room offering greetings and good will, while elven stewards assisted in distributing the favors, a handsome yet practical canvas tote bag emblazoned with the Society’s Weathercock.

Throughout the evening, the sounds of the David Raleigh Quartet provided refined musical accompaniment, complementing the spirit of the Feast with seasonal holiday selections and favorites from the American Songbook.

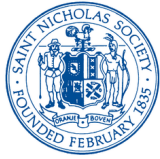
The 189th Feast of St. Nicholas will long be remembered as a sold-out triumph, an evening of fellowship, ceremony, and festive cheer, conducted with dignity under President McCrary’s able hand. As anticipation already builds for the Paas Festival Ball and Debutante Presentation, members ought to remember the lesson of this year’s waiting list: for occasions of such distinction, early reservation is not merely prudent, but essential.



*Right
Brian R. Owens, Mr. and Mrs. Earl McMillen, and Randall Hammond, splendidly attired for the evening, enjoy a pre-praendial cocktail and double ration of Knickerbocker cheer*

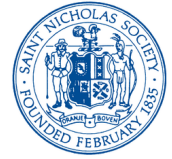
*Left
Steward Joseph Smith carries the famed weathercock aloft during the procession, brandishing his front deltoids to the delight of all assembled as steward Brian Egan waves away the English*





MEET THE DEBUTANTES

PAAS FESTIVAL BALL 2026



Mr. & Mrs. **William R. Follett** are pleased to introduce their daughter, Jane Brewster Durston Follett. William Follett is a long-time member and past President of The Saint Nicholas Society. Beyond his service as president he and his wife, Barbara, have been engaged supporters of our programming and have served in the past as chairs of The Pass Festival Ball.

Jane grew up in Wilton, Connecticut and graduated from the University of Connecticut. After working remote for a Stamford based technology company, she moved to New York City upon accepting a position at American Express. Jane spends her summers at the family home located at Old Black Point on the Connecticut seashore. She is an avid and enthusiastic tennis player and a passionate traveler. She is currently a member of a New York chapter of the National Society of The Daughters of the American Revolution.



Mr. and Mrs. **Brooks Sandeman Clark** are pleased to present their daughter, Annabelle Jane Clark, to The Saint Nicholas Society.

Annabelle began her schooling at Marymount School of New York, where she attended through her sophomore year of high school. After Swiss Semester in Zermatt, Annabelle, completed her high school education, graduating with honors from Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia. She is presently a freshman at the University of Michigan, where she is a member of the Alpha Phi sorority. Annabelle is a dedicated tennis player, devoted to health & fitness, and has proven ability in the business of luxury design. She has historically spent summers at her family's country home in Oteora in upstate New York, and this summer will attend London School of Economics to expand her business education. She is a provisional member of the New York Junior League, presented on November 26, 2025, at the Thanksgiving Eve Ball in New York City.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Those who feel their hearts stirred by such romantic prospects are warmly invited to inquire further. Pray address your letters to Campbell.mccrary@gmail.com, where fuller particulars may be obtained.

Nor does the merriment end with our Iberian excursion. No sooner shall the travelers return, perhaps with a touch of Andalusian sun upon their cheeks, than we shall assemble once more for the Paas Festival Ball the following week. This cherished gathering, full of music, laughter, and the agreeable whirl of conversation, will this year be further distinguished by the presentation of two debutantes, whose entrance into society we shall celebrate with all proper festivity and good cheer. Thereafter, as spring ripens toward early summer, we look to our Spring Stated Meeting on May 24th, when the Society shall convene in its customary fashion. Details of the evening's speaker—who, we trust, will prove as entertaining as instructive—will be announced in due course. Let it also be clearly proclaimed, in the generous spirit that has long distinguished the Society, that guests and spouses are most heartily welcome at any and all of these occasions. One need not possess a genealogical scroll tracing one's ancestry to the earliest burghers of Manhattan in order to partake in the fellowship of our company. Indeed, we have long held that persons of cheerful disposition, convivial temperament, and good humor are qualifications of the highest order. Thus, whether you join us beneath the Moorish arches of the Alhambra, beneath the chandeliers of the Paas Ball, or at the friendly tables of our Spring Meeting, we look forward to sharing the season with you in the true Knickerbocker spirit—rich in friendship, history, and good company.

2026 WINTER STATED MEETING

On Thursday, February 19th, members gathered at the imposing Racquet & Tennis Club for the Society's Winter Stated Meeting, an evening marked by intellectual engagement, warm fellowship, and the strengthening of our ranks.

The featured speaker was Thomas Silk, author and historian, a native New Yorker with a deep and abiding interest in the city's architectural and cultural heritage. A graduate of Fordham University with a degree in History, Mr. Silk is a licensed New York City sightseeing guide who has devoted years to exploring and documenting the city's overlooked treasures. He is the author of *Hidden Landmarks of New York: A Tour of the City's Most Overlooked Buildings*, a work that reflects both meticulous historical research and an appreciation for the stories embedded within the city's streetscapes. A familiar presence on the lecture circuit, Mr. Silk brings to life the lived history of New York's built environment with clarity and enthusiasm. His remarks to the Society were both engaging and instructive, offering thoughtful reflections on preservation, memory, and the continuity of civic tradition. A particularly gratifying moment in the proceedings was the induction of **Paul VanValkenburg** into the Society. Presented in accordance with established custom, his admission was greeted with warm applause, and members were pleased to welcome him formally into our fraternal organization.



Paul VanValkenburg is inducted by President McCrary and Chairman Kloter



Past Presidents Johnson, Mackenzie, Manger, and Follett enjoy a moment of conviviality



Special Guest Thomas Silk with President and Mrs. McCrary

The addition of twelve new members in the last year remains among the most encouraging signs of the Society's vitality and future strength. Following the formal program, members adjourned for refreshments. A generous supply of hors d'oeuvres was on hand, sustaining lively conversation that carried well into the evening. Strong cocktails and good cheer flowed in equal measure, as old friends renewed acquaintances and newer members were drawn into the warm circle of camaraderie that defines our gatherings.

The Winter Stated Meeting thus fulfilled its dual purpose: to advance the intellectual and ceremonial life of the Society, and to provide occasion for convivial fellowship among its members, an enduring balance that continues to animate our work, strengthen our bonds, and to make the Orange and Blue rosette the envy of notch lapels everywhere.



Walter Deane, Leighton H. Coleman III, 2VP Ian Fraser, and Garrett Bergen enjoying good fellowship



Steward Samuel Dangremond, faithful service duly rendered, seeks refreshment at the bar



Gentlemen members and guests enjoying speaker Thomas Silk's engaging presentation

THE PAAS FESTIVAL BALL

THE RISE, THE GLORY, THE DECLINE, AND THE RECOVERY

BY CHIEF STEWARD OWEN A. KLOTER

The Paas Festival, from the Dutch *paasch* (“Easter”), was first celebrated on April 11, 1844 at the City Hotel, and conceived as an “upgrade” from the Society’s spring meeting. The Society had already been holding annual Anniversary Dinners (the Feast of Saint Nicholas) each December for almost a decade, and decided to enliven the previously “strictly-business” Spring meeting by serving dinner during Easter week. As the Society began to hold seasonal stated meetings, the Paas Festival became an annual dinner, open to members and their male guests and held at such venues as Delmonico’s and the Saint Nicholas Hotel (located in present-day SoHo and not affiliated with the Society). Paas was canceled only twice: in April 1865 to memorialize just-assassinated Abraham Lincoln, and in April 1885 to devote resources to the Society’s 50th Anniversary celebration. In a moving moment at the Paas dinner in April 1917, days after the United States had declared war on Germany, the Board of Stewards led the assembled members and guests in singing a patriotic medley of “Yankee Doodle”, “The Star Spangled Banner”, “America”, “Hail, Columbia”, “Battle Hymn of the Republic”, and, for good measure, “Dixie”.

In 1950, the Society’s leadership—in an effort led by then-President Charles Seymour Whitman, Jr. (1949-1952) and Mrs. Whitman—planned an evening which would allow the members to invite “their better halves, actual and prospective” and outside guests. Thus, the “Saint Nicholas Society Ball” was born, and was given in lieu of the Paas Festival dinner. The Ball was held at the Plaza Hotel, and its guests danced to the music of Meyer Davis, Lester Lanin’s prime competitor. The inaugural April 1951 Ball proved so popular that it was held again in April 1952 in the Starlight Roof of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, a lovely venue which has recently, and regrettably, been transformed into a swimming pool under new management. However, after two years of the successful Ball-Festival combination, members wanted to return the Paas to its former status as a stag dinner, and to maintain the Ball separately. From 1953 through 1962, the “Paas Festival Dinner” continued to be held in April, while the “Saint Nicholas Society Ball” was held on the last Friday of each January.

Debutantes are, perhaps surprisingly, the newest element of the Paas tradition; it was not until the January 1960 Ball at the Plaza that the first 8 of them were presented to the Society. In 1963, the Society renewed the early 1950s combination of the Ball and the Paas Festival events in April as the “12th Annual Ball and 119th Paas Festival”. Members now supported the change, and the event was added the Society’s permanent calendar, now known as the “Paas Festival Ball”.

The Ball’s heyday, during the 1960s and 1970s, saw it held first at the Plaza and then, as its attendance began to regularly exceed 500, expanded into the Waldorf’s larger tiered ballroom. Between 4 and 9 debutantes were typically presented each year. Attendance and enthusiasm crested in the early 1970s, peaking in 1973 when 14 debutantes were presented to the over 650 members and their guests who had packed the Waldorf. During those years, the debutantes’ parents often held pre-Ball cocktail parties in different suites of the hotel; guests would then work their way, no doubt in various states of bonhomie, from the parties to the ballroom for the presentation, dinner, dancing, and the egg-cracking contest, as the Ball continued late into the evening.

Beginning in the late 1970s, however, that high tide gradually began to ebb. Just as Whit Stillman’s precocious debutantes and their escorts in *Metropolitan* (1990) lamented the decline of the Manhattan “season” and the detachable collar, a real-life counter-culture that no longer valued, and in some case even begrudged, cultural events such as the Ball was becoming part of the mainstream. At the same time, inflation, oil shortages, and deep recessions were practical factors which, together with the cultural changes, undermined the attitudes, values, and financial resources that were necessary to support and perpetuate the Ball, and similar events, as they had once been.

In 1976 the Ball moved back to the Plaza, where it remained well into the 1980s, but the early 1990s ushered in further changes. Business casual attire injected itself into the boardroom and ballroom, while eligible young women themselves had become far less interested in (if not outright opposed to) being presented as debutantes, and their families far less committed to supporting such activities. While the good feeling and spirit of the event itself never dissipated, the Paas Festival Ball gradually left behind the gilded ballrooms of its heyday and, like the Saint Nicholas Society itself, it downsized. By 2006, when the Ball was held at the St. Regis Hotel’s rooftop ballroom, 138 members and guests were on hand to crack eggs and witness the presentation of 4 debutantes.

After March 2008, as Bear Sterns collapsed and the country plunged into the Great Recession, further Paas Balls were discontinued and replaced by the Paas Festival Luncheon, held at such venerable New York locations as the Rockaway Hunting Club and the Angler’s Club. Meanwhile, what remained of dancing and debutantes in those bleak days migrated to the early December

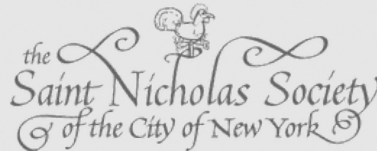
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THE PAAS FESTIVAL BALL

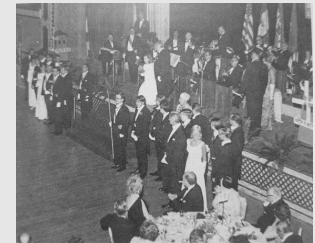
Feast of Saint Nicholas, which until then had been a dinner event. In December 2012, for the first time since 1960, no debutantes were presented at all. Yet like all ebb tides, this one did not last. Thanks to the efforts of Past Presidents **William M. Manger, Jr.** and **Robert A. Naud**, the Ball made its triumphant return to the Racquet & Tennis Club in March 2013, where it has been held annually since that time. While the Ball was forced into temporary retreat by the onslaught of COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021, dancing and debutantes returned anew to the R & T in 2022. As with the rest of society, the Ball's recovery from the pandemic has not been without its challenges. Yet, attendance has gradually increased and this year, 2 debutantes, the highest number in several years, will be presented to the Society.

Thus, the spirit of that first Paas Dinner in 1844 lives on. The present Ball Committee and Board of Stewards have committed their full attention to the reinvigoration of the Paas Festival Ball, from the quality of the dinner, to the egg-cracking contest, to the presentation, as of this writing, of over 200 debutantes to the Society since 1960. It is our fervent hope that this April will be remembered as the beginning of a new era during which the Paas Festival Ball returned to its former stature as a marquee event on the New York social calendar, when fine food is eaten in fine company, dyed Easter eggs are broken, and young women in white dresses are once again presented to we jovial friends, their better halves, and their many guests. Perhaps the newly-restored and landmarked Waldorf ballroom will even host several hundred of us again, one day.

*The information for this article was obtained from newspapers, the Society's minutes, centennial and decennial record books, and the Weathercock. The author acknowledges **Gary Dycus** with gratitude for the additional research he had previously undertaken regarding the Paas Festival Ball and generously shared.*



Archival photos from the "heyday" of the Paas Festival Ball where attendance topped 650



RUMBLINGS HEARD

Rumor has it that a distinguished Hong Kong tailor has expressed interest in visiting the Saint Nicholas Society offices to take measurements and conduct private fittings for members. We are told that the tailor means to arrive armed with hundreds of fabric samples, ranging from beefy tweeds to richly textured flannels and formal worsteds fit for the grandest of evenings. Members will have the opportunity to select from this abundant array while enjoying special pricing extended exclusively to the Society, a rare indulgence in craftsmanship, convenience, and economy. The initiative seems particularly fitting given the well-earned reputation of the Saint Nick man for being handsomely dressed.



*Member **Humphrey Bogart** wearing his white dinner jacket in the 1942 film "Casablanca"*

The Weathercock has it on good authority that a certain well placed constituency within the Saint Nicholas Society has been quietly advancing an inspired proposal: an intimate white dinner jacket dinner during the height of the summer season. The object of this convivial conspiracy? To celebrate that oft-overlooked but undeniably important garment, the white dinner jacket, whose crisp elegance is too often relegated to the far reaches of the society swell's wardrobe. Properly worn, it signals not ostentation, but ease; not extravagance, but a subtle awareness far beyond the fumbling grasp of the mean arriviste. Immediately it identifies the wearer as well initiated and commands the appropriate response from those around him. One imagines a refined gathering marked by strong cocktails, well-turned conversation, and the fluid camaraderie that defines the Society at its best. Proof that tradition, when thoughtfully adapted to the season, remains as fresh as a crisply starched wing collar on a balmy summer evening.

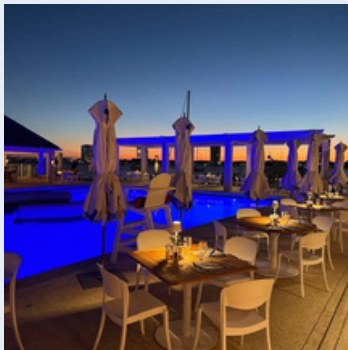
PALM BEACH RENDEZVOUS

On Saturday, February 7, nearly forty smartly attired members and guests of the Saint Nicholas Society gathered in the warmth and elegance of the Sailfish Club for the Palm Beach Rendezvous, an occasion marked by fellowship, refinement, and midwinter sunshine. The event was fully subscribed, a testament to the enthusiasm of members eager to convene in one of the season’s most enviable settings. Board of Managers member **Brent Feigenbaum** told *The Weathercock*, “This was once again a tremendous success. A large and convivial gathering came together for laughter and excellent fare.”

The evening commenced with a mirthful cocktail hour beside the shimmering waters of the Club’s pool, where generous pours of crisp and perfectly chilled Le Petit Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc warmed the Knickerbocker spirit and a delightful selection of passed hors d’oeuvres whetted the collective appetite. As the light softened over Palm Beach and the orange sunset faded into a starry night, members and guests enjoyed animated conversation over a sumptuous dinner in an atmosphere at once relaxed and decidedly refined. All in attendance agreed that it was especially gratifying to reconnect with members from around the country not often seen in New York winters. Among these were **John MacLeod, Ryan John Woods, John Booker, Curtis Estes**, and past president **John McC. Shannon**, who astutely observed, “It was astonishing to see such a well-behaved crowd of St. Nickers in a respectable Palm Beach setting.”

The full membership of the Society (both migratory and non-migratory) extends its heartfelt gratitude to Sara and **Robb Aley Allan** for organizing and generously sponsoring the Rendezvous once again this year. Their thoughtful planning and gracious hospitality ensured a seamless and memorable evening for all in attendance and furnished a roundly appreciated opportunity to wear the orange and blue on a weekend otherwise dominated by scarlet and white.

The Palm Beach Rendezvous once again demonstrated that wherever St. Nick men assemble, be it in New York in frosty December or beneath Florida’s sunny, if not entirely warm February skies, the bonds of fellowship, tradition, and shared enthusiasm for double breasted jackets remain steadfast and warmly and eagerly renewed.



Even the heavens were properly arrayed in orange and blue for the evening’s festivities



Frank Riggio, Chief Owen Kloter, Adam Paige Hess, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Smith, and Mr. and Mrs. George Shepherd shockingly find themselves aside the bar



Host Robb A. Allan looks on as D. Brenton Simons explains the vital role of orange blazers in the Dutch colonial era



Chief Kloter opts to ride a golden Dalmatian to the Sailfish Club to avoid seasonal traffic



Past President Richard Vietor addresses the assembled dinner guests and extends a warm welcome to Palm Beach

OFFICERS AND MANAGERS 2025-2026

Officers elected to serve during the year 2025-2026 were: Dennis Campbell McCrary, President; David A. Disi, First Vice President; Ian H. Fraser, Second Vice President; Col. Thomas Pike, Third Vice President; Maximillian deCuyper Cadmus, Fourth Vice President; A. Christian Burke, Secretary; Adam P. Hess, Asst. Secretary; Robert Scarborough, Treasurer; Paul Nelson, Asst. Treasurer; Charles R. Mackenzie, Historian; Floyd S. Sanford III, Genealogist; Charles R. Mackenzie, Assistant Genealogist.

Chaplains elected were: the Rt. Rev. Robert Todd Giffin and the Rev. Barry C. Howard.
Physicians elected were: Stephen Bates Billick, MD and Francis Perse Harcourt Powers, MD.

To serve on the Board of Managers the following classes of board members were elected:
Class of 2025: David A. Disi; A. Christian Burke; Gary Dycus.
Class of 2026: Robb A. Allan; Michael Ferrara; Scott MacWhinnie. Class of 2027: Peyton F. Carter III; Matthew D. Dupee; Christian Keese. Class of 2028: Christopher Burnham; John O'Malley; D. Brenton Simons.

For the Board of Stewards were elected: Owen A. Kloter, Chief Steward; Adam Paige Hess; Joseph Smith; Brian Egan; George Shepherd; Samuel P. C. Dangremond; Cornelius VanCott; Brooks Clark; and Thomas Rice.

SALMAGUNDI

George Shepherd and our very own **Mrs. Shepherd** celebrated their honeymoon with a remarkable journey through Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Panama, and an expedition cruise to Antarctica.

Highlights included making empanadas at a rural Argentine estancia, enjoying abundant beef and Fernet Branca in Buenos Aires, and visiting Brazil's jungles and waterfalls before seeing the Panama Canal. The journey culminated in Antarctica, where they crossed the Drake Passage without seasickness, climbed snowy mountains, and encountered whales, penguins, seals, dolphins, and orcas.

Philip Norkeliunas showcased important examples of sterling silver crafted by British royal silversmiths at the eighth annual "Naples Tables: Beautiful Purpose" held February 25–26, 2026, at the elegant The Ritz-Carlton Naples, Tiburón. Hosted by The League Club, the signature fundraising event featured more than fifty imaginative tablescapes created by interior designers and artists, all in support of nonprofit organizations serving Collier and Lee counties in Florida.

Philip Hood and three generations of Hood boys traced their ancestors' footsteps with a journey to Massachusetts, where they marked Patriots' Day in Boston, where Philip, Mason (11), and Thomas saw Paul Revere receive the "two if by sea" lantern signal at the Old North Church and witnessed the British retreat from Concord the following day. One hopes they are returned not stinking too headily of beans and cod.

Past President Charles R. Mackenzie has announced the upcoming publication of his book, *The Knickerbocker 100*, set for its hardcover print in the Spring 2026. Part coffee table book and part encyclopedia, this 450 monumental keepsake profiles many of New York's most prominent First Families and their influence in American culture. Expanded from the 60 or names in our Knickerbocker Toast, this tome not only includes the obvious Roosevelts, Vanderbilts and Stuyvesants, but also those of African and Latin descent, as well as the Islamic and Jewish faiths. Famous descendants include Walter Cronkite and Tom Brokaw, Humphrey Bogart, the first female poet laureate, and the Kuiper Belt, among other fascinating trivia.



Norkeliunas' creation



Three generations of Hood men trace their ancestors' footsteps



Shepherds' Adventure

STEWARDS POT LUCK



Members of the Board of Stewards pause their electrifying discussion of Harris Tweed and the virtues of 3/8in lapel stitching for a photo at the home of Chief Kloter



On a bitterly cold evening in January, the Board of Stewards gathered at the well appointed Sutton Place residence of Chief Steward **Owen A. Kloter** for an evening of warmth, fellowship, and shared table. Against the chill of winter, the glow of candlelight and the convivial spirit of the assembled company transformed the Chief’s home into a setting of remarkable hospitality and refinement. The dinner was distinguished by both the caliber of its fare and the evident care with which each contribution had been prepared. The Kloterian galley brought forth a magnificent Belgian braised beef. Concentrated, with depth and character, indeed much like the Chief himself, the dish evidenced culinary virtuosity and it served as a fitting centerpiece to the table.

Equally memorable was the venison goulasch prepared by **Adam Paige Hess** a nod to his and Kloter’s Teutonic paternal ancestry. The provenance of the venison lent particular distinction to the dish; it had been taken by Hess’s 82-year-old father, whose continued vigor and *esprit de la chasse* were saluted among the many toasts and healths raised throughout the evening .

The opening culinary salvo was fired by **Thomas Rice**, who supplied an abundant charcuterie and cheese selection which paired improbably yet effectively with champagne and aquavit brought by **George Shepherd**. Throughout the evening, **Samuel P. C. Dangremond** further elevated the dining in with a well curated selection of California wines from his family cellar. These carefully chosen bottles complemented each course with discernment and elegance. The wines were poured generously and discussed thoughtfully, enhancing both the gustatory and intellectual pleasures of the night. A goodly allotment of cognac and port from the Chief’s reserve liberally poured to the sounds of the his extensive vinyl record collection rounded out the evening in high style for which Stewards are justly known.

Beyond the excellence of the dishes, music, and vintages, the true success of the gathering lay in the spirit of camaraderie that prevailed. In the warmth of Chief Steward Kloter’s home, amid shared stories and good humor, the Board of Stewards reaffirmed the bonds of friendship and mutual respect that undergird its important work.

ALHAMBRA PILGRIMAGE

EAGERLY AWAITED ITINERARY IS ANNOUNCED



Arrive by Thursday, April 9th
 6:00 PM Meet in Washington Irving Hotel Lobby
 6:30 PM Sunset sangria overlooking the Alhambra Palace and Dinner

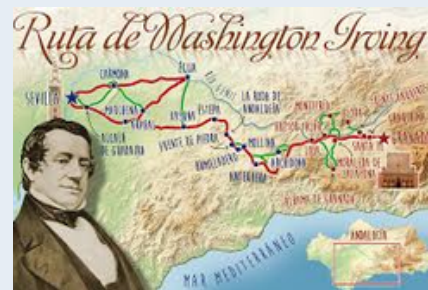
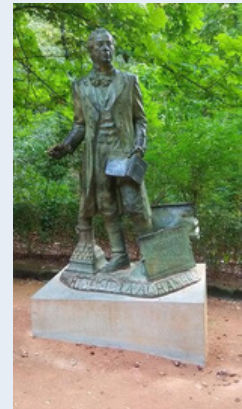
Friday, April 10th
 Full Day Guided Tour of Alhambra Palace
 12 - 3 PM Gala lunch/reception at Alhambra Palace Hotel
 9:00 PM Dinner in Granada

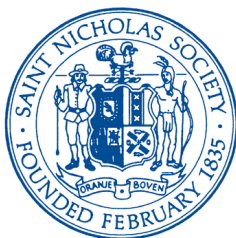
Saturday, April 11th
 Full Day Guided Tour of Granada including Tapas Lunch
 7:00 PM Flamenco Show
 9:30 PM Taverna Dinner in Granada

Sunday, April 12th
 Additional sightseeing
 Farewell Brunch
 Afternoon Bull Fighting Lesson

Inquiries to:

Campbell.mccrary@gmail.com





The Saint Nicholas Society
of the City of New York
150 East 55th Street, 3rd Flr.
New York, NY 10022

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED

NAME	DATE OF ELECTION	ANCESTOR
William Blakeley Boykin	May 6, 2024	Jan Frans VanHeusen
James Moir Webster	January 27, 2025	Andreis Willemszen Hoppe
Howard Taylor	September 29, 2025	Thomas Gardner
Frank Edward Riggio	April 14, 2025	John Peter Tintle
Eric Agan Ridler	April 14, 2025	Jacob VanDorn
Hugh Philip Meers	September 29, 2025	Nathan Noble
Earl McMillen	September 29, 2025	Joshua Oakes
Philip Hood	September 29, 2025	Jonathan Hawkins
Garrett Bergen	April 14, 2025	Hans Hansen Bergen
Steven Joseph Baker	April 14, 2025	Issac Allerton
Chester C. Burley, III	February 2, 2026	Col. William Butler
Bryan C. Hart	February 2, 2026	Robert Underhill
Paul T. VanValkenburg	February 2, 2026	Lambert VanValkenburgh

NECROLOGY

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

NAME	DATE OF ELECTION	DATE OF DEATH
Thomas A. Gallatin	October 4, 1976	September 27, 2025
Courtney Haff	May 16, 1991	April 1, 2025
John Poor Townsend Blake	October 2, 1967	April 30, 2025
Jonathan C. Jones	April 30, 1973	February 2, 2024
Peter Siepp Goltra	February 1, 2017	June 1, 2024

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
April 9, 2026	Alhambra Journey	Granada, Spain
April 17, 2026	Paas Festival Ball	The Racquet & Tennis Club
April 20, 2026	BOM Meeting/Prospective Event	Society Office
May 14, 2026	Spring Stated Meeting	New York Yacht Club
TBA	Summer Cocktails with Holland	The Explorers' Club
	Lodge No. 8, F. & A.M.	

THE SAINT NICHOLAS SOCIETY OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

150 East 55th Street, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10022

212-991-9944
info@saintnicholassociety.org

OFFICERS

Dennis Campbell McCrary
PRESIDENT

CPT David A. Disi, USA (Ret.)
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Ian H. Fraser
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

COL Thomas Pike Jr., USA (Ret.)
THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

Maximillian DeCuyper Cadmus
FOURTH VICE PRESIDENT

Robert Scarborough
TREASURER

A. Christian Burke
SECRETARY

THE WEATHERCOCK

An occasional publication of
the society, written, edited and
produced by members.