

PRESS RELEASE

Friends of Historic New Utrecht

New Utrecht Liberty Pole Association
New Utrecht Reformed Church

EDITORS: We invite your coverage of "Liberty Weekend," on Saturday June 1st at the New Utrecht Reformed Church, 84th St. and 18th Ave., in Bensonhurst during celebration of the 236th anniversary of the New Utrecht Liberty Pole. Contacts: mail@historicnewutrecht.org and 718-256-7173.

Photos from prior year Liberty Weekend events are attached.

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Liberty Weekend Returns to Bensonhurst June 1 Revolutionary War Re-enactors, Tours of the Historic Church, Historical Displays and Exhibits

BROOKLYN - Liberty Weekend, sponsored by Friends of Historic New Utrecht, returns Saturday, June 1, to the grounds of the New Utrecht Reformed Church in Bensonhurst with historical displays and presentations, Revolutionary War re-enactors, a lecture, a bake sale and tours of the historic 1828 Church and of the Old New Utrecht Cemetery among events celebrating the 236th anniversary of the famous New Utrecht Liberty Pole.

All events are free. The church is at 18th Ave. and 84th St. with bus and subway lines nearby.

This year's visitors will have a chance to tour the landmarked Church, built in 1828, in part with stones that taken from the original 1700 church built on the old Cemetery at 16th Avenue. Church members will speak about the Church building's history and the current work of restoration and repair.

Events on the church grounds and in the Parish House from 11:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. will be focused on the American Revolution. Revolutionary War re-enactors will interact with the public on the church lawn. Featured will be the Royal Highland Regiment, the famous Black Watch, which fought for Britain in the Revolutionary War, including the Battle of Brooklyn in 1776. Other re-

enactors will represent George Washington, and American and British soldiers and officers.

Throughout Saturday historical exhibits and displays on New Utrecht's past will be open to visitors in the Parish House. At 2:00 p.m. the Parish House will be the venue for a lecture by Norman Gobin, "The Prison Ship Martyrs: The British Prison Hulks in Wallabout Bay." A ceremony honoring the 236th anniversary of the raising of the first Liberty Pole on the site at the end of the Revolutionary War will be conducted at 3:30 p.m.

Earlier in the day, from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., Dave Elligers leads a tour of the Old New Utrecht Reformed Church Cemetery, on 85th Street with the entrance east of 16th Avenue. He gives a similar tour on Sunday from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Liberty Weekend is the only time during the year that the cemetery, dating back to the 1600's, is opened to the general public.

On the church lawn from 12 noon to 3:30 p.m., the New Utrecht Reformed Church will conduct a sale of baked goods and refreshments with proceeds going toward restoration and repair of the church sanctuary.

Persons interested in learning more about Liberty Weekend, New Utrecht's landmarks and the history of the Town of New Utrecht are invited to call 718-256-7173, visit www.historicnewutrecht.org or Facebook.com/FriendsofHistoricNewUtrecht, or inquire at mail@historicnewutrecht.org.

Liberty Weekend is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development, Councilman Mark Treyger and Councilman Justin Brannan.

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