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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **BARTOW-PELL MANSION MUSEUM OFFERS FREE EVENTS FOR OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND**

*Bronx, NY, April 20, 2012* — Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum celebrates National Preservation Month with *Beauty in the Bronx Open House Weekend*, May 4–6. The museum is offering a wide array of free, fun-filled family activities with tours, hikes, music, and games on Saturday and Sunday, plus two evening events on Friday and Saturday.

On Friday, May 4, from 5:30–8:30 p.m., Bartow-Pell celebrates *First Friday!* with a performance by Irish folk singer and musician Mary Courtney. A native of Castlegregory in County Kerry, Ireland who now makes her home in the Bronx, Courtney will sing traditional Irish music, and play guitar and bodhrán, a traditional Irish hand-held drum. Visitors can experience the magic of the mansion at night, take a stroll in the garden, and savor light refreshments. Cost is \$8 for adults; \$5 for seniors and students; and free for members. The free Bronx Seaside Trolley makes a continuous loop from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to BPMM to City Island.

On Saturday and Sunday afternoon, visitors to Bartow-Pell can make a day of it enjoying many free events. In between activities, visitors can purchase food and dine *alfresco*. The free Bronx Seaside Trolley will again run a continuous loop from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to BPMM to the City Island Nautical Museum. Free parking is available at the Pelham Bay and Split Rock Golf Courses across from Bartow-Pell.

Saturday and Sunday offer a choice of activities — everything from mansion and garden tours to children's games:

**Mansion and Garden Tours** Free hourly guided tours of the mansion are led by docents in costume throughout the afternoon. Guests can enjoy the spring exhibition, *Dibbles and Daisy Grubbers: The Art of the Garden Tool*. From cucumber straighteners and wasp catchers to trowels and watering cans, the show offers a fascinating array of antique garden tools — both the unusual and the ordinary. Visitors can also take a guided tour of the historic formal garden.

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Children preferring toys to tours can take part in **19th-Century Toys and Games** outside. They can play old-fashioned games such as hoops, graces, and pass the slipper, and learn what fun was like before video games existed!

Nature comes alive with **Owls and Falcons and Skunks, Oh My!** — Saturday's next event. Bobby and Kathy Horvath of WINORR (Wildlife in Need of Rescue and Rehabilitation) bring a wonderful assortment of rescued owls, birds of prey, and other animals for visitors to meet first hand.

Saturday evening, adults can join in the fun at the annual **Kentucky Derby Fundraiser**. Participants can support the museum and watch the Derby in style with the backdrop of the Greek Revival mansion and its beautiful gardens. Those interested should call for details.

On Sunday, hiking enthusiasts and music lovers alike have a chance for fun. On the **Urban Park Ranger Trail Hikes**, guests will explore nature and discover the rich history of our area with a Ranger as their guide.

Music lovers (and those who want to rest their legs after hiking!) will delight in **Cracked Walnuts** — the washboard and banjo duo of Jeff and Jan Ausfahl as they perform Civil War-era classics, folk songs, and traditional jigs and reels.

The schedule of programs is as follows:

### **Saturday, May 5**

Mansion and Garden Tours	11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Bronx Seaside Trolley	11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
19th-Century Toys and Games	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Owls and Falcons and Skunks, Oh My!	1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Kentucky Derby Fundraiser	5 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

### **Sunday, May 6**

Mansion and Garden Tours	12 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Bronx Seaside Trolley	12 p.m. – 4 p.m.
19th-Century Toys and Games	12 p.m. – 2 p.m.
Urban Park Ranger Trail Hikes	12 p.m. – 2 p.m.
Cracked Walnuts	2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Registration is requested for all events. To register, call 718-885-1461 or email [info@bpmm.org](mailto:info@bpmm.org).

For directions and to learn more about the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, visit [www.bpmm.org](http://www.bpmm.org).

Bartow-Pell, an 1840s Greek Revival mansion and a National Historic Landmark, is owned by the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, operated by the Bartow-Pell Conservancy, and is a member of the Historic House Trust of New York City.



*Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum is located at 895 Shore Road, Pelham Bay Park, Bronx, New York. To reach us by public transportation, take the #6 Lexington Avenue Local subway to Pelham Bay Park station, followed by the Westchester Bee-Line #45 bus direct to the mansion gate. For driving directions, please visit [www.bpmm.org](http://www.bpmm.org). The mansion and carriage house are open to the public for guided tours on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. The gardens and grounds are open daily from 8:30 a.m. to dusk. Mansion admission is \$5 adults, \$3 seniors and students; free for children under six. Visiting the garden and grounds is free.*