

THE BRONX COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
3309 BAINBRIDGE AVENUE
THE BRONX, NEW YORK 10467
PHONE: (718) 881-8900
FAX: (718) 881-4827
www.bronxhistoricalsociety.org

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documentation and interpretation of the history and heritage of The Bronx and its people from its earliest historical references in the 17th century to the present.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.

The headquarters of The Society is located at 3309 Bainbridge Avenue, The Bronx, New York 10467. 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 NYS Library, 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 Yankee Stadium Community Benefits Fund, the Susan Tane Foundation, the New York Public Library, and The Bronx Chamber of Commerce.

BRONX COUNTY AT 100 YEARS



A 1908 photograph of the first Bronx County courthouse on Third Avenue and East 161st Street.

The Bronx County Historical Society Collections.

The town of Westchester, now the Westchester Square community, became the county government seat of the newly created county of Westchester in October 1683. It was a time when the colony of New York was experiencing growth under the English and much of the lands of what we now know as The Bronx had yet to be fully developed or settled. Yet, it also marked the time when the town of Westchester developed its own government, carving out its place in New York City history.

After a major fire destroyed the county courthouse in 1758, the county seat was moved from the town of Westchester to the town of White Plains. It was not until a series of city governmental changes that led to the major annexations of The Bronx to New York City in 1874 and 1895, that the process of recognizing The Bronx as its own individual county began. After major efforts to gain county status, The Bronx finally became one on January 1, 1914 with a swearing-in ceremony of the new county elected and appointed officials at the old Bronx borough courthouse on East 161st Street and Third Avenue. Bronx County became the 62nd and last county of the state of New York and we celebrate 2014 as the centennial year when the county seat returned after so many years.



The Bronx borough flag was designed in 1912. It derived from the Netherlands tricolor of 1639 - the year Jonas Bronck arrived in what is now The Bronx. The Bronck shield, with the borough's motto, NE CEDE MALIS (yield not to evil), appears in the center.

The Bronx County Historical Society Collections.



The old Bronx Borough Hall was a reminder of an era when The Bronx was still a part of New York County. However, it was in this edifice that the new Bronx County was first headquartered.

The Bronx County Historical Society Collections.

The Bronx Borough President's office will celebrate this milestone with events throughout the year. In addition, The Bronx County Historical Society will present an exhibition titled **Bronx County – 100 Years** at the Museum of Bronx History, located at 3266 Bainbridge Avenue. For more information, please call The Society at (718) 881-8900. The exhibition opens April 9, 2014.

PURE GOLD

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

L & L Home
Appliance Service
2951 Middletown Road
Est. 1954

Pascap Co., Inc
Scrap Recycling
4250 Boston Road
Est. 1929

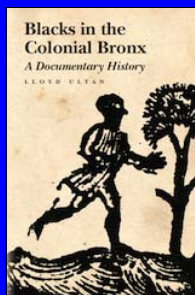
Throgs Neck
Animal Hospital
3800 E. Tremont Avenue
Est. 1981

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Joseph Esposito
Marian Swerdlow
Mary Davis
Sandra Karman
Winifred Haddad

NEW SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS:

Autographed copy, add \$10



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

*More Bronx books
on sale !!*

*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):

Anonymous: Twelve mid-20th century pieces of cutlery.

Bill Twomey: Book, *Chronicles on the Frigate, Macedonian, 1809-1922*; photographs; transportation articles; New York Irish History journals, 1999-2003; various church journals.

Catherine McCormack Maher: Morris High School material – 2 Annuals (1905, 1906), 1905 photograph of the debating class, 1907 graduation exercise programs; book, *The Bronx It Was Only Yesterday*; 17 New York City history books.

Daniel Hauben & Judith Lane: Prints by Judith Lane, Master Printer, of seven works of art created by Daniel Hauben; photocopy of Francis Hopkinson Smith's rendering of Poe Cottage, from *Charcoals of New and Old New York*, 1928.

Hara K. Reiser: 6 political bumper stickers and 7 political buttons, 1970s-2008.

Ira L. Zuckerman: 48 Bronx postcards (early 20th century-1930s); 3 New York City history books.

Lilly Pappas: Nine New York City subway tokens, (1953-1980).

Lynne Ranieri: Morris High School William F. Strobel Award medal presented to Margot Henn, 1942.

Mildred E. Rappaport: Back to the Bronx magazine; 28 various political, school and merchandise buttons (1960s-1980s); U.S. flag lapel pin.

Pauline Fenelon: Copper identification plate for the Bronx firm, Oriental Rug Center, (1930-1947).

Roger McClanahan: Photographs and postcards documenting the Bronx Zoo.

Ron Ross: 1942 mohel circumcision certificate.

Seth L. Marvin: c.1940 framed Appellate Division print signed by its 13 justices; Harper's Weekly 1888 baseball-themed reproduction print, with a paper insert signed by 25 members of the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Thomas Casey – two program information guide books *Official Program, World Series 1998, Major League Baseball, The Fall Classic*, and *2000 American & National League Division Series & American and National League Championship Series, Media Information Guide & Scorebook*, 1909 map reprint of the Pelham Bay Park/City Island monorail system; 19th century man's navy wool jacket from Sokol Svornost, a local Bronx chapter of a Czech gymnastic union.

Thomas G. "Skip" Hannon: 1937 photograph of a Seton Falls Park May Day celebration.

Victor Mastro – Various Bronx newspapers and clippings, brochures, flyers.

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

Anna Meenagh
Bruce Campbell
Denis J. Boyle
Donald J. Petersen
Harry A. Parsons
Henry C. Meyer
Herbert Britton
Howard Nenner
John F. Kennedy H.S.
John P. Dillon
Joseph F. Schmidt
Joseph Sherman

\$10 - \$99

Kathy McArdle
Mark Glander
Marvin Weisner
Mary Stoll
Maryann Gerbacia
Patrick J. Curran
Roland Riopelle
Sara F. Galullo
Sharon Van Dyke
Thomas McKnight
United Way of NYC
Vivian J. Mall
Wallis Doerge

\$100 - \$999

Diane Civetta
Emcor Services
Gerard Wallweber
Harvey Mate
John Calvelli
Kevin Yosca
Lemle & Wolff
Louis Blumengarten
Ma'lis Wendt
Monica Muller
Proskauer Rose, LLP
Real Deal Décor
Sidney Horenstein

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Growald Family Fund
Krasdale Foods, Inc.

\$5,000 - and over

Louis & Sophie Ultan Fund
Susan Tane Foundation
The New Yankee Stadium
Community Benefit Fund

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 or vignette to share? Any topics in Bronx or New York history you'll be interesting in getting published? 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 1, 2014
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM



Join us this year in honoring The Bronx's High School Valedictorians. The program begins at 1:00 PM with entertainment, refreshments, hors d'oeuvres, 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.



Valentine-Varian
House/Museum
of Bronx History
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.



SPRING 2014 EXHIBITION

BRONX COUNTY

—
100 YEARS

**Opening Reception
Wednesday April 9th**

4:30PM - 7:00PM

**MUSEUM OF BRONX HISTORY
VALENTINE-VARIAN HOUSE
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)**

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://bronxhistoricalsociety.org/poecottagepaver>

**THE BRONX
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

3309 Bainbridge Avenue
The Bronx, New York 10467
Phone: (718) 881-8900
Fax: (718) 881-4827
www.bronxhistoricalsociety.org

FACILITIES:

Research Library
3309 Bainbridge Avenue
By Appointment

The Bronx County Archives
3313 Bainbridge Avenue
By Appointment

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

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

Call The Society to
arrange group tours.

**VISIT US ON
FACEBOOK, YOUTUBE
AND TWITTER.**



Taking A Walk Through History

BRONX WALKING TOURS

Each tour costs \$10 for BCHS members, \$15 for non-members. Please make reservations since these programs are quite popular and sell out quickly. Contact The Society (718) 881-8900 to reserve your spot. The tours generally run about 75 minutes.

“E. L. Doctorow’s Bronx”

Saturday, April 26, 2014 - 11:00 AM

In his 1985 novel *World’s Fair*, Doctorow writes “Every neighborhood had its school like my school, its movie, its street of shops built into the sides of the apartment houses; it was tunneled with subways and bound together with trolley lines, and elevated lines”. Join BCHS guest tour guide Jean Arrington on an exploration of the Mt. Eden neighborhood in which Doctorow grew up, seeing all of the above, or remnants thereof. This tour meets on the northeast corner of East 170th Street and the Grand Concourse, at the East 170th Street stop on the D train.

Bronx Week Event!

"The Grand Concourse Historic District– Art Deco Delights"

Saturday, May 10, 2014 – 1:00 PM

Join the Bronx Borough Historian Lloyd Ultan on a stroll through one of The Bronx’s noted designated historic districts – the Grand Concourse. This grand boulevard was a reminder of the days when The Bronx was part of New York County and the thoroughfare connected that county to the rest of the world. The Grand Boulevard and Concourse, its original name, later became lined with elegant movie theaters, beautiful center malls, and most notably, marvelous Art Deco buildings. This tour will start on the southwest corner of the Grand Concourse and East 167th Street and will terminate at East 149th Street. Take the D train to East 167th and the Grand Concourse, or take the #4 to East 167th Street and walk two blocks east to the Grand Concourse. Bronx buses #1, #2, and #35 stop at the meeting location.

FREE PUBLIC LECTURES

**The following two public lectures will be held at The Bronx Archives Building,
located at 3313 Bainbridge Avenue, The Bronx, New York 10467.**

For directions, please call (718) 881- 8900

“BLACKS IN THE COLONIAL BRONX”

Saturday, February 15, 2014 - 1:00 PM

In honor of Black History Month, the Bronx Borough Historian Lloyd Ultan will discuss the African-American experience in the colonial Bronx. He will also present his new book *Blacks in the Colonial Bronx: A Documentary History* during the discussion.

“BIRTH OF THE BRONX”

Saturday, March 29, 2014 – 1:00 PM

BCHS Educator Angel Hernandez will present an illustrated show on the early history of The Bronx to its achieving county status, making it the last in New York State. This event corresponds with the 2014 Bronx Centennial celebration.

BARNES AND NOBLE AT BAY PLAZA will host a panel discussion celebrating Black History Month on February 27, 2014, from 6-7 pm. The Bronx Borough Historian Lloyd Ultan will join the discussion and also discuss his new book. The address is 290 Baychester Avenue, Bronx, N.Y. Please call (718) 862-3945 for more information.