

New York Mayflower

Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of New York
Vol. 25, No. 5 Spring/Summer, 2022

A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Mayflower Members,

The good news to report in this issue of the newsletter is that we have once again started to hold in-person events including a young member event in February, the Cousins Dinner in March, the Annual meeting in April and the 67th Annual Debutante Ball, also in April.


But the news gets even better, as we plan to have the 68th Annual Debutante Ball on Saturday, November 5, 2022. To paraphrase Shakespeare, “The Ball’s the Thing,” so please mark your calendars! You can find photos of our 2022 events beginning on page 2.

At our Annual Meeting held on April 19, we elected a new slate of officers including **Governor Justin Abelow**, and **Deputy Governor Charles Dorkey III**. See our interview with Governor Abelow on page 6.

This is also the season for college graduations, and many graduates will be starting jobs in New York City. Board of Assistant member, **Howland Robinson**, recommends genealogical societies as a wonderful way for younger people to meet new people and make friends. He suggests that parents and grandparents consider a Mayflower membership as a graduation present. Howland recommends considering a life membership, which can provide a big saving over time.

Finally, check out our member news section on page 8. It has been a busy season for Mayflower members – births, graduations, new jobs, travel and more. Please continue to provide us with your news at rweaver@mayflowernewyork.org.

Wishing you a fun, safe and enjoyable summer.



Robin D. Weaver
Executive Director

AN APPEAL TO THE MEMBERSHIP

Please notify us if you’d like to include your high school in the list of Compact Award submissions for 2023. The awards are given to high school juniors or seniors who excel in American history in public, parochial and private schools in New York State. Details will be sent to the schools in February 2023.

2022 Member

Highlights of the 67th



Debutantes from left to right:
*Elizabeth Barnes-Schwartz, pictured
with parents Paul Schwartz and Lisa
Barnes-Schwartz*

*Elizabeth Sims Patterson, pictured
with parents Robert Patterson and
Ashley Silverman*

*Mary Katherine Lavin, pictured with
parents Rob and Katherine Lavin*



Events

Annual Mayflower Ball



Jessica and Noel Jennings



Victoria and Waller Brewster



Rebecca and Steve Madsen



Sumner and Renee Anderson



Anna and David Rich, Laura Sheehan



Adelaide Farah, Tom Pike, Cathy and Robert Brawer



David Rich, Brantley Knowles, Rebecca Madsen, Laura Ramsay



Robin Weaver, Diana Davis Spencer, Tom Klingenstein

New York Mayflower



Justin Abelow



Elizabeth Bloomer and Ryan Schneider



Eda Peterson



Back row, from left to right:
Rem Lebow, Tim Lenardo, Will Lavin, and Bob Lebow
Front row, from left to right:
Natalie Swimmer, Meg Lavin, Beth Lebow, and Katie Hauldren



Shelby Carr and Schuyler Neuhauser



Annette DeLorenzo and Sarah Morse

Highlights from

Mid-Winter Brunch



Christine Brown, Jonathan Doucette, Erica Zick



*Seated: Katherine Steffens; Daniel Steffens; Leo Zick; Erica Zick
Standing: Alexandra Steffens; Jonathan Doucette; Christine Brown; Melanie Peterson; William Rutledge;
Randy Peterson; Kara Jordan; Christopher Steffens; Priscilla Gray; friend of Kara's; Miriam Martz*

Annual Meeting



Lily Basinet and Judith Underwood



Sumner Anderson, Charles Dorkey, Walter Brewster



Charles Dorkey and Adelaide Farah

Mayflower Lives at the Cousins Dinner

At the Cousins Dinner on March 22, we hosted author Martyn Whittock who presented on his recently published book: *Mayflower Lives*. We had a wonderful turnout for the dinner. For those who were unable to attend, here is a summary of Mr. Whittock's presentation.

Why He Wrote This Book

In an earlier book, Mr. Whittock explored the wider New England puritan experience and came to realize that the Mayflower story was a uniting factor between "two Atlantic communities." In researching the Mayflower literature, he felt a need to connect with the personal experiences of those involved. As he puts it, the His-Story and the Her-Story. He selected fourteen lives to include in his book.

Who is in the Book

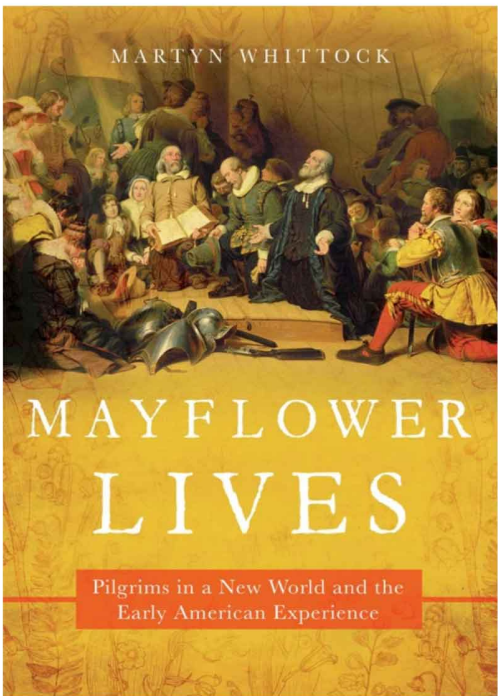
As Mr. Whittock explains, "there were saints and strangers; some were men; some were women; one was a little child who did not survive the first winter; one was a Native American. All the lives were insightful." Below are two of the lives Mr. Whittock discussed at the Cousins Dinner.

Christopher Jones: Master of the Mayflower

Captain Jones opened a window onto the history of the Mayflower. Based at Harwich, and then Rotherhithe on the Thames, he and his ship became part of the venture because those backing it were looking for a low price, which Jones could offer. After a tough crossing, he sailed back to England in 1621 only to die in 1622, aged about fifty-two.

Susanna White: Mother of the First European born in New England

Susanna was pregnant when she boarded the Mayflower in the company of her husband William and their son Resolved. Mr. Whittock found her of interest because she provided a vivid way to explore something of the female experience and childbirth. She gave birth to a son, Peregrine ("pilgrim"). Peregrine was the first European born in New England. Susanna's husband died that first winter and she subsequently married Edward Winslow the famous leader among the separatists. See our interview with Justin Abelow for his connection to Susanna.



Highlights from the Cousins Dinner



*From front to back, left to right
Lily Basinet guest; Katherine Steffens; Erica Zick; Melanie Peterson; Chuck Mackenzie; Kara Jordan; Priscilla Gray; Chandler Elwyn William Rutledge; Jonathan Doucette; Lily Basinet; Catherine Elwyn*



Reid Miles, Martyn Whittock, Justin Abelow

Justin Abelow Assumes the Helm of the New York Mayflower Society



At the April 2022 Annual Meeting, the members approved Justin Abelow as the new Governor of the New York Mayflower Society. He is a proud descendant of Mayflower passengers William White, Susanna White Winslow, and Resolved White.

Justin grew up in New York City where he attended The Buckley School. He is a graduate of The Hotchkiss School and of Columbia College, from which he graduated magna cum laude and where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He received his juris doctor degree from Columbia

Law School, where he was named a Harlan Fiske Stone scholar.

Justin began his professional life as an attorney with Davis Polk & Wardwell, but has spent the bulk of his career in investment banking. He is currently a Managing Director at Houlihan Lokey, a New York Stock Exchange-traded investment bank, where he serves on the management committee.

He has served on the board of several charitable, civic, and fraternal organizations, and is currently the president of the Board of Trustees of The Buckley School, the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees of the New York Landmarks Conservancy, and a member of the Board of Governors of the Knickerbocker Club.

In addition to the Society of Mayflower Descendants, Governor Abelow is a member of the Society of Cincinnati in the State of New Hampshire and the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of New York, where he is a Gentleman of the Council. He lives in New York City and Tuxedo Park, New York, with his wife, son, and daughter.

We sat down with the new Governor to discuss, among other things, his priorities for the New York Society.

The New York Mayflower Society has been around for over one hundred years, but the public at large knows little about the organization. What do you think people should know about the Society and its work?

The Society is really a private organization in the public service. Our primary mission is educational: to make sure that we as a nation remember the virtues of our forebears – tolerance, resourcefulness, courage, entrepreneurship – that became embedded in the new civilization that rose in North America after European colonization and eventually enabled the bold American experiment. Recent years have brought a more inclusive understanding of this story, as we have begun to better understand the

contributions of the Native American nations to this complex undertaking; this newly enriched understanding, as exemplified by the Plimoth Patuxet educational programs we support, should remind all Americans of how much we share as a people.

How do you view your role as Governor and what are your priorities over the next year?

The early governors of New Plymouth were remarkable in their ability to enlist the varied talents of the colonists to enhance the common good. Similarly, as Governor I would like to bring more of our incredibly dedicated membership into the shared endeavor of supporting our core educational missions: not just with treasure (which we have always been generous with) but with time and insight. For example, we plan to establish committees to assist in the awarding of the Mayflower Compact awards and the Margaret Moore Essay Contest. Those are just two examples of places where our members can get more involved in our mission.

The Society has wonderful educational outreach programs including the Compact Award program and the actor visits from Plimoth Patuxet. David McCullough, the historian and best-selling author, once lamented that students today, “don’t know much about history.” How can the Society enhance its impact in educating students about the Mayflower story?

The Mayflower story, properly understood, resonates so deeply with us today. It is, fundamentally, the story about creating a more-or-less cohesive community from individuals and groups who had real differences from each other in outlook and philosophies. All this was done by putting the common good first, but never foregoing mutual respect and understanding. The Plymouth colony really created a model for this that was fundamentally different from alternative colonial models, even among the various British settlements in North America. Activities like our educational outreach to schools are important in keeping this tradition alive in our collective historical memory.

Aside from your busy career and charitable activities, what do you like to do for fun?

When our youngest went off to boarding school this past year, my wife and I knew that we would have an unprecedented opportunity to take advantage of all that New York has to offer: theatre, opera, dance, jazz and classical music, restaurants featuring culinary traditions from all across the globe, poetry recitals, world-class repositories for the visual and decorative arts, etc. So, we mostly watch television, just a tremendous amount of television.

But I do enjoy swimming, reading history, and tending to a very unprofessionally managed collection of world paper currency. Finally, those who live in my neighborhood might be aware that I walk my very affectionate cockapoo approximately – by my count – 20-25 times per day.

Member News

Births

Stephanie Freeman gave birth to son Rhett on November 24, 2021, at NYU Langone. Rhett's first birthday will land on Thanksgiving Day! He joins sister Charlotte who turns three the end of June.

Governor Emeritus Steve Madsen's son, Stephen S. Madsen Jr. and his wife Laura Bassett Madsen, are the proud parents of a new Mayflower descendant, Stephen Stewart Madsen III, born May 3, 2022.

Eric Moore reports that he and his wife, Donna, have their first grandchild, Thea Lewis Vaughn. She was born on April 3, 2022. Thea's parents are Aimee and Brent Vaughn.

Marion Piro reports that her first grandchild, William Philip Piro, was born on May 1, 2022, in New York City to Mr. and Mrs. Philip Piro III.



Liza Sackson's son, Nevin Sackson and his wife Emily Sackson, are the proud parents of a baby girl, Abigail Jackson Sackson, born on March 5, 2022. They are in Liza's words, "over the moon."

Graduations

Campbell Reynolds Abelow, son of Mayflower Society Governor Justin Abelow, is graduating this spring from Milton Academy. Campbell will be heading off to the University of St. Andrews in Scotland in the fall to study international relations.

Alex Barnes-Schwartz will be graduating from Georgetown University with a Master of Science in Global Health and a Graduate Certificate of African Studies from Georgetown's Walsh School of Foreign Service. Alex will be starting law school in the fall at Washington University in St. Louis. This past spring, Alex interned on Capitol Hill doing healthcare policy work in the office of Congressman Higgins. She is currently doing her thesis research with the National Institute of Medical Research in Mwanza, Tanzania on the COVID response among women in northwest Tanzania.

Jobs

Ashley Becker started a new job as Global Managing Partner, Innovation Consulting Practice with TATA Consultancy Services. Ashley is based in New York City.

Travel/Hobbies/Books



Susan Abanor and her husband Harold Wooley took a lei making class in what better place than Hawaii.

Jody Watkins recently hiked to the Volcanoes in Iceland.

Jennifer Urda shared a diorama of Plimoth Patuxet made by her father.

John Norvell, a retired Air Force Lt. Col, just published his memoirs of his combat time in Vietnam. After the Vietnam War, John was an assistant professor of American military and social history at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. Here is a link to information about the book: <https://store.bookbaby.com/book/fighter-gator>. The book is also available from Amazon and Barnes and Noble.



2022 Calendar of Events

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Fall Reception

Union Club

Guest Speaker Counsellor General Lisa Pennington

Saturday, November 5, 2022

68th Annual Debutante Ball

University Club

Previous Events

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

Cousins Dinner

Tuesday, April 19, 2022

Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 23, 2022

67th Annual Debutante Ball

Thursday, June 16, 2022

Summer Solstice Party