

New York Mayflower

Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of New York
Vol. 24, No. 4 Fall/Winter, 2021

A Message from the Executive Director

Dear New York Mayflower Society Members,

The big news as we head into 2022 is that we expect to resume in-person events.

On March 22, 2022, we will host our annual Cousins Dinner at the Colony Club with guest speaker/author, Martyn Whittock. And, on Saturday, April 23, we will hold our 67th Annual Mayflower Debutante Ball at the University Club. See the update on page 2 for more details.

No organization can operate well without the support of its membership. Susan Abanor has been a long-time contributor to the Society. See our interview and profile of her in this issue.



We are also pleased to announce new improvements to the Society's website: www.mayflowernewyork.org. See the discussion with Board of Assistants' member, Christine Brown, who has been instrumental in the redesign of the website on page 5.

The most important news in this issue is the resumption of in-person school visits to elementary school children in New York City by the wonderful actors from Plimoth Patuxet. Read ten of the student responses to the school visits on page 8.

And finally, we are pleased to continue our feature "Member News." We want to hear from you, so please continue to share your news with us – your Mayflower family.

As we close 2021, I wish you a joyous holiday season and all best wishes for 2022.

Yours,

Robin D. Weaver
Executive Director

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Update on Mayflower Ball Plans

New Date: Saturday, April 23, 2022

The Mayflower Ball may have been postponed but it is not cancelled! The new date for the Mayflower Debutante Ball is now set for Saturday, April 23, 2022, at the University Club. The Ball will be followed by an after-party at Doubles.

We currently have five debutantes signed up for the Ball. And to add to the festivities, we will have a cocktail party for past and present debutantes at the Colony Club on Friday, April 22, 2022.

Spring has always represented a time of renewal and so we look forward to renewing our 66-year tradition of the Mayflower Debutante Ball this spring.

If you have a family member who is considering being a debutante next year, please contact Executive Director Robin Weaver at rweaver@mayflowernewyork.org.



*Please note these images are from past balls

Susan Abanor – Living Her History



Susan Abanor’s life is infused with a love of history, a firm belief in the importance of educational outreach, and her passion for the Mayflower Society.

As she so aptly put it, “I would like people to get more involved in the Mayflower Society as it will inspire other members to participate as well.”

Susan, who hails from Norwich, VT, first got involved in the Mayflower Society when her daughter, Sarah, was studying the Mayflower and its passengers in her school. The school children were reading “Constance: A Story of Early Plymouth” by Patricia Clapp. Constance was onboard the Mayflower, and was the daughter of Stephen Hopkins and his first wife, Mary.

The story of the Mayflower and its passengers caused Susan to “immerse” herself in the history of the period, and its many “characters.”

Today, Susan spends much of her time on genealogical pursuits, and has a special interest in the women who came on the Mayflower and the women who married Mayflower passengers. She is a member of the GSMD DNA Committee and is an administrator of the Family Tree DNA Mayflower Project. Susan is actively involved with research that identifies the mitochondrial, all female lineage, mutation patterns for these women. This research is particularly important to help locate women lost in the patrilineal naming system.

She also serves as the AGG (Assistant Governor General) for the New York Society and recently attended the General Society Assembly meeting in Plymouth where she carried the flag at the beginning and close of the meeting.

Educating elementary-age school children about the Mayflower history is especially important to Susan. Every year – except for 2020 and the pandemic – Susan has hosted actors from Plimoth Patuxet who come to New York to visit elementary schools in the city to re-enact and represent what it was like to be a passenger on the Mayflower. This year was no exception. You could argue that Susan goes beyond the call of duty for a hostess. This year’s visiting Plymouth actor asked Susan to

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accompany him on a visit to a New York Jeweler so that she could help him pick out an engagement ring for his fiancée!

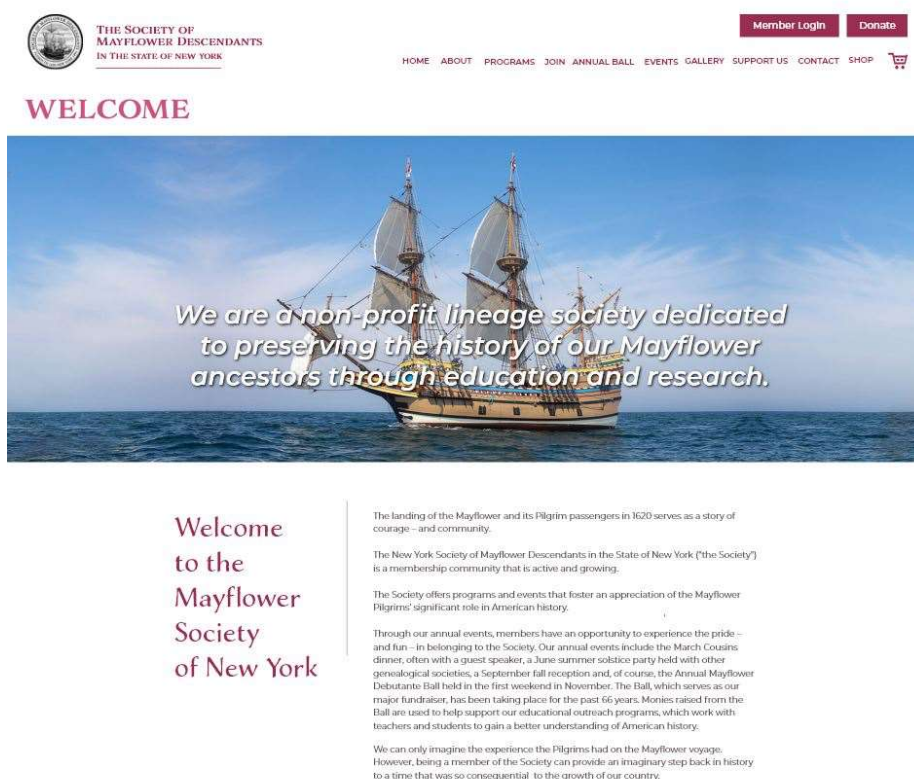
Susan is generous to the Society in other ways too as she donates the so-called “Silver Books” in the office, which are used to verify Mayflower descendant lineage.

While she certainly spends a lot of time with her 17th century family, Susan also manages to find time for her 21st century family: a husband, a daughter, a son, and three grandchildren. Her talent is apparent here too: she knits sweaters for her young grandchildren and enjoys glass blowing, as evidenced by the objects of art found in her New York apartment.

You could say, Susan has the best of both centuries – her ancestral century and her living century.



New Features on the New York Society's Website



Christine Brown has been a member of the New York Society Board of Assistants since 2010. She has been especially involved in helping with the development of the Society's website and its recent improvements. She recently spoke with Robin Weaver, the Society's Executive Director, about some of the new functions found on the website.

Tell us about the new features on the New York Society of Mayflower Descendants website: We are making it easier for members from any state who want to sponsor a debutante to easily receive information about the Ball and to register directly on the website. For example, to register a debutante on the site go to the "Annual Ball" tab > "How to Register a Debutante Section" and click on the button. Once you click on the button it will prompt you to complete a form. Even if it's for a future debutante, the information will be kept on file and allow you to participate in the year requested. Debutantes are generally eligible to participate between the ages of 18 to 24.



How to Register a Debutante for the Ball...

The New York Society cordially invites current members of any state Society to attend the Ball and to sponsor the presentation of a debutante.

Members can sponsor bloodline female descendants (daughters, nieces, granddaughters) between the ages of 18 and 24. Most debutantes are presented in their appropriate year. You will receive details of the costs and what to expect so you can plan accordingly. Please register by June to be presented in the same year.

[Register Here](#)



Another new feature will allow Members – and Non-Members – to make a monetary gift to the Society in Honor of or in Memory of a loved one. You will also have the option of having your gift mentioned in our newsletter, and the recipient, if selected, can receive a notification of your gift.

What are the most important uses of the website?

There are a couple of important uses of the website. The most important one is the “Join/Membership Page”. We have restructured the page for a more fluent, step-by-step process for potential members to navigate the process of submitting a Synopsis, a Preliminary Application to pay by credit card, or to mail in the preliminary application with a check. Another important use is for submitting a Supplemental Application or an application for a junior applicant, defined as a member’s relative under the age of 18.

The Events page is also important. This page is a “Members Only” page and can only be accessed when a member logs in. The Events page includes dates and locations of events including events for the Albany and Buffalo colonies. This page allows you to register for an event quickly and easily and to pay with a credit card.

The payment function also allows you to pay your annual dues or a lifetime membership using your credit card.

As a member, what do I need to do to login and get information on the site?

The Member Login is used to access the Events page, to make payments to an event, to view the Newsletter and to pay dues. All other pages can be accessed without logging in. A new member will receive an email with a temporary password to log in **for** the first time. The Member Login button is at the top right corner. You will need to enter the email address provided on your application as a user ID and the temporary password provided to log in for the first time. You can then change your password to one that can be remembered and saved for future access.

How do I change my password?

Once you are logged in and, on the Dashboard, click the Change Password link in the gray box to the left and follow the steps to change the password.

If you are having issues logging in for the first time, or for any reason afterwards, you can email rweaver@mayflowernewyork.org.

I have family members who would like to join the Society. What's the easiest way to do the "paperwork" part of the member application process on the website?

Once a family member is approved, the process is generally easier. The applicant will click on the Join page and scroll to the Preliminary Application section to fill out the form and submit payment. There is a box on the form that prompts you to add any names of Relatives who were/are Members, GS & State #'s of the Mayflower Society in New York or any other state Society. This information will be helpful to our historian in filling out the applicant's lineage but is not required.

Given that we expect to resume in-person events in 2022, what's the easiest way to register and pay?

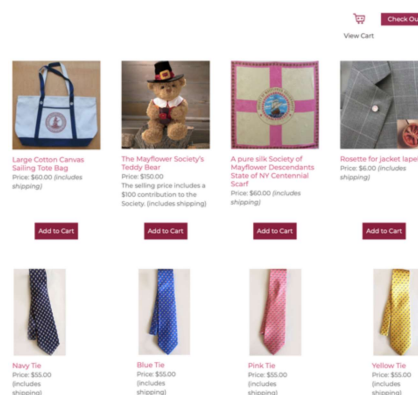
Only members have access to make online payments for events. Once logged in to the site, "Events" can be located on the drop-down menu of the Member Login button. Find the event on the NY calendar and click on the "Buy Now" button. This will take you to the payment page so that you can pay for the event.

We understand some members like to pay using a check. In this instance, checks may be mailed to the office with your rsvp after an invitation has been mailed. The office address is 20 West 44th Street, Room 505, New York, NY 10036.

I have friends who are not members of the Society but would like to purchase store items online. Is that possible?

Yes, items can be purchased through our Treasure Shop. If anyone is looking for a memento to gift to a friend or for themselves, we are happy to ship an item to them. None of our items are member specific. For additional items, they can also visit the General Society online store. The button linked to the store is at the bottom of the Treasure Shop page.

We believe these new features will allow us to continue to grow our membership and assist our current members in receiving important information about the work of the Society, including its educational outreach programs.



Educational Outreach in Full Swing This Fall

The New York Society of Mayflower Descendants sponsored both virtual and in-person events this fall to elementary school students in New York City. There were 226 fourth and fifth graders who had the opportunity to learn about the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Indians. Based on the thank you notes we received from Gary Choi of PS142M, the Benjamin Alan School, on the Lower East Side, students reacted enthusiastically to Plimoth Patuxet Museum Education Associate, Gabriel Norwood. Some of the students' comments regarding Gabriel's visit are below along with photos of the visit. It is safe to say, the students enlightened us as well!

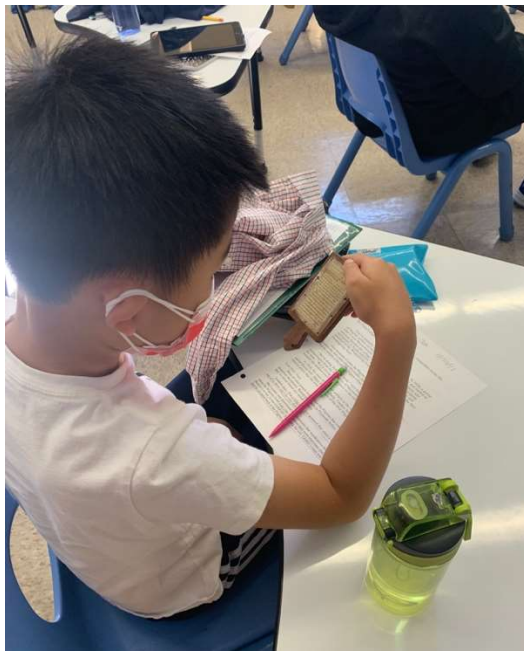


Pingying writes: "I really liked the part where we touched all the stuff. My favorite thing to touch is the beaver fur because I like furry stuff. I also learned there was another ship that came with the Pilgrims, but it sunk. It was called the Speedwell, but it didn't "speed well" – it leaked well!"

Santosh writes: "It was really interesting learning about the horn books. I also learned about what living was like on the Mayflower."

Ava writes: "I liked the corn you brought in. It was really colorful!"

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Fiona writes: "My favorite [thing to see] one was the doll because the dress that it was wearing had two strings on the back. The little kids wore them because if they are close to a fire, they just pull on the two strings and it will pull them back from the fire."

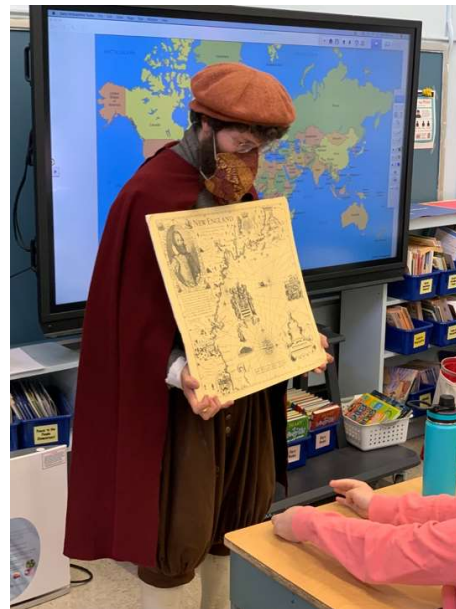
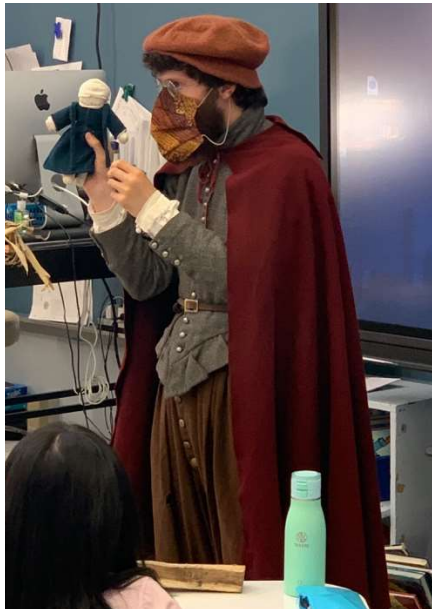
Mignon writes: "Thank you for telling us the difficulties of living in the Mayflower during winter, and how the Pilgrims met the Wampanoag."



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Idris writes: "I liked hearing your adventure from England to the Netherlands to the Americas."

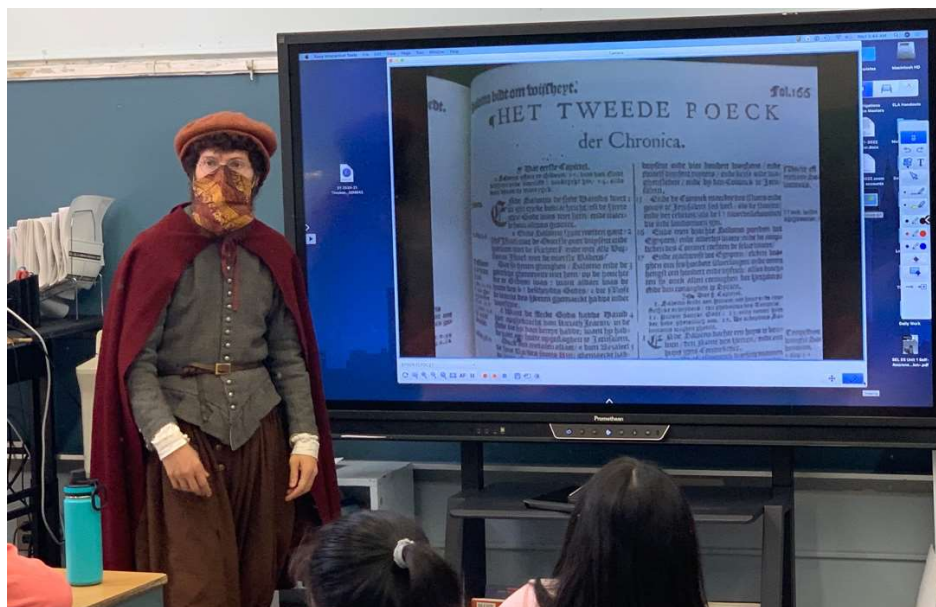
Eunice writes: "I liked the doll the most because it's like a mini version of a pilgrim."



Xixi writes: "What I learned, and thought was interesting is that they use dry corn to grind and make flour to then make ship biscuits!"

Khloe writes: "I really appreciate your visit, [but] I have a question, were Pilgrims the ones who started Thanksgiving?"

And, finally, Zijie writes, "I hope you can come back again because I really liked you."



Member News

Births

Timothy Hotchandani and his wife welcomed a daughter, Priscilla on April 23, 2021. They picked her name as a nod to her Mayflower ancestor Priscilla Alden, née Mullins. While still maintaining a New York residence, Timothy and his wife have relocated to Los Angeles.

Graduations

Jeff Baker reports that his son, **Bradley Baker**, graduated from The College of the Holy Cross in May. Congratulations Bradley.

Family News

Lisa Sackson shares her family news: Son Nathaniel (Bertie) is a first-year student at the College of Charleston and son Robert (Nevin) and his wife are expecting their first child in March 2022. Lisa assumed the state presidency of the NSCDA-VA in May. All best wishes to the Sacksons on a busy year.

The **Rexford-Mayhew** annual reunion was held in August in Whitefield, New Hampshire. The reunion included several George Soule descendants pictured in the photo below. **Everett Mayhew** notes that his mother's Mayflower line goes back to the Coles, Howlands and Soules.



Books

Member **Ann Bellah Copeland**, along with co-author Jane Foster, has authored a new book, “The Palm Beach Story.” According to the press release, “This is the only book written by true Palm Beach insiders who are invited everywhere – to all the clubs and important parties... so get a glass of Champagne and settle in for one of this year’s most scintillating reads!” The book is published by Palmetto Publishing and is available for purchase online at Amazon.com.

Plays

Sydney Blake reports that she will be producing her play “Young Pilgrims” in the Plymouth area (Duxbury) in the summer of 2022. The play, a historical romantic comedy, is written as a conflict between John Alden and Joseph Rogers. For information on the play go to

www.youngpilgrimstheplay.com

Exhibitions

Christopher Fluder’s solo exhibition of his photography, “*Ad Amnesia: Identity and recall in the modern age,*” will be on display at the Arts Club of Washington, DC this March. The opening is on March 4 from 5-7. For more details, please visit <https://christopherfluder.com/upcoming-exhibitions>.

2022 Calendar

Tuesday, March 22

Cousins Dinner
Colony Club

Tuesday, April 19

Annual Meeting
The Union Club

Saturday, April 23

Mayflower Debutante Ball
University Club

Tuesday, September 20

Fall Reception
The Union Club