Despite a glowering sky, the Moonlight Ball on May 10, 2014—the signature Bartow-Pell Conservancy centennial event—was a resounding success by all measures. The party was planned and flawlessly executed by Conservancy board member co-chairs Cynthia Brown, Lynn Byrne, and Ann Auwarter, aided by a large committee. Stuart and Sue Feld of Hirschl & Adler Galleries were the honorary co-chairs.

Several factors set this fundraiser apart from others held in the past. Two honorees, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. and Frank Emile Sanchis III, a leader in historic preservation and United States Program Director for the World Monuments Fund, helped draw a record crowd of over 360 guests. A handsome journal on the history of the International Garden Club, now known as the Bartow-Pell Conservancy, was packed with letters of recognition from politicians and congratulatory advertisements from long-standing members and businesses. Auctioneer George McNeely, Vice President for Strategic & International Affairs at the World Monuments Fund and formerly of Christie’s, took the spirited live auction organized by Ann Auwarter to new levels. A silent auction of inspired items filled the Orangerie and also broke records. Last but by no means least, corporate sponsors included Ascension Spirit, Con Edison, Houlihan Lawrence, LVMH, Meridian Risk Management, and Joan Solimine Real Estate.

The party was held in the mansion and in a large tent overlooking the newly restored garden. The tent was beautifully and creatively decorated by Lynn Byrne and Jennifer Mehtidash with hundreds of paper moon lanterns suspended from above and an undulating palette of blue and lilac on the tables. Guests had their photos taken on arrival and were given lovely moon-colored pashmina scarves donated by Barbara Rusillo. Michael Arenella and his Dreamland Orchestra provided jazz-age tunes to dine and dance by, and a wonderful time was had by all!

A heartfelt thank-you to all who made the evening possible. To see more photographs of the event, visit our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/BartowPell.
Letter from the President

I continue to be amazed by the energy and enthusiasm of our multitallented staff, board, and volunteers as they welcome diverse audiences to learn about our history, to relax and be entertained in our beautiful venue, or to see and be seen at the “party of the century” and other social events.

Our recent attendance numbers speak for themselves! Over 360 reveled at the Moonlight Ball, over 100 attended the June luncheon, and 972 enjoyed the Easter Egg Hunt. Our successful Centennial Plant Sale marked the inauguration of a new annual event. The August First Friday offered a lively reggae band in the Orangerie, and two weeks later, we heard an excellent trio performing Bach sonatas in the garden, a perfect setting for music and music lovers of all kinds!

Our growth in educational programming was also notable, with significant increases in each category. In fiscal year 2014, we had over 1,100 visitors on Group Tours, over 2,300 for school programs, over 325 Scouts, and more than 2,100 visitors during public hours. We initiated programs for children and adults with disabilities, and within five months, the number of visitors in these categories increased dramatically.

We continue to dream and make our dreams come true! On October 11, we launch Discover Bartow-Pell Day, which will introduce our neighbors in the Bronx and Westchester to the wonders of Bartow-Pell. There will be tours of the mansion, carriage house, and cemetery by costumed docents, talks at the wigwam and Treaty Oak, garden tours, children’s garden activities, children’s games and crafts, trail hikes, outside shops, food vendors, and music. Please come and bring your neighbors! We have also lined up an impressive group of speakers for our fall lecture series on Classical America and a special members’ trip to Edgewater in Barrytown, New York, on October 25.

Completing our Centennial Strategic Plan this fall will enable us to translate our dreams into priorities and plans for the future. Thanks to the financial success of the Moonlight Ball, we are creating a part-time position for a development professional to obtain increased funding from foundations, corporations, and government entities. Also, we will soon expand our use of the Neon software from tracking membership renewals to tracking and communicating with event attendees, visitors, and donors, ultimately using the data to target program offerings and communications in support of our development efforts. Our second century is certainly off to a great start!

Cherrie Greenhalgh
President, Bartow-Pell Conservancy

BUILDINGS UPDATE

Exterior Restoration
All looks promising at last for a fall start on the long overdue mansion exterior restoration. Parks Capital Projects has been trying to implement the work since 2009 but was repeatedly thwarted by bids that came in too high, did not have the correct paperwork, or did not come in at all because of concerns about the Project Labor Agreement. Last September, however, the bidding process was put under the control of the Historic House Trust of New York City and this past spring Parks Capital was able to locate additional funds of roughly $1 million (available thanks to the change in mayoral administrations). The funds have now been approved by the Office of Management and Budget and await only the final registration in the City Comptroller’s office. In the meantime, a contractor was chosen by HHT. Fifty Three Restorations is an award-winning firm of skilled craftsmen who have worked on many preservation/restoration projects, including other HHT houses, and has led the volunteer shutter workshop at BPMM for the last four years.

The work will include repointing and power-washing the masonry; repair and painting of gutters, cornice, windows in north and south wings, and balconies; repair of the roof flashing that was damaged in Hurricane Sandy; and painting of the exterior of the Orangerie.

(continued on page 4)
GARDEN UPDATE

The newly restored garden bloomed profusely through its first spring and summer, and the garden committee documented the change of color, shape, and fragrance at each step. As a garden is never static, plans are afoot for improvements: a little Lady’s Mantle here, some hollyhocks there. . . .

Also new this spring was the garden lighting installed just in time for the Moonlight Ball, thanks to generous donors who contributed $11,000 at the holiday fundraiser last December. Everyone agrees that the lighting adds a whole new dimension to the garden.

In 1915, Harper's Bazaar published a long article about the International Garden Club’s restoration of the Bartow-Pell mansion, which “will no longer be a reproach to the City of New York. . . .The house is to be devoted to the exclusive use of the club members, but the grounds are to be cultivated under the direction of the club and the garden-loving public given free access.” The article described many educational activities, including lectures given by experts on horticulture and the distribution of plants.

In the spirit of the original founders, this centennial year featured both horticultural lectures and the distribution of plants, with a highly successful plant sale that took place on May 17. The sale included more than 100 varieties of annuals, perennials, herbs, and roses inspired by the newly restored formal garden.

Alice Dean, Bartow-Pell Board Member and Chair of the Garden Committee, expertly organized the volunteers and was very pleased that the sale attracted so many customers. “We hope it becomes an annual tradition,” she says.

Although plants were not given away, a number of other garden-related activities were offered throughout the day for all visitors. Children’s Garden Manager Lauren Gill led an Edible-Gardening Workshop in the Children’s Garden; Board Member Barbara Burn was on hand to sign copies of her new book, The Little Green Book of Gardening Wisdom; and skilled gardener and artist Geri Smith gave potting demonstrations.

Photo credits: Richard Warren

THE HERB GARDEN

During the mid-19th century, when the Bartow mansion was built, American farmers and householders usually mixed vegetables, herbs, fruits, and flowers in a single garden. By the early 20th century, however, the medieval herb garden was revived by many enthusiastic horticulturalists, and in March 1939, the International Garden Club (IGC) submitted a prize-winning medieval herb garden to the 26th annual International Flower Show in New York City. The garden consisted of a “wattle wall, raised beds, a bee skep [a domed-basket hive], tinted sand, and the Herbs—sage, rue, dittany, thyme, gilly-flower, borage, lavender, chamomile, horehound, scented geraniums, peppermint, savory, hyssop, valerian, rosemary, costmary, and southern wood.”

In the 1950s, Mrs. Francis H. Ludington, president of the IGC from 1958 to 1960, and her husband donated funds to restore the Bartow herb garden, which in 1979 was named in her honor. To celebrate the centennial year at Bartow-Pell, the herb garden has been redesigned to reflect what is likely to have been present at a mid-19th century American manor house. The garden is organized in the classic arrangement of herbs according to their culinary, medicinal, and aromatic uses and is envisioned as a source of botanical information and an attractive area for repose.

Photo credits: Richard Warren
BARBARA BARTLETT HONORED

In 1925 the International Garden Club celebrated the arrival of spring with a lavish garden party, the first in what became an annual tradition that continues today with the June Luncheon. It was therefore entirely appropriate that a highlight of this year’s luncheon, held on June 5, was honoring Barbara Bartlett, unofficial BPMM historian, longtime member and advocate, with the first Zelia Hoffman Award for Outstanding Service to the Bartow-Pell Conservancy.

Zelia Hoffman was the founder of the International Garden Club in 1914 and its president from 1914 to 1921. Under her leadership the club leased the Bartow mansion from New York City for use as its headquarters and began the restoration of the house and gardens. This newly established award will be given to a non-officer of the Conservancy to honor contributions that have led to the celebration of the organization’s history and traditions, the growth of membership and resources, and the preservation of the buildings and gardens.

In presenting the award, Cherrie Greenhalgh, President of the Bartow-Pell Conservancy, said: “I know of no member who is more passionate about our history and traditions, or has devoted more hours over many years to membership, the annual Presentation fundraiser, and numerous other initiatives and events than Barbara Bartlett. She never seeks the spotlight but has always been an important contributor to our success. It seemed only fitting, in our centennial year, that we honor Barbara as the very first recipient of the Zelia Hoffman Award.”

Barbara Bartlett joined the International Garden Club, now known as the Bartow-Pell Conservancy and no longer a club, in 1987 and became actively involved while working full time in New York City’s Department of City Planning. She also held seats on the Village of Pelham Architectural Review Board and the Town of Pelham Tax Assessment Review Board, served as President of the Pelham Junior League, and helped found the Pelham Preservation and Garden Society.

In the early 1990s, Ms. Bartlett took over responsibility for the BPC membership database, tracking, reporting, and overseeing renewals. She has also co-chaired the Presentation fundraiser, an annual tradition held each November that many young women and their families and friends have enjoyed for almost fifty years. For the past four years, she dug deep into archives in order to provide the basic research for the current exhibition, Grandes Dames and Grand Plans: 100 Years of History at Bartow-Pell, excerpts of which are on the opposite page.

Above: Barbara Bartlett (left) and Cherrie Greenhalgh at the June Luncheon. Photo credit: Richard Warren

BUILDINGS UPDATE (continued)

Many thanks to Councilman Jimmy Vacca for his invaluable assistance in making the project happen.

FLOOR JOISTS Unfortunately, problems with floor settlement caused by rotting floor joists (possibly because of the delayed exterior restoration) were discovered last winter. The Parks Department has been very responsive to the issue, and the first floor has been fully shored up in the basement. More difficult to assess and repair is damage to the second floor, which is still being evaluated. Crack monitors are being installed and cost estimates prepared.

THE CARRIAGE HOUSE A number of repairs were made to the exterior of the carriage house this past spring, including additional copper leaders to improve drainage, replacement of rotten hayloft timbers, and painting of gutters, windows, and the cupola.
CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL: A BRIEF ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF BARTOW-PELL

The Bartow mansion, built about 1840 by Robert Bartow, was sold by his descendants to the City of New York in 1888. In March 1914, the International Garden Club signed a lease with the city agreeing to renovate the building in return for its use as a clubhouse and to rehabilitate the grounds of the estate and open them to the public.

The IGC engaged the architectural firm of Delano & Aldrich to design formal gardens on the grounds of the Bartow estate, which were said by experts of the day, many of them on the IGC Advisory Committee, “to be ideal for gardens, being partly level and partly sloping down to Pelham Bay.” After completing the formal garden (right), Delano & Aldrich planned a three-acre rose garden, but it was never realized as the U.S. entered World War I.

The restoration of the mansion that began in 1914 was intended to preserve the building and furnish it as a clubhouse for the IGC, but during World War II, members were inspired to change direction from horticultural education to preservation of the mansion. They collected, donated, or borrowed antique furnishings from other museums and raised money for the restoration of the principal rooms, and in 1946 reopened the first floor of mansion as a “house museum of the City of New York.”

For two months in 1936, Mayor Fiorello La Guardia, here accepting the key to the Bronx from the Borough President, chose the mansion to be his “summer city hall,” in spite of numerous problems caused by inadequate transportation, security, food service, and communications. Protesters complained that La Guardia was not the “mayor of Pelham Bay,” but he declared that he was mayor of the whole city, not just Manhattan.
GRADUATE STUDENT POP-UP EXHIBITS: PHOTOGRAPHY, FASHION, AND MORALITY

How can clothing be used to date 19th-century photography? What is the difference between a daguerreotype and an ambrotype? What can we learn about a sitter through family history research? Bree Evans, a BPMM intern and graduate student in Museum Studies at New York University, provided some answers this summer in her pop-up exhibit A Family Album: Daguerreotypes and Ambrotypes from the Dennis Family Collection. This fascinating array of early family photographs dates from the 1840s to the 1860s. Barbara and Charles Dennis gave the collection to Bartow-Pell in 2006.

A second intern exhibit is on view this fall. Accessorizing Morality explores the social significance of 19th-century women’s accessories. Bard Graduate Center MA candidate Claire McRee uses objects such as a parasol, a bonnet, and a corset busk to examine attitudes toward respectability, social class, body image, and beauty. On Wednesday, September 24, at 4 p.m., Claire will give a talk on “Paleness, Purity, Cleanliness: White Clothing in the 19th Century,” the first presentation in our new series Young Scholars Talks.

HISTORIC HOUSE TRUST’S PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Fourth-graders smell and taste organic basil from the BPMM Children’s Garden and learn about where our food comes from. Kindergarten students make rattles and handle Native American artifacts at the wigwam. And students from a local school explore 19th-century pastimes and fall into fits of giggles while playing a lively parlor game. These participants in our education programs just happen to be children with disabilities.

In 2014 Bartow-Pell has seen a large increase in program attendance by people with disabilities, and we expect the trend to continue. But how can Bartow-Pell and other Historic House Trust (HHT) sites provide a rich and rewarding experience for this audience, expand programming, and become leaders in the field?

The Jeanette and Paul Wagner Educational Program for Children with Disabilities is a recent initiative by HHT to provide “access to New York City’s historic house museums for children with physical disabilities and autism.” HHT is working “to formulate a curriculum that can be used as a model of best practices for historic house museums.” BPMM’s Education Director and Curator, Margaret Highland serves on the Wagner Special Needs Team, which is led by Wagner Program Manager Ansel Lurio.

This summer, BPMM educators attended HHT training sessions on autism, disability awareness, and teaching strategies for people with visual disabilities, providing us with useful resources to put into practice as we strengthen our educational programming and build new audiences through the Wagner program.

HOME REPAIR, LENAPE-STYLE

Long ago the local Lenape people built their houses with saplings and bark, and experts continued this historic tradition in making major repairs to the wigwam set in the woods near the entrance to the museum. Jeff Kalin, whose company, Primitive Technologies, “re-creates the material culture of prehistoric Native American life,” and his son, Griffin, used authentic methods to rebuild our aging structure.

The first step was to reconstruct the frame using flexible lengths of fresh cedar saplings that were anchored in the ground and lashed together with strips of hickory bark. Jeff and Griffin cut the wood with a reproduction stone axe and used handmade hickory mallets to set the cedar posts in the ground. The siding, made of bark from ash and tulip poplar trees, is held in place by an outer frame of cedar sapling poles.

Sustainable materials are at the center of Jeff’s work. His saplings grow continuously from root stock that dates to the 1980s, and every part of each tree is used for something—wigwam poles, tool handles, rattles, or fuel for firing pottery. Thanks to his expertise, our beautifully crafted Lenape wigwam has been able to continue its starring role in our Native American school programs.

Above: BPMM’s Local Author Spotlight with Susan Deland on her book Spectacular Bond: Reaching the Child with Autism was co-sponsored by HHT’s Wagner Program for Children with Disabilities. Photo credit: Deborah Karson

Top and center: Griffin Kalin at work. Bottom: The finished wigwam. Photo credits: Richard Warren and Margaret Highland
SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP OFFER
AND UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Centennial Lecture Series on Classical America
The second lecture series of this centennial celebration year is a rare opportunity to hear three top experts in the field of American decorative arts speak in the mansion’s magnificent ca. 1840 Greek Revival double parlors.

Carswell Rush Berlin, American Classical furniture dealer, on “Solid and Permanent Grandeur: The Roots of American Classical Furniture,” Thursday, October 2, 7:30 p.m.

Stuart P. Feld, President and Director, Hirschl & Adler Galleries, on “Making an Uncollectible Collectible: American Silver 1810–1840,” Sunday, October 12, 4:30 p.m.

Peter M. Kenny, the Ruth Bigelow Wriston Curator of American Decorative Arts and Administrator of the American Wing at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, on “Battle of the Titans: Honoré Lannuier, Duncan Phyfe, and the New York School of Cabinetmaking, 1800–1820,” Thursday, October 16, 7:30 p.m.

Centennial Member Trip to Edgewater
On Saturday, October 25, the second member trip of the year features a one-of-a-kind visit to Edgewater in Barrytown, NY. Built in 1825 on the Hudson River, Edgewater combines classical architecture with a dramatic setting to create one of the Hudson Valley’s most charming riverside homes. The private residence of Richard H. Jenrette, founder of the Classical American Homes Preservation Trust, the house is not normally open to the public. The house tour will be followed by lunch at The Tavern at the Beekman Arms in Rhinebeck. Cost $115; $95 for seniors.

A coach bus will depart BPMM at 9 a.m. and return at approximately 4 p.m. Space is limited. First priority for reservations is given to Centennial level members and up. Registration required by October 10.

NOT A MEMBER YET? Now is the perfect time to join! Our special Centennial membership, available this year only to new or Friend level members, gives you all the benefits of the $180 Heritage level membership for $100. Join now and take advantage of your Bartow-Pell Conservancy membership with this rare visit to Edgewater!

FOR NEW MEMBERS ONLY…
A special invitation to join The Bartow-Pell Conservancy at a special one-year introductory price—because membership matters.

CENTENNIAL $180 $100
Fully tax deductible
* Membership benefits the same as Heritage

FRIEND $50
Fully tax deductible
* Free individual admission to museum
* Advance notice of programs
* Discounts on select programs and shop purchases

FRIEND FAMILY $100
Fully tax deductible
* Same as Friend level, with admission free for a family of two adults and two children up to age 18

HERITAGE $180
Fully tax deductible
* Free individual admission to museum and select programs
* Discounts on select programs and shop purchases
* Two free guest passes
* Invitations to members-only events and trips
* Advance notice of programs
* Free copy and listing in annual yearbook
* Participation in annual meeting and brunch
* Voting rights at annual meeting

All contributions are deductible to the extent permitted by law.

HERITAGE FAMILY $300
Fully tax deductible
* Same as Heritage Member with admission free for a family of two adults and two children up to age 18
* Four free guest passes

BARTOW-PELL SOCIETY $500
$464 tax deductible
* Same as Heritage Family level
* Invitation to annual donors’ reception and recognition in selected printed materials

CONSERVATION CIRCLE $1,000
$900 tax-deductible
* Same as Bartow-Pell Society Member
* Use of Orangerie (certain restrictions apply)

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE $3,500
$3,150 tax-deductible
* Same as Bartow-Pell Society Member
* Use of site (certain restrictions apply)

A yearlong membership to Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum makes a great gift for any occasion.

I would like to become a member of Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum:

- [ ] CENTENNIAL $180 $100
- [ ] HERITAGE $180
- [ ] BARTOW-PELL SOCIETY $500
- [ ] FRIEND $50
- [ ] HERITAGE FAMILY $300
- [ ] CONSERVATION CIRCLE $1,000
- [ ] FRIEND FAMILY $100
- [ ] LEADERSHIP CIRCLE $3,500

Enclosed is my check for $__________ made payable to Bartow-Pell Landmark Fund or

Please bill my [ ] MasterCard [ ] Visa Card Number ____________ Exp. date ________

Name as it appears on credit card ___________________________ ___________________________

City ___________________________ State __________ Zip __________

Phone ___________________________ Email ___________________________

Name(s) for membership card(s) ___________________________

Will your company match your gift? If so, please enclose a matching gift form.
CELEBRATE

PLEASE VISIT WWW.BPMM.ORG OR CALL 718.885.1461 FOR MORE INFORMATION
Like us www.facebook.com/BartowPell; Follow us @Bartow_Pell; See us on Pinterest @BartowPell

We’ve completed the Partners in Preservation grant restoration work! The formal garden and adjacent areas, including the Pell family cemetery, have been renewed. Photos (left to right): Pell Family Cemetery; formal garden; east garden gate. Photo credits: Ellen Bruzelius and Richard Warren