

The Virginia Giant

Society of the Descendants of Peter Francisco

Volume 2

February 2019

Issue 19

BUSINESS MEETING / PETER FRANCISCO DAY

The Society's first *combined* Business Meeting and Peter Francisco Day Celebration will be held Saturday, March 16, at 11:30 am, in the Old House Chamber of the Capitol Building in Richmond, VA. **This is a very important meeting and your presence is needed for the election of officers.** Since the Society now meets only once a year, this meeting will provide the opportunity to learn more about future plans, to fellowship with other members, and to honor Peter Francisco.

After our meeting, we will gather at 2:00 pm at the Keeper's Shed in Shockoe Hill Cemetery for a special tour and celebration of Peter Francisco's life presented by Friends of Shockoe Hill Cemetery which will be followed by our wreath-laying ceremony at Peter's gravesite. All events are open to the public and will provide an excellent opportunity for Society members to share with others to help "give Peter his rightful place in history."

Society of the Descendants of Peter Francisco

Your presence is requested at the Business Meeting and Celebration of the 47th Anniversary of Peter Francisco Day in Virginia

***Saturday**, March 16, 2019
11:30 a.m.

~ Old House Chamber ~ Capitol Building ~
West Entrance
Richmond, Virginia

Free meter, street-parking is available

~ Shockoe Hill Cemetery ~
Meet at the Keeper's Shed
2:00 p.m.

Peter Francisco Presentation and Tour by Friends of Shockoe Hill Cemetery followed by our Wreath-laying Ceremony at Peter Francisco's Gravesite

*** PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MEETING IS BEING HELD ON SATURDAY**

PETER FRANCISCO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

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 donations to the Scholarship Fund. (Please use the return form when making your donation.)

High school seniors graduating in 2019 may apply for the scholarship by completing the application found on the Society's website www.peterfrancisco.org. **Deadline is April 15.**

Scholarship Committee members for 2019 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.

SOCIETY EMAIL ADDRESS
sdpf2000@aol.com

SOCIETY WEBSITE
www.peterfrancisco.org

Although the Society's email address and website are listed in every newsletter, there may be some who have never noticed them. The **Society's email address** is sdpf2000@aol.com and is maintained by 1st Vice President Erin Mwalwanda who will forward any emails and questions to the appropriate officer or committee chairperson for a quick response.

The Society's **website** www.peterfrancisco.org is updated at least twice a year and includes: *By-laws, Articles of Incorporation, Current News, History of the Society, Meetings, Membership Information and Newsletters; Biography of Peter Francisco; Genealogy; Locust Grove; Monuments and Commendations; Peter Francisco Day; Scholarship Information and winners; photos; and links to other sites.* At this time, the Society also has a Facebook page.

If you have questions, genealogy updates, or additional information, please contact Erin Mwalwanda at sdpf2000@aol.com. Anne Wilson and Erin serve as liaisons to our web-master, Brad Vogler, and review any new information before having it added to the site.

LUSO, The Movie

Update from Travis Bowman: *Over the past few months, several A-list directors have been interested in the movie, but turned it down because of scheduling conflicts. I believe that God has led our team to the right director—Diogo Morgado! Diogo is not only a prominent Portuguese director, but an accomplished actor who portrayed Jesus in the "Bible Series" and "Son of God." He knows Peter's remarkable story and is passionate about directing this film. His production company, SLX Productions, has a new movie, "Solum," which will be released within the next few months.*

In December 2018, Brian and I were invited to tell Peter's story and discuss LUSO at a conference hosted by the Portuguese Secretary of State in Penafiel, Portugal. More than 500 from all over the world attended!

On January 28, the film team spent the day discussing choices for our cast. We have selected a number of top actors—I'd like for you to join us in praying that the doors will open for one or two A-list actors to join this journey to bring LUSO to life. To date, Brian Patrick Wade has committed to portray Peter Francisco; and Daniella Ruab (of "NCIS" fame) has committed to LUSO. Our plan is to start filming in September, but there is a lot of work yet to be done."



Diogo Morgado, Brian Patrick Wade,
Travis Bowman, and Pedro Morgado
(Diogo's brother who runs SLX Productions)



Diego Morgado and as Jesus

DAR and SAR

Descendants who are interested in joining one or more of these organizations may be able to *tag onto* the membership of a relative to help expedite their acceptance. The following Society members notified us of their membership in DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) or SAR (Sons of the American Revolution).

DAR: Edith F. Buckley – Providence Chapter, Fairfax, VA; Caroline Corum and Elizabeth C. Finley - LaPuerta de Oro Chapter, San Francisco, CA; Anne Wilson and Erin Wilson Mwalwanda – San Gabriel Chapter, Cedar Park, TX – 2017; Gail Tonkens (Friend of SDPF) chapter closed – now member-at-large in Kansas - 1970

SAR: William “Bill” M., Ashby T., Toland, & Anderson Corum – Captain John Metcalfe Chapter, Hopkins and Webster Counties, KY (Bill - through Peter Francisco; Ashby, Toland and Anderson - through two ancestors: Peter Francisco; and Mary Ball Washington, Mother of George Washington); Robert “Bob” Grimes – Norfolk Chapter, VA - 2018



Three generations of SAR members:
Bill, Anderson (14), Toland (16) and Ashby Corum

AMONG OUR MEMBERS...

~**Elizabeth “Libby” McLeod** resigned as President of the Society, effective January 2019. During her tenure from January 2011-December 2018, Libby helped establish the Peter Francisco Memorial Scholarship, updated our website, developed Facebook Pages dedicated to Peter Francisco, and represented the Society at numerous functions.

In Libby’s own words: *It has been an incredible honor to serve as President of the Society...Peter, a man of great strength*

and endurance, would be extremely honored, I imagine, to see the work of his descendants and fans as they strive to give him his rightful place in American history. I do hope that the works we have begun will be continued...for future generations to know the name of our legendary ancestor.

The Society is grateful for Libby’s service and hopes she will continue to be an active member and spokesperson for Peter Francisco.



Edith Francisco Buckley (center) was awarded the *Excellence in Community Service Award* by Cathy Sampson, Regent, and Janet Crowl, Providence Chapter, NSDAR, Fairfax Station, VA, on October 13, 2018.

~Congratulations to proud parents, **Kathleen and Thomas Whanger**, on the birth of their daughter, Phoebe Adelle, on November 8, 2018, and to big brother and sister, **Barret and Joslyn**, and grandparents, **Jane and John McCroskey**.



Brett Francisco Bechter of Pleasant Hill, CA, at the Peter Francisco Display in Guilford Courthouse in 2018

~On January 26, 2019, **Steven Pruitt** of Alexandria, VA, son of SDPF Members **Don and Alla Pruitt**, was interviewed by CBS News which reported that Steven has made three million edits to nearly one-third of all English articles on Wikipedia since 2006, and has written 35,000 original articles—the first of which was about *Locust Grove*, Peter Francisco’s home in Buckingham County, VA. In 2017, Steven was named one of *Time’s 25 Most Influential People on the Internet*.

INCREASE IN DUES / FUNDRAISING

Looking into future planning and expenses, and with the increase in costs for printing and mailing newsletters (stamps are now \$0.55 each), the Executive Board has voted unanimously to **increase annual dues to \$15 per adult beginning in 2020**. Dues for children under 18 years of age will remain the same at only \$2 per child. (*This is only the second increase in dues since the founding of the Society in 1971; the other was in 2001 when dues were increased from \$5 to \$10.*)

To continue presenting the Peter Francisco Memorial Scholarship (and hoping to present two \$500 scholarships each year), we must find other means for

funding. There has been fairly good support of our fundraisers—the sale of Christmas ornaments, magnets, postcards, Locust Grove notecards, and “The Portuguese Patriot” book. The sale of magnets was discontinued in 2017, and the last year for Christmas ornaments will be 2020; therefore, the Society needs to concentrate on fundraising that will bring in greater income to cover expenses and special events.

If you have ideas for fundraisers, plan to establish a trust, or would like to make annual donations to the Scholarship Fund, contact Ed Bowman, Treasurer, at sdpf2000@aol.com.

23ANDME

Caroline Corum’s interest in genetics and genealogy led her to be tested in 2018 by **23andme**—the first and only genetic service available directly to you that includes reports that meet FDA standards. If you are interested in this testing, please email Caroline at sdpf2000@aol.com, and she will check to see if a group discount code can be obtained for Society members. With this service, we would be able to learn more about our own genealogy and confirm “cousin relationships” within our group.

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 ~ pending election

1st Vice President ~ Erin E. W. Mwalwanda

2nd Vice President ~ Edith F. Buckley

Recording Secretary ~ open

Corresponding Secretary ~ open

Treasurer ~ Ed Bowman

Historical Advisor ~ Gail Tonkens

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

