

THE OFFICIAL  
NEWSLETTER OF  
THE SOCIETY  
OF ST. GEORGE,  
PHILADELPHIA

# The Dragon

SPRING 2025



The  
SOCIETY  
of  
ST. GEORGE  
PHILADELPHIA  
1772

[stgeorgephiladelphia.org](http://stgeorgephiladelphia.org)

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The Tiger Building, 1221 Locust Street  
Box 502, Philadelphia, PA 19107



The President, Trustees, and Officers of The Society of St. George, Philadelphia  
request the pleasure of your company at the

# 253<sup>RD</sup> ST. GEORGE'S DAY DINNER

THE 803<sup>RD</sup> ST. GEORGE'S DAY

SATURDAY, 26 APRIL 2025

THE PHILADELPHIA CLUB

1301 WALNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

RECEPTION 6:00<sup>PM</sup> • PROCESSION 7:00<sup>PM</sup> • DINNER 7:45<sup>PM</sup>

**Black Tie | Orders and Decorations**

Cocktail hour bar is generously underwritten by Rich and Pattie Booker.

Register online at [stgeorgephiladelphia.org](http://stgeorgephiladelphia.org)

Or complete the below and return with check payable to:

The Society of St. George, Philadelphia  
1221 Locust Street, Box 502  
Philadelphia, PA 19107



Reservations are limited. Please respond by April 14, 2025.

I/we would like \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at the following level:

- Member/Guest** \$150 each
- Patron** \$250 each (includes listing on gala signage and in the Dragon newsletter)
- Royal Patron** \$500 each (includes listing on gala signage, in the program and in the Dragon newsletter)

A check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

To pay by credit card, please scan the QR code.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

For possible seating arrangements, please list names of those with whom you wish to be seated:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

I am unable to attend and would like to make a tax deductible donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

QUESTIONS? CONTACT JUDITH FRANCIS AT (267) 521-1774

# FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings Members of the Society of St. George,

We have certainly had a busy few months, with our wonderful Christmas celebration which included a service of Lessons & Carols at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, followed by a festive evening of dining and caroling at the Philadelphia Cricket Club, Flourtown.

We had our Annual Dinner Meeting at the Corinthian Yacht Club of Philadelphia (CYC) on the Delaware River, in addition to our annual event at Stoney's Pub where members enjoyed fellowship and an afternoon of authentic British cuisine. We look forward to our visit with Prince Edward next month.

Next year will be the 250th anniversary of the signing of our Declaration of Independence, and will be participating with other heritage societies with America 250PA. Many events will be scheduled next year to celebrate our great history and our fight for the installation of natural rights, bestowed by God to all men. We remember the time two and one half centuries ago, when we stood alone, facing the might of the British Empire. A time in which so many brave men and women made the ultimate sacrifice, delivered our greatest victory, and secured the blessings of liberty, to ourselves and our posterity. This is a history that must never be "canceled", hidden, or forgotten.

We are a great nation, descended from Mother England, and one that has had a major impact on the modern world. We need to remember that and continue to make a positive impact on the world. In so doing, we preserve and expand the rights and freedoms that we enjoy today for ourselves, and set the example for the rest of the World. We must never be afraid to challenge those who try to dismiss everything we stand for.

We must combat all activities likely to undermine the strength of the United States, or of England or its Commonwealth, from whom we have derived our core ideals and values. It is our duty to stand up against those who disrespect our flag, as well as those who are embarrassed by everything we stand for — our history, traditions, ideals and values.

I was very honored to have served as President of our Society for the last two years. I thank all of our Board members, officers and the general membership for all of their help and support in making the last two years truly memorable.

I wish you all a very happy St. Georges Day and a healthy and prosperous Society in the years to come.

**Richard F. Booker, Esq**



## ST. GEORGE IS VERY SHARING WITH APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup>

Many notable people and some not as recognizable all share a common birthday of April 23rd. This is a partial list of those you might recognize.

### **King Malcolm IV of Scotland**

King of Scots, 1141 - 1165

### **William Shakespeare**

Playwright, 1564 - 1616

### **William Penn**

Father of the Founder of PA, 1621 - 1670

### **J.M.W. Turner**

Artist, 1775 - 1851

### **James Buchanan**

President, 1791 - 1868

### **Stephen A. Douglas**

US Senator, 1813 - 1861

### **Sergei Prokofiev**

Composer, 1891 - 1953

### **Lester B. Pearson**

Canadian Prime Minister, 1897 - 1972

### **Jim Bottomley**

St. Louis Cardinals First Baseman, 1900 - 1959

### **Warren Spahn**

Boston/Milwaukee Pitcher, 1921 - 2003

### **Shirley Temple**

Actress, 1928 - 2014

### **Roy Halston Frowick**

Fashion Designer, 1932 - 1990

### **Roy Orbison**

Singer/Songwriter, 1936 - 1988

### **Michael Moore**

Filmmaker, 1954 -

### **Prince Louis Arthur Charles**

3rd Child of William and Kate, 2018 -

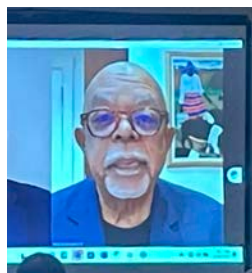
Susan O'Donnell,  
Oliver St. Clair  
Franklin, CBE, and  
Frank O'Donnell



## A SALUTE TO OLIVER!

A CELEBRATION OF SERVICE AND FRIENDSHIP

On Sunday, March 30th, Overbrook Golf Club was alive with celebration as over 100 family members, friends, and diplomatic associates gathered to honor Oliver St. Clair Franklin as he concludes his distinguished tenure as Honorary British Consul to Philadelphia. Greg Cantwell served as M.C. for the evening.



The elegant evening began with a ceremonial entrance as Mr. Franklin was escorted into the dining room by members of the First City Troop, paying tribute to his diplomatic service with the formality it deserves. The international diplomatic community was well-represented, with Honorary Consuls from Uruguay, Lithuania, France, Sweden, Nicaragua, Estonia,

Switzerland, and Jamaica all in attendance to celebrate their esteemed colleague.

Former Mayor Michael Nutter presented Mr. Franklin with a special Tribute from current Mayor Cherelle Parker, recognizing his significant contributions to Philadelphia's international relations. In a particularly touching moment, renowned scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr. shared a heartwarming video message, speaking to the character and accomplishments of his longtime friend.

Throughout the evening, family members and close

associates took turns sharing stories that painted a vivid portrait of Mr. Franklin's impact both personally and professionally. These anecdotes, by turns moving and humorous, highlighted the many dimensions of a man who has served the British-Philadelphia relationship with distinction.

As Mr. Franklin steps down from his position, the gathering served not only as a farewell to his official duties but as a testament to the lasting relationships he has built throughout his diplomatic career. The warm atmosphere and heartfelt tributes made for a truly memorable celebration of service, friendship, and accomplishment.



With Lisa and Michael Nutter

# ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

## LEADERSHIP TRANSITION AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

On February 20th, over 50 members gathered at The Corinthian Yacht Club for the Society's Annual Meeting. Following our biennial tradition, the Society's Officers advanced to their new positions and members unanimously elected a new slate of leaders for the next two years. The official leadership transition will take place after the St. George's Day Dinner on April 26th.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS SHARE UPDATES

The meeting featured representatives from organizations supported by the Society:

John Frisbee, Director of Development at Outward Bound, provided updates on their current programs and initiatives.

Head of St. James School David Kasievich shared recent developments and achievements.

Dr. Sandi Crenshaw, Dean of Academic Strategy at Arcadia University, discussed their Scholarship program and its impact.

Following these presentations, scholarship recipient Aidan McGrath spoke about his transformative semester studying in London and expressed his gratitude to the Society for making this opportunity possible.

## WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

In keeping with tradition, new members were formally installed and presented with their rosettes during the ceremony. New members in attendance included Andrew Colket, Aidan McGrath, and Theresa Murtagh, along with Matthew Gilbert who, though not a new member, was attending his first annual meeting. Membership Chair Will Forbes and Society President Rich Booker presided over the welcoming ceremony.



Frank O'Donnell with scholarship recipient Aidan McGrath



Membership Chair Will Forbes with new members Andrew Colket, Matthew Gilbert (attending his first annual meeting), Aidan McGrath, Theresa Murtagh, and President Rich Booker.

Festival of  
Sant Jordi in  
Barcelona, Spain



# CELEBRATING ST. GEORGE'S DAY

## HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE

George Tyndall

St. George's Day, celebrated in many countries around the world, is a vibrant tribute to the legendary dragon-slaying saint. Traditions vary widely, from fireworks and parades to romantic gestures in Spain, horse blessings, and lamb-roasting rituals. Here's a look at St. George's Day around the globe.



**IN MOST COUNTRIES, ST. GEORGE'S DAY IS CELEBRATED ON APRIL 23RD, THOUGH THERE ARE A FEW EXCEPTIONS.**



**In England**, the festivities often include parties, dinners, fireworks, Punch and Judy shows, parades, Morris dancers, wearing a red rose, and wearing the color blue (said by some legends to be St. George's favorite).

**In northern Spain**, it is considered a feast day due to the legend that St. George appeared to a heavily outnumbered

Christian army fighting the Moors, leading them to victory. Some of the celebrations resemble Valentine's Day, with sweethearts exchanging red roses and books.

**In Germany**, the day is known as Georigritt ("George's Ride"). Horses and wagons are decorated and paraded around local churches, where blessings are given to both horses and riders, followed by various riding competitions.



**In Brazil**, St. George is the patron saint of the Brazilian Army Cavalry. The day begins with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by prayer and reflection, and concludes with vibrant light shows and fireworks.



**Bulgaria celebrates** St. George's Day on May 6th. It is a national public holiday and one of the most widely celebrated in the country. Roasting a lamb is a traditional way to honor the saint. Pagan rituals mix with modern Christian traditions—such as the belief that St. George blesses the morning dew, leading some to wash their hands and faces with it.



Other countries that celebrate St. George's Day include Portugal, Cyprus, Greece, Georgia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Albania, and Kosovo, as well as the cities of Moscow (Russia), Genoa (Italy), Ljubljana (Slovenia), Beirut (Lebanon), and Qormi and Victoria (Malta). In many places that follow the Julian calendar of the Eastern Orthodox Church, such as Bulgaria and others, the feast is celebrated on May 6th.



HOWEVER IT IS CELEBRATED . . .  
**CHEERS TO ST. GEORGE!**

# IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME!

George Tyndall

Right here in our own backyard is yet another connection to St. George. At 256 South 8th Street is St. George Cathedral, a noteworthy architectural masterpiece designed in 1882 by the famous architect, John Haviland.

First a little background on Haviland. Born in Gundenham, Somerset, England on December 15, 1792 and after an apprenticeship in London around 1811, he was then appointed to the Russian Imperial Corps of Engineers. While in Russia he met John Quincy Adams who encouraged him to work in the United States.

This fortunate maneuver would afford him some of the most important commissions in Philadelphia.



On July 2, 1819 John Haviland and Mary Wright Sonntag Von Sonnenberg were married by our Society member The Right Rev. William White, Episcopal Bishop of Pennsylvania.

Some of the most recognized structures in the city, including St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, which could no longer sustain the parish as the congregation was dwindling, therefore became the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of St. George. Other commissions include Eastern State Penitentiary, an innovation in penal facilities

located on Fairmount Ave; Walnut Street Theater at 9th and Walnut; the Atwater Kent Museum which was the original Franklin Institute; Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf, now The University of the Arts (sadly closed and my alma mater), restoration of the assembly room and the second story in Independence Hall; additions to Old City Hall, 5th and Chestnut; then there is the facade of the Pennsylvania Fire Insurance building which stands as a white marble screen for the modern office building (also where I worked in advertising for several years). Sadly, there were buildings that were victims of the wrecking ball or what is perceived as improvements. The First

Presbyterian Church at 7th and Locust, demolished in 1939; Philadelphia Arcade, 615-619 Chestnut, demolished 1860; Kensington Commissioner's Hall, demolished in 1890; and Boston Row, a group of buildings at 12th and Chestnut.

Haviland's work is found in other areas as well, including Virginia, New Jersey, Missouri, Washington DC, Rhode Island, New York and other parts of Pennsylvania.

Bringing this back full circle to St. George's Cathedral where John Haviland is buried in the family vault, also designed by Haviland. The Cathedral was built with simplicity and symmetry which Haviland favored. He worked with Roman Classical and Greek revival style forms, emphasized by the white facade and 6 large Ionic columns fronting a portico. It is a

treasure indeed.

This might be a possible field trip for the Society as they usually have a Greek Festival in the spring and years ago I attended and the food was great. OPA!!! Which in Greek culture is an expression of enthusiasm, shock or surprise or just having made a mistake. I hope this idea would be met with enthusiasm.



# ST. GEORGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



## SPOTLIGHT ON: GARRETT HARDT

Garrett Hardt, a student at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, recently returned from spending his first semester studying abroad in London through Arcadia University's program. Thanks to a generous \$2,000 scholarship, he was able to fully immerse himself in this life-changing opportunity.

While in London, Garrett studied British politics, media, imperialism, and the city's complex cultural history. His coursework often included walking tours, allowing him to explore both iconic landmarks and hidden corners of the city. These experiences deepened his understanding of London's evolution and vibrant multiculturalism—something he encountered daily, especially through the city's diverse food scene. From neighborhood pubs to Chinatown hot pot and the acclaimed Indian restaurant Dishoom, each meal was a new adventure.

Living in North London's Highgate neighborhood,

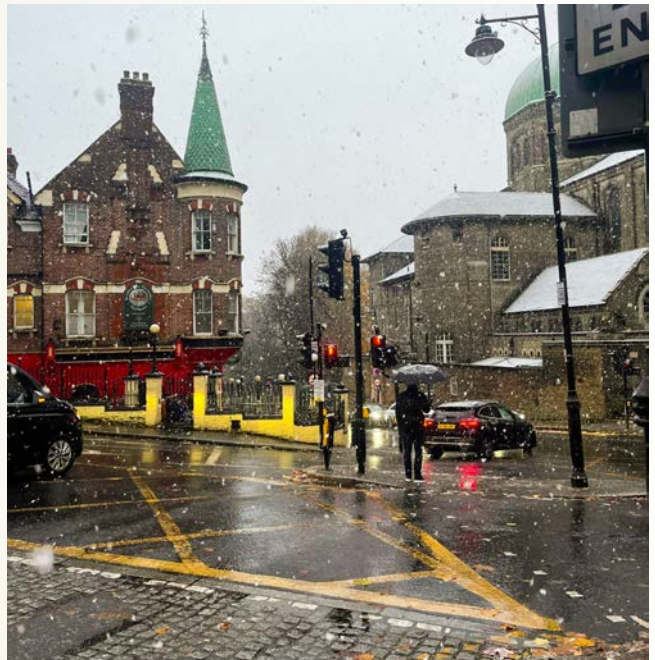
Garrett embraced local culture, including the London Underground, which quickly became a favorite part of his routine. He also enjoyed the welcoming pub atmosphere, where weekly quiz nights with friends became a highlight and a chance to connect with Londoners.

During the holiday season, London's festive lights and atmosphere added to

the magic of his stay. Garrett also took full advantage of the city's theater scene, attending performances like *Les Misérables*, *Hadestown*, and a bilingual production of *Antony and Cleopatra* at the Globe Theatre. He appreciated how affordable and accessible world-class theater was in London compared to the U.S.

Beyond the city, Garrett traveled to Edinburgh, Bath, Salisbury, Oxford, and even Vienna, where he attended a Jane Austen-style ball. These excursions helped him connect with history and culture in a hands-on way.

Before this experience, Garrett didn't consider himself a "city person," but his time in London changed that. The opportunity not only broadened his global perspective but also unlocked a deep appreciation for urban living, international travel, and the importance of cultural exchange. He is sincerely grateful to those who helped make this journey possible.



# TALE OF TWO GEORGE'S

George Tyndall

St. George appears in many forms – paintings, pottery, icons, fabric, glass, and sculpture – but in this case, there is a unique connection between the saint and the family of our country's founding father, presented in a remarkable combined work of art.

On the High Street in Maldon, Essex, England, stands the parish church of All Saints, which shares a historical connection with Malden, Massachusetts (note the slight spelling difference). All Saints houses a striking stained-glass window symbolizing the enduring bond between England and the United States. The window was a gift from the citizens of Malden in memory of the Reverend Laurence Washington, former Rector of Purleigh, Essex, and great-great-grandfather of George Washington. Reverend Washington, a loyalist clergyman, was buried in the churchyard in 1652. At the time, graves were not always marked, but his burial is recorded in the register, now displayed on the church wall.

In 1643, Reverend Washington was ejected from his post by sequestration because he remained loyal during the rebellion of 1642. He supported King Charles I and upheld the liturgy opposed by the Presbyterians and Independents.

Reverend John Walker, in his 1714 publication *An Attempt Towards Recovering an Account of the Numbers and Sufferings of the Clergy*, wrote of Washington:

“A Gentleman, a Justice of the Peace in this County (Essex), who personally knew him, assures me that he took him to be a very Worthy, Pious man, Sober person; and that he was recommended as such by several gentlemen.”

Washington's later years were marked by poverty, though he continued some ministerial duties before passing away about ten years after his expulsion.

The stained glass window is located in the Chancel of the D'Arcy Chapel on the church's south side. The center



The stained glass in All Saints, Essex, England, features St. George and George Washington

panel features St. George, symbolizing patriotism and serving as the patron saint of the Anglo-Saxon race. The right-hand panel depicts St. Joan of Arc, representing freedom, and the left shows St. Nicholas, patron saint of sailors and settlers, representing colonization.

St. Nicholas is shown in full episcopal vestments, holding a model of the Mayflower. St. George is dressed in Gothic armor with a red cross banner and drawn sword. St. Joan of Arc holds the sword of Fierbois and an embroidered banner showing Our Lord in Majesty with two angels and the words “Jesu Maria.”

Additional imagery includes the Landing of Columbus, the Lion of England, the Eagle of America, the Liberty Bell, the Washington Monument, George Washington signing the Declaration of Independence, the Arms of America, the Pilgrims' Landing, and the Statue of Liberty. Tracery lights display the coats of arms of the County of Essex, the Borough of Maldon, the Province of Canterbury, and the Diocese of Chelmsford.

The Washington connection continues with the 44th (East Essex) Regiment of Foot, associated with Washington during a 1755 campaign in America against the French at Fort Duquesne – now Pittsburgh.

The window was first dedicated on July 5, 1928, in the presence of British

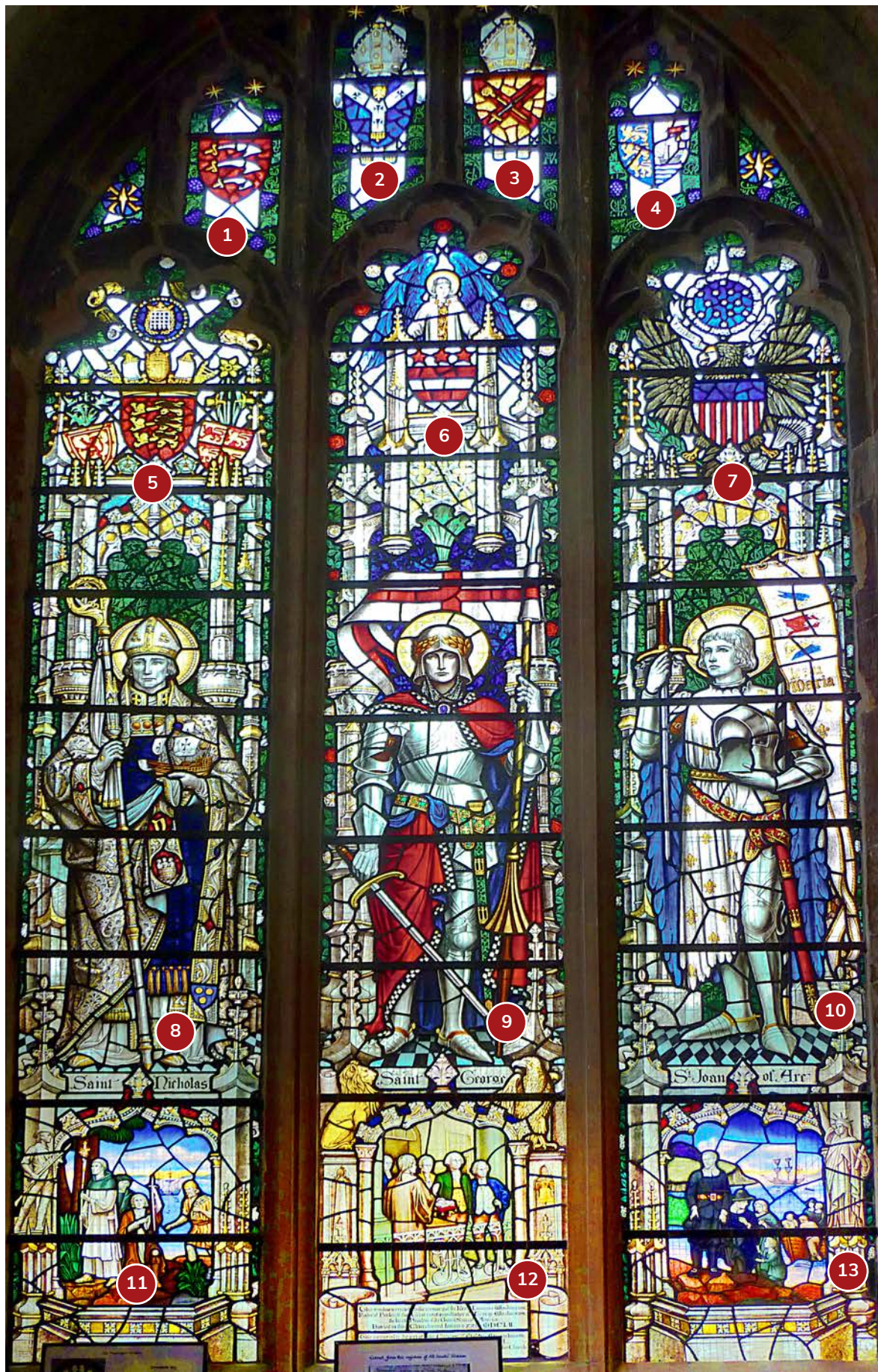
and American dignitaries, and was rededicated after restoration on July 31, 2005. Designed by A.K. Nicholson of London, the window beautifully symbolizes the lasting brotherhood between Maldon and Malden across the Atlantic.

A TABLET BENEATH THE WINDOW BEARS THE FOLLOWING INSCRIPTION:

**“In this Churchyard was buried the Rev. Laurence Washington, Rector of Purleigh, the great-great-grandfather of George Washington, the first President of the United States of America, January 1652. This Window was erected to his Memory by the citizens of Malden, Massachusetts, and a Committee of the Sulgrave Institution USA whose names are inscribed in a book deposited in the Archives of this Church 1928.”**

## THE WASHINGTON WINDOW

The Washington Window at All Saints' Church was gifted by Malden, Massachusetts, in memory of Rev. Laurence Washington, great-great-grandfather of George Washington. He was buried in the churchyard in 1652, and his burial is noted on the church wall. The window was dedicated in 1928 and, after restoration, rededicated in 2005.



1. Arms of the Shire of Essex, England
2. Arms of the Province of Canterbury, England
3. Arms of Chelmsford, England
4. Arms of Maldon, England, which also combine those of Malden, USA
5. Arms of the United Kingdom of Great Britain
6. Washington Coat of Arms
7. Arms of the United States of America
8. Saint Nicholas signifies Colonization
9. Saint George signifies Patriotism
10. Saint Joan of Arc signifies Freedom
11. Landing of Columbus
11. George Washington taking oath of office
13. Landing of the Pilgrim Fathers



# TUN TAVERN UPDATE

The Tun Legacy Foundation, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed by members of six organizations with origins at the historic Tun that are still in existence: United States Marine Corps; Pennsylvania Freemasons; St. Andrew's Society; Society of St. George; The Friendly Sons and Daughters of St. Patrick; and the United States Navy. The mission of The Tun Legacy Foundation is to reestablish The Tun as a monument to its historical significance in the United States, and to inspire a perpetual commitment to charitable giving that uplifts and empowers.

## THE TUN REACHES NEW MILESTONES

The Tun Legacy Foundation is pleased to announce the achievement of major project milestones to construct The Tun in Old City Philadelphia. The construction documents prepared by the nationally acclaimed

architect and engineering firm Ballinger are 100 percent complete; and The City of Philadelphia's Zoning Board of Adjustment is expected to provide approval for the project to proceed at its zoning hearing on April 9, 2025. Achievement of these milestones paves the path to complete construction trade agreements by Wolfe Scott Builders and Construction Managers, as well as for building permit approval, which is expected May 2025. Today, fundraising remains The Tun Legacy Foundation's major priority. With successful fundraising efforts over the coming months, the Foundation can close its funding gap to secure a construction loan and begin construction. Once the funding is in place, the Foundation will announce a construction start date. As you well know, construction timelines vary. While the previously announced grand opening timeline must be adjusted until the Foundation secures funding, we are proud of the milestones that have already been reached, and excited about the tremendous momentum that has been created by every supporter. The Tun Legacy Foundation is committed to keeping that momentum going.

## LASTING LEGACY

The Tun Legacy Foundation will donate all proceeds from operations of The Tun in perpetuity to veteran charities, Masonic charities, and educational charities associated with the other heritage organizations.

The historic Tun, which opened in 1686 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, serves as a legendary birthplace of American history, widely recognized for the founding of the United States Marine Corps in 1775, and as a significant early meeting place for Pennsylvania Freemasons and revolutionary leaders. The building once stood as the vital gathering place in early America, where influential leaders convened, lively debate ensued, and the vision of the nation was shaped. In 1781, toward the end of the American Revolution, the tavern had stood nearly 100 years and was in serious disrepair from continuous use. It was torn down and another structure built on the valuable waterfront land it occupied. Although the structure was lost, the legacy of the historic Tun was forever engraved into the history of Philadelphia, and the founding of the United States.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**On November 10, 2023**, led by an all-volunteer board, The Tun Legacy Foundation launched The Tun project with a vision to inspire generations through The Tun by embodying the spirit of American history and catalyzing civic engagement through enduring philanthropy.

**By April 2024**, The Tun Legacy Foundation announced it had secured the land to reestablish The Tun on 2nd Street between Market and Chestnut streets, just 250 yards from the location of the historic Tun. In August 2024, The Tun Legacy Foundation announced two major donors, each supporting the project with a \$1 million contribution.

**On November 9, 2024**, The Tun Legacy Foundation held a black-tie fundraising event that was attended by 250 people.

**On November 10, 2024**, one year after the project launched, and the 249th birthday of the Marine Corps, The Tun Legacy Foundation held a ceremonial groundbreaking to generate even more awareness about the project, the history of the organizations with a heritage at the historic Tun, and the many ways the public could be a part of the rebuilding. More than three thousand people attended. As part of the ceremony, the Battle Colors of the United States Marine Corps were presented, and the United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps performed.

Using hand-held entrenching tools (E-tools), Lieutenant General Calvert L. Worth, Jr., Commanding General, II Marine Expeditionary Force, and Medal of Honor Recipient Major General James E. Livingston, USMC (Ret.), joined representatives from the six organizations with a heritage at The Tun for the groundbreaking.

AS THE WORD CONTINUES TO SPREAD ABOUT THE TUN LEGACY FOUNDATION'S EFFORTS TO REBUILD, THE TUN LEGACY FOUNDATION HAS BEEN CONTACTED BY PEOPLE FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY WHO WANT TO HELP IN NUMEROUS WAYS, FROM OFFERING IN-KIND SERVICES AND MATERIALS, TO PURCHASING THE TUN TANKARDS, MUGS, AND BRICK PAVERS.

**In December 2024**, The Tun Legacy Foundation was included on the official website for Marines 250 ([www.marines.mil](http://www.marines.mil)), commemorating the 250th birthday of the United States Marine Corps in 2025, which includes details on the Navy-Marine Week Philadelphia in October 2025, and links to both Homecoming 250 ([www.homecoming250.org](http://www.homecoming250.org)) and The Tun Legacy Foundation website ([www.thetun.org](http://www.thetun.org)).

**In March 2025**, the Philadelphia Historical Commission approved and endorsed The Tun project. We've achieved remarkable milestones thanks to the incredible support and enthusiasm of Marines, Freemasons, Midshipmen, representatives from the three benevolent societies with a heritage at the historic Tun, the City of Philadelphia, civic and community members, and the interested public. We are committed to rebuilding The Tun and it will get done!

## WHAT'S NEXT

In the coming weeks, The Tun Legacy Foundation will announce an Advisory Group – a non-governing body of distinguished experts who are donating their time to provide strategic counsel and specialized knowledge.

The Tun Legacy Foundation, in partnership with Homecoming 250, is planning the 250th birthday celebrations of the United States Navy in October 2025 and United States Marine Corps in November 2025. A full slate of activities will culminate on November 10, 2025, the 250th birthday of the United States Marine Corps.

The celebrations will be an enormous opportunity to engage and involve supporters of The Tun project.



## EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SPOTLIGHT

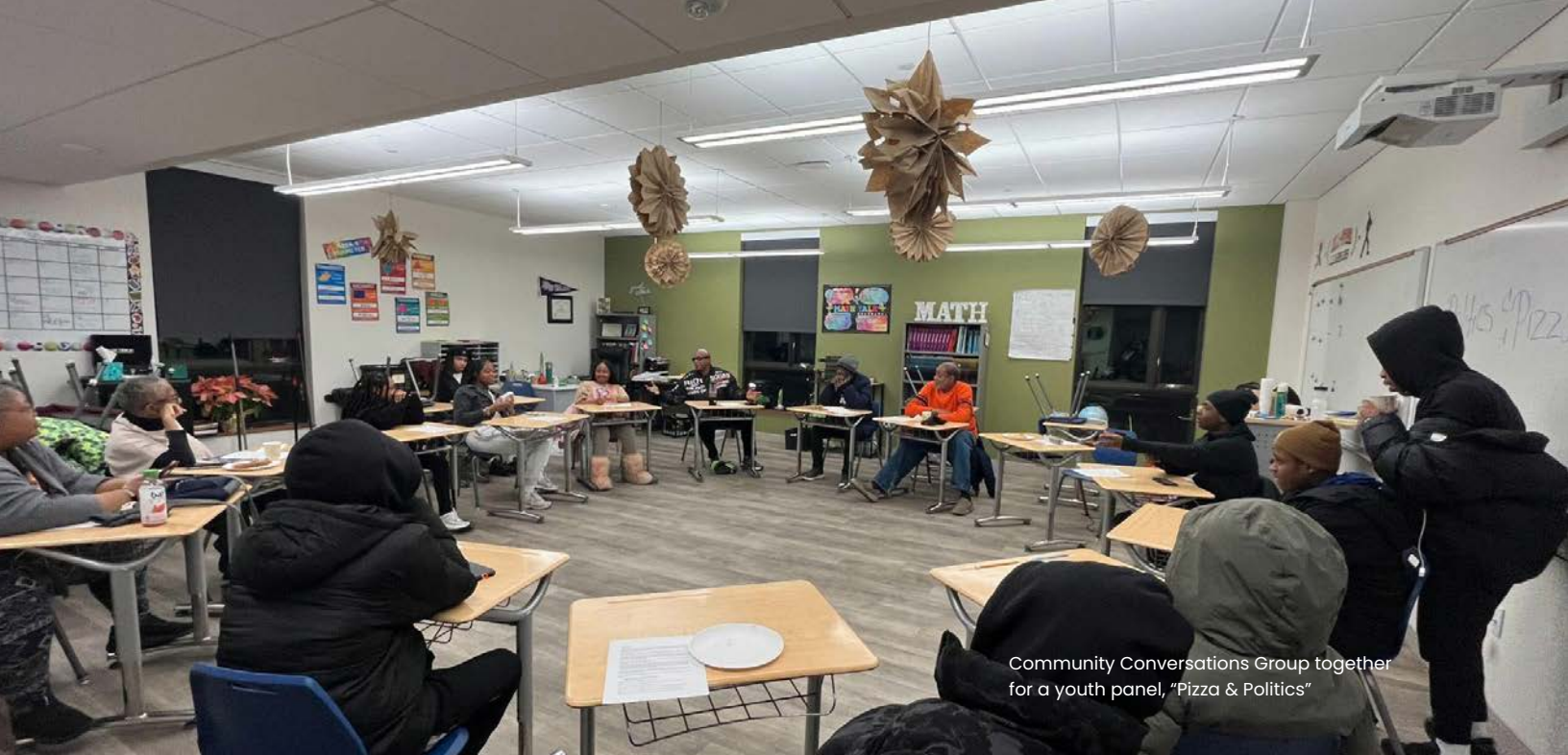
The Philadelphia Outward Bound School, a St. George Society grantee and partner organization, continues to administer the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, with 26 students enrolled in this life-changing self-directed program. Students are building skills ranging from foreign languages to graphic design, and are performing acts of service at community food pantries and elder care centers.

For their "adventurous journey" requirement, two "D of E" award participants will be embarking on a 14-day backpacking and canoeing trip in the Delaware Water Gap this summer. Students will learn to navigate, set up campsites, lead group activities, and cook for themselves in the wilderness. Society members are encouraged to help POBS welcome them home at their graduation circle-up on Thursday, August 7 at The Discovery Center in East Fairmount Park in Philadelphia at 1 PM.

Other award participants are going further afield, backpacking in the Great Smoky Mountains in North Carolina or sailing off of the Maine coast. With the Society's support, POBS is able to offer students these transformative experiences regardless of their ability to pay.

In other news, POBS will be returning with its biannual fundraising event, Building Adventure, which will take place on October 17, 2025 at Two Commerce Square in Center City. Truly unlike any other event in the city, Building Adventure is a peer-to-peer fundraiser wherein individuals and teams commit to reaching a fundraising goal in order to secure a spot on a rappelling line descending down a 315-foot skyscraper wall. Not for the faint of heart!

Many of the students working with Outward Bound get excited about this unusual challenge, and the St. George Society sponsors a Duke of Edinburgh Award participant's rappelling journey. POBS hopes that Society members will gather in October to cheer our students on!



Community Conversations Group together for a youth panel, "Pizza & Politics"

## EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SPOTLIGHT

# ST. JAMES SCHOOL

David Kasievich

Now in our 14th year, St. James School is deeply grateful to the Society of St. George for their ongoing support. With partners like you, we've grown from a class of 15 fifth graders to a thriving middle school with 94 students in grades 4–8, 145 graduates in high school, college, and careers, and hundreds of engaged families. Our mission is to expand educational equity in North Philadelphia's Allegheny West neighborhood through

whole-child education that transforms lives and uplifts the community.

Our Go for the Gold program, formerly Academic Clinics, redefines academic support. These Saturday sessions now focus on achievement rather than remediation. The name signals our mission: helping students reach the

"gold" benchmark on MAP assessments. Students are met with clear goals and encouragement—We believe in you. Try your best and have fun!

This approach works. For the first time, students' Math scores surpassed Reading scores, with 73% (67 out of 92) showing notable growth. Some students even asked to retake the test—proof of their motivation and mindset shift. Our next goal: 80% reaching grade-level Math proficiency by June.

Our Welcome Table's new "Community Conversations" program brings neighbors together to address shared concerns and build the neighborhood they love. Highlights include "Politics & Pizza," a youth-led panel using an imagined school scenario to explore decision-making and real-world politics. In April, the group will host an Art Expo showcasing neighborhood creativity—from student sketches to grandmothers' quilts—celebrating our community's rich tapestry.

Thanks to the Society of St. George, our Graduate Support program helps students like Jana attend top-tier schools. Jana, now at Perkiomen School, thrives academically and socially thanks to her St. James foundation. She's taken part in Harvard and Brown pre-college programs, forming relationships with professors and broadening her academic horizons.

Jana, who once portrayed Maya Angelou in our Living Wax Museum, fondly recalls how St. James fostered Black joy and success. While Perkiomen is a predominantly white school, St. James gave her the confidence and community that still grounds her. When she's home, baking and visiting the Huskies Hangout are at the top of her list.



Jana '21



More at [StJamesPhila.org](http://StJamesPhila.org)

# THE DRIVE TO THRIVE

ANNUAL DR. AUDREY EVANS BENEFIT

TUESDAY MAY 20, 2025

Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum, 6825 Norwitch Drive, Philadelphia, PA



## \$6,000 TO SPECIAL OLYMPICS PA

Members of the Commonwealth of Nations Committee gathered at Ormiston Mansion on January 19 to present a check for \$6,000 to Special Olympics Pennsylvania. The funds were raised during a successful charity event held on September 29, 2024, at The Highlands Mansion and Gardens. The fundraiser, organized by Susan Gerrity and the Commonwealth of Nations Committee, was previously featured in our newsletter. The check presentation ceremony brought together several committee members who proudly supported this worthy cause.

This generous contribution will help Special Olympics Pennsylvania continue their mission of providing year-round sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.



With the combined efforts of The Welsh Society, St. Andrew's Society, The Friendly Sons and Daughters of St. Patrick, and The Society of St. George, we were able to commission a gravestone for The Rev. G. Clayton Ames, III, who served as chaplain for our societies. It was set at The Woodlands Cemetery. Future plans are being prepared for a dedication and reception to honor our dear friend and member.



# MOVEABLE FEAST

George Tyndall

This is part four in a series of articles on the various dinner and meeting locations where the Society of St. George (*formerly the Society of the Sons of St. George*) held events throughout the city of Philadelphia since its inception in the 18th century.

The dinner locations are not necessarily in exact chronological order based on the availability and ease of information at the time of creating this historical sketch.

## CONTINENTAL HOTEL WAS A POPULAR MEETING PLACE FOR THE SOCIETY FOR FIVE STEADY YEARS, FROM 1860 TO 1865, MEETING SOMETIMES FOUR TIMES PER YEAR IN THE SAME LOCATION.

The restrained Italianate style hotel was designed by architect John McArthur built between 1857 and 1860 and was one of the city's grandest hotels and largest in the country at that time. It was built on a former site of a circus and museum and sat where the current Franklin Residences are at 9th and Chestnut.

John McArthur was born in Scotland and came to Philadelphia at the age of ten and settled with his uncle, a master builder. He attended classes at The Carpenters Company architectural school. John is best known as the architect of Philadelphia City Hall, the largest and tallest public building in the United States at the time of completion. He designed several churches, residences, commercial structures and two other Philadelphia hotels besides the Continental, the Girard House and La Pierre House, which by the way was another St. George meeting place in 1867. He also became

the architect to the Department of the Navy, possibly because he designed twenty-four temporary hospitals during the Civil War. Sadly, McArthur died a full decade before Philadelphia City Hall was completed.

The Continental consisted of six floors with rooms for a thousand people, it was one of the first hotels in the country to have an elevator and featured a grand staircase of Italian marble. The main entrance was redesigned in 1876 by Frank Furness.

Features included rooms with fireplaces, an elegant lobby, many banquet halls, bar, and roof gardens.

In 1861 Abraham Lincoln stayed here on his way to Washington and gave a speech from the hotel's balcony. Along with Lincoln there were other notable guests who graced the hotel, including Ulysses S. Grant, Andrew Jackson, Charles Dickens, King Edward VII, and Brazilian Emperor Dom Pedro.

The hotel was demolished between 1923 and 1924.



# ROYAL SOCIETY: BRANCH UPDATES

## ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY TORONTO

Mark flew to Toronto for the Christmas Dinner being held on Saturday, December 7th at the Arts and Letters Club in Toronto. On Friday evening Mark met with officers from the Society to learn how the Society was doing. The Society is pleased that the Honourable Edith Dumont, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario has agreed to be the Patron of the St. George's Society Toronto.

Mark complimented the Society on their great charitable work. Mark was able to share with them the scholarships of the Society of St. George Philadelphia who provides scholarships for students to study abroad in England and support to the St. James School students in grades 4-8. The officers were impressed with the Philadelphia scholarships and school support.

## ROYAL SOCIETY OF ST. GEORGE NEW ORLEANS

Prior to the pandemic and lock down there was a Royal Society of St. George (RSSG) Branch in New Orleans. After the pandemic the Home Office lost touch with the branch. Mark happened upon a newspaper article about the RSSG Branch New Orleans where the president was listed. Mark reached out to him. Mark put the branch president in touch with RSSG General Secretary Elizabeth (Liz) Lloyd and the branch has reconnected with the Royal Society.

## THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ST. GEORGE IS GROWING IN THE U.S. AND CANADA

There are five RSSG Branches in the U.S. and Canada which are in the development stage:

### THE PALM BEACHES, FLORIDA:

Jim Williford has been working with Mark and Liz Lloyd on the necessary paperwork to bring this Branch into existence. Once established the Branch will be using The Colony Hotel in Palm Beach as a main meeting venue. Jim said members of the Royal Family have used this hotel for many years including the Duchess of Rutland when she visits the U.S.

## KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

John Wright is in the process of establishing this branch. He emailed his interest in setting up a branch to Liz Lloyd and stated Knoxville was founded by the British, has a current population of around 850,000, and is one of the fastest growing cities in the US.

## ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Robert Soderstrom, Grand Prior of the Order of St. George Americas, is working closely with Mark to revive the Atlanta Branch of the RSSG. RSSG Chairman Nick Dutt reached out to Robert to thank him for taking on this task.

## BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

The Rev. Peter-Michael Preble reached out to Mark about starting an RSSG Branch in the Boston area. Mark directed him to Liz Lloyd who has been working with The Rev. Preble on establishing a branch.

## VANCOUVER ISLAND, BRITISH COLUMBIA

There is already a strong RSSG Branch in Vancouver. Members from that branch who moved to Vancouver Island are keen on establishing a branch on the island. The Home Office is working with the proposed leadership to accomplish this desire.

## CURRENT SOCIETIES IN THE U.S. AND CANADA:

**United States** Beverly Hills, New Orleans, South Florida, Charleston, Baltimore, Delaware, Philadelphia

**Canada** Vancouver, Toronto, Hamilton, Halifax/Nova Scotia



# IN 2026, THE UNITED STATES IS CELEBRATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR COUNTRY'S FOUNDING.

Sometimes referred to as the semiquincentennial celebration, national, state, and local organizations have been created to plan for and implement programs related to this event. Earlier this year, the leadership of The Society of St. George decided that we should design and host our own activities to commemorate this important occasion. To accomplish this task, the board created an America 250 committee chaired by Gregg Edwards. The Board also voted to join the America 250 Pennsylvania state organization as a Non-Profit Affiliate. At its first meeting, the committee adopted planning goals, which the St. George Board subsequently approved.

## THE GOALS ARE:

- Plan and implement one substantive program activity and one social event. The programmatic activity may be one activity or event or may be a series of activities/events. The social event will be fun, festive and family friendly
- Incorporate in all 2025 and 2026 St. George events an America 250 celebratory
- Include in the 2026 St. George's Day Dinner an America 250 theme

- Ensure that America 250 programs and events provide the collateral benefits of gaining public recognition for St. George and for recruiting new members

Because the committee believes that potential venues for a 2026 social event will be in great demand, it has focused its early work on designing and scheduling the event for the late spring/early summer of 2026. The committee also is communicating with St. George's sister heritage groups. The purpose of this contact is to share plans for America 250 events and to assess interest in jointly hosting events.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ASSISTING WITH THIS EFFORT AND/OR HAVE SUGGESTIONS FOR POSSIBLE PROGRAMS, THE COMMITTEE IS EAGER TO HEAR FROM YOU.

### **Gregg Edwards**

American 250 Committee Chair  
[gmedwards1@comcast.net](mailto:gmedwards1@comcast.net)

### **Diane Canning**

### **Evie Giegerich**

### **Frank O'Donnell**

### **T. Michael Poxon**

### **George Tyndall**

### **Bill Wright**



**Main Website** [America250.org](http://America250.org) • **Pennsylvania** [America250pa.org](http://America250pa.org)

**New Jersey** [RevNJ.org](http://RevNJ.org) • **Philadelphia** [Philadelphia250.us](http://Philadelphia250.us)

**The Non-Profit Affiliates, including St. George** [America250pa.org/Nonprofit\\_Affiliates](http://America250pa.org/Nonprofit_Affiliates)

# 2025

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Effective 26 April 2025

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British Relations	Oliver St. Clair Franklin, CBE
Commonwealth Liaison	Susan Gerrity
Royal Society of St. George	Mark Lanyon



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