

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documentation and interpretation of the history and heritage of The Bronx and its people from its earliest historical references in the 17th century to the present.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

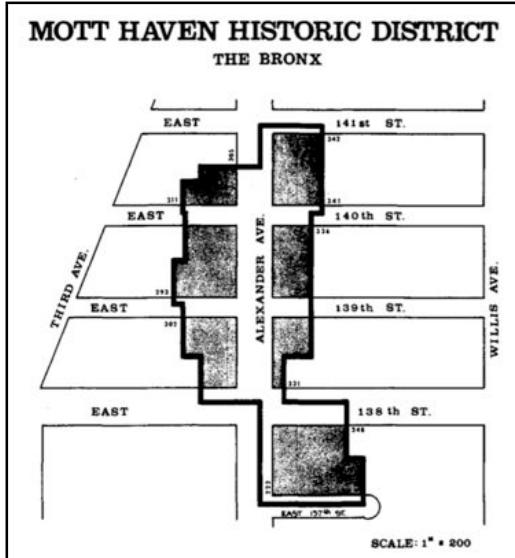
Newsletter of The Bronx County Historical Society

JUNE 2019 - SEPTEMBER 2019

VOLUME 42 NUMBER 3

50 Years of Mott Haven Preservation

This year, we remember 50 years of historic preservation in the South Bronx. In the Summer of 1969, Mott Haven became the first designated historic district in The Bronx by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.



Landmarks Preservation Commission Designation Map, July 1969



Alexander Avenue, 1965
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission



Mott Haven Historic Districts Association

The Mott Haven Historic District centers around Alexander Avenue between 137th and 141st streets. When one walks along the avenue, the low-lying residences provide a stark contrast between the towering 1869-dated St. Jerome Roman Catholic Church on the east end and the civic buildings on the west.

Boasting some of the oldest row of houses in The Bronx and located in the oldest settled area, these three-story brick homes give a glimpse of the borough before it was a borough, let alone part of New York City. The buildings were constructed between 1863 and 1865 by developer Edward Willis. He foresaw that this rural area would one day become enveloped by the nearby metropolis and due to this, constructed the familiar row house.

Architecturally speaking, Willis's design was of the time with Second Empire influence (1855-1885). Today, you can clearly see the intact uniform 19th century cornices (decorative molding below the roof and above the windows) and ironwork.

Proceedings for the proposed designation of the historic district occurred on November 22, 1966. There was strong support for the designation and the Landmarks Commission found that the area was of historical architectural significance. Mott Haven Historic District was officially designated in July 1969.

The historic district designation protects historic buildings from threats that plague most of New York City. Under the Landmarks Law, residents living in these districts must receive approval from the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission before any alteration or reconstruction can be done.

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

Ambassador Fuel & Oil Burner
Corp
1049 Washington Ave.
Est. 1935

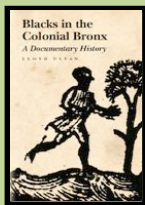
PASCAP Co., Inc
4250 Boston Road
Est. 1929

Hilltop Auto Salvage
4157 Boston Road
Est. 1968

**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS**

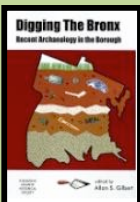
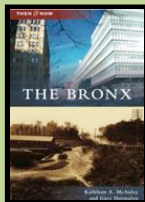
Yuderky Reynoso
Kendall Lewis
Vanessa Chavez
Edward Frisch
Peter A. Bunten
Mercy College Library
Christopher Baker
Lawrence Porco
Noreen Hernandez
Eileen Fox
Murray Herman
Matthew Gaynord
Juan Cruz
Diana Cartaya
Margot Finkel
Angela Ruiz

**SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS:
Autographed copy, add \$10**



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

*The Bronx:
Then & Now*
\$21.99



*Digging The Bronx:
Recent Archaeology
in the Borough*
\$25.00

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):

Bronx Pro Group: Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) documentation on the Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church & Sunday School, 1074-1080 Washington Avenue, Morrisania (2018).

Margaret DeGasperi: Informational handbills/program for the dedication of the Westchester District Health Center and Westchester Square Branch Library (1956); dedication program, Westchester Post Office (1955).

Karen Slattery Horkan: photograph, by donor's late father, photographer Walter Slattery, of Locust Point Yacht Club and Lawton Aces Little League Baseball Club (c. 1950s).

Edward Kanze: *Bronx Home News* articles (1919).

Harriet Krakowsky - Antique hanging bookcase with scrollwork and three shelves (20th century).

Otto Penzler, The Mysterious Bookshop: Poe-inspired pen and ink drawing by Greenwich Village small press publisher, Guido Bruno (1915).

* Joanne & Elizabeth Polster: copies of Bronx location photographs by Randall Comfort (early 20th century).

Glenn Fleischman: *Time* and *Life* magazines (1939); various political campaign buttons (1940-1990s); Vietnam service medal with ribbon (c. 1960s-1970s); brass Trident model water meter casing (1892-early 20th century).

Laura Tosi: Paul Hoffman/JHS 45 autograph album and diploma/case (1951); PS 76 autograph album (1949); Cerebral Palsy citation (1956); handbill, Polio Pointers for 1951; Confraternity of Christian Doctrine diploma (1951).

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

Janice Brown
Robert Nieder
Peter Schott
Linda Alikhan
Lijun Jin
Eugene Sklar
Pamela Ann Sheldrick
Richard Feldman
Eric Ponce
Arthur Kahn
Donald J. Petersen
Brennan Ortiz
John E. McHale
The Meredith Corp

\$100 - \$999

Robert Esnard
McCall's Bronxwood Funeral Home
Larry Barazzotto
Henry G. Stroobants
The Shakespeare Club
John Nickelsberg
Robert M. Fox
Signature Bank
Suzanne Weintraub Greenberg
Julie McCarron
EarthShare NYC Gives

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Thomas X. Casey
James G. Houlihan
Fordham Associates, LLC
Fordham University
Langsam Property Services
Manhattan Parking
S&T Auto Body
Genesis Realty
Residence Inn by Marriott

\$5,000 and Up

Lysbeth Mate
Fidelity Title Insurance Co.
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. 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."

The Bronx County Historical Society's 19th Annual Golf Tournament

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

SAVE THE DATE!
Thursday, September 26, 2019

Event Program

10:00am
Registration & Breakfast

11:00am
Shotgun Start

4:00pm
**Cocktail Reception
& Awards Dinner**

Tournament Co-Chairs:

Mark Engel
&
Greg Gonzalez

We want to congratulate Mr. Kevin Alicea of Havana Café and Mr. Cliff Nordquist of Just Bagels for being this year's event honorees.

Golf Packages

\$1,500
Per Foursome

\$400
Individual Player

\$175
Dinner Only

To take an ad out in the Golf Journal, please contact
Ann Ryan at aryan@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.



The Museum of Bronx History and the Edgar Allan Poe Cottage are now offering translations of our house tours in Spanish and Braille. Throughout the year, we will be adding Chinese, Italian and French translations.

Big Thanks for a Successful Fundraiser!

On March 12, 2019 The Bronx County Historical Society hosted A Salute to Bronx History Fundraiser Dinner. It was held at Chef Roberto's Restaurant, Zero Otto Nove on Arthur Avenue in The Bronx. We would like to thank all involved, especially the committee and Chef Roberto for donating his time, his restaurant, and fabulous food to this wonderful event!



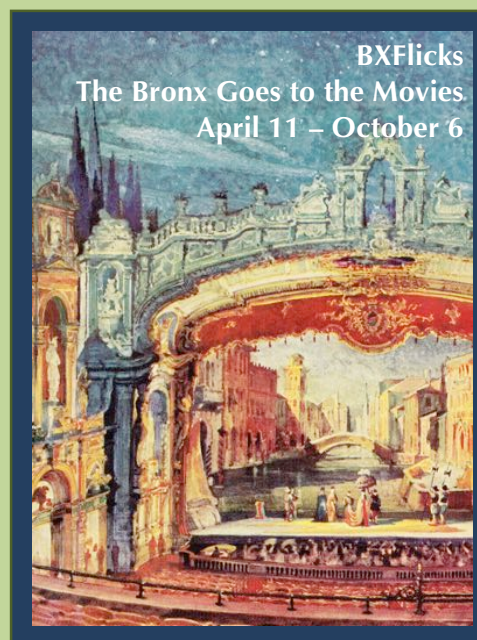
In Memorium

Sidney Horenstein & Edward Schneider

Our condolences to the families of Sid and Ed – both long-time supporters as well as friends of The Bronx County Historical Society. They will be missed dearly.

EXHIBITION AT THE MUSEUM OF BRONX HISTORY

3266 BAINBRIDGE AVENUE THE BRONX, NEW YORK 10467
(718) 881 – 8900



*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.



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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
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
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

Free Public Lecture **at The Bronx County Archives, 3313 Bainbridge Avenue**

The Glory Days of Baseball: 1947-1957
Saturday, July 13, 2019, 1:00pm,

After World War II, baseball had a tremendous period of growth as the stars came home. In 1947, baseball finally integrated through the efforts of Branch Rickey and Jackie Robinson after six long decades of segregation. Join noted baseball historian Tony Morante as he discusses the pros and cons of this period as New York City became the epicenter of baseball.



Take A Walk Through History BRONX WALKING TOUR

Tours cost \$10 for BCHS members, \$20 for non-members.

Call (718) 881-8900 to reserve your spot.

Historic Churches of Mott Haven
Saturday, July 6, 2019 - 11:00AM

In celebration of the first historic district designated by NYC in The Bronx, BCHS Educator Justin Mashia will lead a walking tour focusing on Mott Haven's beautiful and historic churches. Learn about each church's history and congregation. Gaze upon these detailed architectural masterpieces as you walk around them and possibly get to take a peek inside. The walking tour will meet at Dunkin Donuts on the corner of East 138th St. & Alexander Ave. Take the #6 train to 3 Avenue - 138 Street Station.

Trolley Tour Series

The Bronx County Historical Society and The Woodlawn Conservancy are pleased to continue their partnership by offering summer 2019 Trolley Tours. Tours run from 12PM - 5PM and the start/finish location is the Jerome Avenue entrance of The Woodlawn Cemetery. Tours are rain or shine and ticket sales are final, so no refunds will be given. Also, lunch is not included in the sales price. There are only 30 seats on the trolley, so tickets must be purchased in advance. For more information, please call The Woodlawn Conservancy at 718-920-1469.

The Beautiful Bronx Trolley Tour

See the beautiful campus of Bronx Community College (formerly NYU), the exquisite sculptures in the Hall of Fame for Great Americans and buildings designed by world-famous architects. Following lunch at Arthur Avenue, go through landscaped Parkchester with its sculptural treasures, see St. Peter's Episcopal Church, and the naturally landscaped Pelham Bay Park, ending with a ride on Pelham and Mosholu Parkways.

.Saturdays: June 15, July 20, and August 24, 2019

Bronx Breweries Legacy Trolley Tour

Continuing the exploration of the beer brewing industry in The Bronx, this tour will take participants on The Woodlawn Conservancy Trolley to the borough's newest breweries and beer halls. The Bronx County Historical Society will lead the tour. There will be a one-hour lunch break in Little Italy (Arthur Avenue).

Saturdays: June 8, August 3, and September 7, 2019

The Bronx's Silver Screen Trolley Tour

Join The Bronx County Historical Society on The Woodlawn Conservancy Trolley on this special trolley tour highlighting the sites and sounds of the film industry in The Bronx. We will visit the famous film locations that made the borough famous along with the movie studios that helped create these films and the picture houses that debuted them. There will be a one-hour lunch break in Little Italy (Arthur Avenue).

Saturday, September 21, 2019