

# THE BRONX COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

3309 BAINBRIDGE AVENUE  
THE BRONX, NEW YORK 10467  
PHONE: (718) 881- 8900  
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[www.bronxhistoricalsociety.org](http://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documentation and interpretation of the history and heritage of The Bronx and its people from its earliest historical references in the 17th century to the present.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

JUNE 2017- SEPTEMBER 2017

VOLUME 40 NUMBER 3

## Women's Suffrage at 100

New York State is in the middle of the centennial of Women's Right to Vote and not too far away from the centennial of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment, giving nationwide voting rights to women. This celebration is the result of the efforts of millions of women who knew that their place in society was on equal footing with men.

The 1910s was an era of far-reaching change. The United States was preparing for war in Europe in an age in which international interconnectivity was at an all-time high. Technology was advancing quicker than the world could catch up to it and women were wondering where they fit into this high-energy and fast-paced atmosphere.

Activist marches called Suffrage Hikes were meant to bring attention to this important issue and it started in our own backyards. The first Suffrage Hike stepped off on December 16, 1912 from the West 242<sup>nd</sup> Street Station right next to Van Cortlandt Park. Five hundred women came together at the stepping off point and started to walk north. Thirteen days and 170 miles later, the first women walked into Albany at 4:00pm.

In terms of women's suffrage groups, three clubs were active in the borough. The Athenaeum Club of Wakefield was organized on January 18, 1898 and located at 319 East 197<sup>th</sup> Street, which is right behind Fordham University. Miss Lulu E. Varian led it. The goal of the club was the intellectual and social improvement of its members. Meetings were held every Tuesday at 2:30PM from October to June.



Suffrage Farm, 1917.



The Bronx Athenaeum Club, 1908.

### WOMEN LEADERS IN BRONX.

#### Democratic Committee Decides to Give Them Powers Equal with Men.

The Bronx County Democratic Committee unanimously adopted resolutions at a meeting Monday night giving to women voters in that section the same representation in political affairs as is now enjoyed by men. This means that the organization will hereafter recognize women district leaders.

The representation in the Executive Committee of the Bronx Democratic organization will be equally divided between the men and women district leaders, each one having one-half of a vote. In districts where there are two men and two women leaders each will have one-fourth of a vote. The meeting was presided over by Arthur Murphy, Chairman of the County Committee.

Courtesy of the New York Times, March 13, 1918.

Another Bronx-based group was the Woman's Independent Suffrage League, run by Mrs. L.C.A. Volkman at 1318 Leland Avenue. Today, that address is nothing more than an active driveway.

The third club in The Bronx was actually a part of the largest club in the city, The Woman Suffrage Party of the City of New York. The honorary Chairwoman of this organization was Carrie Chapman Catt, the famed suffragist. There was one Borough leader, Miss Marianna Dowe who lived on Boston Road and five Bronx assembly district leaders who met at the party's headquarters at 48 East 34<sup>th</sup> Street.

**PURE GOLD**

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

Cemetery Monument Company  
 2727 Lafayette Avenue  
 Est. 1929

Creston Optical  
 2169 White Plains Road  
 Est. 1941

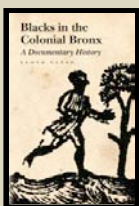
McCall's Bronxwood  
 Funeral Home, Inc.  
 4035 Bronxwood Avenue  
 Est. 1966

**WELCOME  
 NEW MEMBERS**

- Steve Bornemann
- Nicholas Chugranis
- Hon. Andrew Cohen
- Tom Cleary
- Pilar Cuellar
- Kenneth Degregory
- Martin Donohue
- Donald & Mary Ann Eatz
- Maria Febus
- Sammi Gay
- Marsha Ann Green
- Janice Glock Jones
- Hugo Gonzalez
- Fred Halper
- Jennifer Hamilton
- Ellery Kurtz
- Suzanne Lengyel
- Edward Murphy
- Saverio Parapugna
- Christine Rinaldi
- Joe & Trisha Sepulveda
- Franchot Solorzano
- Pearl Sullivan
- Steven Tu
- Carol Twomey

**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):

Joel Halpern: Photographs of the Halpern Family, employees and events of the Electro-Chemical Engraving Company (1920s-1960s).

Hermalyn Family: Sweet Sixteen birthday party invitation; promotion order and letter regarding stateside deployment, United States Marine Corps (1941-1945).

Victor Mastro: Various Bronx materials: newspaper clippings; restaurant menus; brochures; journals; flyers and newsletters (1990s-present).

William & Silvia Mirthes: Paperwork, including a blueprint, on a Chatterton Avenue house built for Charles Mirthes, the donor's grandfather (1910).

Philip Panaritis: Booklet, *Official Directory of Board of Education of the City of New York* (1941).

University of Maryland, Michelle Smith Performing Arts Library: U.S. Office of Price Administration rent registration form (with envelope) for an apartment on Clinton Avenue in The Bronx (1943).

**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):

<u>\$10 - \$99</u>	<u>\$10 - \$99 (Continued)</u>	<u>\$100 - \$999</u>	<u>\$1,000 - \$4,999</u>
Katherine Anderson	Ben Ginsberg	The Shakespeare Club	Gilbert Walton Agency
Archie Arpiarian	Mark Glander	Norbert Dengler	Fordham Associates
Sigmund Balka	Frederic Halper	Robert Esnard	Larry Barazzotto
Eric Bell	Bronx Homeschoolers	Affiliated	The Lucius N. Littauer Fund
William A. Brady	Kathy McArdle	Adjustment Group	Hermalyn Family
Janice Brown	Brian McCarthy	J. James Lewis	McCall's Bronxwood
Robert Burke	Joseph Muriana	Catherine O'Brien	Funeral Home
Dara Caponigro	Harry A. Parsons	James Periconi	James G. Houlihan Family
Anthony Czamecki	John Phillips	Donald J. Petersen	Second, LLC.
Wallis Doerge	Max Schindel	Jospeh Rachlin	Richard Magat
Alexander Dunkel	Brigid M. Sheehan		Townhouse Management
O'Connor Institute Fund	Amazon Smile		Exclusive Realty
Susan T. Gasbey	Mary Stoll		Langsam Property Services
	Academy of Mt. St. Ursula		Lloyd Ultan

**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 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](mailto:administration@bronxhistoricalsociety.org). Make sure you include your contact information and a short bio.

**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, The 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."

# 17<sup>th</sup> Annual BCHS Golf Tournament

Thursday, September 14, 2017

*Pelham Split Rock Golf Course - Pelham Bay Park*

Co-Chairs: Mr. Mark Engel & Mr. Greg Gonzalez

Congratulations to our honorees:

Mr. Joseph Kelleher - Simone Metro Properties

Mr. Eliezer Rodriguez - Bronx-Manhattan North Association of Realtors, Inc.

10:00 AM Registration & Breakfast

11:00 AM Shotgun Start

4:00 PM Cocktail Reception & Awards Dinner

\$1,500 Per Foursome

\$ 400 Individual Player

\$ 175 for dinner only



For golf sponsorship opportunities, please contact Tournament Coordinator, Teresa Brown at [brown@bronxhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:brown@bronxhistoricalsociety.org). To take an ad out in the Golf Journal, please contact Catherine Pellicano at [cpellicano@bronxhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:cpellicano@bronxhistoricalsociety.org).



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.



## EXHIBITIONS AT THE MUSEUM OF BRONX HISTORY

3266 BAINBRIDGE AVENUE & EAST 208<sup>TH</sup> STREET

THE BRONX, NEW YORK 10467

(718) 881 - 8900

MUSEUM HOURS: SAT. 10AM - 4PM / SUN. 1PM - 5PM

(GROUP TOURS MON.-FRI. BY APPOINTMENT)



OVER THERE  
AMERICA & THE GREAT WAR

THROUGH  
OCTOBER 8, 2017



Museum of Bronx  
History/Valentine  
-Varian House  
3266 Bainbridge  
Avenue  
& East 208<sup>th</sup> 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.

Coming Soon

## What Lies Beneath Cemeteries of The Bronx

Opening Reception

October 12, 2017

4:30 PM - 7:00 PM





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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 208<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Norwood – The Northern Community**

**Saturday, June 24, 2017 - 11:00 AM**

Located in the north central section of The Bronx, Norwood holds a rich historic heritage, honored with street names and structures that hark back to earlier times. Today, the community thrives with commercial development and ethnic diversity, but many locals may not know that the neighborhood holds some of our borough's oldest sites. Join BCHS Program Director Angel Hernandez on a historic stroll through Norwood. He will bring you to the Museum of Bronx History, the Bronx County Archives, and other neighborhood jewels. The tour will start at the Mosholu Parkway #4 train station on Jerome Avenue. Take buses Bx #1, #2, #10, #28, Manhattan Express BxM4, or Bee-Line buses #4, #20, #21.

### **Port Morris – Through the Hell Gate**

**Saturday, July 1, 2017 - 11:00 AM**

What was once the hub of industry and trade in The Bronx, Port Morris was the brainchild of Gouverneur Morris Jr. in the 1840s. From the sleepy seaport, it rose up to be the capital of piano manufacturing in the United States. BCHS Educator Vivian Davis will be leading this dynamic tour through Port Morris, visiting the sites that made the area famous. The tour will start outside the gate of St. Ann's Episcopal Church at 295 St. Ann's Avenue. Take the #6 train to the Brook Avenue Station. Take buses Bx #17 or #33.

### **Today's Fort Apache**

**Saturday, September 9, 2017 - 11:00 AM**

The movie *Fort Apache, The Bronx*, although highly praised, was also recognized for its negative portrayal of The Bronx during the early 1980s. For many years Bronx residents fought off derogative stereotypes because of the lingering effects the movie and other media outlets had created over the years. Today, the neighborhood in which the real Fort Apache (41<sup>st</sup> Precinct) sits underwent a major transformation, with the actual building landmarked and restored for a special crimes unit of the New York City Police Department. Meet BCHS Program Director Angel Hernandez on the northeast corner of Simpson Street and Westchester Avenue to start the tour. Take the #2 or #5 train to Simpson Street. Take Bronx buses #4, #4A, #5, or #19.

### **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, call (718) 881-8900.

#### **How Redlining Defined The Bronx and America**

**Saturday, June 10, 2017 - 1:00 PM**

Researcher and writer Gregory Jost will discuss how explicit Jim Crow New Deal-era federal housing policies designed racism into the structures and systems of cities across the country. Instituted through a series of 239 maps and accompanying area descriptions, redlining structuralized the connection between race, place, and value, laying the foundation for policy after policy that would preserve and expand a massive racial wealth gap and vast inequalities in housing, education, health, and policing. Through this framework, the history of our borough takes on new significance, contributing to the national conversation on race and inequality.

#### **The Bronx in the Wake of World War II**

**Saturday, July 22, 2017 - 1:00 PM**

Urban development in the United States during the Progressive Movement meant major infrastructural advancements and expansion for places like The Bronx. Considered to be a backyard for the booming Manhattan metropolis for many years, the northern borough had grown to be its very own force by the time the Great Depression ended and the prosperity under the New Deal began. However, the constant move towards progress in post-World War II New York did not always bring positive results. With federal mandates for the construction of new homes for returning soldiers and newcomers, more highway extensions, and the path to slum clearance for newer development, The Bronx would soon descend into an era of urban decay and divestment. BCHS Program Director Angel Hernandez will present this topic.

#### **The Bronx During WWI: Training at Pelham Bay**

**Saturday, August 26, 2017 - 1:00 PM**

The second installment of The Bronx During WWI series examines Pelham Bay Park. Unknown to many, Pelham Bay was a naval training station in preparation for the war. Today, most of the naval station's original location is now within the New York City's Police Department firing range. Join BCHS Educator Vivian Davis as she continues to celebrate The Great War centennial by exploring another facet of World War I history in The Bronx. This presentation will be illustrated.