

Canarsie Courier

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A Good Guy Rode In On A Magnificent Steed

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Sinterklaas arrives at the Wyckoff House Museum on horseback. Photo Credit: Cindy Hu

By D. Rybstein

The Wyckoff House Museum presented *Sinterklaas*, or St. Nicholas Day, on Saturday afternoon, to the delight of Santa lovers of all ages. *Sinterklaas* is the traditional Dutch version of our modern-day Santa Claus, complete with colonial music, treats, stories and crafts.

The festivities kicked off with a traditional concert by colonial balladeer, Linda Russell. Children marveled at a special visit from St. Nicholas, who arrived on horseback rather than his usual one-horse open sleigh. In quaint Dutch tradition, visitors fed St. Nick's faithful horse carrots and hay. Children got to sign the giant guest Red Book before being enthralled by St. Nick's tale of *The Baker's Dozen*.

Everyone learned how to make traditional New Netherland *olicooks*, or doughnuts, while sipping delicious hot cider. Visitors tried their hands at colonial games; they created holiday pomanders; decorated a Dutch clog with *Sinterklaas* themes and, finally, dressed a tree for the sundown tree-lighting ceremony that closed the day.

Photos by George Council