

# New York Mayflower

Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of New York  
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## SAVE THE DATE

### COUSINS DINNER

Wednesday, March 25

### ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 15

### 67<sup>TH</sup> MAYFLOWER BALL

Saturday, November 7

## A Message From the Governor

Dear Mayflower Colleagues,

We are especially excited this year as we begin to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mayflower landing. The New York Society of Mayflower Descendants will be hosting several programs and events throughout the year to acknowledge the significance of this occasion.

As part of this anniversary, we are hosting events that celebrate, among other things, the determined spirit of our ancestors, who came to our shores to seek a place to exercise their religious beliefs and to seek a better economic future.

Two events especially worth mentioning are our Annual Cousins Dinner and our 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Ball. On March 25, we'll be hosting Susan Belekewicz, the Executive Director of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, at our Cousins Dinner.

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And, on Saturday, November 7, we'll be hosting our 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Ball. As part of our gala 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend, plans are in the works to invite all our past debutantes going back to 1959, the year our Annual Ball began.

These events, along with other programs, remind us of the important role the Mayflower settlers played in America's founding values, including its constitutional tradition – values that remain relevant for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

I hope you can join me in our **400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** celebrations.

All the Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Reid Miles". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Reid Miles  
Governor

## Sarah Morse



(left to right: Lauren Morse, Rob Morse, and Sarah Morse)

Sarah Morse has been a familiar face at the Society since she became Executive Director in June 2000.

She has been a driving force for the Society. During Sarah’s tenure as Executive Director, the Society has grown to approximately 1,400 members. Below “by the numbers” shows just one part of the impact Sarah has had at the Society.

### **By the Numbers:**

Years as Executive Director	20
Annual Balls Planned	19
Number of Debutantes	80
Applications Reviewed and Accepted	700
Annual Meetings Planned	19
Number of Visits to the Plimoth Plantation	7
Attendance at General Society Congresses	8

Sarah’s and her late husband Bob’s contribution to the Society can’t be measured simply in numbers. Knowing Sarah for so many years, I can attest to how deeply she loves the Society and I know she will continue to be an important member and contributor,” adds Governor Reid Miles. Sarah will continue to support the Society as Historian.

## Welcome Robin Weaver!

After some 20 years, Sarah Morse, celebrated above, has retired from her post as Executive Director of our Society. After an extensive search, which involved the review of over 125 resumes and interviews of several strong candidates, the Search Committee, consisting of Sumner Anderson as Chair, Walter “Brewie” Brewster, Adelaide Farah, Jessica Jennings and Steve Madsen, recommended that the Society offer the Executive Director position to Ms. Robin Weaver, who commenced her duties on behalf of the Society on December 2, 2019.



Robin, who hails from Pittsburgh, has credentials that are extremely impressive and that fit her very well for her new post. She has worked in law and finance and served for four years as President of the Women's National Republican Club. Most recently, Robin served as Interim Executive Director of the Harvard Business School Club of New York. In addition to being an upbeat and enjoyable person, Robin has great experience in administration, management, communications, event planning and all the other things that are needed to keep our Society growing, connected and fun.

We hope that all of you will make the effort to meet Robin and wish her the very best in her Mayflower voyage!

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### Whatever Happened to the “Campaign for 400”?

Members who have been around for a while may recall that a number of years ago your eminently forward-looking Board of Assistants launched a fundraising project, called the “Campaign for 400”, which had as its goal raising the sum of \$400,000 to be added to the Society’s endowment as a means of marking the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landing at Plymouth. The thought was that by augmenting the endowment in this fashion, we would help to secure our Society’s ability to convey the Mayflower story going forward for posterity over the next 400 years.

Unfortunately, although many of our members contributed to this campaign, it did not reach its goal. As of 2018, the Campaign had only raised approximately \$65,000 – nothing to sneeze at, but not the handsome sum that had been envisioned. At that point, your Board of Assistants determined to develop other means of celebrating the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary, such as the extravaganza of this year’s 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mayflower Ball.

However, it is never too late to be generous, and never too late to make a gift in a most worthy cause. Further contributions to the Campaign for 400 are most welcome – and in any amount. While the Campaign was in its more active phase, we were keeping track of the Mayflower ancestors of those who made donations, and when we pivoted away from the campaign Howland descendants were definitely in the lead, both in terms of number of donors and amount given. Now, it is true that the Howland progeny are very numerous, but there are other Pilgrims who have many, many descendants, and many descendants even of those Pilgrims who were not particularly prolific who have found themselves well-endowed with the goods of this world.

Accordingly, knowing that Mayflower descendants as a group and in general have pretty good competitive instincts, we are pleased to announce that at the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball we will be giving recognition to the Mayflower ancestor whose descendants made the largest number of gifts to the Campaign, and to the ancestor whose descendants gave the largest aggregate amount to the Campaign.

Ready, set, go!

## Mayflower Balls Past and Future

The 66<sup>th</sup> Mayflower Ball, Celebrating the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the New York Society of Mayflower Descendants



(left to right: Sarah Morse, Sumner Anderson and Renee Anderson)

On Friday, November 1, 2019, the 66<sup>th</sup> annual Mayflower Ball was held at the University Club. On that occasion, the New York Society marked the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding in New York City. The founding of our Society marked the beginning of the Mayflower movement, leading ultimately to the establishment of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants and the founding of Mayflower Societies in many states as well as internationally.



Two debutantes were presented at the 2019 Ball: Chase Arianna Fang (right) and Brooke Whitworth Hoekstra (left). They were, as Mayflower debutantes generally are, serene, beautiful and appearing to enjoy themselves immensely.

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It was a truly lovely evening, graced by the presence of the debutantes' families, including Ms. Fang's 101-year-old great-grandfather, whose presence gave good witness to the Mayflower longevity gene!

Both debs were interesting and highly accomplished young ladies, as evidenced by their careers in life so far as summarized below.

### Chase Arianna Fang

Chase graduated from the Lycée Rochambeau, French International School, in Maryland before attending Cornell University in New York where she is currently a Junior. Chase is majoring in Biology with a minor in French. Her extra-curricular activities include Vice President and Co-Founder of the Ithaca Health Initiative, Student Advisor of the Office of Undergraduate Biology, Member of the Cornell Surgical Society, Sober Monitor of Cayuga's Watchers, Player and Social Chair of Cornell Women's Club Ice Hockey Team, and German Section Council Member of the Cornell Language House. Chase's mother Tisha Elizabeth Jepson Fang, brother Harrison Blair Fang and sister Etienne Victoria Fang are all Life members of the DC Mayflower society and descendants of William Bradford, John Howland, and John Tilley.



Chase was presented by her uncle, Mr. Aaron Michael Caughran. Her escorts were Feng Jiang, Caldwell Knight Biddle, and her brother, Harrison Blair Fang.

### Brooke Whitworth Hoekstra



Brooke is currently a student at Miami University, majoring in marketing and is a Dean's List student at the Farmer School of Business. Brooke has been actively involved in her school life, Model UN, Chemistry Club President, an editor of L'Esprit and member of the golf team. Brooke's volunteer activities have included Bernie's Book Bank, Equestrian Connection, Winter Wonderwalk and most recently Northwestern Memorial Hospital of Chicago, Women's Board for patient initiatives. Brooke has a love of horseback riding and art. As

an equestrienne, she has enjoyed many years of competitive showing. Her artwork has been exhibited at Scott Foresman and Company, the Deer Path Art League and within the community where she was a recipient of the Mayor's Emerging Artist Award. This past summer Brooke enjoyed traveling to London and Paris, and with her brother and sister, took a cooking class at the Le Cordon Bleu. Brooke's grandmother Patricia Young, mother Julia Hoekstra, sister Alexandra and brother John are members of the Illinois Mayflower Society and a descendant of John Howland.

Brooke was presented by her father, Mr. Reed J. Hoekstra. Her escorts were John Reed Hoekstra and Wesley Garrison Young.



Reid Miles and Sarah Morse



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(left to right: Walter Brewster, Reid Miles, and Sumner Anderson)



(Sara Champion and Governor Emeritus Rev. Thomas Pike)

## The 67<sup>th</sup> Mayflower Ball

### Commemorating the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Landing at Plymouth

Our Ball this year will be a very special, truly once-in-a-lifetime event as we commemorate the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the landing at Plymouth in 1620. We are changing things up a little bit this year, in that the Ball will be held on a Saturday – specifically, Saturday, November 7, 2020 – at the University Club. The Society has already received many expressions of interest from prospective debutantes and their families, and we anticipate having a very good group of debs – after all, the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is a most auspicious occasion for a young lady to make her entrance into society!

But the Ball is not the only special event in this 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. We will also be inviting all our former debutantes to attend a special cocktail reception in New York City on Friday, November 6. If you are within that number – and many of our readers are – we will be reaching out to you with this special invitation in the near term. Also, because a great Ball deserves a splendid after-party, we will also be hosting a special post-Ball event at the renowned Manhattan nightclub Doubles, located in the Sherry-Netherland Hotel, just a few blocks away from the University Club. So, plan to make a huge night of it – you will truly have a Ball, and then some!

If by any chance you have a daughter, niece, granddaughter, grandniece or other prospective debutante in your life, please contact the Society's Executive Director, Ms. Robin Weaver, at headquarters at your earliest convenience.

## Cousins Dinner March 25, 2020

The annual Cousins Dinner is scheduled for March 25, 2020, at the Colony Club. The festivities begin with cocktails at 6:30 p.m.

Inaugurated in 2007 by Governor Emerita Annette Geddes, the Cousins Dinner has become a very popular staple of our Society's annual program of events. At the Cousins Dinner, members and their guests are seated with other members descended from the same Mayflower passenger, and there is invariably friendly rivalry as to which of the Pilgrims has the largest number of descendants present.

We are very fortunate to have as our speaker at the Cousins Dinner this year Susan Belekewicz, Executive Director of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, who will give us a full briefing on the activities planned by the General Society to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the landing at Plymouth.

We hope to see you there – and be sure to bring all your cousins!

## The 2020 Annual Meeting

This year's 2020 Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 15 at the Union Club (101 E. 69<sup>th</sup> Street). To encourage attendance, this year's program will start at 6:30 p.m. (30 minutes later than in previous years).

The Annual Meeting is an opportunity to meet the Society's officers and assistants, share your legacy stories with your fellow Mayflower colleagues, and enjoy the cocktail reception that follows the program.

Because of this year's special anniversary, you'll also have an opportunity to hear about ongoing plans for the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, including our 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Ball.

We hope to see you on April 15<sup>th</sup>!

## Remembering Bob Morse



Governor Emeritus Robert P. Morse died on April 25, 2019. Bob was a major force in our Society for many years. He served as governor from 1993-1998. He chaired the Society's Nominating Committee for over a decade thereafter. Bob was personally responsible for encouraging many of the Society's current leaders to become involved with it, and those whom he recruited are part of his lasting legacy as a Mayflower descendant.

In addition to serving as the leader of the New York Society of Mayflower Descendants, Bob also served for many years as the Society's financial advisor. Under Bob's management, the endowment of the Society did not just grow: it multiplied, both from donations encouraged by Bob and from his wise management of the Society's investments. Bob's reputation as a first-class money manager was well-earned.

Born in Nyack, New York, on May 8, 1945, Bob graduated from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, graduating in 1967. From 1967 through 1970, he served as a lieutenant in the Navy, remaining a reserve officer

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for many years after that. Intensely proud of his military service, Bob was a decorated combat veteran.

Bob's career in finance began in 1959 and continued up through the time of his death. He served as a senior officer of several firms, including American Express. He founded his own firm Morse, Williams & Co., and served as a partner at Hambrecht & Quist and at Evercore. He later founded a second firm, Morse Asset Management Co., of which he was the Chief Executive Officer at the time of his death.

The New York Mayflower Society was always very dear to Bob. The Society's outreach program, pursuant to which interpreters from Plimoth Plantation make presentations about the life of the Pilgrims to New York City schoolchildren, was initiated on Bob's watch as Governor. Bob will be remembered for his firm principles, for his abiding belief in the fundamental importance of the Pilgrim experience for our Nation and its people, and for his devotion to his family, including his widow, our recently retired Executive Director Sarah Morse, and his children and grandchildren, all of whom carry the Mayflower story forward into the future, on which Bob's eyes were always firmly set.

### Robert P. Morse Memorial Gift

The New York Society has donated \$50,000 to the Mayflower II project of the Plimoth Plantation in memory of Governor Emeritus Morse. Your Board of Assistants believed that this was a most fitting way to remember Bob, combining, as it does, his dedication to our Society, his love of the sea, and his financial expertise which made a gift of this kind possible.

For those wishing to make contributions in Bob's memory, please make checks payable to the New York Society of Mayflower Descendants and send them to the Society's office at 20 W. 44<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 505, New York, New York, 10036.

### **The General Society 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Plans Are In Full Swing!**

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants will commemorate the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the arrival of the Mayflower during Congress in September 2020. Plans are in full swing to make this a Congress to remember.

Fortunately for New York Society members you'll have a chance to get a "sneak preview" at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Cousins dinner here in New York on March 25 with General Society Executive Director, Susan Belekewicz, as noted above.

While the Congress will be meeting from September 15-18, there are a number of events that will be taking place in the lead up to the September 15 Congress meeting including the Provincetown Mayflower II Gala at the Pilgrim Monument and Museum on September 12, the Mayflower Compact Re-enactment Ceremony in Provincetown Harbor featuring the Mayflower II on September 13 and the Pilgrim Progress through the Boston Public Gardens and Boston Common on September 14.

In addition to the General Society's plans, Plimoth Plantation will be hosting programs throughout 2020 including the Opening Day in Plimoth on March 14; Mayflower Sails 2020 at the Charleston Navy Yard (May 14-19); the Welcome Home, Mayflower! (May 21-25); Strawberry Thanksgiving (June 13); and the Green Corn Festival (August 15); Indigenous Peoples Weekend (October 10-12); Archaeology Month Activities (throughout October), Thanksgiving at Plimouth and Festive Holiday programs. For event details go to: [www.plimoth.org](http://www.plimoth.org).

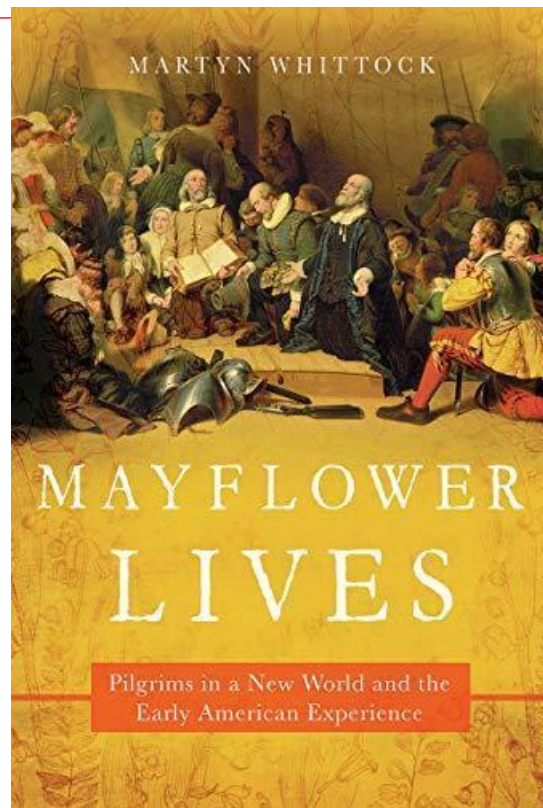
We hope you can take advantage of as many of these events as possible. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to celebrate our Pilgrim heritage.

### Postal Service Will Issue Mayflower Stamp for Plymouth's 400<sup>th</sup>

Titled “Mayflower in Plymouth Harbor” the commemorative stamp features original art by Greg Harlin and was designed by Greg Breeding. According to the Postal Service, it conveys “a scene of desolate beauty at the end of the Pilgrims’ long journey to an unfamiliar world.” The “forever” stamp will be issued in late 2020.







### **Book Recommendation: “Mayflower Lives: Pilgrims in a New World and the Early American Experience”**

As we commemorate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mayflower’s 1620 voyage, you might want to check out Martyn Whittock’s new book on the Pilgrims. He provides a history of one of the seminal events in American history as seen through fourteen diverse and dynamic figures. In his book, Whittock explores religion, politics, economics, romance and the family life of the Pilgrims. Whittock’s book provides a reflection on why the ‘Mayflower settlement’ continues to be so important in the 21<sup>st</sup> century – its enduring quality and significance. The *Wall Street Journal* writes, “It’s perhaps not so surprising that such an assemblage of resolute men and women should contain a number of memorable lives, though it is surprising just how much historians have discovered about people who, with only two or three exceptions, remained unknown in their own day. Mr. Whittock has woven their stories together wonderfully.” You can hear more about *Mayflower Lives* at our Fall reception on September 23 where Mr. Whittock will be the guest speaker.