



Friends of Historic New Utrecht

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Liberty Weekend Celebrates New Utrecht's History

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BROOKLYN – An encampment of Civil War soldiers and artillerymen, historic displays and site tours, an evening concert by the InterSchool Orchestra Concert Band and a parade honoring American citizen soldiers from the Revolution to Iraq highlight events at this year's New Utrecht Liberty Weekend Saturday, June 4 and Sunday, June 5.

Sponsored by the Friends of Historic New Utrecht, the New Utrecht Liberty Pole Association and the New Utrecht Reformed Church, Liberty Weekend is held on the grounds of the 177 year-old landmark Church, closed pending extensive repair and restoration.

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, visitors to the historic church complex, at 84th St. (Liberty Pole Blvd.) and 18th Ave., can walk through a Living History Civil War Encampment on the church lawn, prepared by the 14th Brooklyn Regiment, Company H and the 6th New York Independent Battery. Historical displays in the Parish House will include Revolutionary War memorabilia presented by Tom Sarro.

On Saturday the church's historic Colonial-era Cemetery will be open to the public from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and a guided tour by local historian Dave Elligers will start at 11:30 a.m. The Cemetery, at 16th Ave. and 85th St., was the site of the original church building, erected in 1700. The historic structure on 18th Ave. now in need of repair was built in 1828.

Saturday at 7:15 p.m., the InterSchool Orchestra Concert Band, a group composed of musicians recruited from schools throughout the City, under the direction of Brian P. Worsdale, will perform on the church lawn (or the Parish House in the event of rain).

The parade will be held Sunday along 84th St. from the church grounds to the cemetery following an 11 a.m. all-faith worship service in the Parish House. A ceremony will be held at the General Nathaniel Woodhull Monument in the cemetery.

Closing ceremonies will be held at the 106-foot-high Liberty Pole, the last of its kind in the nation, on the church front lawn.

Information about Weekend events can be obtained by calling the Friends of Historic New Utrecht at (718) 256-7173.

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Contact info: For confirmation and further information call (718) 256-7173 or (718) 234-9268.

May 20, 2005