

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documentation and interpretation of the history and heritage of The Bronx and its people from its earliest historical references in the 17th century to the present.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, Susan Tane, and the New York Public Library.

THE BRONX HISTORIAN

Newsletter of The Bronx County Historical Society

JUNE 2018— SEPTEMBER 2018

VOLUME 41 NUMBER 3

Celebrating A True Bronx Legacy - Hip Hop

A crowd of spectators gathered in front of 1520 Sedgwick Avenue, a tall high-rise residential building overlooking the Major Deegan Expressway in the West Bronx, to witness the unveiling of a new street sign. It was a warm day in June 2017 when “Hip Hop Boulevard” was added as a co-name for this portion of Sedgwick Avenue. The building in front of which the sign was installed is considered the birthplace of Hip Hop because it is where one of its earliest pioneers, DJ Kool Herc, had lived and thrown his first parties. Yet, others contend that it was in other parts of The Bronx where the musical genre evolved into a culture comprised of dance, art, fashion, and other traits. Whatever debates may ensue as to where Hip Hop music originated, there is absolutely no doubt that it started in The Bronx.

Although Hip Hop is heard in all corners of the Earth, not too many know under what conditions The Bronx was when this popular music genre began. Young African-American and Puerto Rican men honed in on their musical and dancing talents to express what was affecting them in their communities at the time. When Hip Hop was born in The Bronx in the early 1970s, the city was undergoing austere measures due to fiscal problems, leading to the systematic downsizing of basic services such as garbage pick-up routes, police patrol shifts due to increased crime, loss of employment, rampant drug use due to the closing of rehabilitation centers, and more. The city’s fiscal crisis of the 1970s almost destroyed parts of The Bronx, leaving a long-lasting impression of President Jimmy Carter walking through Charlotte Street in 1977 as the image that made The Bronx a poster child for urban decay in America.



A co-naming street sign designating this portion of Sedgwick Avenue as “Hip Hop Boulevard” was installed in front of the 1520 Sedgwick Avenue residential high-rise on June 8, 2017.

The Bronx County Historical Society Collections



An original flyer for a city wide 1981 Halloween dance held at James Monroe High School, featuring The Mean Machine, Spoonie Gee, T-Ski Valley, Tracy D’, Grandwizard Theodore & the Fantastic Five, and other early Hip Hop pioneers.

The Bronx County Historical Society Collections

While today’s Hip Hop music may speak of lavish lifestyles and other worldly things, let us never forget how and why it started. Here at The Bronx County Historical Society, we salute the forefathers of Hip Hop as they will always be remembered in the records of Bronx history.

PURE GOLD

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

Grey & Grey LLP
 305 East 149th Street
 Est. 1987

**New Palace Paint and
 Home Center**
 534 East 180th Street
 Est. 1948

Pro Line Contracting Groups, Inc.
 1954 Paulding Avenue
 Est. 1988

Sireci Family Dental, P.C.
 2861 Bruckner Boulevard
 Est. 1983

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
 (partial list)

Edward J. Birdie

Nancy Gonzalez

Debra Berg Koster

Aye J. Mashia

Barbara H. McNenny

Harriet Ohmart

Mitchell Palusze

David Stadtmauer

Crispin N. Goytia-Vasquez

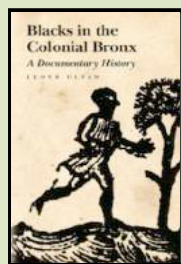
SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS:
 Autographed copy, add \$10



**WESTCHESTER
 TOWN
 BRONX BEGINNINGS**

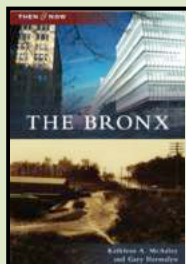
Kathleen A. McAuley

\$ 15.00



**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):

City Island Historical Society: Bronx photographs, c. 1940s.

Vivian Davis: Edition of "The Link," the Service Men's Christian League magazine; book, *Navy Service, A Short History of the United States Naval Training School (WR) Bronx, New York, 1944-1945*.

Naper Settlement: late 19th century photocard produced by New York Studio, Fox Street.

NYC Department of City Planning, Bronx Office: 14 Sanborn map books, early 20th century (modifications into the 1970s).

Mary Placko: Bronx-related newspaper clippings, postcards, photographs, map, and various information, c. 1950s – 2016.

Seiferman Family: 2 copies of an informational booklet for the 1945 Bronx County 25th U.S. Congressional District political campaign of Republican, Charles Garside.

Andrew Swartz: Documentation on Robert J. and Inez Nelson Swartz, including school photographs, diploma and yearbook; Confirmation dinner invitation; newspaper clippings; birth and death certificates; wedding photograph and paperwork, photographs and U.S. Army dress uniform jacket of First Lieutenant Swartz, 39th/86th Infantry divisions.

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

- Barbara McNenny
- Brennan Ortiz
- Dara Caponigro
- Donald J. Petersen
- Eric Bell
- Eric Ponce
- Fedelma Duffy
- Frederic Halper
- Karl Stricker
- Mary Stoll
- North Plainfield Board of Education
- Robert A. Rooney
- Roland Riopelle
- Sara Bong

\$100 - \$999

- Affiliated Adjustment Group
- Cedric Fergus & Lisa Benton
- EarthShare NYC Gives
- Friends of Carl E. Heastie
- Gloria James
- Hutch Metro Center
- Joseph Wolfe Richlin
- Lawrence Barazzotto
- Mary Elizabeth Wendt
- McCall's Bronxwood Funeral Home
- Ridgewood Savings Bank
- Robert Esnard
- Sidney Horenstein
- The Shakespeare Club
- William A. Brady

\$1,000 - \$4,999

- BronxCare Health System
- Eastbay Management Group, Inc.
- Farmers Insurance
- Fordham Associates, LLC
- Fordham University
- Genesis Realty Group
- James G. Houlihan Family Second, LP
- Langsam Property Services Corp.
- Monroe College
- NTim-Addae CPA, P.C.
- Sandra Erickson Real Estate
- Schur Management
- Tejeda Driving Inc.

\$5,000 and Up

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, 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 1-2 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, 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."



The Bronx County Historical Society's 18th Annual Golf Tournament

Pelham Split Rock Golf Course
870 Shore Road, The Bronx, NY 10464

SAVE THE DATE!
Thursday, September 27, 2018

Event program:

10:00 AM
Registration & Breakfast
11:00 AM
Shotgun Start
4:00 PM
Cocktail Reception
& Awards Dinner

Golf Packages:

\$1,500
Per Foursome
\$ 400
Individual Player
\$ 175
Dinner only

For golf sponsorship opportunities, please contact Tournament Coordinator, Teresa Brown at tbrown@bronxhistoricalsociety.org. To take an ad out in the Golf Journal, please contact Megan Pavlacka at mjoskow@bronxhistoricalsociety.org.

Tournament Co-Chairs:

Mark Engel
&
Greg Gonzalez

We want to congratulate
Mr. Anthony Mormile of
Orange Bank & Trust for being
this year's event honoree.



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.

**CURRENT 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

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

UPCOMING EXHIBITION

HIS MUSE: THE WOMEN OF EDGAR ALLAN POE'S LIFE

OCTOBER 4, 2018 – APRIL 7, 2019

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE OPENING RECEPTION ON OCTOBER 4, 2018, FROM
4:30PM TO 7:00PM, AT THE MUSEUM OF BRONX HISTORY.
FREE TO THE PUBLIC AND ALL ARE WELCOME.**



Program Update: On May 20, 2018, The Bronx County Historical Society hosted the Women's Suffrage and New York City Symposium at the Woodlawn Cemetery. Panels on teaching women's suffrage and how the suffrage movement influenced women in business as well as talks on Bronx women and a keynote address from Elizabeth Cady Stanton's great great-granddaughter rounded out the day. We would like to thank our guest speakers and sponsors who helped make this event a great success. We also want to especially thank the students of the Harry S. Truman High School Culinary Arts Program.



NYC Cultural Affairs



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.



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

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
Treasurer (718) 881-8900

Take A Walk Through History BRONX WALKING TOURS

Tours cost \$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.

Woody Crest

Saturday, July 21, 2018 - 11:00 AM

Just west of Yankee Stadium, upon a hill that over looks the Harlem River, lies an avenue called Woodycrest. It was named after a former estate "Woody Crest," belonging to the Ketchum family. Mrs. Ketchum was Angelica Anderson (a nearby avenue bears this surname as well) whose forebears farmed some 60 acres on the same tract. Today, this community in the West Bronx still holds numerous remnants of the past in the form of structures, abandoned train stations, step streets, and more. Join BCHS Education Coordinator Vivian Davis in front of Gate 6 at Yankee Stadium, near the Hard Rock Café (East 161st Street and River Avenue) to start the tour. Take the #4 or D train to E.161st Street.

An In-Depth Look at Art Deco on the Upper Grand Concourse

Saturday, August 4, 2018 - 11:00 AM

Today, the Grand Concourse, along with several other Bronx communities around it, holds one of the highest percentages of Art Deco buildings in the nation. A popular style of architecture intended to evoke the futuristic age, Art Deco has dominated the borough's architectural landscape since the late 1920s. The Grand Concourse, inspired after Paris' Champs-Élysées, was deemed to be an appropriate site for this new style of architecture, as it was first introduced at the 1925 International Exhibition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts, held in Paris. A portion of the Grand Concourse was officially landmarked because of its collections of exquisite Art Deco buildings. Meet Matthew Foglino, history teacher and Art Deco enthusiast, at the Fordham Road overpass on the Grand Concourse (eastbound side, southern side) to start this wonderful tour. Take #4 or D trains to Fordham Road. Also, take the #1, #2, and #12 bus.

Gouverneur Morris, The Bronx's Forefather

Saturday, September 15, 2018 - 11:00 AM

The year 2018 marks two hundred and thirty years since the United States Constitution was adopted by the Constitutional Convention. The document was hotly debated by many of the convention's members, some even left before it was signed. Yet, the U.S. Constitution has been upheld and defended as the law of our land. One would wonder what does the South Bronx have to do with all this? The fact is that Gouverneur Morris, raised in Morrisania and buried there, was one of the principal authors of the U.S. Constitution. This makes a walking tour to celebrate his legacy appropriate. Meet BCHS Program Director Angel Hernandez at the southeast corner of East 138th Street and Lincoln Avenue, outside the Third Avenue subway stop on the #6 train, to start this tour.

PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

The following free programs will be held at the Bronx County Archives
3313 Bainbridge Avenue, The Bronx, New York 10467
For directions, please call (718) 881-8900. The archives is accessible.

Islands of The Bronx

Saturday, June 30, 2018, 1:00 PM

Many Bronxites are familiar with some of the islands that are part of the Bronx landscape. Mostly known islands like City Island and Rikers Island are duly mentioned. But what about Rat Island, Cuban Ledge, Hart Island, and the many others obscured in Bronx History? Join BCHS Program Director Angel Hernandez on an informative lecture that will guarantee to pique your interest about our borough's numerous islands.

The Lorillards of The Bronx

Saturday, August 25, 2018, 1:00 PM

Pierre Abraham Lorillard was a tobacconist of French descent who started an empire in New York in 1760. Although Pierre met an untimely death during the American Revolution, the Lorillards expanded their empire into what we now call The Bronx, leaving remnants behind like the old Snuff Mill in today's New York Botanical Garden and the lasting impressions of the famed Philanthropist and Art Collector Catharine Lorillard Wolfe. BCHS Education Coordinator Vivian Davis will present this lecture.