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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Women in the Natural World

Bartow-Pell Winter Lecture Series Focuses on Groundbreaking Women

Bronx, NY, February 19 - Bartow-Pell's Winter Lecture Series—held on Thursday evenings in March—will focus on groundbreaking women, literally and figuratively. Three insightful women—editor and gardener Margaret Roach, award-winning author Kim Todd, and pioneering lawyer and gardener Barbara Paul Robinson—will talk about women with unique connections to the natural world.

Margaret Roach on Nonstop Plants: A Garden for 365 Days

Thursday, March 7, 7:30 p.m.

Margaret Roach's connection to the natural world is, in itself, unique. After 15 years at *Martha Stewart Living* and a decade each at *Newsday* and the *New York Times*, Margaret walked away from "success" for a quieter life lived closer to nature. Her 2011 corporate-dropout memoir, *And I Shall Have Some Peace There*, tells that story. Margaret now writes the nationally acclaimed blog "A Way to Garden" and her new book, *The Backyard Parables*, has just been released.

Margaret has worked for more than twenty years to make her garden in the Hudson Valley—Berkshires area a visual treat every day of the year. Meet the plants and the philosophy that make it happen, delivered with a dose of "horticultural how-to and woo-woo."

"Margaret Roach writes with intelligence, compassion, and most of all—sanity. Her work is a blessing." —*Eat Pray Love* author Elizabeth Gilbert

Kim Todd on Maria Sibylla Merian

Thursday, March 14, 7:30 p.m.

Award-winning author Kim Todd's book *Chrysalis: Maria Sibylla Merian and the Secrets of Metamorphosis* tells the unusual story of Maria Sibylla Merian, an artist turned naturalist known for her stunning butterfly and botanical images. Her work broke ground and barriers in many arenas. She was born just 16 years after Galileo proclaimed that the earth orbited the sun. Nevertheless, at the age of fifty she sailed from Europe to the New World on a solo scientific expedition to study insect metamorphosis—an unheard-of journey for any naturalist at that time, much less a woman.

Science and environmental writer Kim Todd is the author of three books: *Sparrow*; *Chrysalis, Maria Sibylla Merian and the Secrets of Metamorphosis*; and *Tinkering with Eden, a Natural*

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History of Exotics in America. Her work has appeared in *Orion*, *Sierra Magazine*, and *Backpacker*, among other publications, and has received the PEN/Jerard Fund Award and the Sigurd F. Olson Nature Writing Award. She teaches literary nonfiction writing at Penn State Erie, the Behrend College.

Chrysalis tells Merian's story and charts her impact from golden-age Amsterdam to the Surinam tropics to modern laboratories where Merian's insights fuel new approaches to both ecology and genetics. Join us for a fascinating talk and look at the life and artwork of this amazing woman.

Barbara Paul Robinson on Rosemary Verey

Thursday, March 21, 7:30 p.m.

Barbara Paul Robinson broke ground in the legal profession becoming the first woman partner at the law firm Debevoise & Plimpton. On sabbatical from the firm she broke ground again, this time as a gardener for the legendary Rosemary Verey at Barnsley House in Gloucestershire, England.

Rosemary Verey (1918–2001) was the last of the great English garden legends. A self-taught amateur who turned to gardening late in life, she wrote the first of 18 books at age 62. She was the acknowledged apostle of the “English style” on display at her home at Barnsley House in the Cotswolds, the “must have” adviser to the rich and famous, including Prince Charles and Elton John, and a beloved and wildly popular lecturer in America. A natural teacher, she re-introduced the English to their own gardening traditions drawing from garden history and its literature to develop a language of classical formal design embellished with her own exuberant planting style. Her influence will be felt for generations.

Robinson came to know her both personally and professionally and remained close to her for the last 20 years of her life. She credits this life-transforming experience with soon thereafter becoming the first woman President of the New York City Bar. Barbara will speak about Verey's life and her contributions to the field of landscape design and will include some behind the scenes stories of working at Barnsley. Barbara has published articles in *The New York Times*, *Horticulture*, *Fine Gardening* and *Hortus* and has written a chapter in Rosemary Verey's *The Secret Garden*. Her own gardens at Brush Hill, created with her husband Charles in northwestern Connecticut, can be viewed at www.brushhillgardens.com.

There will be a book-signing and reception after each talk. Registration requested. Cost for each lecture: \$10 adults; \$7 seniors and students; members free

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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. 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.

