

# **George Washington Chapter** Sons of the American Revolution Newsletter

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Volume 20, Issue 5

Mithington

May, 2019

George Washington Chapter in April ''65th Anniversary''



The George Washington Chapter celebrated its 65th year on April 13, 2019 at the Mount Vernon Country Club in Alexandria, with over 70 compatriots and guests in attendance. The chapter was chartered on April 2, 1954 with 14 charter members. Today, the chapter has over 250 members and continues to grow.



(April Con't on Page 4)

## **President's Corner**



#### *Compatriots:*

April was a very busy month for the Chapter to include the George Washington Chapter's 65th Anniversary celebration, laying a wreath at James Monroe's

261st Birthday Celebration Ceremony, a Law Enforcement Commendation Ceremony and recognizing two Security Access Control Officers who rendered timely assistance to a compatriot's wife and were recognized with the Outstanding Citizenship Award. Yep, we had a very busy month, so let's get to the details.

GW Chapter 65th Anniversary

At the April 13th Chapter meeting we celebrated the 65th Anniversary of the George Washington Chapter representing the founding and chartering of the Chapter joining the Virginia Society on April 2, 1954. We were honored to have 81 Chapter members, SAR and DAR dignitaries and honored guests who joined us in the celebration at Mt. Vernon Country Club.



Pictured (2nd Left to Right): The Chapter was honored to have VASSAR 2nd Vice President, Jeff Thomas; NSSAR President General, Warren Alter; DAR Kate Waller Barrett, Regent, Claire Bennett and Virginia DAR Past Historian, Holly Lynne McKinley-Schmidt in attendance. The Chapter was honored to receive greetings from each of these dignitaries.

In addition, other notable DAR and SAR dignitaries included DAR Freedom Hill Chapter, Regent, Beth Boswell; DAR John Alexander Chapter, Regent, Sarah Henze; DAR Mount Vernon Chapter, Regent, Katy Kane; NSSAR, C.A.R.–SAR Relations Committee Chairman, Darrin Schmidt; Col. William Grayson Chapter President, Mike Weyler; and Fairfax Resolves Chapter, Past-President, Ken Bonner. Guests of honor included Fairfax County Police, Master Police Officer, Kevin Webb; JROTC Cadet, 1st Lt. Tyler Herod, and the beloved Julia Carr, wife of Bob Carr, Past-President of the GW Chapter who passed last year. In total we had over 30 guests in attendance to be part of our Anniversary celebration.

Notable George Washington Chapter Leaders included Past-VASSAR President & GW Chapter Past President's, Larry Lisle (1996-1997/1986) and Don Reynolds (2000-2001/1994); and GW Chapter Past-President's Ernie Coggins (2018), Paul Walden (2017), Dwight Whitney (2015) and David Walker (2009). These Chapter Leaders, as well for those who couldn't attend, represented the Chapter during their respective tenures with distinction, dedicating themselves to the goals and objectives of the Chapter, and for some, performing as VASSAR President's and, for a few, performing to the goals and objectives of positions at the National Society level. Please take a moment to reflect and recognize these compatriots for their outstanding service to the George Washington Chapter, the Virginia Society and for a few to the National Society. Thank you to all.

The Chapter meeting had a true feel of celebration, given the mix of attendees, and a festive 65th Anniversary program to include dignitary greetings, 3 lively Champaign toasts, having a 65th Anniversary cake, distributing anniversary coffee mugs and the playing of Happy Birthday by fifer Don Francisco. A good time was had by all.

As a note, the anniversary celebration wouldn't have been possible without the visionary, dedication and outstanding

(President's Corner Con't. Next Page)

### President's Corner (Con't)

efforts of Chapter Vice President, Jay Henn; Treasurer, Tom Roth; and DAR members Bonnie Henn and Claire Bennett. They performed a magnificent job and I thank them for their hard work and efforts.

#### James Monroe's 261st Birthday Celebration Ceremony

On April 20th, the James Monroe Memorial Foundation held its annual commemoration of James Monroe's birthday at his recently reconstructed birthplace in Colonial Beach, Virginia. In honor to James Monroe, twelve VASSAR Chapters presented wreaths: Richmond, George Mason, Col. William Grayson, James Monroe, Richard Henry Lee, Fairfax Resolves, George Washington, Rappahannock, Williamsburg, Thomas Nelson, Jr., Culpeper Minutemen, and Col. Fielding Lewis. Chapter President, Dave Thomas presented a wreath on behalf of the George Washington Chapter. Mr. G. William Thomas, Jr., President of the James Monroe Memorial Foundation served as Master of Ceremonies, with VA State Delegate, Margaret Ransone and Hon. Woody Hynson, Westmoreland County Board of Supervisors offering their greetings. Peter Davenport, VASSAR President, was the keynote speaker and discussed James Monroe's contribution to history.

**Outstanding Citizenship Award** On February 10, early on a very frigid morning, Montebello Condominium resident Denise Bean (wife of GW Chapter compatriot Lisle Bean) misjudged the height of a high curb and fell outside of their building, suffering a tibia plateau fracture. Montebello Security Access Control (SAC) Officers SGT Robert Fischer and Officer Samford Kwarteng came to her aid and stayed with her until Fairfax County Fire and Rescue arrived. Because of their extraordinary efforts, Paul Walden, Board of Managers, and Montebello resident, presented them with the Outstanding Citizenship Award on April 23 at the Montebello Community Center.

#### Law Enforcement Commendation

On April 11th, compatriot John Blair of the Public Safety Awards Committee presented three Fairfax County Police Officers – PFC Kelvin Catron, MPO Joseph Wallace and PFC Matthew Dobson with Law Enforcement Commendation awards for their service in protecting the Mt. Vernon community. Description of the morning events of September 8, 2018 follows.

"On September 8, 2018, just before 11 a.m., Mount Vernon patrol officer responded to a 9-1-1 stating that a man came into her apartment and fired a handgun three times. PFC Kelvin Catron arrived on scene just as the subject exited the apartment, noticed the subject was still holding the weapon in his right hand and challenged the subject to stop and drop his weapon. The subject refused to drop the weapon. PFC Catron, while holding the subject at gunpoint radioed to responding officers to coordinate their arrival without creating a crossfire situation. MPO Joseph Wallace was the second officer on scene and took cover while attempting to negotiate with the subject. PFC Matthew Dobson arrived on scene and escorted other residents out of the apartment building. The subject eventually surrendered after MPO Wallace was successful using his negotiating skills and was transported to INOVA Mount Vernon Hospital due to his unusual mental behavior. The actions of all these officers led to a quick response and stabilization of the scene. Their cooperation and coordination ensured a peaceful resolution for everyone around as well as the safe apprehension of the subject without incident." (Photo on Pg. 14)

Next up is the last Chapter meeting before the summer break on May 11th, and the National Memorial Day Parade on May 27th. For those compatriots who have interest in marching in the parade, please submit your necessary Agreement of Release forms to Mike Elston soonest.

Thank you, Dave Thomas President George Washington Chapter

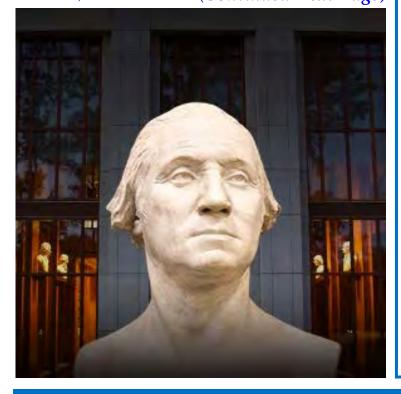








ABOVE--Clockwise--Claire & Garner Bennett; Rich Rankin & Pete Farley; Richard Rogers; Don Kellerman, Rich Rankin & Past President, David Walker. (Continued Next Page)



President	David R. Thomas: 703-583-8791
Vice President	Jay M. Henn: 703-447-0820
Treasurer	Thomas Roth, III: 703-739-8811
Secretary	Richard Rankin: 703-538-5805
Registrar	Richard Sherman: 301-654-6319

The George Washington Chapter was chartered in its present form on April 2, 1954. With over 245 members, it is Virginia's largest SAR chapter. Meetings are held at 11:30 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month (June, July & August excepted) at the Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, Virginia.

*Immediate Past President: Ernie Coggins: 703-241-2807* 

*Ride Share:* Members in need of a ride to a chapter meeting or a chapter sponsored event may contact the Amenities Committee Chairman, Don Reynolds, at (703) 765-4947.

This newsletter is edited by **Pete Farley**. Inputs from chapter officers, committee chairmen, and fellow compatriots are always needed. Please send your inputs and comments to **nyyno7@cox.net** or call 703-585-3163.



Clockwise Above--JROTC awardee 1st Lt. Tyler Herod with family and Paul Walden; Nancy Kellerman and John Brigden; Public Service awardee Fairfax Co. Police, MPO, Kevin Webb with family and supervisor Lt. Camilla Stewart



Right--PG Alter with Public Safety awardee MPO, Kevin Webb. Bottom Right--MPO, Kevin Webb with family.





Tom Roth, GW Chapter Treasurer



(Continued Next Page)





Above--Applause for Tom Roth, Jay Henn's wife, Bonnie and standing at right, Claire Bennett for their help in organizing the festivities.



Above Top Right--Michael West with extended family, PG Alter & Rich Sherman. Right--Michael West & wife, Elizabeth, with PG Alter.





Above--Swearing in new members John Easley and Michael West, with PG Alter, Rich Sherman and GW President, Dave Thomas.

Right--Lt. Stewart, PG Alter, MPO Kevin Webb, John Blair & GW President Dave Thomas.



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# May Speaker



In honor of May–the month of Mother's Day--we are delighted to present as our featured Chapter meeting speaker Mr. Andrew Och, better known as *"The First Ladies Man."* 

Mr. Och is an Award Winning television producer who has traveled the world in search of provocative stories and adventures. In 2012, he began an historical journey as he traversed America for over a year documenting the lives of every First Lady of the United States up to that point in time for the C-SPAN series First Ladies: Influence and Image. The series aired in 2013 to great acclaim and helped reveal the untold stories behind the ladies of the White House. From Martha Washington to Michelle Obama, Mr. Och was given an all-access pass to some of the nation's most treasured collections and historical landmarks. In his presentations--based on the largest complete collection of video and interviews about America's First Ladies that exists in the world--Andrew pulls back the curtain on the public and private lives of this unique sorority of women.

Join us at the May meeting and find out more about what type of woman grows up to be married to a President of the United States. Autographed copies of his twovolume work "Unusual for Their Time: On the Road with America's First Ladies" will be available following the meeting.

# GW Chapter Meeting in April (con't)



## **Revolutionary War Patriots of the George Washington Chapter**

During 2019 the Chapter is placing more focus on honoring Revolutionary War patriots, and there's no better way to honor these men than to read the Patriot Biographies submitted by Chapter Members. Take a moment to read the Patriot Biographies of **Private William Line, Private Isaac Ball Jr, and Captain Aron Aorson**, thus honoring their memories and service. If you wish to read more Patriot Biographies, they can be found on the George Washington Chapter website: *www.gwsar.org* -- under Honoring/Patriot Biographies.

**Private William Line (1716-1779)** was born in Scotch Plains, New Jersey, in 1716 or 1717. He saw service in the French and Indian War. During the Revolution, he served in Captain Benjamin Laing's Company, 1st Essex County Regiment, New Jersey Militia. His daughter, Neaty Line, married patriot David Elston. He died on 10 March 1779 and is buried in the Scotch Plains Baptist Cemetery.

Private Isaac Ball Jr (1747-aft. 1790) was born on 31 Dec 1747 in Brookfield, Massachusetts to Isaac Ball (1710-1789) and his wife Rachel Howe (1710-1779). He served during the Revolution as a Private in Captain Ichabod Dexter's company, Colonel Doolittle's regiment of the Massachusetts Militia, which marched on the alarm of April 19, 1775. He enlisted April 24, 1775 and served in Captain Dexter's company, Colonel Woodbridge's regiment - muster roll dated Aug. 1, 1775. Private Ball married Hannah Comins (Commings) on 3 May 1778 in Athol, Massachusetts and he died there about 1790.

#### Captain Aaron Aorson (1740-?) was

appointed a 1st Lieutenant in June 1775 in the 5th company of the 1st New York Continental Line Regiment. He served as a 1st Lieutenant during the 1775 invasion of Canada and at the siege of Quebec City, he took command of the 5th company on December 31, 1775, after Captain Cheesman and Colonel Montgomery were killed in the assault on Quebec City. In November 1776, he was appointed Captain of the 5th company, 3rd New York Regiment, under Colonel Gansevoort in November, 1776 and served as a company commander at Fort Schuyler, New York, in 1777 during the siege by British and Native American forces. Aorson served as a company commander with the New York Continental Line during Colonel Sullivan's 1779 expedition and campaign against the Six Nations in New York. He also served at Morristown, New Jersey in 1780. Aorson was reassigned to the 1st New York Regiment in 1781 and served as the brigade major in General James Clinton's brigade at Yorktown. Aaron Aorson's final assignments were as a member of a detachment from headquarters at Newburgh, New York in March, 1783 and at New Windsor, New York in May, 1783.

#### 65th Anniversary Mugs Available

Attendees at the April Chapter Meeting and 65th Anniversary Celebration received a commemorative limited edition 12 oz. Kaamp glass coffee mug, complete with an imprinted 65th Anniversary logo (pictured). If you were not able to attend, it is not too late your get your mug (or to get

additional mugs even if you already have one!). The mugs will be on sale for \$5.00

each at future Chapter meetings while the supplies last.





Continuing the George Washington Chapter tradition, Incoming President Dave Thomas presents Outgoing President Ernie Coggins with a plaque for his service as 2018 George Washington Chapter President.

This is a personal gift of appreciation given by the Incoming President to the Outgoing President.









Clockwise Above--PG Alter, John Easley and wife, Heather; Michael West leading SAR Recessional; Past President Larry Lisle, GW Vice President, Jay Henn & VASSAR 2nd Vice President, Jeff Thomas; VP Jay Henn presenting Houdon bust of Washington to Holly Lynne McKinley-Schmidt, Past Virginia DAR Historian





Speaker Holly Lynne McKinley-Schmidt, Past Virginia DAR Historian



*Jack Coulter, Jay Franklin, Helen Condict and Richard Rogers drinking the toast.* 



*Vice President Jay Henn, proposing a toast to the DAR -- Huzzah !!* 



Kate Waller Barrett DAR Regent Claire Bennett. (Continued Next Page)

The majority of photos of the 65th Anniversary in this edition are attributed to Ernie Coggins, the George Washington Chapter Immediate Past President.







Above Left--VASSAR 2nd Vice President, Jeff Thomas speaking; Above Right--NASSAR President General Alter with new members.

Left--NSSAR President General, Warren Alter offering greetings to the GW Chapter.

*Right--Don Francisco playing Happy Birthday in salute to GW Chapter's 65th Anniversary* 



# **Suggestions for Luncheon Speakers?**

Are there specific topics that you would be interested in hearing more about from our luncheon speakers? Do you have specific individuals in mind that would be of interest to the Chapter membership? Are you aware of historical or other organizations that provide speakers to groups such as ours? If so, please email or call Vice President Jay Henn, who heads the Program Committee, at

*jaymhenn@gmail.com* or (703) 447-0820 with your thoughts and suggestions. Many thanks to those who have already passed along some excellent suggestions!



# **Upcoming Events**

**11 May**–Saturday: **George Washington Chapter Meeting--11:30 am** Speaker: Andrew Och **Topic:** *Unusual for Their Times--America's First Ladies* Belle Haven Country Club 6023 Fort Hunt Road Alexandria, Virginia 22307

11 May–Saturday: **19th Anniversary Celebration of The Raid on Martin's Station--10:00 am** Wilderness Road State Park 8051 Wilderness Road Ewing, VA 24248

**27 May**–Monday: **The National Memorial Day Parade** National Mall, Washington, D.C

**1 June**–Saturday: **238th Commemoration of Wayne's Crossing** Loudon County Court House Leesburg, VA

14 June–Friday: 10th Annual Joint C.A.R./SAR Flag Day and Flag Disposal Ceremony--*Time TBD* Great Falls Freedom Memorial (*next to Great Falls Library*) 9830 Georgetown Pike Great Falls, VA 22066

#### **14-16 June**–Friday-Sunday: **2019 SAR Annual Conference on the American Revolution**

"Women Waging War in the American Revolution" Sheraton University City 3549 Chestnut Street Philadelphia, PA 19104

**4 July**–Thursday: **58th Annual March to Washington's Tomb and Wreath Laying at Mt. Vernon** 3200 Mount Vernon Highway Mount Vernon, Virginia 22121

**5-10 July**–Friday-Wednesday: **129th Annual SAR Congress** Orange County Hilton 3050 Bristol Street Cosa Mesa, California 92626 5-10 July–Friday-Wednesday: 129th Annual SAR Congress Orange County Hilton 3050 Bristol Street Cosa Mesa, California 92626

20 July–Saturday: Night at the Ballpark/ Presentation of Colors--5:50 pm Colonel William Grayson Chapter, VASSAR Pfitzner Stadium 7 County Complex Court Woodbridge VA 22192

**9-11 August**–Friday-Sunday: **Atlantic Middle States Assn. Conference** Hilton Christiana Newark, Delaware

**13-14 September**–Friday-Saturday: **VASSAR Semi Annual Meeting** Fair Oaks Marriott Fairfax, VA 22033

14 September–Saturday: George Washington Chapter Meeting - 11:30 am Speaker/Topic: TBD Belle Haven Country Club 6023 Fort Hunt Road Alexandria, Virginia 22307

**14 September**–Saturday: **President General's Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier – 4:15 pm** Arlington National Cemetery Arlington, VA

**19-21 September**–Thursday-Saturday: **NSSAR Fall Leadership Meeting** Brown Hotel 335 W Broadway Louisville, Kentucky 40202

**12 October**–Saturday: **George Washington Chapter Meeting - 11:30 am** Speaker/ Topic: TBD Belle Haven Country Club 6023 Fort Hunt Road Alexandria, Virginia 22307



### Outstanding Citizenship Award

On February 10, early on a very frigid morning, Montebello Condominium resident Denise Bean (wife of Compatriot Lisle Bean) misjudged the height of a high curb and fell outside of their building, suffering a tibia plateau fracture. Montebello Security Access Control (SAC) Officers SGT Robert Fischer and Officer Samford Kwarteng came to her aid and stayed with her until Fairfax County Fire and Rescue arrived. Because of their extraordinary efforts, Paul Walden, Board of Managers, and Montebello resident, presented them with the Outstanding Citizenship Award on April 23 at the Montebello Community Center.



Above L to R: Lisle Bean, SGT Fischer, Denise Bean, SAC Director Earl Roberts, Officer Kwarteng, and Paul Walden.



L to R: PFC Kelvin Catron, Deputy Sheriff Connor Delgado, OFC Austin Matos, MPO Peter Feigleson, MPO Joseph Wallace, SAR Compatriot John Blair, Mount Vernon Precinct Cdr. LT Camilla Stewart, PFC Corey Clark, SGT Michael Wheeler, and PFC Matthew Dobson. Missing awardees are: MPO Ernie Jones, and OFC John Buffington.--(See President's Corner, Page 3 for Citation)

### **VOLUNTEER FOR CONGRESS 2020**

As many of you have heard, the Virginia Society is hosting the Sons of the American Revolution National Congress in 2020, to be held in Richmond next July. This is a great honor and opportunity for Virginia, and as you might imagine will require a lot of support from SAR Chapters and members throughout the Commonwealth. If you are interested in volunteering to help make the 2020 Congress a success, please contact Vice President Jay Henn at *jaymhenn@gmail.com* 

## **James Monroe Birthday Celebration**

On April 20th, The James Monroe Memorial Foundation held its annual commemoration of James Monroe's birthday at his recently reconstructed birthplace in Colonial Beach, Virginia Twelve VASSAR Chapters presented wreaths: Richmond, George Mason, Col William Grayson, James Monroe, Richard Henry Lee, Fairfax Resolves, George Washington, Rappahannock, Williamsburg, Thomas Nelson, Jr., Culpeper Minutemen, and Col. Fielding Lewis. Chapter President Dave Thomas presented a wreath on behalf of the George Washington Chapter. G. William Thomas, Jr, President of the James Monroe Memorial Foundation served as Master of Ceremonies. Peter Davenport, VASSAR President, discussed James Monroe's contribution to history. State Senator Bryce Reeves also gave remarks. More details on the James Monroe Foundation can be found at www.monroefoundation.org.



Below--VASSAR Color Guard

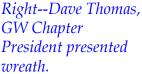
Right--Peter Davenport, VASSAR President



Below--Master of Ceremonies G. William Thomas, Jr.









# ATTEND \* ENJOY \* PARTICIPATE & VOLUNTEER FOR THE

# 2020 NSSAR CONGRESS RICHMOND, VA FRIDAY 10 JULY THROUGH THURSDAY 16 JULY 2020





### **SEE WEBSITE: 2020SARCONGRESS.ORG**

NATIONAL MEETINGS, BANQUETS, AWARDS, EVENTS LOCAL TOURS OF YORKTOWN, JAMES RIVER PLANTATIONS, ST. JOHN'S CHURCH (PATRICK HENRY'S SPEECH) SHOCKOE CEMETERY (CREDIT TOWARDS GRAVE MARKING MEDAL) AND STATE CAPITOL VIRGINIA SOCIETY 2020 CONGRESS RICHMOND, VIRGINIA



### **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO VASSAR**

LET US HELP YOU KEEP YOUR POWDER DRY TWO POWDER HORNS FOR RAFFLE **TICKETS \$15.00 EACH** 

LET US HELP YOU CUT THROUGH RED TAPE TWO HAND MADE KNIVES: YORKTOWN AND JAMESTOWN DESIGNS TICKETS \$25.00 EACH

POWDER HORN TICKET@**\$15.00** EACH

YORKTOWN KNIFE TICKET@25.00 EACH

NUMBER OF TICKETS

NUMBER OF TICKETS

JAMESTOWN KNIFE TICKET@25.00 EACH

NUMBER OF TICKETS

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$\_\_\_\_\_

### **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO VASSAR**

### MAIL TO:

PAT KELLY 2228 WILLIAMSBURG ROAD CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA 22901

# **Oral History Opportunity**

Roughly a dozen past Chapter Presidents are still active in the George Washington Chapter. If you would be interested in reaching out to these individuals and capturing the memories and highlights (or lowlights!) of Chapter leadership, please contact V-P Jay Henn at *jaymhenn@gmail.com* 







### George Washington Chapter, Virginia SAR

#### Luncheon Meeting Reservation Form Chapter Meeting: 11:30 a.m., Saturday, May 11, 2019 Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, VA 22307

Please join us for our May Chapter meeting on Saturday, May 11th. In honor of May – the month of Mother's Day – we are delighted to present as our featured Chapter Meeting speaker Mr. Andrew Och, better known as *"The First Ladies Man."* Mr. Och is an Award-Winning television producer who in 2012, traversed America for over a year documenting the lives of every First Lady of the United States up to that point in time for the C-SPAN series First Ladies: Influence and Image. The series aired in 2013 to great acclaim and helped reveal the untold stories behind the ladies of the White House. Join us at the May meeting and find out more about what type of woman grows up to be married to a President of the United States. Autographed copies of his two-volume work *Unusual for Their Time: On the Road with America's First Ladies* will be available following the meeting.

You may make your reservation in one of two ways. First, you may complete this form and mail it with your check to the address below. The cost of the meal is **\$35.00** per person (**\$12.00** for a child). Please make checks payable to <u>George Washington Chapter, VASSAR</u>. Second, you may email the Chapter Treasurer at <u>tmroth3@earthlink.net</u>. To help ensure receipt, please put "**RESERVATION**" followed by your last name in the subject line. You will receive an email confirming receipt of your reservation. Payment will be collected at the door. Checks are preferred over cash, and, if paying with cash, exact change is appreciated.

For both methods, please make sure that your reservation is received no later than **Tuesday**, **May 7th**, so that we may provide the Club with our anticipated attendance. Walk-ins (members and guests who have not made reservations) will be charged **\$40.00**.

Please provide the following information when making reservations: Meeting Date: Saturday, May 11, 2019.

- (1) Compatriot Name:\_\_\_\_\_
- (2) Guest Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Please note any special meal requests (i.e., vegetarian, children's) for member and/or guest

(3) A check payable to George Washington Chapter, VASSAR in the amount of

\$\_\_\_\_\_is enclosed.

Return this form and check to: Thomas M. Roth, III, Treasurer 1200 First Street, Apt 431 Alexandria, VA 22314

*Check-in and social begin at 11:30 a.m. with a cash bar. The meeting will be called to order at 12:00 noon and is typically concluded by 2:30 p.m. Valet parking is available.*