



Friend of the House

HUISVRIEND

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR 2008

Wyckoff-Durling Barn Ground Breaking

The Wyckoff-Durling Barn project continues to wind its way through the labyrinth of NYC agencies required to sign-off before a spade can be turned. A formal announcement will be made to all members as early as possible so that supporters and family can be present for this historic occasion that will occur in 2008. It is projected that the construction phase of this project will be 18 – 24 months.

Five Dutch Days 2008

The annual city-wide event known as Five Dutch Days www.5dutchdays.org will be held November 12 – 16, 2008. The Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum is sponsoring a special genealogy workshop at the New York Public Library, Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street, Manhattan on Thursday, November 13th from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. and again on Friday, November 14th from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. featuring the Wyckoff Family (1637 – Present). Reservations are necessary.

Wyckoff Family Gathering

During NY's Five Dutch Days, a WH&A Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Saturday, November 15, 2008 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Come for an update on all activities at the museum, the barn, the 2009 events, meet the new staff, get your questions answered, and visit with cousins that you haven't seen in years. More details will be forthcoming. Reservations are necessary.

On Saturday afternoon, November 15th, the Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum will conduct a cellar-to-attic tour of the museum followed by a bus ride to The Marine Park Salt Marsh Nature Center to experience the local landscape of the 17th and 18th Centuries that has been successfully re-established there. Reservations are necessary.

New York City and New York State Celebrate 400th Anniversary of the First Voyage of Henry Hudson in 2009

The year 2009 will mark the 400th Anniversary of the first voyage of Henry Hudson in 1609. New York City and New York State will be celebrating throughout the year with special events featuring Dutch history and culture and the extraordinary legacy of the Dutch influence in American history and founding nationhood. The story of Pieter Claesen Wyckoff and the Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum will play an important role in these significant events. We are collaborating with the General Consul of the Netherlands, the New York State 400th Anniversary Commission www.exploreny400.com and the New York City 400HH Commission www.henryhudson400.com toward an exciting and rewarding venture for Pieter's descendants.

In addition, the city of Amersfoort in the Netherlands, is celebrating its 750th anniversary. Working with the Dutch Consulate, we are in the research stages concerning a possible joint venture between Amersfoort, the Netherlands, and New Amersfoort, the original name for the community in which the Wyckoff House resides.

The Wyckoff Family Reunion will be scheduled during Festival New York to be held in New York Harbor from September 3 - 6, 2009. Other events in the planning stages will include a visit to the Brooklyn Historical Society, Brooklyn College and Gracie Mansion.



Staff Members: L-R Maryann Feeney, Executive Director; Yvette Windley, Development and Membership Manager; Shirley Brown-Alleyne, Director of Education and Lucie Chin, Docent and Shop Manager. (Sylvia, lower right, is our terrific farm mouser)

Maryann Feeney joined us in September 2007 as Executive Director and brings a personal love for the House as well as over 30 years of non-profit management experience and an avocation for New York City history. Maryann has worked with the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation restoration project, the Taft Institute for teacher training and the Girl Scouts of the USA as well as several Brooklyn organizations. Another Brooklynite, Shirley Brown-Alleyne joined the staff in December 2007 as Director of Education. Shirley's extensive experience as a classroom teacher, museum educator and college instructor will be a boon to our educational programs. Shirley has worked with the NYC Department of Education, National Parks Service and the Brooklyn Children's Museum among other institutions. Our appreciation is extended to long-standing staff members Yvette Windley, Lucie Chin and former interim Education Instructor, Anna Maternick, for their exceptional service during our current management transition. We are currently conducting a search for a new Caretaker/Gardener.

Education Programs

In anticipation of the Wyckoff-Durling Barn ground breaking, our farm program has been placed on hiatus until completion of the new education center and re-landscaping. Our school programs continue to fill all available mornings during the school year. Building on the strength of our student program, we are expanding our educational services to NYC teachers. On March 1, 2008 we conducted a pilot project to enhance the instructional capacity of teachers from the five boroughs in fulfilling the curriculum of NYC history and social studies. Also, since many of the students in our city's classrooms are new immigrants or first generation residents, we have begun a partnership with CAMBA (Church Avenue Merchants Benevolent Association) to conduct workshops for adult new immigrants.

Consul General of the Netherlands Visits Wyckoff House



L-R: Ms. Charlotte Squarcy, the Honorable Hugo Gajus Scheltema and Ms. Simone Kreutzer.

On January 31st, the Honorable Hugo Gajus Scheltema, Consul General of the Netherlands and Ms. Simone Kreutzer, Consul for Press and Cultural Affairs visited the Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum. This visit was arranged by Charlotte Squarcy. They were very pleased to see such an authentic representation of Dutch culture in NYC, and we look forward to working with the Consulate extensively on a number of ventures.

People in the News

Ms. Beth Ann Bassein has retired as editor of the "The Bulletin". We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Beth Ann for her many years of distinguished service to the Wyckoff House and Association. We are not letting Beth Ann go very far. She is graciously assisting the new co-editors, James Wyckoff and Matthew Jensen.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Beginning July 1, 2008, only active members shall receive future editions of the quarterly newsletter and the annual "Bulletin." Become a member to continue to receive exciting news about the Museum.

The Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum is supported by: Assemblywoman Helene E. Weinstein; The Brooklyn Arts Council; Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz; The Constans Culver Foundation; Councilmen Kendall B. Stewart and Lewis Fidler; The Historic House Trust of New York City; The Homeland Foundation; The Independence Community Foundation; The J.M. Kaplan Fund; NYC Department of Cultural Affairs; NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation; NYC Department of Youth and Community Development; New York State Council for the Arts; New York State Council for the Humanities; Partnerships for Parks; State Senator Kevin Parker and the Brooklyn State Senate Delegation, The Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities; and Wyckoff House & Association Members.

Quarterly Newsletter of the Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum

MUSEUM HOURS: Tuesday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

PUBLIC TOURS AT 1pm, and 3pm

M. Fidler-Wyckoff House Park

5816 Clarendon Road, Brooklyn, NY 11203

Phone: 718.629-5400 Fax: 718.629-3125

Email: info@wyckoffassociation.org

Begun c.1652, the Pieter Claesen Wyckoff House is New York City's oldest structure and first designated Landmark. It is also a National Historic Landmark, designated in 1968. The Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum's mission is to educate visitors about the diverse peoples of Brooklyn's Colonial farms. The Museum is a property of the City of New York/Department of Parks and Recreation, a member of the Historic House Trust of New York City, and affiliated with the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities. The Museum is operated by the Wyckoff House & Association, Inc., a not-for-

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From the Executive Director

A pamphlet of just 18 pages written by William S. Wyckoff in 2002 brings new readers to the extraordinary story that is the Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum. We learn of the Wyckoff family members who banded together in 1937 to form an Association to save their ancestral home from all but assured destruction in the name of progress. We learn of how the Wyckoff House & Association moved from having dedicated family members serve as administrators to the professional support we have today.

As the new Executive Director of the Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum, my goals for the future are to work with the Wyckoff family, the philanthropic community, the Department of Parks, the NYC Department of Education, the Dutch diplomatic corps and numerous national and local groups, associations and community residents to strengthen and enhance this facility. I want to share the extraordinary American story that is Pieter Claesen Wyckoff and his descendants.

Previous generations of Wyckoff descendants and friends met the challenges of their time, and your help is critically needed today. Operational support is derived primarily from membership dues and visitor fees. **New membership rates will go into effect on July 1, 2008, and we urge you to renew your membership before July 1st to ensure current rates. Those who renew for two years will receive a ten percent discount.** We must have a minimal but effective professional staff to solicit contributions, serve our membership base, develop and deliver cutting edge educational programs, respond to tour requests, conduct office administration and lovingly care for the house and future expanding facilities.

Our challenges today are to reach new generations of Wyckoffs across the country and engage those friends, national and international, who are keenly interested in this exceptional family legacy and unique American museum.

Maryann Feeney, Executive Director

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Valerie Wyckoff

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* represents 2007-2008 memberships received as of March 2008

We thank all our members for their support. Your dues are crucial to the preservation and interpretation of the Pieter Claesen Wyckoff House, New York's #1 Landmark

Membership Renewal Opportunity

Create a new membership, renew your existing membership, support the operations of the Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum and the Wyckoff House & Association, Inc. and **SAVE MONEY!** Effective July 1, 2008, membership dues will be increased 10-15 percent depending on membership level. **Renew NOW before July 1st and enjoy our current rates. Renew for two years and enjoy a ten percent discount for all levels.** Please contact Yvette Windley at 718-629-5400 concerning inquiries.

Membership 2008—2009

Save Money Before Rates Go Up! Send in your dues before July 1, 2008

\$35 Basic Individual

\$50 Basic Family

\$60 Supporter Individual

\$75 Supporter Family

\$100 Benefactor Individual

\$150 Benefactor Family

\$500 Patron Individual

\$750 Patron Family

\$1,000 Patron Corporate

SPECIAL DISCOUNT FOR BROOKLYN RESIDENTS

\$25 Brooklyn Individual

\$40 Brooklyn Family

All but \$15 of your dues is tax-deductible.

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Membership ID #: _____

New Member

MEMBERSHIP AMOUNT (select level above) \$ _____

➤ ➤ Sign Me Up for 2 Years! (Take 10% OFF) \$ _____

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS (attach list of names & addresses) \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please **Write ID# on check & make payable to: Wyckoff House & Association, 5816 Clarendon Road, Brooklyn, NY 11203**