

New York Mayflower

Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of New York
Vol. 24, No. 3 Spring/Summer, 2021

A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Mayflower Society Members,

We are looking forward to hosting in-person events as we move into the latter part of 2021. On September 22, we will be holding our Fall reception at the Union Club and on Saturday, November 6, we will be holding our 67th Annual Debutante Ball at the University Club.

This issue of the newsletter provides an update on our Ball plans and notes that while we were sadly prevented from celebrating the 400th Anniversary of the Mayflower landing by COVID, we will be making up for it with an extra festive celebration of the 400th anniversary of the first Thanksgiving.

We also profile long-time Mayflower Board member, Sara Champion; share this year's Margaret King Moore award-winning essay by Elise Mayer; provide some news from our colonies in Albany and Buffalo, including a profile of long-time Albany treasurer B.J. Haner; and publish some of the thank yous from appreciative elementary school students at the Lyndon Baines Johnson elementary school in Brooklyn who were visited virtually by actors from Plimoth Patuxet.

For fun, we've included cocktail recipes courtesy of our Young Members. And, we've added a new section, "Membership News." We have a strong community and want to continue to strengthen those bonds.

As always, we thank you for your ongoing support of the Society.

My best wishes for a relaxing summer. I look forward to seeing you in September.



Robin D. Weaver
Executive Director

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Update on 400th Anniversary Celebrations

By Steve Madsen

Well, we began 2020 with a great plan for celebrating the 400th Anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth. Early in the year, an Executive Advisory Committee was formed that consulted biweekly about preparations for the Ball and the special events associated with it. First, for Friday, November 6, we had planned a cocktail reception at the Colony Club for all of our past and present Mayflower debutantes and their guests. Second, for Saturday, November 7, we had planned a gala 400th Anniversary Ball at the University Club; the shift from Friday to Saturday night for the Ball was intended to facilitate attendance by debutantes who are in school and by those coming from out of town. And third, we had planned a festive after-party at the exclusive nightclub Doubles. And it was looking to be a truly splendid set of celebrations, with at least seven debutantes, from all over the country, signed up to participate.

Unfortunately, the coronavirus had other ideas. With dancing and singing essentially prohibited, and with crowds at venues such as those we had selected sharply circumscribed, these events were not to be. As a result, all of these plans were canceled for 2020.

Not for 2021, however! We anticipate that in 2021 we will celebrate the 400th Anniversary of the First Thanksgiving, and we already have five debutantes signed up for the event. We will have the cocktail party for past and present debutantes at the Colony Club on Friday, November 5, and we will have the Ball at the University Club on Saturday, November 6. We also hope to have the after-party at Doubles on Saturday, November 6. Please let us know if you have names and addresses of past debutantes so we can send them an invitation.

In many ways, the shift from a celebration of the landing to a celebration of the First Thanksgiving is rather suitable in the present environment. After their first year in the New World, and despite disease, death, privation and tremendous uncertainty, the Pilgrims had achieved a good measure of stability by the Fall of 1621. As Bradford recounts, those who survived were “all well recovered in health and strength and had all things in good plenty”. There was, indeed, much to be thankful for. And whatever state our world may be in as 2021 comes to a close, it is always good to remember that just as the Pilgrims suffered, so, too, in the fullness of time, they survived and prospered. And so, as their progeny, will we.

Sara Champion: The Familial Connection of the Mayflower Society



Sara Champion has served as Board member, Secretary and then as Elder of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of New York from 2005 to 2021. While she is stepping down from the New York Board, she was recently elected to the Board of the Connecticut Mayflower Society. As the expression goes, our loss is their gain!

Speaking with Sara about what she has most enjoyed during her tenure as a New York Mayflower Society Board member, she says, “From the very first New York Mayflower event I attended, I always felt a strong familial connection even with those I had never met before. I always looked forward to our Board meetings which seemed like gatherings of extended family.”

Sara’s interest in history and genealogy run deep. She is a Trustee of the Connecticut Historical Society and Chair of its Collections Steering Committee. She is on the Council of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the Registrar and Honorary Regent of the Drum Hill Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and Founding Director and Registrar of the Society of the First Families of New York.

As someone who loves and appreciates history, Sara is especially proud of the work the Mayflower Society does with school children. As she explains, “I think school children need to understand that about half the Mayflower passengers were English settlers who came with their families to live in a place where they could practice their religion. This group had already left England and lived about 10 years in the Netherlands before coming to America. The other half of the passengers came principally from the London area and were essentially workers whose skills were needed for the transatlantic voyage and the early days of settlement. It’s also important that school children appreciate the plight and the role of the indigenous people who were so helpful to the Pilgrims, showing them how to plant corn and beans for their sustenance.”

As if all of Sara’s work in history and genealogy are not enough, she also had an impressive career in the legal field. Sara is a former corporate attorney who specialized in executive compensation. She practiced law for 20 years before retiring in 2012. Sara holds a bachelor’s degree from Duke University and before attending law school, she worked as a Russian linguist for the National Security Agency and taught Russian at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California.

Given her work in history and genealogy, Sara still finds time to garden, golf and enjoy her summer home on Cape Cod. We thank her for her service to the New York Society and wish her all the best.

Young Members Know How to Party

While COVID created limitations this winter/spring, it did not prevent the Young Member Group of the Mayflower Society from hosting a virtual cocktail party on Thursday, February 25. Mayflower Board of Assistants' members, Erica Brookman Zick and Christine Brown organized the event. In true virtual fashion, members joined the party with their beverage of choice while having fun and social distancing at the same time. For those who were unable to participate in the festivities, see the recipes below so that you too can enjoy a "Mayflower Martini" or a "Rock the Boat" - or both!

If you are interested in participating in future young member events and/or would like to share ideas for future events, please contact Erica Zick (erica.brookman2@gmail.com) and Christine Brown (christine30ny@gmail.com)



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Recipe Card

Mayflower Martini

RECIPE NAME

Cocktail

CATEGORY

A few minutes

TIME TO PREPARE

Shaker

Martini Glass

TOOLS TO USE

INGREDIENTS

- 1.5 oz Gin
- 1/4 oz Elderflower
- 1/4 oz white cranberry
- 1/4 oz lemon juice
- Luxardo cherry (optional)
- dash of cherry bitters (optional)

DIRECTIONS

Combine ingredients. Shake Shake Shake and strain into a martini glass!

ENJOY!!!!



Recipe Card

Rock The Boat

RECIPE NAME

Cocktail

CATEGORY

A few minutes

TIME TO PREPARE

Tall/Highball Glass

Stirrer

TOOLS TO USE

INGREDIENTS

- 1.5 oz Bourbon
- 4 oz Club Soda
- 2 Tsp Fine Sugar
- 1/2 Fresh Lime
- Ice

DIRECTIONS

- Squeeze lime into a glass and keep the lime shell for garnish
- Add sugar and stir to combine
- Measure and pour Bourbon into the glass
- Fill with ice
- Top with sparkling club soda
- Garnish with lime

Sip and Enjoy!

Margaret King Moore Essay Winner

The Margaret King Moore award is given each year to a New York high school student who competes in an essay contest based on a topic related to the Pilgrims. This year's topic was "The Pilgrims' Legacy in 21st Century America." The winner of the contest receives a prize of \$1,620. The award was made possible through a bequest to the New York Society by Mrs. Moore. We want to express our appreciation to the Moore family. This year's recipient is Elise Mayer from Union-Endicott High School in Endicott, New York. Below is her award winning essay.



Essay Winner Elise Mayer

"The Pilgrim's Legacy in 21st Century America"

In thinking about the legacy of the Mayflower, we must acknowledge the strength and cohesiveness the pilgrims displayed in the face of great challenges. We can look to them as role models as we deal with the unique difficulties we currently face in America.

Their example and experience are especially pertinent in our world today. As we battle a dangerous and deadly virus such as COVID-19, while our country is so divided on matters of race and class, and on what constitutes our core values.

The Pilgrim's voyage and period of establishing a colony were times of severe health issues. First, the grueling and sometimes violent conditions resulting from rough seas left most suffering debilitating

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seasickness. Second, there were the illnesses encountered after landing at Plymouth (brought by earlier arrivals from Europe and borne by the natives). Finally, they suffered deprivation due to food scarcity. The combined result was the death of half of their number.

It took incredible fortitude on their part to endure and conquer the many challenges they faced on their journey. We can only imagine what life was like, with more than 100 passengers, plus a sizeable crew packed into a 100 foot ship. No personal space, no privacy, no opportunity for normal hygiene rituals, barely tolerable food quality, awful odors, short tempers, and seasickness for much of the journey. Many must have wondered how they would survive. It must have been most stressful for those children who didn't even have the comfort of being with their own families.

A critical factor in achieving their goal was the ability of all the travelers to band together and work as a unit, despite their differences and distinctions. They differed in ideology and intention, some seeking religious freedom while others primarily sought a better life. Class represented a most significant difference, with some being masters, and others, servants. And gender was the basis for far more discrimination in roles and status than we experience today. Yet despite these differences, both during the journey and most notably after landing, one of the greatest strengths was their ability to work as a unit, supporting each other through illness and despair. There was no room for separate factions, or for anyone to insist on making his or her own decisions.

Today, we face a very real challenge; a virus that has killed a half million of our citizens. Fear and the need to contain the virus have crippled our economy. "COVID fatigue" plagues us after a year of restrictions and missed experiences. Confined to our mostly comfortable homes, with provisions available at well-stocked stores and many digital means of connecting with those we can't see in person, we complain, and we take stuff for granted. On the Mayflower they did not have all of these luxuries.

We would all do well to recall the plight faced by the Pilgrims, as well as the fortitude and unity with which they faced their challenges. It was not easy, and there were enormous costs. But they ultimately succeeded, and 400 years later, we still can appreciate their achievement and emulate them.

P.S. 151K Thank You

As part of our mission, we sponsor visits to New York City elementary schools from actors at Plimoth Patuxet. These visits afford the students an opportunity to learn about our history and the role of the Pilgrims. This year, the visits were done virtually. One of the schools included in the visits was P.S. 151 in Brooklyn – the Lyndon Baines Johnson Elementary School. The students and teachers were so appreciative to have this experience. Below is a sampling of their thank yous.



Thank You!

The students and faculty of P.S.151K would like to thank the amazing educators that joined us on April 14, 2021 all the way from the Plimoth Patuxet museum. The students were fully engaged and we all enjoyed, and learned, a lot from your visit.

We would also like to send a special thank you to
The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of New York
for your generous gift which made history come alive for our fourth and fifth grade students.



P.S.151K
The Lyndon Baines Johnson School

Nayeli 4-304

Thank you for your time Mr T. I liked how you teached us about the dutch and how was it back in the day. I also liked how you showed us what did they eat and do during the hard times back in the 1500's and 1600's. I loved the part when you taught about the leaks and what they had to do in order to get to the state with the leaks. I also loved the part when you told us about the trees and land because I found it interesting.

P.s We enjoyed the lesson and We loved it. Thank you for your time! <3

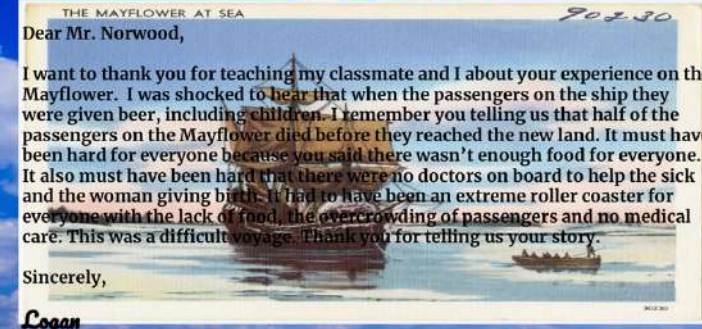
Logan

THE MAYFLOWER AT SEA

Dear Mr. Norwood,

I want to thank you for teaching my classmate and I about your experience on the Mayflower. I was shocked to hear that when the passengers on the ship they were given beer, including children. I remember you telling us that half of the passengers on the Mayflower died before they reached the new land. It must have been hard for everyone because you said there wasn't enough food for everyone. It also must have been hard that there were no doctors on board to help the sick and the woman giving birth. It had to have been an extreme roller coaster for everyone with the lack of food, the overcrowding of passengers and no medical care. This was a difficult voyage. Thank you for telling us your story.

Sincerely,
Logan




Mauri Dear Mr. Tim Turner

5th Grade

Thank you

Thank you for the presentation I learned a lot from it. For example the two different nations, the Cherokee and Wampanoag, have some similar things but one different thing is their languages. Another thing i learn from the presentation is how they created the wooden bowls they used to eat in.



Information and News from the Colonies

We want to thank our colonies for the work they do in promoting our mission. Below are a history of the Buffalo Colony and a tribute to long-time Albany treasurer, Betty-Jean Haner.

Buffalo Colony

By Christine Berg

“The second Society of Mayflower Descendants convention took place in Buffalo, NY at the Pan American Exposition of 1901. It was held in the New York State Pavilion (now the Buffalo History Museum) on September 6, 1901. This meeting is listed in “The Report of Board of General Managers at Pan-American Exposition.” Certainly there were Buffalo area society members present, though time has obscured their identities. The colony was brought back into the light during the 1960’s under the hand of the Hon. Appleton Fryer at the request of Bishop Lauriston L. Scaife (1948-1970) of the Buffalo Episcopal Diocese of Western N.Y. Since then, there has been an orderly succession of Colony Governors into the present with the current Colony Governor Christine Berg.

Two meetings have been held annually, until the Covid 19 hiatus, at restaurants in the area. We have experimented with family style service as well as ordering from the restaurant menu. Our current restaurant is The Red Osier. Attendance is on the order of 35-40 members and guests. Programs include speakers, profiles of Plymouth Colony figures, discussions of Triennial meetings, and show and tell. In this year we’re reminded of the travail of the colony’s first winter and the Society’s continuing assessment of our historical context. These issues will be explored as meetings resume.”

Albany Colony

A Real "Treasure"

By Sylvia Story Magin

We all keep track of our finances because we must do so, not that it provides any particular source of pleasure, but any sensible lifestyle requires tracking income and expenditures with--at the very least--some modicum of accuracy. We don't always enjoy tallying up where the money goes, but staying solvent and trying to "get ahead" are simply necessities of life.

Apparently there is an occasional exception to this paradigm, an unusual individual who actually enjoys the experience of recording financial transactions and maintaining detailed records of the cash flow. Albany Colony of the Mayflower Society can boast of such a gem among our officers: our long-time Colony Treasurer, Betty-Jean Haner. And I do mean long-time; it was in 1967, an amazing 54 years ago, when B-J, as she is known, joined the Albany Colony as a descendant of Pilgrim George Soule, and she accepted the Treasurer's



mantle in 1972! She is now enjoying her well-earned retirement from the workday world, but happily for us, so far she shows no signs of relinquishing her role of Treasurer.

B-J began her career as a classroom teacher, first in elementary and then in middle school, where she remained for five years, until she completed her degree in Library Science at what is now SUNY Albany, at which time she began a 36-1/2 year career as a school librarian. B-J has always been an active participant, a real "doer." In her youth she much loved swimming and camping in the Adirondacks with her parents and sister. She joined the Girl Scouts, where she was a vital member for some fifty years, and for several of those years she was a Senior Scout Leader. For most of her life she has been very involved in church activities, taking a positive role in various ways, both here at home and also, in recent years, in Florida, where she is privileged to spend quite a bit of her time.

Betty-Jean, "B-J", is a very pleasant, quiet, soft-spoken lady, and she is a tremendous asset to Albany Colony: not just for her astonishing longevity at a task not everyone would relish or could handle, but for her extreme dedication to detailed bookkeeping and her apparent enjoyment of the continuing assignment--a real Treasure!

Member News

Births

Justin Greer-MacGregor reports that he and his wife, Rebecca, had a daughter on April 1, 2021. Her name is Sibyl Judith Greer-MacGregor.

Board Member, Jennifer Rolfe and her husband Ben Hale welcomed a son, Alexander Hale, on Easter Sunday, April 11, 2021.

Adam Yaari and his wife Amanda welcomed their second daughter, Caroline Elizabeth Anne Yaari. Her middle name, Elizabeth is after her great (x11) grandmother and Mayflower passenger Elizabeth Tilley, wife of John Howland.

Weddings



Erica Brookman & Leo Joseph Zick

Board member, Erica Brookman married Leo Joseph Zick on October 24, 2020 at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Shelton, CT. The couple were surrounded by 50 of their family and closest friends – masks and all!

Liza Standish Sackson reports that her two older sons, both Life Members, were married in 2020. Robert Nevin Standish Sackson was married on June 27, 2020 to Emily Jane Cuthbert. His brother, John Cunningham Stewart Sackson, was married on August 8, 2020 to Audrey Elaine Lorenzoni. Robert and John are descendants of Captain Myles Standish.

Other News

Board member and Deputy Governor, Justin Abelow reports that he and his family have recently returned to the Upper East Side of Manhattan having spent six months working from home in Tuxedo Park, New York. This change of venue has been greeted with various degrees of happiness by the human members of his family and with absolute horror by Mopsy the Wonder Dog!

One of our young members, Chris Fluder, has been featured in LandEscape magazine. Chris studied at the Tisch School of the Arts. He has a multifaceted background as an artist, writer, director, and producer. See the link for more information on Chris's amazing artwork:

<https://issuu.com/landescapeartpress/docs/vol-58/1?ff>

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