

THE BRONX HISTORIAN

Newsletter of The Bronx County Historical Society

FEBRUARY 2015 – MAY 2015

VOLUME 38 NUMBER 2



TEEN THURSDAYS AND HIGH BRIDGE

This past Fall, The Bronx County Historical Society and the New York City Department of Education partnered on an exciting after - school program for junior high school students titled “Teen Thursdays.” The program gears teenagers to learn more about methods of research such as the use of primary and secondary sources, translation of maps, the skills of note taking, and neighborhood observations. These methods give students the opportunity to ready themselves for high school and college life and hopefully, learn a new career path.

The High Bridge became the focal point for the Teen Thursdays program. Students of P.S./M.S. 279 and the Young Women’s Leadership Academy of The Bronx worked on a publication called *The High Bridge News* (right), which details the history of the landmark bridge and the academic activities students were involved in throughout the program.



Students of P.S./M.S. 279 take a historic walking tour of the High Bridge neighborhood. The students were amazed of the amount of history in that part of The Bronx.

The Bronx County Historical Society Collections.



The Bronx County Historical Society Collections.

The Society and the NYCDOE will once again partner on the program this Spring. To learn more about the Teen Thursdays program, please contact The Society’s education department at (718) 881-8900. The High Bridge News can be viewed at www.bronxhistoricalsociety.org.

THE BRONX COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY HEADQUARTERS
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THE BRONX, NEW YORK 10467
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www.bronxhistoricalsociety.org
 Visit us on Facebook, Youtube, and Twitter.

The Bronx County Historical Society, founded in 1955, is a private, non-profit educational and cultural institution chartered by the New York State Board of Regents. The Society is dedicated to the collection, preservation, documentation and interpretation of the history and heritage of The Bronx and its people from its earliest historical references in the 17th century to the present. The Society disseminates information by utilizing its collections in exhibitions, historical research, production of publications and documentaries, educational and cultural programming, the operation of our research library, The Bronx County Archives and two historic landmark house museums - the c.1812 Edgar Allan Poe Cottage and the c.1758 fieldstone farmhouse Valentine -Varian House/Museum of Bronx History.

This newsletter is published three times a year as a service to members and friends.

The Bronx County Historical Society is partially supported through funds and services provided by the NYC Departments of Cultural Affairs and Parks and Recreation, the Historic House Trust of New York City, The Bronx City Council Delegation, the Office of the President of the Borough of The Bronx, the Bronx Delegations of the NYS Assembly and the NYS Senate, the H.W. Wilson Foundation, the Astor Fund, the Lucius N. Littauer Foundation, The New York Times Foundation, the Verizon Foundation, the New York State Library, the New Yankee Stadium Community Benefits Fund, the Susan Tane Foundation, the New York Public Library, and The Bronx Chamber of Commerce.



The students of the Young Women’s Leadership Academy of The Bronx working on *The High Bridge News* at the Bronx County Archives. Such editorial skills will help condition them for intense writing throughout their school careers.

The Bronx County Historical Society Collections.

PURE GOLD

Schools, businesses, institutions, and associations in The Bronx are noted.

Fuller Drug Store
 2688 Third Avenue
 Est. 1952

Louis Seafood Restaurant
 3478 East Tremont Avenue
 Est. 1947

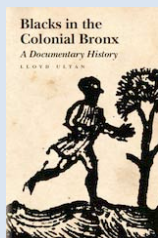
Original Products Botanica
 2486-88 Webster Avenue
 Est. 1959

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

David Sampy
 Dr. Nicholas K. Coch
 Leonore Panno
 Norman Danzig
 Norman Liss
 Robert Grand
 Roberto S. Garcia
 Victor Rodriguez
 Walter McCartney

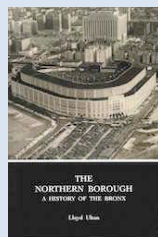
SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS:

Autographed copy, add \$10



Blacks in the Colonial Bronx: A Documentary History
 \$18.00

The Bronx: Then & Now
 \$21.99



The Northern Borough: A History of The Bronx
 \$28.00

COLLECTIONS DONATIONS

The Society's research library, object, and archival collections are a great resource. We thank those who recently made the following donations (partial list):

Albert Friess - Photographs and letters, late 19th-early 20th century.

Helen Johnson Grishman - Bronx Address Telephone Directory, 1954.

Jay Becker- Clippings, maps and posters, 20th century.

Jeanette V. Tully - William Taft High School Senior yearbook, 1955.

Margaret T. Schroder - Various newspaper clippings, 20th century; 2 Edgar Allan Poe commemorative stamps.

Melanie Hulse - Seton Falls Park documents and reports, 20th century.

Roger Wines - Book, *Interborough Fleet* by Joe Cunningham.

Seth L. Marvin - New York Yankees programs, 20th century.

Sharon Mast - The Game of Riverdale, P.S. 24 Parents Association, 1998.

Sheila Brummel - Report cards and autograph books from Bronx schools; Bronx High School of Science pin and two Bronx photo studio portraits, 1930s-1940s.

W. H. Weisgerber - Photograph of 345 East 155th Street, late 19th-early 20th century.

Walter H. Anderson - Real estate prospectus advertisements for various Bronx locations, 1919-1928.

FINANCIAL DONATIONS

Cash donations help The Society fund programming, publications, equipment purchases, and build endowments. To double your donation, check with your employer for any available matching gift programs. We are grateful for the following contributions (partial list):

\$10 - \$99	\$100 - \$999	\$1,000 - \$4,999
Annette Sambolin	Growald Fund	The Malkin Fund
Crawford Long	Henry Stroobants	Susan Tane
Donald J. Peterson	Louis Blumengarten	Raymond Pecor Jr.
Evelyn Isaac	Michael Robert Burke	
Fredda Tourin	Monroe College	
Joseph Schmidt	Robert Fox	\$5,000 - and over
Lloyd Jassin	Russell Vollmer	Lloyd Ultan
Marvin Weisner	Susan Lally	Roberta Knight
Michael O'Sullivan	Yelena Novitskaya	
Stephen Hernderson		
United Way of NYC		

SIXTY YEARS OF PROGRESS

In 1955, eight people met at the dental office of Bronx Borough Historian Dr. Theodore Kazimiroff to begin The Bronx County Historical Society. Today, sixty years later, The Society maintains two landmark historic houses, a major research library, The Bronx County Archives, a large education program of lectures, tours and school visits, an extensive publications program and three Internet websites. The Society is now the most active local historical society in New York State. To celebrate this wonderful anniversary, The Society will soon announce new memberships terms.

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE BRONX COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL JOURNAL

Since 1964, the *BCHS Journal* has been one of the premier history journals in the tri-state region. The *Journal's* articles, written with clarity and scholarly substance, are of interest to all who enjoy accounts of people, business events, mercantile gain, defending the nation's interest, or the love of The Bronx. As an ongoing tradition for Bronxites to share their personal experiences, The Society is accepting articles for its *Journal*. Do you have a Bronx story to share? Kindly send in your article in Microsoft Word format along with 2-4 images or illustrations at 300dpi as email attachments to administration@bronxhistoricalsociety.org. Make sure you include your contact information.

BRONX HIGH SCHOOL VALEDICTORIANS AWARDS PROGRAM

Sunday, June 7, 2015
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

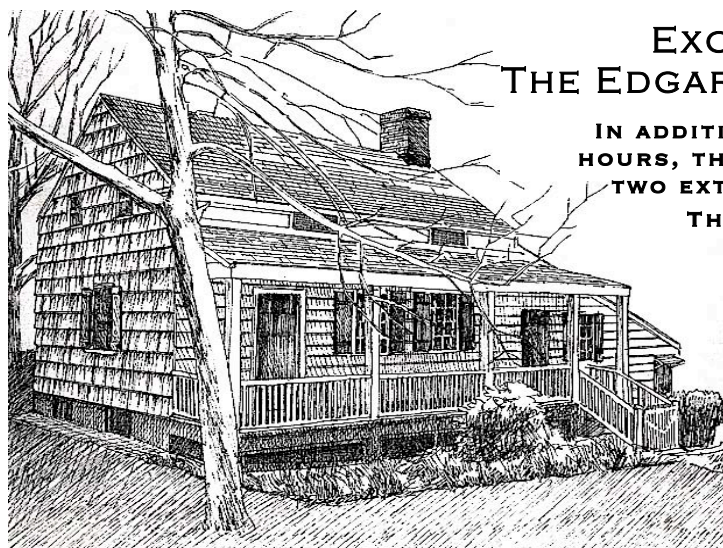
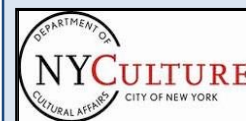
Join us this year in honoring The Bronx High School Valedictorians. The program begins at 1:00 PM with entertainment, refreshments, and tours of the Museum of Bronx History. At 2:00 PM, the awards ceremony will commence with gifts to the students and special awards to honor an educator of the year, a businessperson of the year and individuals who have supported the arts and humanities. The Museum of Bronx History is located at 3266 Bainbridge Avenue and East 208th Street.

To make a donation to this wonderful event, contact The Society (718) 881-8900 or donate online at <http://www.bronxhistoricalsociety.org/valedictorian>



Edgar Allan Poe
Cottage
Poe Park
Grand Concourse &
East Kingsbridge
Road

Owned by the New York City
Department of Parks, it is
operated by The Bronx
County Historical Society.
The house is a member of the
Historic House Trust.



EXCITING NEWS AT THE EDGAR ALLAN POE COTTAGE

IN ADDITION TO ITS WEEKEND VISITING
HOURS, THE COTTAGE WILL NOW BE OPEN
TWO EXTRA DAYS DURING THE WEEK!
THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS
10AM TO 3PM

A POE COTTAGE AUDIO TOUR IS
NOW ACCESSIBLE BY CALLING
(718) 971-2156 OR SIMPLY
SCANNING THIS QR BARCODE
WITH A SMARTPHONE:



SPRING 2015 EXHIBITION

THE HIGH BRIDGE NEWS A TEEN THURSDAYS PROJECT

APRIL 8 – OCTOBER 7

OPENING RECEPTION
WEDNESDAY APRIL 8, 2015
4:30PM – 7:00PM



Exhibition
High Bridge – New York City's
Oldest Bridge & Newest Greenway

Now through October 7th

MUSEUM OF BRONX HISTORY
3266 BAINBRIDGE AVENUE & EAST 208TH STREET
THE BRONX, NEW YORK 10467

MUSEUM HOURS: SAT 10AM - 4PM / SUN 1PM - 5PM
(GROUP TOURS MON.-FRI. BY APPOINTMENT)



Museum of Bronx
History/Valentine-
Varian House
3266 Bainbridge
Avenue
& East 208th Street

Owned by The Bronx
County Historical Society,
the house is a member of
the Historic House Trust.
Its operation is made
possible in part by public
funds provided through the
New York City Department
of Cultural Affairs.

BE A PART OF BRONX HISTORY

Buy a Poe Paver to Support the Edgar Allan Poe Cottage!
To learn more about it, please call (718) 881-8900 or visit
<http://www.bronxhistoricalsociety.org/poecottagepaver>



**3309 Bainbridge Avenue
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www.bronxhistoricalsociety.org**

FACILITIES:

Research Library
3309 Bainbridge Avenue
By Appointment

The Bronx County Archives
3313 Bainbridge Avenue
By Appointment

**Museum of Bronx History/
Valentine-Varian House**
3266 Bainbridge Avenue
and East 208th Street

Edgar Allan Poe Cottage
Poe Park
2640 Grand Concourse and
East Kingsbridge Road

Visiting hours for both
historic house museums:
Saturdays 10AM-4PM and
Sundays 1PM-5PM. Call The
Society to arrange group tours
during the week.

ENDOWED FUNDS

The Bronx County Historical Society encourages the establishment of named endowment funds. Funds may be created to support many Society programs, or may be established for restricted use. The funds appear permanently on the financial records of The Society in recognition of their ongoing support of its work.

For further details, contact:
Mr. Joel Podgor, CPA
Treasurer (718) 881-8900

Taking A Walk Through History **BRONX WALKING TOURS**

Each tour costs \$10 for BCHS members, \$15 for non-members. Contact The Society at (718) 881-8900 to reserve your ticket. The tours generally run about 75 minutes.

Soundview II

Saturday, March 14, 2015 - 1:00 PM

The community of Soundview today comprises the immediate area across the Bronx River in the southeastern part of the borough and dubbed "The Gateway of the East Bronx" in the first part of this walking tour given in 2012. Soundview today is a thriving community of ethnic groups and commercial verve. Join BCHS Educator Angel Hernandez on a historic stroll through Soundview as he points out historic sites as well as the present attractions of the area. This tour meets at the foot of The Bronx-bound #6 Whitlock Avenue subway station staircase. Bronx buses #4 and #27 also stop near this location and the tour will terminate at the Morrison-Soundview Avenue #6 train station on Morrison Avenue.

High Bridge

Saturday, April 25, 2015 - 1:00 PM

Considered an engineering marvel of the day, High Bridge is a classic example of how an ancient system of water technology can play a major role in the expansion of a metropolis. It is the oldest bridge standing in New York City and after so many years of disuse, it is under renovation and slated to open for pedestrian traffic in the near future. To keep the momentum going, BCHS Educator Angel Hernandez will lead a historic walking tour of the High Bridge neighborhood with an inclusion of other historic items throughout the area. This tour will start at the foot of The Bronx-bound staircase of the 167th Street #4 subway station located at the northeast corner. Bronx buses #35, #1, and #2 run near the tour meeting location and it will terminate there as well.

Bronx Week Event! Marvelous Mott Haven

Saturday, May 9, 2015 - 1:30 PM

Join the Bronx Borough Historian Lloyd Ultan on a historic stroll through one of The Bronx's noted designated historic districts – Mott Haven. The southernmost section of our borough, Mott Haven was one of the first communities to be urbanized across the Harlem River. Because this historic section is vast, with many items to point out, the tour may exceed more than two hours, so make sure you have your walking shoes on. This tour will start on the southeast corner of E. 138th Street and Lincoln Avenue, outside the #6 Third Avenue subway station. Bronx buses #15, #32, and #33 stop near this location.

FREE PUBLIC LECTURES

**The following two public lectures will be held at The Bronx County Archives Building, located at 3313 Bainbridge Avenue, The Bronx, New York 10467.
For directions, please call (718) 881- 8900**

STREETCAR COMBACK IN THE BRONX?

Saturday, February 21, 2015 - 1:00 PM

Once ubiquitous in American cities, modern streetcars are making a comeback all across the nation. Are they right for The Bronx? Bob Diamond, Chairman of the Brooklyn Historic Railroad Association, will present a PowerPoint show on the feasibility of new streetcar lines for The Bronx, which will also include a look back at The Bronx's historical transportation systems.

A LOOK AT EARLY BRONX WOMEN

Saturday, March 21, 2015 - 1:00 PM

What we now know as The Bronx in the 1600s was an unnamed wilderness. Courageous pioneers with their wives settled here in a time of uncertainty. In celebration of Women's History Month, Toby Z. Liederman, women's advocate and coordinator of Anne Hutchinson annual events, will provide a brief story of the women who settled here in the 17th and 18th centuries with their families. Guests are encouraged to share their own accounts about women in Bronx History.