

The Dutch Settlers Society of Albany

Spring 2011 Newsletter

Upcoming Events

For all events — see contact information at right.

Our **spring program** will be held on Wednesday **April 6, 2011 at 7 PM**, at the First Church in Albany with a program on the construction of the Erie Canal by William Boucharde.

The **63rd Annual Albany Tulip Festival** will be held on **May 7 & 8**, in Albany's Washington Park. Over 200,000 tulip and other bulbs blossom just in time for this Mother's Day celebration. The Dutch Settlers Society will participate in the street scrubbing on State Street and other events throughout the weekend. For more information contact Jim Schermerhorn.

The **Albany History Fair** will take place on Sunday **May 15** as part of the statewide Heritage Weekend celebration. The theme will be "Making a Living" in Albany. The event will be held at the Albany Visitors Center. Volunteers are needed to staff our table.

Watch for details of our **Annual Meeting** in June.

Recent Events



Our Annual St. **Nicholas Day Dinner** was held on December 3, 2010. Over 65 members from around the upstate New York area attended. Linda Harrington Davis traveled from Columbia, South Carolina to attend with her sister Pamela Hannan. Pam and Linda are fairly new members of the DSSA and are 11th generation descendants of Pieter Winne. Pam reported that they "had an awesome time, especially learning the Dutch dances!" The authentic, old world Dutch menu was unique and delicious. They look forward to the upcoming events.

Our Annual Mixer was held at the Albany Pump Station on February 15.

Plans for Next Yearbook Underway

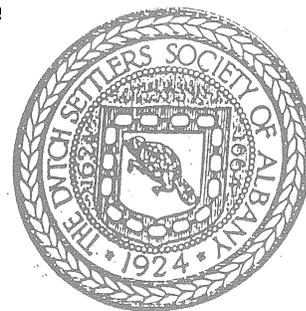
John Wemple, Chair of the Yearbook Committee, says the planning stage for the next Yearbook is underway, with the following already signed up to work on the Committee: Cheryle Webber, Joan Burns, Theodore Wright, Pamela Hannan, Ellen Zunon, Leslie Johnson, Linda Dingman and Gerald Boileau. Once the weather clears, a series of meetings will be scheduled at which time the Committee will discuss topics to be included in the next volume, the timeline for completing the tasks of obtaining articles and deadlines for submissions. Any member interested in assisting with the Yearbook should contact John Wemple at jgwemple@nycap.rr.com.

One of the challenges our organization faces, is how widespread our membership is.

The Yearbook provides an excellent opportunity for members from across the country and around the world to participate in the organization. If you have ideas for articles, or if you would be willing to research and write an article of interest to the society, please let John know.

The Yearbook is our most visible accomplishment and provides a rich patchwork of articles on our history and region.

Please considering helping!



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

Our Society was founded in 1924 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.

Historical Research

The New York State Library in Albany is now open on Saturdays from 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM. It has a tremendous amount of genealogical information and local history.

Check out their website <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/>

Some information is available on line and other materials such as historic newspapers are available on micro-film through inter library loan.



From the President

Dear Members:

With our first hint of warm weather last week, we are all breathing a sigh of relief that winter is nearly over! Now it is time to think of our Spring and Summer programs.

Last week, a small but enthusiastic group attended the February Mixer to network with other members. Doug Boettner brought us up to date on his windmill project and the food and the warm fire were enjoyed by all.

At our Spring Program on

April 6th, our guest speaker will be William (Bill) Bouchard who will talk to us about the construction of the Erie Canal from the digging of the "Big Ditch" to the construction of the Barge Canal. All of this is in preparation of our trip on the Canal being planned for late Summer. More information will be coming on this event to be held with the English Speaking Union and St. George's Society.

Again, the Tulip Festival will be held Mother's Day weekend and we know that all the tulips will be in Full Bloom. We look for-

ward to everyone participating in this wonderful weekend that celebrates our Dutch heritage.

Please take a look at the other events mentioned in other sections of the newsletter. If anyone has any suggestions for a program or a speaker, please contact Jim Schermerhorn or me and we will try to add them to the schedule.

I look forward to seeing all of you at these events.

Jay Harold Jakovic,
President
Telephone(518)465-6537

News From Our Members

Charlotte Van Horne Squarcy, a descendant of Pieter Claessen Wyckoff, shared the following on her Facebook Page in December 2010.

"Today I reserved a berth on the Holland America Cruise Lines (HAL) Flagship Nieuw Amsterdam for the April 3rd, 15 day Transatlantic Crossing to Barcelona. While HAL is offering some unique visiting opportunities in Spanish ports, I really wanted to immerse myself in the maritime cul-

ture of Dutchmen at sea. Last summer I cruised the Med all too briefly on the Noordam and had as much enjoyment aboard as in the various ports. The staff in all the specialty venues of wine service, fine dining, musical entertainments in the small bars and large stages were all so professional, yet charming.

Admittedly, having just finished a live TV season in Holland, I was treated somewhat like a celebrity, but, honestly, I think eve-

ryone we met aboard felt the same way. -- So contact your travel agent or ask me for mine, find a deal and come sit at our table. HAL goes all out for Dutch Americans in my book."

Daniel Bradt from Niskayuna NY is President of the Bradt Family Society. He writes that he is Chairman of the Bradt Family Reunion to be held July 2012, Desmond Hotel in Albany, NY. All are welcome to attend.

The New Netherland Museum presents:

Two Artists in Dialog: **Tantillo- Whitbeck** A Discussion of Contrasting Styles from a Common Source

Len Tantillo is well established with his work depicting historical moments of the Hudson Valley in a panoramic landscape style.

James Whitbeck, a native of the Berkshires, is establishing himself with work evocative of the 17th century Dutchmasters in still life.

Join us for an exciting and insightful dialog as these two unique artists describe the motivation that inspires their work, and the process they follow to a final outcome.

Sunday, March 13th from 2 – 4 p.m.

The Opalka Gallery at The Sage Colleges

140 New Scotland Avenue,
Albany, NY 12208

Please register by visiting www.halfmoonreplica.org/artistdialog or by calling the office at 518 443-1609.

Any member whose name was possibly misspelled or their address was incorrect in the last Yearbook, please contact John at his e-mail address

jgwem-ple@nycap.rr.com