On Saturday, April 5th, the State Capitol Foundation hosted the third State Capitol Society Ball to benefit the ongoing restoration and educational programs of the North Carolina State Capitol. Former Governor James G. Martin served as Master of Ceremonies.

Over 235 guests attended the black tie event, which included a silent auction and reception held inside our beautiful Capitol rotunda. Dinner and dancing was enjoyed inside a beautifully decorated tent on the west grounds with a clear span top, providing guests with a stunning view of the Capitol at night.

Upon arrival at the Capitol, guests were greeted at the entrance by two young cadets in full dress uniform from Oak Ridge Military Academy. Local students from the Enloe High School Jazz Ensemble provided the reception entertainment. In keeping with the North Carolina theme for foods and beverages, guests were served champagne donated by the Biltmore Estate Winery and wines donated by The Angus Barn of Raleigh. North Coast Brewery provided the beer for the reception. Pepsi Cola supplied the soft drinks and bottled water.

Upon entering the lavishly decorated tent, guests were greeted by the wonderful sound of music provided by the legendary Leon Jordan and the Continentals. Once again, through the generosity of Mr. Jordan, this orchestra donated their time and talents for our signature fund raising event.

Delicious regional fare for both the reception and dinner was prepared by Barbara Boney Caters of Raleigh. Barbara’s staff made a variety of delicious items with food donated by Ford’s Produce, Larry’s Beans, the NC Cattlemen’s Association, the NC Pork Council and the NC Poultry Federation. The Healing Place of Wake County and The Healing Place Women’s Center provided the reception.

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After over thirty years of dedicated service, Raymond L. Beck has retired as Site Manager and Historian of the Capitol. His devotion to the Capitol, his impressive knowledge of the history of the building, state government and the city of Raleigh cannot be replaced. It is, indeed, hard to think of the Capitol and not think of Raymond.

Ray began his career in 1977 researching the State House, the State Capitol, and Union Square. The current furnishing plan and a large number of acquired artifacts are the result of Ray’s meticulous research. Indeed the list of projects which he has accomplished is daunting. An abbreviated list includes:

- Oversight of the Union Square archaeological investigations
- Member of State Capitol motion picture committee
- Oversight of the restoration of Thomas Sully’s portrait of George Washington
- Coordination of all phases of room re-creation of the State Library and the State Geologist’s Office
- Worked with the Governor’s office to select appropriate window hangings and carpets in the Governor’s suite
- Developed an audiovisual program Tales of Union Square
- Coordinated and produced the Last Signal Message of the War commemorative program in 1990

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and dinner service staff. Foundation Board member Kim Shope of the event management firm, From The Ground Up, Inc., of Raleigh, donated her time and expertise as the Society Ball Chair. Bill Donovan created handsome floral displays and secured the flowers from JAGG Wholesale Florists.

Several members of the Foundation Board donated their time and talents by serving on the Society Ball Committee to ensure another successful event while keeping expense costs at an all time low. Those members include Tom Alexander, Barbara Boney, Jon Brookshire, Ed Davis, Lou Mitchell, Amy Needham, Nancy Thompson, Sam Townsend, and Jerry Traub. Other members of the Foundation Board were crucial in obtaining the many donated items for the silent auction. We also appreciate the time of the State Capitol staff in their efforts to assist with the undertaking of this event. The Board is especially grateful to Dutchie Sexsmith, who donated her time, talents and expertise to again organize and run the very successful silent auction. The Alliance of AIDS Services of Carolina provided volunteers to assist with the silent auction.

This event would not have been possible without the financial commitment from our sponsors, which include previous supporters as well as new donors: Alexander Family Trust; Bank of North Carolina; Barbara H. Boney; Capital Bank; Captive-Aire Systems; NAI Carolantic Realty; Duke Energy Carolinas; Edmisten & Webb Law Firm; Force Protection, Inc.; GlaxoSmithKline; Bryan Haiship; Hunter Industries; Mary Jarrell; Kane Realty; Little & Little Landscape Architects, PLLC; Sarah Lofton Family; MRPP, Inc.; Law Offices of Charles Montgomery; Jennifer and Don Munford; the John William Pope Foundation; Progress Energy; National Art Interiors & Fine Furnishings; Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell & Jernigan, LLP; SZD Whiteboard, LLC; and Weyerhaeuser Corporation.

Additional sponsors include in-kind donations from Meredith-Webb Printing Company of Burlington, Bill Donovan of Raleigh, Mayberry Printing of Knightdale and live Auctioneer Wooten Lamb of Rocky Mount. Partial in-kind donations include Barbara Boney Caters, CE Rental, ThemeWorks, JAGG Floral Wholesalers and Classic Party Rentals, all of Raleigh.

One of the highlights of the evening was Governor Jim Martin, who served as the Master of Ceremonies. He asked the crowd to join him as he led the official toast of the Old North State. Governor Martin outlined the Capitol’s priorities and explained how the Foundation provides...
the primary support for the educational and ongoing restoration projects. He stepped up to the plate by announcing his and Dottie Martin’s donation of $5,000 to the James S. Lofton Trust, part of the permanent endowment that was established to fund crucial programs at the Capitol. The E.A. Morris Charitable Foundation generously donated $15,000 to the Lofton Trust as well.

“One Nation,” an original painting of the Capitol’s annual 4th of July celebration was the featured item during the live auction. Auctioneer Wooten Lamm donated his time and talent to auction the painting, challenging guests to “pony-up” for this worthwhile cause. Lou Mitchell, a member of the Board, was the generous winner of the painting after outbidding Governor Martin. As a side note, Lou was the force behind initiating the annual Independence Day celebration nearly 25 years ago, so it was fitting that she took home the original “One Nation” painting.

Brenda Behr, an artist from Goldsboro, again contributed her time and talent with the donation of her original oil painting of the Capitol. Featured as “Artist of the Month” in the April 2008 issue of Our State Magazine, Brenda was recently chosen by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to create three works of art in memory of the late student body president Eve Carson. We are fortunate to have Brenda as part of our team in so many ways. Please visit Brenda’s Web site at www.brendabehr.com to view more of her beautiful pieces of art.

Also featured that evening were the breathtaking photos of the Capitol by artist John Hall. A native North Carolinian from Hurdle Mills, John now lives in New York City. A featured photographer in Architectural Digest, John’s talent has provided some of the most beautiful photos ever taken of our Capitol. Please visit our Web site at www.ncstatecapitol.org to view some of his work and place your order online. On-line orders may be placed for prints of Behr’s “One Nation” as well.

This successful event was truly a North Carolina team approach. We, the Board and Ball Committee, thank you, our donors and volunteers, for all that you have done and continue to do on behalf of our beautiful North Carolina State Capitol. See you in 2010!
Board member and winner of “One Nation” Lou Mitchell with Governor Martin

Foundation President Ed Davis and his wife Pam catch up with a friend in the rotunda after the silent auction

Kim Shope, Society Ball Chair and Board Member

Board members Sarah Lofton and Rufus Edmisten with Master of Ceremonies Governor Jim Martin

Board members Tom Alexander, Barbara Boney, and Dr. Keats Sparrow
The North Carolina State Capitol remains one of the nation’s finest examples of 19th century neoclassical design and superior craftsmanship. The magnitude and sophistication of the building surpassed anything seen in North Carolina prior to its completion in 1840. And, although the construction underwent constant design changes, straddled three different styles of classical revivalism and was overseen by five architects, the completed structure maintains a unity of composition that the Raleigh Register [Dec. 1833] called a monument of “durability and splendor, that will vie with the proudest specimens of European architecture.”

Completed in seven years at a cost of just over half a million dollars, (excluding the cost of the stone) this temple of government exhibits the exceptional skill and artistry of stoncutters, joiners, plasterers, and cabinetmakers before these trades became nearly obsolete in the industrial era. On August 8th, the North Carolina State Capitol will open The Pride and Ornament of the State: Building the North Carolina State Capitol.

The exhibit will explore the building’s design and construction through original plans, stories, and tools from the construction. Documents, like the 1838 Legislative report written to garner additional funding for the building and its porticoes “copied from the Temple of Minerva, commonly called the Parthenon”, the Senate Chamber modeled on the “Temple of Erechtheus, Minerva, Polias, and Pandrosus in the Acropolis of Athens”, and the House of Commons taken after the “Tower of Andronicus Cyrrhestes,” will also be on display. This exhibit will investigate the design choices the architects and building commissioners made, as well as highlight some of the architectural and ornamental features that make the North Carolina State Capitol so unique.

Please join us to see the Capitol as its builders saw it, a “Political Temple, the Capitol of North Carolina, [that] will vie with any legislative building in the Union, if not the world, and presents one of the finest specimens extant of classic taste in Architecture.”

President’s Column  Continued from page 2

- Directed and coordinated the restoration of the Senate speaker’s chair
- Acquisition and conservation of the 1823 Senate desk chair from the vestry of Christ Episcopal Church
- Acquisition and conservation of the 1840 joint committee room table.
- Research and design for all Capitol exhibits for the past thirty years
- Research and coordination for proposed period carpet in the House and Senate Chambers
- Advisor to Capitol Area Visitor’s Center

In addition to this impressive list of accomplishments, Ray has served as Board member to the Raleigh City Museum, the Wake County Historical Society and the Leonidas Polk House Foundation. Ray was named Elon University’s “Alumnus of the Year” in 2006 and he received the National Medal for Historic Preservation from the (national) Society of Daughters of the American Revolution. Ray is truly a state treasure and we are all in debt for his devotion to this important National Landmark. As we marked his service with a reception held in the rotunda of the Capitol in June, we acknowledged what we have known for some time; that we will continue to call on his expertise and advice for years to come. Raymond Beck surely embodies our state motto – esse quam videri!

Raymond Beck with his wife, Dr. Deborah Hatton, and photographer John M. Hall at the 2008 Society Ball.  Photo by Charlie Jones.

Celebration of Events

Calendar of Events

Celebrate the 4th
July 4, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Enjoy a family-oriented Independence Day celebration with a patriotic concert and picnic. Wander over to the Capitol’s “Old Fashioned 4th” area and see how people in North Carolina celebrated the 4th long ago. Musical performances, food and historic demonstrators round out this patriotic day of fun on the Capitol grounds.

The Pride and Ornament of the State: Building the North Carolina State Capitol Exhibit
August 8 - October 13
The North Carolina State Capitol remains one of the nation’s finest examples of 19th century craftsmanship. Completed in 1840 at a cost of just over half a million dollars, this temple of government exhibits the exceptional skill and artistry of stonecutters, joiners, plasterers, and cabinetmakers before these trades became nearly obsolete in the industrial era. This exhibit explains the construction process while showcasing the tools and stories of the individual workers who lent their talent to create the pride and ornament of the state; the State Capitol.

An Afternoon at the Capitol: Artisans & Architecture
August 9, 1-4 p.m.
Have you ever wondered how the State Capitol was built before machines were invented to do most of the work? Here’s your chance to experience what it might have been like to work on the State Capitol and try your hand at a few of the skills needed to create this building over 150 years ago. By the time you leave, you’ll know what makes a building fit into a certain style of architecture and why our Capitol is one of the best examples of architecture from the 1800s!

Scare on the Square
October 25, 5:30-9:30 p.m.
Bring the whole family out for a spooky night downtown! You’ll embark on a tour of this 168-year old building that will highlight all the strange and spooky things people claim to have experienced here over the years. Do spirits still linger in the Capitol? Is that haunting scent of cigar smoke a sign from a long deceased senator? You’ll have to decide for yourself after hearing all the evidence and spending a little time here after dark! Tours are limited, so pre-registration is strongly encouraged for this popular event.
Become a Pillar of Society: Doric, Ionic, or Corinthian
State Capitol Society Membership & Donation Form

Membership benefits include a handsome cast-metal State Capitol pin, yearly membership card, subscription to *Anthemion* quarterly newsletter, reduced rates for annual history excursions, reduced admission to Capitol social events, invitations to public programs, & special tours by request for your organization or company.

**Levels of Membership**

- **Senior/ Student Membership** $10
- **Individual Membership** $20
- **Family Membership** $40
- **Rotunda Membership** $100
- **Doric Membership** $500
- **Ionic Membership** $1,000
- **Corinthian Membership** $2,500
  (corporate 2 years, individual 3 years)
- **Crown Membership** $5,000
  (corporate 3 years, individual 5 years)

I am a  [ ] New Member  [ ] Renewing Member

Please return this completed form with your check or money order (payable to the NC State Capitol Society) to:
The State Capitol Society, North Carolina State Capitol, 4624 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4624

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