



# ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY OF NEW YORK

## E-NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY 2008

### FELIX REELECTED & COUNTRY HOUSE TALK BY DICAMILLO AT AGM



The 2008 annual general meeting was held at the Harvard Club on 23 January. In his report, President Peter M. Felix, CBE, (in photo right with Sir Dennis Weatherstone) highlighted significant accomplishments in the previous year. One was the Development

Campaign, which raised \$2.5 million in gifts and pledges out of a \$5 million goal. He urged members to contribute towards the goal. Another was the hiring of a part-time development professional, Paul Sharpe, to organize and lead initiatives in corporate and foundation support. A third was the hiring of Ms. Carol Chetrick, LCSW, to succeed Sandra Grassby, CSW, who retired after 24 years. (As a result of the major gift by the Manton Family Foundation, the position has been named the Manton Social Worker in perpetuity.) A Scholarship Program was funded with a \$50,000 gift from Mark C. Pigott, OBE, CEO of PACCAR. The Advisory Council was expanded. All this happened on top of the usual social activities, including the English Ball, and the monthly Arts Initiative events. Treasurer Stephen J. Storen reported that the Society's financial condition was sound. Beneficiaries Committee Chairman Melissa M. Gibbs reported on the Society's beneficiaries; and Ms. Chetrick described her relationship with one particular beneficiary. Arthur J. Rawl, MBE, Chairman of the British Memorial Garden Trust, rose to express appreciation for the Society's invaluable help in getting it started. Nominating Committee Chairman, Natalie T. Pray, presented a slate of nominations, which was unanimously accepted and, consequently, Mr. Felix was elected to serve another year. Joining him on the board are Nick Beech, June Briggs, Matt Broom and Olivia Fussell. Curt DiCamillo, Executive Director of the National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA, was the lively speaker at the dinner that followed.

### NEW TYPES OF EVENTS: QM2 CRUISE AND PANCAKE PARTY



The Society's first travel excursion was a ten-day (3-13 January 2008) Caribbean cruise on the renowned Queen Mary 2, which lived up to its reputation as the longest, widest, tallest and grandest passenger ship on the seas today.

The group numbered 40 in all, including seven members of the Toronto St. George's Society. QM2 called at Tortola, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, St. Thomas and Barbados, where a special visit was arranged to St. Nicholas Abbey, one of the

### TIM VINCENT, SPAMALOT KNIGHTS & HENRY KISSINGER AT ENGLISH BALL OF THE ROSES



Preparations for this year's English Ball at the Rainbow Room on 25 April are well underway. The latest exciting developments are that British television presenter Tim Vincent will be the MC; the Knights of Spamalot will make a guest appearance during

the cocktail reception; and that Dr. Henry Kissinger, the statesman and former US Secretary of State, will introduce one of the evening's honorees. Born in Wales, Tim Vincent has been a top reporter on *Access Hollywood* since 2007, a weekday television entertainment news program covering events and celebrities in the entertainment industry. He is most famous for being a presenter on the popular BBC children's program *Blue Peter*, the world's longest running children's television series, which he joined in 1993. *Monty Python's Spamalot*, the smash hit Broadway musical very loosely based on the Arthurian legend, was written by Monty Python veteran Eric Idle. The show, directed by Mike Nichols, opened on Broadway in March 2005 and won three Tony Awards, including Best Musical of the 2004-2005 season. Dr. Henry A. Kissinger will introduce one of the 2008 honorees, Martin J. Sullivan, OBE, president and CEO of AIG. Dr. Kissinger played a dominant role in United States foreign policy between 1969 and 1977 as National Security Advisor and Secretary of State during the Nixon and Ford Administrations. Among other accomplishments as Secretary of State, he was instrumental in the signing of cease-fire agreements by Israel with Egypt and Syria in 1973, for which he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Formal invitations to The English Ball of the Roses will be sent in March, but call the office now to be listed as a Royal (\$1,000) or Noble (\$750). The Noble's Reception will take place on an evening prior to the Ball in April. Knight tickets are also available (\$400).

### HOW THE SOCIETY HELPS: PROFILE OF A BENEFICIARY



During her first year as the Society's new Manton Social Worker, Carol Chetrick became familiar with all our beneficiaries. Each beneficiary is so different that it is difficult to generalize about them as a group. All must be from the United Kingdom or a Commonwealth country. Beyond that, they are either elderly or

disabled; and living on modest, fixed incomes. Carol was requested to present one beneficiary at the Annual General Meeting and chose "Helen." Helen (not her real name) is a widow with no children, living alone in Manhattan. She was

oldest residences in the New World (built ca. 1650). While sailing to Tortola, John Shannon made a presentation on the history of St. George's Society for the group; and on the way back to New York, Bob Titley organized a meeting to gauge the appetite for more foreign travel. Then on Tuesday 5 February, the Society observed Shrove Tuesday in traditional British style by throwing a Pancake Party at the Slaughtered Lamb Pub in Greenwich Village. Partygoers were led downstairs into the depths of the old English pub where they were treated to an evening of great revelry and fun. The big pull of the evening for many of the British attendees were the deliciously traditional pancakes with the toppings of freshly squeezed lemons, sugar and fruit. Perhaps the most fun of the night came from the pancake tossing competition, where teams competed against each other to win delicious tins of Cadbury's Roses chocolates donated by Saxon Technology. The winning team consisted of our new friends from the Brit Meet-up group, which is an online network bringing expats together – [www.brit.meetup.com](http://www.brit.meetup.com). Money was also raised from the raffle which gave away a number of highly sought after prizes including tickets to *The Seafarer* on Broadway. The crowd was in great spirits and very mixed with established and new members. Special thanks to Activities Committee member Rebecca Jones for her hard work and dedication in making the party such a great success.

### JANUARY ARTS INITIATIVE: MIND THE GAP & BARBARA ROMER



The Arts Initiative kicked off 2008 in true style with an outstanding program of entertainment at the National Arts Club. Barbara Romer, founder of the New Globe Theater Project, gave an informative presentation. The project intends to revitalize the decaying military fort on Governor's Island and turn

it into a replica of William Shakespeare's Globe Theater in London, England. This will provide culture and entertainment to thousands of visitors each year from theater aficionados to underprivileged children. Unfortunately the project is currently facing opposition from the National Park Service despite overwhelming public support from many high profile figures including Al Pacino and Dame Judi Dench. The New Globe Theater urges patrons of the Arts to support their endeavors by visiting [www.newglobe.org](http://www.newglobe.org) and signing up to take action to save the New Globe during the Peoples Comment period. The evening also consisted of a reading by host Jim Dale and two exclusive readings from Mind The Gap theatre company's current 'Brit Bits' Series (actors in photo). *The Flood* by Glyn Cannon featuring Cailin McDonald was a moving monologue about a troubled relationship set at the time of Hurricane Katrina. Mia Moreland, Dan Remmes and Martin Ewensof performed a reading from *Leaving London* about Transatlantic cultural differences and finding human connections under unlikely circumstances. The evening rounded off with a panel hosted by Margot Astrachan featuring Paula D'Alessandris (Mind the Gap's Artistic Director and Founder) and Barbara Romer. The February Arts Initiative will be one of the featured events of Wales Week with the Trinity Chamber Choir, poet Paul Henry, actor and playwright Kevin Matherick, and poet Owen Sheers. RSVP to [rebecca.kubu@stgeorgessociety.org](mailto:rebecca.kubu@stgeorgessociety.org).

born in London and served as a nurse in WWII tending to wounded soldiers at Dunkirk. Later she was a legal secretary in America. At 96, she is our oldest beneficiary but was described in reports as "a bit intimidating." Like all our beneficiaries, she wants to remain in her home but when Carol went to see her, she noted that Helen's apartment was untidy: she couldn't clean herself yet regularly dismissed home attendants sent to help her. She told Carol she wanted "an English charwoman" instead of what she got. Carol's background is clinical, addictions, psychotherapy and aging, including elder abuse. Carol sought to change Helen's behavior by making her understand that she needed to collaborate with a care plan to stay in her home. "By the end of my second visit, Helen began to manifest another side - more respectful. She began to look into home help with her community social worker and contacted another agency. She has now kept her aide for many weeks and told me she even took her to lunch! This was a nice way to spend time. Helen is aware how hard it is for people to get her out and that she needs to be appreciative if she wants help. She is also lucky to be receiving Friendly Visitors three times a week from DOROT - a program for seniors where volunteers are matched with seniors to visit them at home. She is their only recipient of three volunteer visitors and she loves having them come to talk with her about her memories of London, her life in New York, and more."

### UPCOMING EVENTS: LORD SALISBURY & ALISON LARKIN



The Activities Committee greatly anticipates the inauguration of its Information Britain Luncheon Series with the Marquess of Salisbury, Chairman of the Chelsea Pensioners Appeal, on 21 February. The Appeal is raising funds to complete a new infirmary at the Royal Hospital Chelsea to be named after Margaret

Thatcher in honor of the British former Prime Minister. Lord Salisbury, a former Conservative minister and Member of Parliament, will describe the challenges of adapting the famous facility, founded by King Charles II and designed by Christopher Wren, to meet the demands of modern-day residents. This event will take place at the 3 West Club. Reception at 12 noon, lunch at 12:30 pm. Cost is \$65 including wine. The Committee is also planning an exclusive book signing and cocktail party at the British Consulate in celebration of the release of *The English American* by author and comedienne Alison Larkin – Monday 10 March, 6pm-8pm. Following her internationally acclaimed semi-autobiographical one-woman show, comedienne Alison Larkin is in town to promote her first novel which is a hilarious and heartwarming tale. The novel draws from her experiences as an adopted English woman who finds her birth parents in the United States and weaves them into a poignant work of fiction. At this event, there will also be a raffle to win tickets to *The Seafarer* on Broadway. A special discount is being offered to St. George's members. Order online at [www.broadwayoffers.com](http://www.broadwayoffers.com) or call 212/947-8844 and enter the code **SFGNA31**. \$50 admission includes cocktails, nibbles, and a copy of the book. For more information about Alison please visit her website at [www.alisonlarkin.com](http://www.alisonlarkin.com). To reserve for either of these events, contact Becky Kubu at 212.682.6110 or [rebecca.kubu@stgeorgessociety.org](mailto:rebecca.kubu@stgeorgessociety.org).