

THE BRONX COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

3309 BAINBRIDGE AVENUE
THE BRONX, NEW YORK 10467
PHONE: (718) 881- 8900
FAX: (718) 881- 4827
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documentation and interpretation of the history and heritage of The Bronx and its people from its earliest historical references in the 17th century to the present.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 New York Community Trust.

THE BRONX HISTORIAN

Newsletter of The Bronx County Historical Society

OCTOBER 2016 – JANUARY 2017

VOLUME 40 NUMBER 1

PRESIDENTIAL HISTORY IN THE BRONX



President Franklin D. Roosevelt's motorcade traveling through the South Bronx via East 138th Street in 1940.

The Bronx County Historical Society Collections.

President John Adams governed the new republic for two weeks from his daughter Abigail's home in The Bronx in October 1797, to avoid a yellow fever outbreak in Philadelphia. Abigail's home was situated at the intersection of Boston Road and Conners Street. President Ulysses S. Grant marched in the funeral procession of Civil War hero Admiral David Farragut in 1870 as they laid him to rest in Woodlawn Cemetery. The initial process of an armistice with Germany during WWI started at the Riverdale residence of Cleveland Dodge when his friend, President Woodrow Wilson, used Dodge's library to respond to peace-seeking telegrams from the German government. Just north of Dodge's estate, a young John F. Kennedy would spend some of his childhood at a mansion that still stands at West 252nd Street and Independence Avenue. During his 1960 presidential campaign in The Bronx, he declared to a crowd on the Grand Concourse and Fordham Road that "I come to the Bronx as an old Bronx boy. I used to live in the Bronx....I agree it was the Riverdale end of the Bronx, but it was the Bronx, and therefore I come back here to this part of New York City, to New York, and ask your support in this campaign."

In the second half of the 20th century, more U.S. Presidents visited The Bronx during its trying times. President Jimmy Carter made an unexpected stop along devastated Charlotte Street in 1977, bringing the nation the televised example of urban decay. Later on, presidents Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton would visit the same area as federal assistance helped its revitalization. President George W. Bush threw out the first pitch at Yankee Stadium in the wake of the 9/11 terrorists attacks in October 2001, and President Barack Obama visited Lehman College last year. To learn more about presidential history in The Bronx, visit the exhibition *The American Presidency: Politics and The Bronx* at the Museum of Bronx History opening on October 13th. Please see page 3 for more details.



Senator John F. Kennedy campaigned in The Bronx before the 1960 U.S. Presidential election. One of his stops was the Hotel Concourse Plaza.

The Bronx County Historical Society Collections.

PURE GOLD

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

J. Carotenuto & Sons
Monuments
3309 East Tremont Avenue
Est. 1923

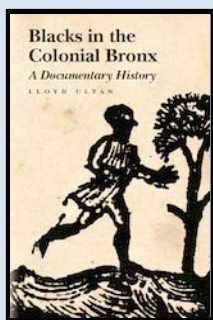
Rainbow Florist
2134 Westchester Avenue
Est. 1950

Webster Locksmiths
2471 Webster Avenue
Est. 1949

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

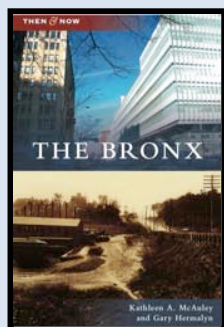
Dean Brewington
Hazel Cooper
Brian Jones
Janice Keller
Patrick Logan
Myles V. Lynk
Andrea McArdle
Marlene Perez
Natalie Sherman
Catherine O'Brien Young

SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS: Autographed copy, add \$10



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

*The Bronx:
Then & Now*
\$21.99



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):

Sigmund Balka: 4 Krasdale Foods Art Gallery exhibition books (20th century).

Herb Barret: Pair of fireplace andirons, two meat grinders, glass lantern, tin milk can (19th – early 20th centuries)

Dr. Elizabeth Beirne: Poster and 7 books on the Hudson River (20th century).

Randy Glucksman: 28 BCBS *Journals* (January 1964 – Spring 1978).

Sidney Horenstein: Photograph of U Thant's former Riverdale home (1970s); information on the Bronx Greenbelt District; booklet, "Parks and Parkways in the Borough of The Bronx" (1914).

William Rodriguez: 2 copies of donor's book, *The Bronx Trilogy*.

Russell F. Ryer: Two student handbooks from Frank D. Whalen Junior High School 135 (c. 1977).

Blanche Zimmerman: Melrose Shamrocks team baseball uniform with accompanying photograph showing Bertrum Zimmerman wearing the uniform, c. 1932.

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:

\$10 - \$99

Thomas E. Agnew
Joseph Barone
Virginia C. Beaney
Sara S. Berlan
John Breslin
Gloria Borelli
Denis J. Boyle
Anna Marie Castagnetta
Nestor Danyluk
Wallis Doerge
Marjorie Dovman
Louise C. Enten
Lottie Esteban
Reuben Farber

\$10 - \$99 (continued)

EarthShare NYC Gives
Mark Glander
Neil Harrow
Gary Makufka
Vivian J. Mall
Kathy McArdle
Edward McLoughlin
Catherine Miele
Howard A. Nenner
Harry A. Parsons
Joan Pendergast
Donald J. Petersen
Russell F. Ryer
Dr. Barbara Strassberg

\$100 - \$999

Larry Adler
Larry Barazzotto
Shakespeare Club
Clifton, Budd, and De Marion
Bradley Fenton
Robert Fox
Michael O'Neill
Ira Zuckerman

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Steve Baktidy
The Malkin Fund
Steven Heining
Fordham University

\$5,000 - and over

Lloyd Ultan

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE BRONX COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL JOURNAL

Since 1964, the BCBS *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 at 300dpi as email attachments to administration@bronxhistoricalsociety.org. Make sure you include your contact information.

BEQUESTS

You can support The Society's work by means of a bequest. The following paragraph is suggested for your convenience, for insertion in your will: "I give and devise and bequeath, to The Bronx County Historical Society, located at 3309 Bainbridge Avenue, Bronx, New York 10467, incorporated with the New York State Board of Regents, [insert the amount of money or describe the personal property or real estate], to be used for the general purposes of The Society."



From Poe's Porch

Poetry Macabre Edition

The Bronx County Historical Society and the Bronx Council on the Arts are extending a special invite to you and your guests to a new social justice-driven poetry reading and workshop series at the landmark Edgar Allan Poe Cottage and the Poe Park Visitor Center in Poe Park.

From Poe's Porch features poets who will read from the Cottage's porch from 12:00-1:10 P.M. This will be followed by special workshops and panel discussions in the adjacent Poe Park Visitor Center, from 1:30-3:00 P.M., just steps away from the historic house landmark. Tours of the Cottage will be available and both programs are free. *From Poe's Porch* was designed to create greater awareness of local history, by drawing parallels to the issues addressed by Bronx poets today.

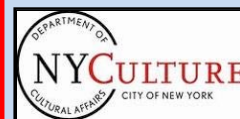
Saturday, October 29, 2016

**Poetry Reading from
Edgar Allan Poe's Cottage Porch
&
Poetry Writing Workshop at the
Poe Park Visitor Center**



**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.



**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.

EXHIBITIONS AT THE MUSEUM OF BRONX HISTORY

3266 BAINBRIDGE AVENUE
& EAST 208TH STREET, THE BRONX, NEW YORK 10467
(718) 881 - 8900
MUSEUM HOURS: SAT 10AM - 4PM / SUN 1PM - 5PM
(GROUP TOURS MON.-FRI. BY APPOINTMENT)

FALL EXHIBITIONS – OPENING OCTOBER 13TH
RECEPTION 4:30PM – 7:00PM



**REMEMBRANCE
OF PEARL HARBOR

THE BRONX GOES
TO WAR**

★★★
**THE
AMERICAN
PRESIDENCY**

★★★
**POLITICS
&
THE BRONX**



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, AND TO RSVP,
PLEASE CONTACT THE SOCIETY
(718) 881-8900
ADMINISTRATION@BRONXHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG

Openhouse will be the weekend of October 15th and 16th. Both the Edgar Allan Poe Cottage and the Museum of Bronx History at the Valentine-Varian House will participate and offer free admission throughout the weekend. Make sure you stop by.



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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

Museum hours:
Saturdays 10AM-4PM and
Sundays 1PM-5PM.

Edgar Allan Poe Cottage

Poe Park
2640 Grand Concourse and
East Kingsbridge Road

Museum hours:
Thursdays and Fridays
10AM-3PM
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
(718) 881-8900

Take A Walk Through History BRONX WALKING TOURS

Each tour costs \$10 for BCHS members, \$20 for non-members. Contact The Society at (718) 881-8900 to reserve your spot. The tours generally run about 2 hours.

EXPLORING VAN CORTLANDT PARK: 2-PART WALK TOUR SERIES

The Old Getty Square Branch

Saturday, October 22, 2016 - 10:00 AM
Nestor Danyluk, BCHS tour guide, will lead a tour along the old Putnam railroad line route in Van Cortlandt Park, then proceed on the now-defunct Getty Square branch that leads into Yonkers.

WWI Camp at Van Cortlandt Park

Saturday, November 19, 2016 - 11:00 AM
BCHS Educator Vivian Davis will lead a tour around the Van Cortlandt Park parade ground, covering topics such as the forgotten mobilization railways and the sites of the sham battles and company streets.

Both walking tours will meet at Burger King, 6077 Broadway near West 242nd Street. Take the #1 train to 242nd Street/Van Cortlandt Park or Bronx buses #9, BxM3 or the Westchester Bee-Line #1 or #2. Please call (718) 881-8900 for more information.

Please wear comfortable shoes and bring water.

Old Tales and Historic Facts of The Bronx River

Saturday, December 3, 2016 - 11:00 AM

The Bronx River has inspired a plethora of stories and historic facts that generated numerous publications. One such book titled *The Bronx River in History & Folklore*, written by Bronx historian and longtime BCHS member Stephen DeVillo, captures the essence of the river's importance in an ever-changing urban environment. The Bronx River is so important in our borough's existence that it's actually named for it. To expand on the Bronx River's legacy, Stephen DeVillo and Nilka Martel, tour guide and Bronx parks advocate, will lead a walking tour along the river, from West Farms Square to Hunts Point Riverside Park. This tour will meet at West Farms Square (northeast corner) and can exceed two hours. Take #2 and #5 train or Bronx buses #9, #21, #36, #40, or #42.

Please wear comfortable shoes and bring water.

FREE PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

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

History of The Bronx Latino

Saturday, October 15, 2016 - 1:00 PM

National Hispanic Heritage Month is September 15th to October 15th. Angel Hernandez, BCHS Director of Programs and The Bronx Latino Project, will give an illustrated presentation on the history of our borough's largest ethnic group.

Grand Concourse Reminiscence

Saturday, November 12, 2016 - 1:00PM

Historic preservation consultant Hansel Hernandez discusses the history of the famous roadway, and its present historic buildings, monuments, and architectural heritage.

This presentation will be illustrated.

Celebrating 175 Years of St. Ann's Church

Saturday, December 17, 2016 - 1:00PM

St. Ann's Episcopal Church, built and donated by Gouverneur Morris Jr. in 1840, has stood the test of time. St. Ann's, once a modest community church, is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is designated as a New York City historic landmark. In honor of St. Ann's Church's 175th birthday, BCHS Educator Vivian Davis will chronicle the Morris family's history and activism in The Bronx and the surviving legacy St. Ann's Church.

Edgar Allan Poe at Fordham

Saturday, January 21, 2017 - 2:30 PM

Dr. Gary Hermalyn, CEO of The Bronx County Historical Society, will provide an illustrated presentation about one of America's gifted writers and his experience living in The Bronx. This free lecture will be given at The Bronx Library Center, 301 E. Kingsbridge Road.

For more information, please call (718) 579-4257.