

The Virginia Giant

Society of the Descendants of Peter Francisco

Volume 2

February 2018

Issue 17

Peter Francisco Day Celebration

The Society will host its annual Peter Francisco Day celebration on Sunday, March 11, 2018, at 12:30 p.m., in the Old House Chamber of the Capitol Building in Richmond, Virginia.

Guest speaker will be Harry Kardian, an 8th grader at St. Michael's Episcopal School in Richmond, where he is a member of the Lego Robotics team which recently won 2nd place at the state competition. Harry enjoys playing lacrosse, is an avid reader, loves history, and is a Star Scout at Troop 444, Reveille. He and his

family — parents, Chris and Karen Cosby Kardian; sister Virginia; and brother Jack — are all members of the Society.

At 3:00 pm in Shockoe Hill Cemetery, there will be a special guided tour celebrating the life and legacy of Peter Francisco while focusing on the American Revolution and the Richmond Theatre fire of 1811. The tour will be led by Barbara Lagasse, Board member of Friends of Shockoe Hill Cemetery.

Both events are open to the public.

Society of the Descendants of Peter Francisco

You are cordially invited to attend the celebration of the

46th Anniversary of Peter Francisco Day in Virginia

Sunday, March 11, 2018

12:30 p.m.

**Capitol Building ~ Old Hall Chamber ~ West Entrance
Richmond, Virginia**

Guest Speaker: Harry Kardian

~ Descendant of Peter and Catherine Francisco ~

3:00 p.m.

Special guided tour starting at the keeper's shed in Shockoe Hill Cemetery, concluding with a wreath-laying ceremony at the gravesite of Peter Francisco

WALKING IN PETER'S FOOTSTEPS

Society members once again “walked in Peter’s footsteps” on October 14 by meeting in Historic Yorktown, Virginia, where Peter Francisco witnessed the surrender of British General Cornwallis on October 19, 1781. Lunch and the business meeting were held at the Riverwalk Restaurant overlooking the York River. Important agenda items discussed were: *how to encourage members to become more actively involved in the Society; and how to better promote Peter’s legacy and support Luso, The Movie.* Members then toured the new American Revolution Museum.



Standing from left: Bob Grimes, Libby McLeod, Ed Bowman, Edith Buckley, Mary Jane Sale, Jane McCroskey; Seated from left: Bill & Suzanne Brown, Penny Geiger, Maria & Manuel Fernandes, Stefan Feyock



Libby McLeod, Bob Grimes, Edith Buckley, and Manuel & Maria Fernandes with costumed interpreter

Peter Francisco Scholarship

High school seniors graduating in 2018 may apply for the Peter Francisco Scholarship by completing the application form found on the Society’s website www.peterfrancisco.org. Two \$500 scholarships are presented most years. **Deadline is April 15.**

All members are asked to promote the scholarship in two ways: (1) by telling their family, friends and local high schools about it; and (2) by making a donation to the Scholarship Fund. (Please use the return form in this newsletter when making your donation.) *A list of donors will appear in our September newsletter.*

Scholarship Committee members for 2018 are Jane McCroskey, Chair; Penny Geiger, Karen Kardian, and Kathleen Whanger. If you have any questions, or are interested in serving on this committee in the future, please contact the Society at sdpf2000@aol.com.

Among Our Members

Mother and daughter, Anne Wilson and Erin Wilson Mwalwanda, were inducted into the Daughters of the American Revolution as founding members of the San Gabriel Chapter, Cedar Park, Texas, at its organizational meeting on October 1, 2017. During the opening ceremony, guest soloist, **Camryn Mwalwanda** (Erin’s daughter and Anne’s granddaughter), sang “The National Anthem.”



Anne Wilson, Camryn Mwalwanda, State Regent Judy Ostler, & Erin Mwalwanda at the organizational meeting of San Gabriel Chapter, DAR, on October 1, 2017

Luso-American Financial/ Peter Francisco Award

The Portuguese Continental Union (PCU) merged in 2002 into Luso-American Financial which is composed of four fraternal branches, with the PCU representing the East Coast. The PCU still presents the Peter Francisco Award, which was created in 1957, “*to be granted to a person or institution*

of Portuguese or any other nationality, that by acts, conduct, or any other form of outstanding value and contribution brings prestige and admiration to all people of Portuguese heritage in the United States, and to the name of Portugal and its language and culture.” This award was granted annually until 1967, and has been presented every five years since 1975.

In 2010, the Society of the Descendants of Peter Francisco and Edith Francisco Buckley were recipients of this prestigious award. Noted architect and Society member, Albert Costa, Jr., received the award in 2015; the next award will be presented in 2020.

Luso, The Movie ~Update~

The *LUSO* film team (Lusothemovie.com) met in Greensboro, NC, in December 2017 for a writers’ retreat. Members of the team are: Christopher Cates, CEO of Red Heritage Media; Brad Cummings, CEO of Windblown Media and Shiloh Road Publishers; John E. Allen, Jr., business finance strategist; Leah N. Allen, Senior Project Manager and Creative Director for IBC Entertainment Division; and Society

member/Peter Francisco portrayer/writer Travis Bowman. Work began with a 200-page screenplay draft which must be reduced to about 125 pages in order for prominent directors and A-list actors to be willing to read it. The team hopes to have the screenplay finished by the end of February.

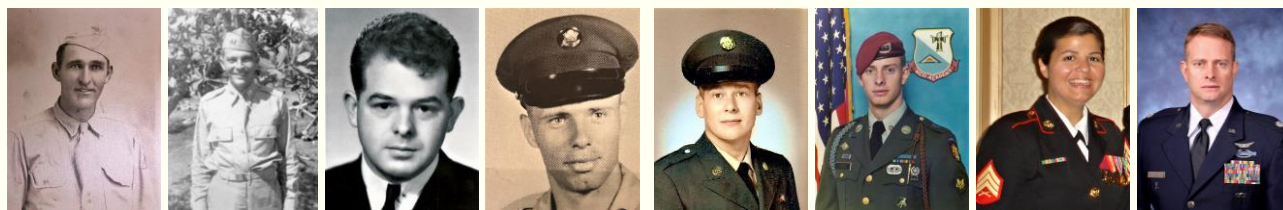


LUSO writers Christopher Cates, Travis Bowman, Brad Cummings, Leah and John Allen, at the Peter Francisco Monument, Guilford Courthouse National Battlefield, Guilford Courthouse, NC

Name Our Patriots

In our February 2017 newsletter, members of the Society were asked to send in photos of themselves or others who have served, or are presently serving, in the U.S. military. The subjects of the photos (preferably in uniform) had to be society members (presently or deceased). Shown below are our patriots whose photos were submitted.

To enter the contest, please complete and mail the form included on the insert, or email your answers to sdpf2000@aol.com. **Deadline: April 15, 2018.** Contest winners and our patriots’ names will be included on the Society website www.peterfrancisco.org under “Current News” and in our September newsletter.



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SOCIETY OF THE DESCENDANTS OF PETER FRANCISCO

www.peterfrancisco.org
sdpf2000@aol.com

***Purpose:** To compile and maintain the documented records of Peter Francisco and his descendants and to give him his rightful place in history.*

OFFICERS

President ~ Elizabeth M. "Libby" McLeod
1st Vice President ~ Erin E. W. Mwalwanda
2nd Vice President ~ Edith F. Buckley
Recording Secretary ~ Jane B. McCroskey
Corresponding Secretary ~ open
Treasurer ~ Ed Bowman
Historical Advisor ~ Gail Coffman

**If you have any news for the next issue of "The Virginia Giant,"
please send it to the writers/editors: Anne Wilson and/or Erin Mwalwanda**

~ Please help the Society "Go Green" ~

If you have an email address, but are currently receiving our newsletter via U.S. Postal Service, please send your email address to sdpf2000@aol.com for all future mailings.

Please send your check, made payable to SDPF, for Dues, Fundraisers and Scholarships to:

Ed Bowman, Treasurer SDPF, 3715 Belt Blvd., Richmond, VA 23234

~ **DUES** ~ \$10 per year for adults; \$2 per year for children *under* 18 years of age

(See year printed after your name on your address label to learn through which year you have paid dues.)

If dues have not been paid for 2018, please remit with this form.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Adults x \$10 + # Children x \$2 = **Total for DUES:** \$ _____



~ **FUNDRAISERS** ~

Magnets - \$3 each\$ _____

Locust Grove Notecards –
\$12 per set of 8 cards & envelopes \$ _____

Peter Francisco Post Cards –
\$5 for 5 *or only* \$10 for 15 \$ _____

Total for FUNDRAISERS: \$ _____

~ **DONATION TO 2018 SCHOLARSHIP FUND** ~ \$ _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Dues, Fundraisers and Scholarship Fund OVERALL TOTAL: \$ _____

~**NAME THE PATRIOTS**~

Match the Patriot's photo to his/her name by placing the photo number before the correct name.
(Hint: One name matches 2 photos. There are 2 extra names listed – just to give you a challenge!)

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| ___ Ralph E. Buckley | ___ Maria Fernandez | ___ Robert F. Grimes, Jr. |
| ___ Roland T. Harris | ___ Elizabeth M. McLeod | ___ J. Quintus Massie |
| ___ Howard A. Shorter | ___ J. Eric Wilson | ___ William L. Wilson |

Please complete this form and mail it to Anne Wilson, SDPF Newsletter Committee, 2613 Moray Lane, Cedar Park, TX 78613, or email your answers to sdpf2000@aol.com. Winners will be announced on our website www.peterfrancisco.org under "Current News" and in the September newsletter.