

The Dutch Settlers Society of Albany

Fall 2008 Newsletter

Plans for Coming Year

The **October meeting** will be held on Tuesday, October 7 at the First Church in Albany, North Pearl St. at Clinton Ave. The Board will meet from 6:45-7:30. The general meeting will be held from 7:30 - 9 p.m. The speaker will be Janni Venema of the New Netherland Institute, who will speak on the Van Rensselaer family. We will also have a short report from Mr. Douglas Boettner about his wind-mill project.

We are in need of refreshments and a host/hostess for the evening. You will be reimbursed for your purchase.

The **Columbus Parade** is scheduled for Saturday, October 11 around noon. Please let Joan know immediately whether you are interested in participating so she can complete the required forms.

The **November Tea** will be held on Sunday, Nov. 2, at 2 p.m. at the SUNY Alumni House (uptown campus). Gerald Boileau will chair this event

again. Author Peter Rose, Recipient of the 2002 Alice P. Kenney Award for research and writing on the food customs and diet of the Dutch settlers in New Netherland, will be the speaker. Ms. Rose has lectured at the Smithsonian Institution, The Culinary Institute of America, Museum Boymans van Beuningen in the Netherlands, and at many local historical societies including the New York Historical Society.

The **St. Nicholas Dinner** is scheduled for Friday, December 5 at the Desmond Hotel on Albany Shaker Road. Jim Schermerhorn will chair and Cheryle Webber will co-chair this event.

We would like to do the **Christmas Bazaar** again this year at the Empire Concourse. It will be held on Wednesday and Thursday December 10 and 11, from 10 AM to 2 PM. Please let Joan know if you are interested in helping.

The **Mixer** will be held in February at the Pump

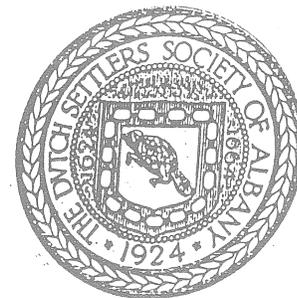


Station in Albany. The date will be decided soon. Authors contributing articles to the new yearbook will be invited as we meet and greet!

Ted Wright will again chair the Scholarship Committee for the **Albany High School History Award**

Genealogical workshop - Ted Wright and Cheryle Webber will hold a workshop on March 21, 2009 at the Colonie Library.

June Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday June 14 at noon at the Glen Sanders, Scotia. Gloria Van Derpoel will chair the Luncheon/meeting.



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Yearbook Update

The Yearbook is coming along nicely thanks to the leadership of Editor John Wemple. We have over a dozen confirmed articles so far! These include:

The Sister Cities of Albany by Mark Baumbach;

Charles Gehring — Henry Hudson in New Netherlands;

Genealogy article by Jim Schermerhorn;

Dog stories *Nipper* the RCA dog and *Owney* the post office dog;

Tulip article from Gerald Boileau;

Early Days of the Society and a list of articles from previous yearbooks by Cheryle Webber;

Peter Rose Dutch Cookery;

Tulip Festival in Japan (Huis Ten Bosch, Nagasaki, Japan) Joan Burns, her son Scott Burns who is living and teaching in Japan, and Ted Wright are working on an article about this Dutch site.

Mal Horton — The Hudson River Line and the Van Santwards;

Bill Brandow — The Van Nostrand House on Hudson Avenue;

Don Rittner — Building the Onrust Replica;

Justin DiVirgilio — Excavating the Distillery;

Gloria Hukle — Using Genealogy to Write Fiction;

Denis Foley — Early Sheriffs of Albany.

Due date for articles is Dec. 1, 2008.

Finances: Four years are needed to produce the yearbook. We should be ready for 2009!

Member News

Captain James Walter English, Ed.D. of Rancho Cucamonga, CA was approved as a new annual member. He is a descendant of Magdalena Dirkse Volkertsen who settled in Esopus.

Mary S. Brennan of Schenectady was approved as a new associate member.



400th Celebration

As we approach 2009, plans for the celebration are continuing.

One local resident, Douglas Boettner, would like to see greater recognition of



the Dutch contributions to the City of Albany.

To increase visibility of the Dutch settlement in the region and to boost tourism, he is proposing that one

or more authentic working Dutch windmills be built on sites along the Hudson River in and around Albany.

Learn more about his ideas and how you can get involved at our October meeting.

Increasing our Visibility

We know we all have deep roots in the area, but many people don't know of our existence!

To help increase the visibility of our organization and increase awareness of the Dutch history of the region, a library display will be developed and installed in May.

Dean Hartley is chairing a committee to create library displays in the spring of 2009. This will

increase visibility of our organization and what we do.

We will have a display at the Albany Public Library and two other area libraries.

Please contact Dean if you have documents or artifacts for the display cases at these sites. We



need items that would be eye appealing and would tell the Dutch story.

Dean also needs a person with a car to help move and set up the displays in April, May and June. If anyone is interested in working on his committee, please contact Dean

Jim is working on getting us a new web address.

With the 400th Celebration being kicked off in only a few more months, now is an excellent time for us celebrate our heritage and increase awareness of Albany's founding citizens.

Fundraisers

In addition to the Christmas Bazaar, we are planning another fund raiser

for this year to support our Yearbook and Scholarship fund.

We will host a "do it yourself tea party." We will provide the tea bag which our guests can enjoy in the comfort of their own homes with no need to dress up or waste gas!

Joan Burns and Jill Knapp will co-chair this non-event, event! Watch for your invitation early this winter!

Grant Updates

We have received notice that we have been successful in securing grant funding from the 2009 Quadricentennial Community Mini-Grants in the amount of \$1,000 toward yearbook production costs.

We received an extension for the scanning project. Bids were received and a vendor has been selected

to scan and create an electronic file of our membership applications. We have over 1000 original applications and about 5000 when supplemental applications are counted!

We are still awaiting word of a third grant that has been recently submitted.





THE DUTCH SETTLERS
SOCIETY OF ALBANY
ALBANY, N.Y.

Our Society was founded in 1924, in connection with the celebrations of the tercentenary of the settlement of the City of Albany, New York and was instituted to perpetuate the memory of the individuals who resided there during the time that it was a Dutch Colony.

Our major contribution is to foster the study of, and to perpetuate and preserve the history, memories, memorabilia, genealogical records and virtues of the early settlers and their descendents without regard for race, creed, or country of origin. Society's Yearbooks are published studies and general information relative to the early history of this Hudson River Region previously unavailable to the general public.

The Society participates in community activities which perpetuate the history of New Netherland, with special emphasis on The Settlement of Fort Orange, which later was called Beverwyck, and the Colony of Rensselaerswyck prior to 1664, and encourages others to study and teach such history.

Events



John Van Derpoel and John Wemple at the Albany History

We participated in the Albany History Fair in May at the Albany Visitors Center. We had a good time visiting with the numerous visitors and other exhibitors.

Our *Sunday Champagne Brunch* fundraiser on the Captain J.P. Cruise Line on July 27, was successful in spite of the stormy weather. Thirty-five people attended, and we raised \$268 for the scholarship and yearbook fund.

Given the enthusiastic response of those who participated, it has been suggested we have another cruise in 2009.

President's Corner

Greetings from Your President!

Thank you for having faith in me and re-electing me again this year. Summer is gone but we have pleasant thoughts of a wonderful Champagne Brunch Cruise down the Hudson River aboard the J.P. during July. Thank you Gloria for orchestrating this event which was a fund raiser. Since then, the Officers, Board and Committees have been diligently meeting making plans for the coming year.

As you may have noticed, we have a new format for our newsletter (thank you Jill). A new web site is being developed (thanks to Jim). We are keeping many of the traditional events but putting a new twist on some of them (e.g. Meet and Greet the

authors at the February Mixer, and the "Tea Bag" Fund Raiser). Another anticipated change in keeping with the "go green" campaign will be the conversion to electronic mailing. If you are willing to have your newsletter sent to you by email, please let Jim Schermerhorn know. The change will probably be gradual but it will save a substantial amount of money on expenses such as postage, paper, envelopes and printing costs. Also, if interesting programs or happenings occur between mailings, we could let you know about them. We encourage you to use email but if you do not have computer access or would still prefer to receive your copy in the mail, we will respect and honor your wishes.

Please feel free to contact me with ideas and sug-

gestions. If you would like to serve on a Committee, this would be a wonderful way to get acquainted with other members and develop that feeling of ownership in your organization. I am also asking Officers and Committee Chairs to keep a log of duties of your position (e.g., time line, contact information, details) so that if at any time there is a change in the incumbent, the duties would be completely outlined and the transition seamless. I am requesting that you start recording the information now and continue to do so during the year.

I look forward to your continued support and enthusiasm. This is a great organization with wonderful members, YOU! Joan