

BULLETIN

OF THOMAS PAINE FRIENDS

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ADDRESS AND DECLARATION

At a select Meeting of the Friends of Universal Peace and Liberty, held at the Thatched House Tavern, London, August 20, 1791, the following Address and Declaration to our Fellow Citizens was agreed on and ordered to be published.

William Van der Weyde, editor, writes in *The Life and Works of Thomas Paine*, "This Address and Declaration respecting the French Revolution and the reduction of taxes was written by Paine, but was signed by J. Horne Tooke, as chairman of the meeting of London 'radicals' who endorsed its sentiments."

Below are the two opening paragraphs, followed by a number of paragraphs from several places in the full document.

FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS: At a moment like the present, when wilful misrepresentations are industriously spread by the partizans of arbitrary power, and the advocates of passive obedience and court government, we think it incumbent on us to declare to the world our principles, and the motives of our conduct.

We rejoice at the glorious event of the *French Revolution*.

...The French Revolution concerns us *immediately*. We are oppressed with a heavy national debt, a burden of taxes, and an expensive administration of government, beyond those of any people in the world. We have also a very numerous poor; and we hold that the moral obligation of providing for old age, helpless infancy, and poverty, is far superior to that of supplying the invented wants of courtly extravagance, ambition and intrigue.

We believe there is no instance to be produced but in England, of *seven million* inhabitants, which make but little more than *one million* of families, paying yearly SEVENTEEN MILLIONS of taxes....

....[W]e cannot but express our astonishment that any part, or any members of our own government, should reprobate the extinction of that very power in France, or wish to see it restored, to whose influence they formerly attributed (while they appeared to lament) the enormous increase of our own burdens and taxes.

What, then, are they sorry that the pretense for new and oppressive taxes, and the occasion for continuing many of the old taxes, will be at an end? If so, and if it is the policy of courts and of court governments, to prefer enemies to friends, and a system of war to that of peace, as affording more pretenses for places, offices, pensions, revenue and taxation, it is high time for the people of every nation to look with circumspection to their own interests.

Those who *pay* the expense, and *not* those who *participate* in the emoluments arising from it, are the persons immediately interested in inquiries of this kind. We are a part of that national body on whom this annual expense of seventeen million falls; and we consider the present opportunity of the French Revolution as a most happy one for lessening the enormous load under which this nation groans....

....If we are asked, what government is? We hold it to be nothing more than a NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, and we hold that to be the best which secures to every man his rights, and promotes the greatest quantity of happiness with the *least expense*.

We live to improve, or we live in vain; and therefore we admit of no maxims of government or policy on the mere score of antiquity, or other men's authority, the *old Whigs* or the *new*. ...

Continued on page 8, *Address*

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Thomas Paine Friends, Inc., gratefully acknowledges recent dues and generous donations from Charles H. Ayers, Martin Brod, Howard Dratch, Peter O. Gante, David Harding, Gene Jones, Bernice Mancebo-Stumps, Rebecca Nordstrom, Mariam Touba,



A Short Mission Statement

The Mission of Thomas Paine Friends, Inc., is to encourage people to learn about and from Thomas Paine, his times and philosophy so that they may be inspired to participate in public affairs reflective of the spirit of Paine's life, thought and ideals.

To Know Paine, Read Him

Florence Stapleton -- Thomas Paine Chronicler

Some Websites and Blogs

thomas-paine-friends.org --Our TPF website is maintained by Ed Dodson. Anyone advocating for Paine can send Paine-related news to: edod08034@gmail.com.

facebook.com/thomaspainefriends?ref=br_tf --Facebook page of TPF. Enter discussions here.

religionpaine.org --Maurice Bisheff maintains this site of several essays and seminar pieces by him and James Tepfer, about Paine's religious and philosophical views.

valorww2.com --This site, maintained by Victor Madeson, contains many articles about Paine, including *Commons Sense Clubs, Societies of Political Inquiry, and other subjects.*

cooperativeindividualism.org --The School for Cooperative Individualism, Director, Edward J. Dodson, contains a large archive of articles about Paine. Also, summary of the life of Henry George and list of courses at the Henry George Schools.

historyisonourside.wordpress.com --Frances Chiu's blog has excerpts of writings of 18th century and later authors, such as James Murray, Richard Price, certainly Thomas Paine, with relation to our current political, social, cultural matters.

algerblog.blogspot.com --Blogger Algernon D'Amassa writes on a range of subjects, such as Paine's life, ideas, and influence, plus Zen Buddhism, politics, environment, arts, and more.

floridaveteransforcommonsense.org --In Sarasota FL, it sponsors an annual Paine birthday gala, as well as many human rights, peace and justice forums. TPF members Gene Jones and Mike Burns are president and vice president.

thomaspainesociety.org --Website of Thomas Paine Society, Pasadena CA. A Research Library is a major facility of TPS; see the website for details of its use and how to donate publications.

thomaspainesocietyuk.org.uk --This Thomas Paine Society in England publishes articles about liberal-progressive thinkers and movements in its *Journal of Radical History*.

rjlindsey.com --One-man show, "Thomas Paine, Voice of the American Revolution," by TPF member, Robert J. Lindsey. He has a new show, "Benjamin Franklin: Stories of Revolution".

thelifeofthomaspaine.org --Ian Ruskin performs his Paine monologue at many locations. News of the film schedule on PBS, plus related events, is at the website.

commonsensesociety.com --This Society organizes many international forums and workshops, including in the U. S.

facebook.com/pages/Fort-Lee-Common-Sense-Society/199545953428717 --Fort Lee NJ Common Sense Society is preparing to raise a new Paine statue in 2017.

thomaspaine.org --Thomas Paine National Historical Association, located in New Rochelle NY.

kenburchell.blogspot.com --The Thomas Paine Review posts recent publications and news on Paine and related subjects.

www.thomas-paine-friends.org
Website Manager, Edward J. Dodson
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Bulletin of Thomas Paine Friends
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Annual Meeting Will Be On Sunday, December 3, Nominations for Board of Directors and Officers Are Now Open.

THOMAS PAINE FRIENDS will mail official notice of the Annual Meeting, with annual reports, in mid-November. Attendance will be *via* telephone conference as usual.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION: The Ballot to elect the Board of Directors and Officers will be sent with the official notice. The Nominating Committee is now seeking nominees. Paid-up members are eligible to nominate and to serve as directors and officers. The Nominating Committee strongly urges self-nomination, as we are not always aware of the interests and skills of many of our members. Nominating Committee: Carol Moskowitz, cdmosk@comcast.net, and Martha Spiegelman, spiegelmanmartha@gmail.com, or use USPS, to 185 Middle St., Amherst MA 01002-3011, or telephone, 413-253-7934. Please contact us as soon as you can if you wish to be a nominee this year. **NOMINATIONS ARE DUE BY NOVEMBER 12.**

NOMINEES SHOULD EXPECT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION: Besides administering of the organization and deciding about actions to take, directors and officers typically are active on behalf of TPF in some of the following ways, often in a committee structure.

- * obtain a state resolution for *Thomas Paine Day*;
- * plan and promote Paine memorials;
- * assist in publication and archiving of the papers of the late Klara Rukshina;
- * write articles and help assemble the newsletter;
- * contribute postings to the website;
- * contact organizations with related interests;
- * prepare materials for library exhibits;
- * bring civic education to school and community;
- * hold Thomas Paine Day events in your locality;
- * write letters to the media about Paine;
- * speak to organizations about Paine and his principles of government;
- * and, certainly, initiate a new Paine project.

TPF has been fortunate to have a core of a few members who have taken these positions. **We recommend that others now step up to be directors and officers.** Meetings and decisions are conducted by emails and teleconference calls and are not unduly burdensome.

Current Board: Jennifer Bisheff, Maurice Bisheff, Frances Chiu, Edward J. Dodson (President), Victor Madeson (Vice President), Sidney Moss, Christiane Munkholm, Richard Robyn, John F. Skibiski, Irwin Spiegelman (Secretary), Martha Spiegelman (Treasurer)

Paine Memorial Prospects Receive Big Spark As Thomas Paine Friends Member Donates \$10,000

MARTIN BROD, long-time TPF member, political activist, peace and justice crusader, and occupier, has again made a very generous contribution, this time to give a rousing start to the **Thomas Paine Memorial** drive. A short time ago, he made a large donation to the fund designated for publication of some of the papers of the late Klara Rukshina and arranging for the consignment of an archive with an appropriate institution. TPF is extremely grateful for this major donation to the cause of producing a physical memorial to recognize Paine.

A Paine Memorial Committee will be established, and will seek volunteers. Among the charges anticipated are site selection, the structure of the memorial, contacting organizations to seek support, fund-raising, publicity, among other tasks. It is envisaged that TPF will look first for a Washington DC location for this Paine Memorial. Volunteers for the Committee can contact the president of TPF, Edward Dodson, at, edod08034@gmail.com.



A NEW PAINE MEMORIAL EXPECTED TO BE UNVEILED NEXT YEAR IN FORT LEE NJ

The full figure Thomas Paine statue will be installed in Fort Lee Monument Park, probably in 2018. The sculptor, David Frech, having completed an assignment at the National Cathedral in Washington DC, is now constructing the statue. The congenial setting for the Paine sculpture is a charming small park on a busy thoroughfare. The statue will be placed on a pedestal near the American Revolution monument, forming an appropriate pairing. The Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs is overseeing the project. Tom Meyers, the Director, assures everyone that ample notice of the unveiling and dedication will be sent to all interested parties. He can be reached at 201-592-3500 x1205.

PRESERVING THE LEGACY OF PAINE SCHOLAR, KLARA RUKSHINA, AN IMPORTANT PROJECT FOR THOMAS PAINE FRIENDS

by Irwin Spiegelman

Background for this proposed undertaking is found in two articles in the TPF *Bulletin* available at the TPF Website: www.thomas-paine-friends.org

Bulletin, volume 11, number 1, Spring, 2010 / *Bulletin*, volume 18, number 2, Summer, 2017

KLARA RUKSHINA'S UNFINISHED SCHOLARLY WORK

Over seven years have passed since Klara Rukshina's death and finally the first steps have been taken to preserve her legacy, especially as it relates to her significant work on Thomas Paine. A steadfast member of TPF who served on the Board of Directors, Klara was well regarded as a thorough, careful scholar on Thomas Paine and related subjects. Klara's papers have been organized according to subject by her daughter, Elina Gartsman. Recently, we spent an afternoon reviewing the contents of some sixteen packets of Klara's papers, books and pamphlets in English and Russian. The collection would probably occupy about ten feet of shelf space in a library!

Elina provided us with copies of two invaluable documents: a list of Klara's publications in Russian and English, and the second, of particular interest, an eight-page "Plan" for her book on *Thomas Paine and the Origins of Modern Democracies*, to which Klara devoted her last years.

The first paragraph from Klara's "Plan" follows.

Book Title: *Silent Partner: Thomas Paine and the Origins of Modern Democracies*

Part 1 *Junius Letters (1769-1772)*

Part 2 *CS [Common Sense] (1776) Thomas Paine and the American Revolution*

Part 3 *Rights of Man (1791-1792) Thomas Paine and the Revolution and Revolutionary Uprisings in Europe (French Revolution, English Working Class Movement---3 periods)*

In the "Plan", each Part is divided into chapters and even chapters contain several sections. For example, under Part 1 The Letters of Junius, chapter 2 is entitled, "Letters [of Junius], as a major ideological precondition of *Common Sense*." Under chapter 2 are "paragraph 1, (Dedication and Preface), Letter 35, Letter 66; paragraph 2, Junius on America, and paragraph 3, Junius as a Whig."

The last page-and-a-half of her "Plan" is devoted to an even more detailed outline entitled, "Plan of the Article on Junius." The Junius letters appear to have been a major concern in her last years.

This small sample should give the reader some idea of what Klara was proposing to include in her book on Paine and Modern Democracies, which was to be her *magnum opus*. How far Klara was to go toward completing this unique study would be revealed by a close examination of her papers. Finally, a notation from Klara's "Plan":

**"Paine was not only an outstanding agitator.
He most certainly was an outstanding innovator."**



WHAT CAN TPF DO ON BEHALF OF KLARA'S SCHOLARLY LEGACY?

At the upcoming TPF Annual Meeting (via teleconference), I will introduce a motion calling for a committee, open to all TPF members, to be set up with several goals suggested.

- 1) Highest priority should be given to discovering how far Klara had proceeded in writing her book on, *Thomas Paine and the Origins of Modern Democracies*;
- 2) Finding a secure and accessible location for papers, books, pamphlets, etc., included in the sixteen packets organized by her daughter, Elina;
- 3) Attempting to publish in English several of her papers which have appeared only in Russian; and
- 4) Attempting to produce a small book of excerpts from Klara's writings.

A TPF fund has been started for the costs of these objectives.

We hope that the academics among us will join the committee and offer their expert advice on how we might achieve the goals set by the committee.

Klara Rukshina was one of the few professional historians who were, and are, members of TPF. She was an engaged member contributing to the TPF *Bulletin* as well as to other activities. She was always available to offer help and suggestions to others who were attempting to write effectively about Thomas Paine.

Of even greater importance, Klara was one of a small band of professionals who saw Paine's significance going

Continued on page 5, *Klara Rukshina*

...Klara Rukshina, from page 4

far beyond the minimal designation by the "American History Establishment", some of them labeling Paine only as *the pamphleteer of the American Revolution, a rabble-rousing radical*. Another way of minimizing Paine's greatness is basically to ignore him – to write him out of the history and political science texts wherever feasible. The Establishment simply does not entertain discussions of Paine's role, for example, in the writing of the Declaration of Independence, or that he might be the author of the Junius letters, or that he was an important political philosopher.

Klara and a few others see Paine as a major political philosopher of the Enlightenment who contributed to

constructing the elements of the modern representative democracies. It was Paine who insisted that government's primary task was to ensure the natural and civil rights of all its people. Much of what Paine was demanding can be found in the United Nations' *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Paine expressed this point in *Rights of Man*, part 2, chapter 5 (1792):

When it shall be said in any country in the world, "My poor are happy, neither ignorance nor distress is to be found among them; my jails are empty of prisoners, my streets of beggars; the aged are not in want, the taxes are not oppressive; the rational world is my friend, because I am a friend of its happiness." ---when these things can be said, then may that country boast of its constitution and its government.

Portrait by Francois Bonneville when Paine was a member of the French National Convention



A frontispiece in Van der Weyde's The Life and Works of Thomas Paine, 1928, New Rochelle NY: TPNHA

---Thomas Paine in Vanguard Once Again--- A California City to Launch First Basic Income Test in the U.S.

Sent by Ed Dodson

FROM: <https://futurism.com/next-year-a-californian-city-will-launch-the-first-basic-income-experiment-in-the-u-s/>

Stockton CA, is about to become the first city to try government-supported universal basic income in the U.S. The program is the idea of the city's 27-year-old mayor and will be primarily funded by the basic income advocacy group Economic Security Project.

The idea of a guaranteed income for all citizens regardless of their social and economic standing is called universal basic income (UBI), and it's been floating around for centuries. **Thomas Paine** wrote about it back in the 1790s, and in 1967, Martin Luther King, Jr., expressed his support for a universal basic income in the U.S. Now, Stockton CA mayor Michael Tubbs is keen on implementing such a system in his city.

To test out the idea, Tubbs is planning to launch an experiment he's calling the Stockton Economic Empowerment Demonstration (SEED). When the project kicks off next year, it will be the first trial for universal basic income in the U.S. to receive government support.

Most of the financing for SEED will come from basic income advocacy group the Economic Security Project (ESP), which pledged \$1 million to launch the program. The plan is to select a yet undisclosed number of recipients from among Stockton's 315,000 citizens to receive a fixed \$500 monthly income — or \$6,000 a year — for the duration of SEED, which Tubbs hope will last three years.

Solving current poverty is just one potential benefit of UBI. Many experts believe such a system could effectively curb the unemployment surge expected to follow the rise of intelligent automation, in which machines will replace greater and greater numbers of human workers, both those employed in minimum wage jobs as well as those in industries like finance and information technology. Some experts also think UBI could provide an alternative to today's social welfare programs.

THOMAS PAINE IN VIOLENCE, Paul Pinto's New Opera, Will Have World Premiere



Thomas Paine's Spirit sits at the center amid the cacophony of voices and instruments in a radio studio

Frances Chiu alerted the *Bulletin* about this new production concerning Thomas Paine

See: www.broadwayworld.com/bwwopera/article/Paul-Pintos-New-Opera-THOMAS-PAINE-IN-VIOLENCE-to-Make-World-Premiere-at-HERE-20171003

Text and photo FROM: <http://here.org/resident-artists/project/thomas-paine-in-violence1/>

Posted by Paul Pinto. Printed here with permission of Paul Pinto.

Simultaneously set in the mind and afterlife of the revolutionary activist and political philosopher, *Thomas Paine in Violence* is a new work of opera theater, setting the Founding Father in a cosmic radio station, struggling to organize and communicate a message of economic justice amidst a whirlwind of strange figures, audio speakers, microphones and electronic gadgetry orbiting around the space, enveloping the audience in a whirlwind of sound and text.

Commissioned by and premiering in **HERE's** 2017-2018 season, *TPIV* is a collaboration between vocalist-composer-wordsmith **Paul Pinto** (thingNY, Varispeed, Robert Ashley, *Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812*) and director **Rick Burkhardt** (*Here Be Sirens, Three Pianos*, Nonsense Company). The eighty-minute opera stars legendary vocalist **Joan La Barbara** as Thomas Paine, and is scored for nine singers also playing percussion, violin, cello, harp, piano, various foley objects, and live electronics.

The opera opens with Paine's Spirit struggling to remember the words and relevance of the pamphlet *Agrarian Justice*: a treatise arguing for systematic income parity, progressive taxation and economic reform. Trapped in a post-mortem sound booth, unsure of the time or place, it seems like this has been an infinite struggle, heightened by a mysterious "Manchorus" of quick-lipped brown baritones who exist inside Paine's mind and outside the booth in the control room. Throughout the opera, these figures guide the Spirit and the audience like a doo-wop group of purgatory slam poets, singing dense walls of language at lightning speed while playing a bevy of electronic objects (including old tape players, turntables, megaphones, samplers, and live laptop processing).

First performed as a 15-minute radio opera for Experiments in Opera and WQXR's Q2, Burkhardt and Pinto have used three years of development to form the libretto and score into a fully-staged opera experience, and have workshopped performances with **HERE** (Governor's Island and Culturemart Festival), wildUp! and The Industry (LA), Under the Radar Festival (Omaha), School of the Arts (Singapore), and Ne(x)tworks and ISSUE Project Room (Brooklyn).

This is the most ambitious work from Pinto, who (as a tenacious, independent creator and producer of collaborative experimental opera) has developed a unique style that deftly mixes chamber music, extended vocal technique and rhapsodic recitation into a sort of "opera sermon" with work that is striking, funny, and poignantly politically conscious.

The ambition of the opera is met by the relevance of its subject matter. America (especially its urban, young people of color) has been vocal in grappling with our history of social inequality. Additionally, both popular theatre and fringe arts are finally diversifying both in casting and aesthetics. Through projects like *TPIV*, Pinto looks to diversify the audience of new opera by introducing unfamiliar sounds, stories and faces to the *oeuvre*, in order to excite new generations of minority artists to dive into experimental work, and to challenge notions of cultural hierarchy in opera-theater.

At its core, *Thomas Paine in Violence* is a commentary on the social inequality that currently litters the American landscape by taking as its starting point the work of this famed middle-class Englishman who championed fair taxation, abolition of slavery, secular government and equal rights over two centuries ago. While Enlightenment thinkers debated each other in grand

Continued on page 7, *TPIV*

ACTIVISTS FOR THOMAS PAINE

Add your name to the Thomas Paine Friends network and news exchange.

- YES, I will join Thomas Paine Friends, Inc. Annual dues, \$10. Member benefit is *BULLETIN of Thomas Paine Friends*.
- YES, I will work on THOMAS PAINE DAY in my state.
- YES, I want to work on a project of Thomas Paine Friends. Please contact me.
- YES, I want to participate in and suggest activities related to public recognition of Thomas Paine.
- YES, I want my Paine organization / group / project listed in the *BULLETIN*.
- YES, I have news of Paine activities to post in the *BULLETIN*; or a short article (about 1,000 words) for the *BULLETIN*.
- YES, I want to receive the *BULLETIN* ~ suggested donation of \$10, to cover costs of four issues per year.

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To Know Paine, Read Him ~ Florence Stapleton, Thomas Paine Chronicler

...TPIV, from page 6

rhetoric, Paine proposed his utopian blueprints in plain speak and, of course, common sense. Americans are still struggling with the repercussions of delaying those serious reforms until the 20th-Century social contracts. With the libretto, this opera mixes Paine's words with embellished rants and arguments to create a stream of humorous and raw soapbox debating, and at the same time, engage a 21st-Century audience. With its score, this opera creates the modern media landscape: a relentless momentum of slander and politispeak, sometimes streaming too quick for comprehension, and other times obliterated under musical censorship.

Support for *Thomas Paine in Violence* has been provided by **HERE's** allocated government and foundational funding and by the Puffin Foundation.

Performance dates: November 6 to 18, at **HERE**, 145 Sixth Ave. (enter on Dominick Street one block south of Spring St.), NY, NY 10013. Purchase tickets at www.HERE.org/shows/detail/1926/ or phone, 212-352-3101

~ ~ A 24-minute video clip is at, <https://vimeo.com/159288590> . Thank you again, Frances Chiu.~ ~

Ian Ruskin's To Begin the World Over Again Plays Boston

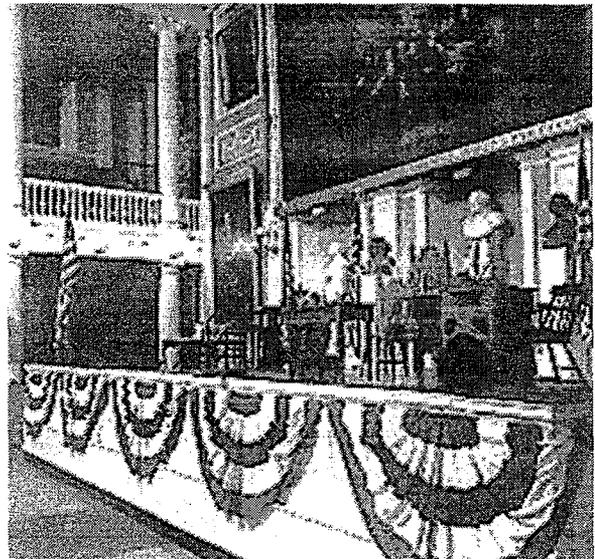
A Letter from Christiane Munkholm

Dear TPF Friends --

Last Saturday [October 7], Thomas Paine finally made his overdue appearance here in Boston, the one notable city of insurrection that was not on his circuit. He appeared in the form of Ian Ruskin's embodiment of Paine in his superb production of "To Begin the World Over Again". The play was staged at Faneuil Hall's Great Hall, so *apropos* as it was the rhetorical center of Boston and the site of many speeches in support of independence.

Approximately 250 people attended and I'm happy to report the enthusiastic crowd gave him a standing ovation. Ian then fielded questions from the audience, and there were some serious Paine scholars in the group. I should have brought copies of the *Bulletin* to share! Afterwards, I chatted with Ian --- he sends his greetings to Martha and Irwin -- AND said that he might be giving a production in Amherst this spring.

At right is a picture of the Faneuil Hall stage before Ian made his entrance -- you can appreciate the perfectly matched historical setting with subject matter!



Very best to all, Chris Munkholm, TPF Board member and Executive Director, Gloucester Marine Genomics Institute

More pictures on page 8

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25 OCT 2017 FMS 1



*Independence Is My Happiness...
My Country Is The World,
My Religion Is To Do Good*
Rights of Man, part 2, 1792

12-31-22
EDWARD J.
and DEBORAH DODSON
202 Horse Shoe Court
Cherry Hill NJ 08034-3151

BULLETIN

NEWSLETTER OF, BY, FOR THOMAS PAINE FRIENDS, INC.

VOLUME 18 NUMBER 3

FALL 2017

MEMBERSHIPS AND RENEWALS

THE DATE ON THE MAIL LABEL ABOVE IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DATE.
PLEASE RENEW IF YOUR RENEWAL DATE HAS PASSED. DUES ARE \$10 PER YEAR.
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...Address, from page 1

...Among the blessings which the French Revolution has produced to that nation, we enumerate the abolition of the feudal system of injustice and tyranny on the fourth of August, 1789....Game laws, borough tenures, and tyrannical monopolies of numerous kinds, still remain among us....

....These are our principles, and these our sentiments. They embrace the interest and happiness of the great body of the nation of which we are a part. As to riots and tumults, let those answer for them, who, by willful misrepresentations endeavor to excite and promote them....We take

our ground on principles that require no such riotous aid. We have nothing to apprehend from the poor; for we are pleading their cause. And we fear not proud oppression, for we have truth on our side.

We say, and we repeat it, that the French Revolution opens to the world an opportunity in which all good citizens must rejoice---that of promoting the general happiness of man....

....These are our objects, and we will pursue them.

J. HORNE TOOKE, Chairman

Ian Ruskin's *To Begin the World Over Again*

