

FHNU Newsletter

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Mayor Bloomberg Raises Flag at the Liberty Pole

George Washington got there first. But now Mayor Bloomberg has become the first New York City mayor to hoist a flag at the place where the early settlers of Brooklyn celebrated their freedom by raising a "[Liberty Pole](#)" in 1783.

At the end of this year's Brooklyn Columbus Parade, the mayor pulled on the ropes to send a Betsy Ross flag up the 106-foot pole on the front lawn of the [New Utrecht Reformed Church](#) at 84th St. and 18th Ave. in Bensonhurst. After the national anthem was played, Bloomberg, an Eagle Scout himself, joined members of [Troop 20](#), the country's oldest Boy Scout troop, in raising the first

foreign flag to be put on the pole, the flag of Italy. This was followed by Italy's national anthem.

This is the fourth year the parade has ended with a ceremony at the flagpole, the sixth of its kind to have been erected there since the British left the shores of what was to become the United States of America. When he was president, George Washington visited the "Liberty Pole" site to see students at an academy, a portion of which was uncovered in 2002 by college students making an archeological dig on the grounds where the church stands now.

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Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg raises the American flag atop the New Utrecht Liberty Pole at the end of the Brooklyn Columbus Parade, Oct. 8, 2005.

Tom Sarro

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Friends of Historic New
Utrecht -

www.historicnewutrecht.org

1831 84th Street

Brooklyn, N.Y. 11214-2914

Robert M. Buonvino, President

Edward Paunetto, Vice-President

Vincent La Marca, Editor, *FHNU*
Newsletter

Phone: (718) 256-7173

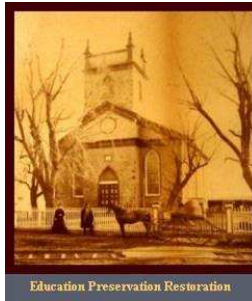
Fax: (718) 256-7162

E-mail: mail@historicnewutrecht.org

We're on the web!

www.historicnewutrecht.org

Education • Preservation •
Restoration



Mission Statement

Our Mission is to perpetuate the historical and cultural contributions of the Town of New Utrecht through Education, Preservation and Restoration.

It is through the collaborative efforts of The Friends of Historic New Utrecht that this is possible.

Let us honor our forefathers and bring back their sense of community spirit. It was their past determination that drives us to motivate future generations to plan, protect, preserve and honor. Our highest priority is to reach students in Brooklyn and beyond with tours, discussions, question & answer sessions and actual hands on learning.

Friends of Historic New Utrecht supports the efforts of other historical societies in Brooklyn, New York to educate, preserve and restore Brooklyn's rich history.

Mayor Bloomberg Raises Flag at the Liberty Pole

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The church building dates from 1828. The New Utrecht Reformed Church was established in 1677.

The ceremony was arranged by the [Friends of Historic New Utrecht](http://www.historicnewutrecht.org), which currently is raising funds so the church's sanctuary, closed since December 2003, can be repaired and restored. The cost has been estimated at nearly \$2 million.

Over the years, thousands of New York City school children had participated in cultural-educational programs in the building with a focus on the history of the town of New Utrecht, Brooklyn and the nation. "We find that to immigrants from many countries our programs have special meaning, especially to the children," Friends president Robert Buonvino said. "This is a special place

in Brooklyn where we are reminded of how precious our freedom is." The "Liberty Pole" is topped by a "Liberty Eagle."

Among others in attendance were New York State Sen. Marty Golden and City Council member Vincent Gentile. Golden commented on the historic significance of the area during the Revolutionary War and of the need to save the church for the community and citizens of New York City.

More information is available at (718) 256-7173 and (718) 234-9268. The Friends Web site is www.historicnewutrecht.org. Contributions toward restoring the church may be sent to Friends of Historic New Utrecht, 1831 84th St., Brooklyn, NY 11214. Tax deductible checks can be made out to the Friends of Historic New Utrecht Restoration Fund.

Tom Sarro



Thomas Sarro, Jr. (1941-2005) of Bay Ridge and Dyker Heights, was a teacher and educator, author, historian and collector of memorabilia, Tom's historical interests ranged widely from the great events of American political and military history, to hockey, baseball, even ice cream, and, of course, to anything related to Brooklyn. His knowledge, dedication and enthusiasm will be affectionately remembered by his many friends, including his colleagues at the Bay Ridge Historical Society, 14th Brooklyn Regiment, Company H, and Friends of Historic New Utrecht.



The American and Italian flags raised atop the Liberty Pole at the end of the Brooklyn Columbus Parade Oct. 8.

(Photo by Vincent La Marca)

Photos of the Brooklyn History Fair

The Brooklyn History Fair, which took place in the Parish House of the New Utrecht Reformed Church on Saturday, Nov. 5, featured displays from 11 Brooklyn historical organizations as well as appearances by both Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz and Brooklyn Borough Historian Ron Schweiger. More photos of the fair will appear in the Year End issue of the *FHNU Newsletter*.

(Photos by Vincent La Marca)



Photos of the Brooklyn Columbus Parade

Boy Scout Troop 20 at the Brooklyn Columbus Parade, Oct. 8.

(Photo by Vincent La Marca)



Appearing with Mayor Mike Bloomberg at the Liberty Pole are City Council candidate Pat Russo (left), Friends President Robert M. Buonvino (3rd from left) and the Grand Marshal, State Senator Marty Golden. (Photo by Vincent La Marca)

Photos of Thrift Sale 2005

The New Utrecht Reformed Church, in Bensonhurst, raised \$1,700 at its fall thrift sale to benefit restoration of its historic church building, which remains closed during the fundraising. The 1828 building had been the site of numerous cultural and educational programs sponsored by the Friends of Historic New Utrecht for thousands of New York City school children. Funds needed are estimated at \$1.8 million.

(Photos by Vincent La Marca)



Photos of Thrift Sale 2005

Members of Mirral Church.

(Photo by Vincent La Marca)



Members of New Utrecht Reformed Church.

(Photo by Vincent La Marca)

**Friends of Historic New Utrecht
New Utrecht Liberty Pole Association**

Membership Application

The Friends of Historic New Utrecht and the New Utrecht Liberty Pole Association encourage you to join us in preserving our proud heritage. Help support our future events and exhibits. If you would like to become a member, please call (718) 256-7173, or print and mail this form with your check for

○ \$10 Annual Membership Fee (○ \$15 Couples, ○ \$75 Lifetime, ○ \$100 Couples Lifetime) to Friends of Historic New Utrecht, 1831 84th Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11214-2914, and/or

○ \$5 Annual Membership Fee (○ \$2 Seniors/Students, ○ \$10 Couples, ○ \$75 Lifetime) to the New Utrecht Liberty Pole Association, 1831 84th Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11214-2914.

Name _____

Signature _____

Address _____

Date ____/____/____

City, State _____

Zip Code _____ - _____

I wish to be notified of Friends meetings by:

Telephone # (Day) _____

U.S. Mail (Y) (N)

(Evening) _____

E-mail (Y) (N)

(Fax) _____

Provide address:

_____ @ _____

Friends of Historic New Utrecht
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Brooklyn, NY 11214-2914
(718) 256-7173 Fax: (718) 256-7162
www.historicnewutrecht.org

Next Friends Meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2005 - 8 PM