

## NEW PLAQUE COMMEMORATING SOCIETY'S LINK TO ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL



The Society's Beneficiaries Committee unveiled a new plaque at St. Luke's Hospital, on Riverside Drive and 114<sup>th</sup> Street, at its meeting on 9 July. The

plaque, in white marble with carved and painted lettering and the Society's shield, was created by British sculptor Simon Verity and replaces two older ones formerly displayed in the Hospital's old St. George's Ward. The connection between St. George's Society and St. Luke's Hospital (now St. Luke's/Roosevelt) goes back to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century when doctors visited the wealthy in their homes and the poor who were sick had few options. In 1846, distressed by the fact that only the upper socioeconomic groups appeared in Episcopal congregations, the Rev. William A. Muhlenberg (1796-1877), a noted Anglican divine, organized the Church of the Holy Communion in New York City, where both rich and poor could worship. Later he launched a drive to fund a charity hospital, St. Luke's. The new Anglo-American Free Church of St. George the Martyr offered its property on Fifth Avenue at 54<sup>th</sup> Street in exchange for the right to nominate 20 patients for free care and two Delegates to the board. The church never found a congregation and St. George's Society, which sought the rights for its beneficiaries, took control of the vestry to preserve the valuable rights. In 1895 the Society, the church and the hospital concluded an agreement whereby the hospital agreed to transfer the church's rights to the Society. The church was wound up, the hospital sold the land on Fifth Avenue and moved uptown to its present location. Shown in photo: Sandra Grassby, Missi Gibbs, Ellsworth G. Stanton III, John C. Harvey, Peter J.C. Mosse, Rodney N.M. Johnson, Stanley D. Heisler, Cyril Sanger and Carol Chetrick.

## BRITISH SOCIETIES GATHER FOR ROYAL BIRTHDAY, ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY



HM The Queen's Birthday was celebrated in regal style by hundreds of well-wishers at The Racquet and Tennis Club on Monday 11 June 2007. The event drew together

many of New York's leading British-American organizations to celebrate the auspicious occasion. Guest of honor Jon Benjamin, British Deputy Consul-General, offered a toast to Her Majesty, and John Shannon, Executive Director of St. George's Society, and

## ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY PLANNING OUT-OF-TOWN TRAVEL



A 10-day cruise to the Caribbean on board Cunard's legendary Queen Mary 2 will be offered to members as part of a new drive to provide a broader range of membership benefits. QM2 will

depart from New York on 3rd January, returning on the 13<sup>th</sup>, and call at St. Lucia, Barbados, Tortola, St. John and St. Kitt's. A special feature for St. George's members will be afternoon tea at the British High Commissioner's residence in Barbados on 8<sup>th</sup> January. Watch for a mailing soon. The decision to embark on the QM2 is directly related to the results of a recent membership survey, which revealed that a substantial number of respondents were interested in excursions to out of town and foreign destinations. As a result, other plans are under consideration, including a visit to see the Turner exhibit at the National Gallery and the Folger Library in Washington in the fall, and a voyage to London with exclusive visits to special venues next year. The survey mentioned above is part of a marketing effort to boost interest in the Society by providing more benefits for members and better positioning the Society to induce British and Anglophile individuals in New York to become members. In addition, a range of new memberships benefits are being developed and will include discounts on ACP-BritRail products, Uptown Reservation Accommodations in London, and discount privileges at New York restaurants. The Society has also been in discussion with American Airlines to designate it the Society's official airline in exchange for benefits to members. Other marketing initiatives underway include an overall look at the Society's branding, recruitment, marketing and website with pro bono assistance from Grey Global Group, part of the global WPP media organization headed by Sir Martin Sorrell, a member of the Society's Advisory Council.

## 2007 ST. GEORGE'S INAUGURAL OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP



The Suburban Golf Club played host to the first ever St. George's Society Open Golf Championship on Thursday 28 June 2007. The event, sponsored by a number of global corporations including Deutsche

Bank, AIG, RP Capital and ABN AMRO, saw 40 players in 10 teams tee off in the afternoon for 18 holes of golf in the sunshine. The participation fee for non-members included a year's membership in St. George's and, as a result, 31 members joined the society. Players arrived at noon and

led the room in a rousing chorale of "God Save the Queen." The Union Jack cake, complete with birthday candle, was cut by Lady Collins, wife of British Consul-General Sir Alan. The cake was then enjoyed by the party goers, along with British flag colored cupcakes and a delicious array of hors d'œuvres, in the elegant and very British looking rooms of the Racquet Club. It was a wonderful social occasion and a great opportunity for old friends to catch up and new friends to build inter-society bridges. Seen in photo: Peter Worth, Clarke Cooper, Richard Lee-Smith and Val Bickel. Many of the same organizations will gather again at the annual Garden Reception to take place at the General Theological Seminary, 175 Ninth Avenue, on Wednesday 18 July at 6pm. Admission is \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door and proceeds will be distributed amongst the societies so don't forget when you RSVP to mention to which society you belong. The tradition of the Garden Reception began nine years ago when the St. George's Society had its office at General Theological Seminary. The party was a hit and sister societies were added each year to help sponsor the affair.

### JUNE ARTS INITIATIVE: "A TALE OF TWO CITIES"



A standing-room only gathering was treated to a fascinating insight into the world of Broadway productions courtesy of the St. George's Society Arts Initiative at The National Arts Club on Monday 18 June

2007. Jill Santoriello, author of the multi-layered adaptation of Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities* came to share her work along with a panel of producers, marketers and promoters who all share the responsibility of transporting *A Tale of Two Cities* from a vision to a Broadway reality. The audience, comprised of many St. George's members along with arts and theatre industry people, was given a highly informative set of talks based on the topic of "Going Outside the Box: Producing Theatre and the Business Community." These covered the complex financial, investment and logistical issues surrounding the production of a successful Broadway show. And of course it cannot be forgotten that the pressures of working with a seminal work of literature must be enormous - *A Tale of Two Cities* has long enthralled readers and now must captivate the hearts and minds (and wallets!) of theatre goers. After the talks the audience was treated to exclusive sneak preview performances by a number of cast members. These included the immensely talented Natalie Toro and Ron Sharpe who sang such numbers as "Out of sight out of mind" and "Until tomorrow." After the performances Margot Astrachan and other audience members engaged the panel in a lively and interesting discussion. Audience members, cast members and panel members stayed afterwards to enjoy further discussion and networking. It was another winning performance by the St. George's Arts Initiative so perhaps it really wasn't the worst of times but instead the best of times after all...

were greeted with welcome packs, St. George's golf shirts and a goodie bag full of golfing treats. A BBQ lunch was served on the terrace with a splendid view overlooking the course. After the players were fuelled up and ready to golf, the game began. The Suburban course, in Union, NJ, was designed by noted architect, A. W. Tillinghast in 1922 and feedback from the golfers confirmed it as a high-quality course to play. In the evening the golfers were joined by fellow St. George's members arriving from the city for a cocktail reception and buffet dinner. Prizes were awarded by President Peter M. Felix, CBE, for: Closest to the Pin - Kevin Milan; Longest Drive - Fred Beirle; Lowest Gross - a tie between Jeff Downey and Fred Beirle; and the overall winner with the Lowest Callaway Score of 72 went to Rich Jacklin who was awarded the St. George's silver claret jug trophy. The event was a great success, and would not have been possible without the hard work and determination of St. George's member Nick Beech (in photo left with Peter M. Felix). The championship was highly praised by all involved and we very much look forward to increasing team sizes and sponsorship next year.

### SOCIETY SEEKS YOUNGER MEMBERS WITH DJ BRIT RICH AND RUGBY



The Society embarked on its first attempt to engage younger professionals at the Banc Café, Wednesday 6 June, for a happy hour session with DJ Brit Rich. David Jones,

active member and volunteer, introduced Richard Sexton, DJ Brit Rich, to the Society in an effort to support outreach into other expatriate networks. While he is a very talented DJ, Richard Sexton is more notably a Partner at UK Knight Frank, based full time in the Manhattan headquarters of Newmark Knight Frank. He serves a key role as director of international business development and liaison between US-based companies and Knight Frank's professionals worldwide. Richard is also an active member of CoreNet, British American Business Inc (BABi), and an avid sportsman. Traditionally, St. George's Society functions have featured music along classical lines. Whilst St. George's is dedicated to preserving tradition, it is also committed to moving into the future, and by this token we are not only proud to name Richard the official St. George's DJ, but also honored to have him as a member. Richard's musical taste is eclectic and diverse and will always please a crowd, especially those who like their music with a hint of Anglicism! In addition to Sexton's musical influence, he has encouraged the Society to get involved with English sports, namely rugby. The Society hopes to team up with Mark Griffin of Play Rugby USA to host an event celebrating the Rugby World Cup. Play Rugby USA is a non-profit organization providing a fun, unique and inspirational educational experience to children through the innovative coaching of rugby. The Society is happy to support their mission as well as get involved in the rugby community, as rugby is a significant part of English culture.

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