Black Women Pioneers of The Bronx

To graduate as a nurse from the Lincoln School was a badge of honor. It meant you excelled at your job and were able to provide the best care. The School for Colored Females in Nursing Arts began in 1898 on Concord Avenue in The Bronx. The school's aim was to "provide training in the nursing arts for colored women" interested in becoming nurses at a time in which being female and professional was not common and being female and Black and a professional was even more uncommon. Not to mention, Black women were not allowed to enroll in all-white nursing schools.

The school was founded at a time when The Bronx was going through a huge population boom. The annexation of the land west of the Bronx River occurred 24 years before the school opened and the Third Avenue El had just been built in the 1880s.

Inevitably, along with all of these changes came inadequate sanitation, overcrowding and poverty and many became concerned with the living conditions of the African American community. Almshouses during the 19th century were the only places for the downtrodden, but they catered to the very poor and homeless as well as criminals, not to those who were in need of medical care.

The Society for the Relief of Worthy Aged Indigent Colored Persons decided to rent and ultimately buy buildings to house their patients. The Colored Home and Hospital finally opened on 141st Street and Concord Avenue in 1898, able to house over 200 patients. That same year, the hospital established the School for Colored Females in Nursing Arts to accommodate the growing number of Black patients who needed nursing care. Six nurses were in the first graduating class of 1900.

By 1930, The Lincoln School became one of the most popular nursing schools for Black women and the most revered overall in the country. Despite the segregation of nursing schools, the nurses of The Lincoln School were known for their superior training. Women came from all over the country to attend the school. One of our members' mothers was in the graduating class of 1958 and in their yearbook, it showed women from Delaware, Louisiana, Montana and even the Bahamas. Despite the Supreme Court ruling segregation unconstitutional in 1954, it was still quietly being enforced in 1958. Not only did these women have to face racism in their private lives, but now in their professional lives as well. These women persevered and succeeded despite the hardship.

The Lincoln School for Nursing closed its doors in 1961. Over 1,800 nurses graduated in its 63-year history. With the advent of the Supreme Court ruling in 1954, Black nurses would be able to attend any and all nursing schools in the country, so The Lincoln School was not needed anymore.

Personal accounts from graduates usually come out the same way – attending The Lincoln School was some of the best years of their lives.

To learn more about noted woman in Bronx history, come visit the upcoming exhibition at the Museum of Bronx History titled "Women's Suffrage and New York City: A Centennial Celebration." See page 3 for more information.
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):


Jacqueline Kutner: Telechron electric alarm clock (1940s) and record albums (1950s).

Arlene Ortiz-Allende, SBH Health System: Materials relating to the Home for Incurables/St. Barnabas Hospital for Chronic Diseases: bound volumes of board minutes, reports and annual reports (1867-1991); photographs of buildings, staff, patients, aerial views of hospital complex and surrounding neighborhood, etc. (c. 19th century - 1989) and editions of the hospital newsletter (1951-1999).


Fernando Ferrer: Photographs and election certificates related to your Bronx borough presidency.


Andrew Swartz: DeWitt Clinton High School swimming sweater, 1939-1942.

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
Albert Friess
Arthur Kahn
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The New Yankee Stadium Community Benefits 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 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.
Join us in honoring the future leaders of The Bronx. The Society’s 63rd anniversary program honors the valedictorians of The Bronx High Schools on Sunday, June 3, 2018.

It is only appropriate that we continue our tradition of honoring the finest students of The Bronx. This year, the event will be held in The Schiff Family Great Hall at The Bronx Zoo. The Bronx Zoo, known as The Wildlife Conservation Society, is one of the finest zoological institutions in the world.

The program begins at 1:00PM with entertainment, refreshments and view of the sea lion attraction, which is located adjacent to The Schiff Family Great Hall. At 2:00PM, the awards ceremony commences. Each honoree will receive an embossed certificate and a package of books about our historic borough and city published by The Bronx County Historical Society.

*Free parking will be made available for our guests in the Southern Boulevard parking lot.

To inquire about sponsorship opportunities or to make a donation, contact Ms. Catherine Pellicano at (718) 881-8900 ext.101 or via email at cpellicano@bronxhistoricalsociety.org.

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)

Women's Suffrage and New York City: A Centennial Celebration
April 12, 2018 - April 11, 2019

Left: Noted suffragist Ms. Elizabeth Freeman marching on the first Suffrage Hike to Albany, which started at the 242nd Street subway station at Van Cortlandt Park on December 16, 1912.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress

Bronx Expo - The Starlight Park Story
April 12, 2018 – September 30, 2018

Opening Reception: Thursday April 12, 2018, 4:30PM - 7:00PM
The Bronx County Historical Society and The Woodlawn Cemetery have partnered to offer the exciting programs below. All trolley tours start at The Woodlawn Cemetery Jerome, Avenue entrance (opposite end of #4 train station). For more information, please contact The Society at (718) 881-8900.

**The Bronx Brewery Legacy Trolley Tours**

Woodlawn Cemetery is home to several families that contributed to the beer brewing legacy in The Bronx dating back to the 1850s. Buried in a section on their grounds nicknamed “Brewer’s Row,” these mostly German families have made their impact in communities such as Melrose, Morrisania, Mott Haven, and other areas in the South Bronx. To celebrate this legacy, a special trolley tour from Woodlawn Cemetery’s Brewer’s Row to the borough’s new breweries and beer halls is an ideal start to a wonderful program series. These tours will be led by BCHS Programs Director Angel Hernandez.

*$40 per tour, 12PM-5PM*

**Tour dates:**
- Saturday, April 7, 2018
- Saturday, May 5, 2018
- Saturday, June 9, 2018

**History Comes Alive at Bronx Cemeteries Trolley Tours**

Explore the “sleeping places” of those who have come before us. Some burial grounds are long since vanished; others survive into the 21st century. Learn what burial secrets your neighborhood may hold. Learn too about burial practices and mourning rituals of Victorians, graveside symbolism and the famous who still dwell among us. These tours will be led by BCHS Programs Director Angel Hernandez.

*$40 per tour, 12PM-5PM*

**Tour dates:**
- Saturday, April 28, 2018
- Saturday, May 19, 2018
- Saturday, June 23, 2018

**Women’s Suffrage and New York City: A Centennial Celebration Symposium**

*Bronx Week Event* - Sunday, May 20, 2018, 8AM-3:30PM

Registration and breakfast from 8AM-9AM, $30 per person

In honor of the anniversaries of the passage of Women’s suffrage in New York State and the 19th Amendment, The Bronx County Historical Society honors New York’s women of the past and present with a symposium. This event, moderated by BCHS Educator Vivian Davis, will showcase the efforts of women throughout the 19th-21st centuries. Panel discussions will explore these experiences and define how the legacies of women like Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Nellie Bly paved the way for the opportunities women have today. This event will take place at the Woodlawn Chapel, The Woodlawn Cemetery, Jerome Avenue. For questions or to purchase tickets, please contact The Society at 718-881-8900 or email at education@bronxhistoricalsociety.org. Check Eventbrite for online sales. Breakfast and lunch are included.

**PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES**

The following free programs will be held at the Museum of Bronx History

3266 Bainbridge Avenue & East 208th Street
The Bronx, New York 10467.

For directions, please call (718) 881-8900

**Slave Stories, Our Stories**

Friday, February 23, 2018, 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Join BCHS Educator Vivian Davis and living historian Cheyney McKnight on this special evening of discussion and conversation with one of the house slaves who worked in the Valentine-Variant House and receive a deeper understanding of slavery in 18th century New York. In honor of Black History Month, we pay tribute to those unheard voices.

**Dress and Undress: Women’s Clothing during the American Revolution**

Friday, March 16, 2018, 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Like today, clothing of the 18th century reflected the social status of those wearing it. Join BCHS Educator Vivian Davis for a special program as she explores how women dressed the part in the 18th century and illustrates the differences in clothing between the upper, middle, and lower classes.