CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL

In 1914 the International Garden Club was established in New York and, with permission of the city, restored the Bartow mansion to serve as its headquarters. In 2014, its successor—the Bartow-Pell Conservancy—celebrates the centennial of IGC's farsighted founders and the legacy they preserved for future generations. We are excited to honor the accomplishments of that organization, and many plans are afoot to celebrate the IGC's centennial this year.

Curatorial and Garden Programs

The BPC's curatorial committee, chaired by Nora Mazur, and the garden committee, chaired by Alice Dean, along with BPMM's Education Director and Curator Margaret Highland, have developed a wonderful series of programs that will focus not only on the IGC's horticultural mission and architectural preservation, but also on the period of American history when it was formed—the first quarter of the twentieth century.

Grandes Dames and Grand Plans: 100 Years of History at Bartow-Pell, an exhibition on the history of the IGC and its founders, curated by long-time member Barbara Bartlett, board member Barbara Burn Dolensek, and Ms. Highland, will be on view from March through mid-November. Ms. Bartlett will entertain members at a special centennial tea and exhibition talk on April 1, with a special evening lecture for the general public in the fall.

In keeping with the IGC's horticultural mission, the spring lecture series, Ambitious Design: Architecture, Preservation, and the Garden in the Early 20th Century, will feature topics relating to the IGC. Speakers will include Amy Freitag, Executive Director of New York Restoration Project and former Executive Director of the Historic House Trust (March 6); Peter Pennoyer, architect and author, together with architectural historian Anne Walker, of a book on Delano & Aldrich (March 13), and Mac Griswold, cultural landscape historian and the author of books on early twentieth-century gardens and, in 2013, The Manor: Three Centuries at a Slave Plantation on Long Island (March 18). In an effort to celebrate the fabulous flower shows held by the IGC on the grounds beginning in 1915, we will present a very special plant sale on May 17, with species selected to reflect the glory of the restored gardens. Although there will be no Derby Day celebration this year, BPMM will offer a splendid luncheon on June 5 featuring garden guru Kent Russell. Special member trips will also be offered, including a trip on April 5 to the George F. Baker houses in Manhattan designed by Delano & Aldrich and a day at Edgewater in Barrytown, New York, with lunch at the Rhinebeck Arms on October 25. And as a special treat, on Friday, April 25, members will be treated to a reading from the script of May Day! May Day! written by Dale Walkonen and featuring first International Garden Club president Zelia Hoffman and her daughter.

On September 28, BPMM will host another first—an outdoor antiques and crafts fair—along with a lecture series devoted to renowned experts on classical American architecture, fine art, and the decorative arts, including Carswell Rush Berlin, a specialist in classical American antique furniture (October 2), Stuart Feld of Hirschl & Adler (October 12), and Peter Kenny of the Metropolitan Museum of Art (October 19).

Party of the Century

No centennial celebration is complete without a grand party, and the Moonlight Ball on May 10 will surely capture the promise of the early twentieth century under the direction of the committee chairs Cynthia Brown, Ann Auwarter, and Lynn Byrne. With the new garden in bloom, illuminated by recently installed lighting, this May evening event will commemorate the IGC’s founding and support its future with dinner and dancing.

Centennial Members and Supporters

On offer for 2014 is a special one-year centennial membership for new members to encourage Bartow-Pell’s growth and outreach in the communities it serves.
Letter from the President

What an exciting time it is at the Bartow-Pell Mansion! For months we have been brainstorming and planning a vast array of centennial programs and parties to pay tribute to our distinguished and visionary founders of 100 years ago and to the leaders and volunteers who have worked so diligently throughout the past century to preserve, restore, and interpret our buildings and grounds.

We believe that this great country estate in Pelham Bay Park will continue to be a vibrant cultural site with ever-increasing opportunities to educate and engage visitors of all ages in our history, architecture, collection, and landscapes. To that end, the Bartow-Pell Conservancy board is now laying the groundwork to ensure that our beautiful buildings and gardens are protected and restored for the next one hundred years.

The board has begun work on a Centennial Strategic Plan for 2014–16 to enhance our infrastructure so that our legacy will be preserved for future generations. We are identifying major initiatives and specific steps in the areas of preservation and site enhancement, membership and community development, resource development, and education. We have begun to broaden our reach to volunteers and visitors throughout New York City and beyond. Specifically, we are strengthening our relationships with elected officials and building partnerships with a variety of organizations in the Bronx. To support our growth, we plan to implement a new software application that will enable us to track activity and increase communication with our visitors, members, and donors.

In addition to our creative, dedicated, and hard-working board, we are extremely fortunate to have a talented and tireless staff, but we also need our members and visitors to become engaged in this exciting effort. There are a number of ways in which you can help. Consider joining a committee and contributing your time and talents, or attend many of the wonderful events we have planned for 2014. Organize a table or buy a journal ad for the Moonlight Ball on May 10 and encourage your family members and friends to become Centennial Members. We would much appreciate your increasing your financial support of Bartow-Pell and naming the Bartow-Pell Landmark Fund in your will. Any and all of these activities will make a difference for our future.

I greatly look forward to seeing you at the mansion many times in the coming year!

Cherrie Greenhalgh, President
Bartow-Pell Conservancy

GOOD GRANTS

Bartow-Pell was fortunate to receive two new grants in the fall of 2013. The first of these was a general support grant from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA). These grants are exceedingly difficult to get, so this award underscores the success the Bartow-Pell Conservancy has had in becoming a vibrant cultural organization benefitting the community. The multi-year grant was for $5,000.

Thanks to the New York Preservation Archive Project, we received a $2,500 grant to hire consultant Christine Williams to organize and catalogue the International Garden Club (IGC) archives and create finding aids. The grant also paid for archival storage materials. An appropriate complement to our centennial activities, the project will be completed in early 2014.

Archivist Christine Williams holds a 1941 IGC house tour announcement supporting British War Relief in 1941.

Photo: Richard Warren
GARDEN RESTORATION UPDATE

Restoration of the ca. 1916 formal garden—thanks to our 2012 Partners in Preservation grant of $155,000—began in earnest in July 2013 with the selection of Mark K. Morrison Associates to do the construction based on plans approved by the Bartow-Pell Conservancy, the Historic House Trust of NYC, the Parks Capital Projects Department, and the Landmarks Preservation Commission. These plans included regrading the terraced lawn, adding irrigation, re-creating flower beds, remediating soil, restoring the ornate wrought-iron gates, and adding new plant material, which included three additions to the horse chestnut tree grove south of the walled garden.

Because the original Delano & Aldrich plans have never been located, the design was based on historic photographs and present-day concerns of maintenance, sustainability, climate change, and an ever-growing deer population. The work included the border garden outside the southern wall but left largely intact the 1970s Mary Ludington Herb Garden. Additional work clearing trees downed by Hurricane Sandy east of the garden led to new water views, one of the goals of the master plan completed in April 2010 by Quennell Rothschild & Partners.

Work began with the removal of overgrown, dead, and diseased trees, including four very large yews, by Almstead Tree and Shrub Care. The wood from the yews was used to create rustic fencing around the Children’s Garden and beautiful turned-wood bowls, one of which was auctioned off at the holiday fund-raiser (other bowls are for sale in the shop). Existing plant material was then removed (much of it to be replanted later), irrigation laid, flower beds reintroduced, and the soil improved. Wiring for garden lighting, which was not covered by the grant funds, was laid with the irrigation, and funds were later raised at the holiday gala to install it in time for the centennial celebration on Saturday evening, May 10. Thanks to the generosity of Mark Morrison, we were also able to regrade and irrigate the lawn panels on either side of the pebble court, which was resurfaced with a more appropriate gray stone screening.

By the third week of September, the garden beds had been planted with 22 trees, 335 shrubs, and 4,700 perennials and groundcover plants, and the lawn was transformed overnight from brown to green with new sod. Finally, in late December, the restored gates were reinstalled, the south gate once again proudly displaying the year 1916. When the weather warms up again, we will finish the last remaining portion of the grant, the restoration of the eighteenth-century Pell family cemetery. Conservation work will be done on the gravestones, and two stones that are currently in the museum will be reinstalled.

This project was supported by a grant by the American Express Partners in Preservation program, a partnership of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the American Express Foundation. Additional funds were provided by the Michael R. and Kathleen B. Linburn Foundation and the City Gardens Club of New York City. Special thanks to landscape architect and contractor Mark K. Morrison; Paul Sclafani of Bright Sun; and Ken Almstead and Dan Dalton of Almstead Tree and Shrub Care for going above and beyond to implement this challenging project. Thanks as well go to all those who helped guide the restoration: Jonathan Mellon, senior architectural conservator at the Historic House Trust; Joseph Disponzio, preservation landscape architect, and John Krawchuk, director of historic preservation, both with NYC Department of Parks & Recreation; Marianne Anderson, administrator of Pelham Bay Park, and especially the Bartow-Pell Conservancy Garden Rehabilitation Committee.

Top to Bottom: The garden ready for its new plantings; landscape architect Mark Morrison supervising the rehabilitation; the restored south garden gate; a beautiful hand-carved bowl made from one of the removed yew trees; the restored garden. Photos: Mark Morrison; Richard Warren
NEW ACQUISITIONS: FROM CURRIER & IVES TO NEOCLASSICISM

Bartow-Pell acquired several exciting new objects in 2013, including a fine Currier & Ives hand-colored lithotint and several recent gifts from Mr. and Mrs. Stuart P. Feld.

Thanks to generous donors at our holiday fund-raisers, we were able to purchase The Celebrated Mare Flora Temple, “The Queen of the Turf” from the Old Print Shop for George Bartow’s bedchamber. Published by Currier & Ives in 1860, this large-folio print depicts the record-breaking trotting mare Flora Temple, who won 86 of her 103 races until she retired at the age of 16. Harness racing was extremely popular in the nineteenth century among all social classes, and there is evidence that the eldest Bartow son had an interest in horses.

The museum was very fortunate to receive a gift of three splendid objects in 2013 from Mr. and Mrs. Stuart P. Feld: a New York drop-leaf work table in the Neoclassical style, dating to 1820–25; a New York side chair with lyre back of 1830–35; and a late Neoclassical or early Victorian American candelabrum made about 1845–50. These handsome pieces now grace several of the mansion’s period rooms. We are very grateful to the Felds for their continued generosity to Bartow-Pell.

HHT ROOF RAISERS CURATORIAL BRIGADE

On two crisp fall mornings, a team of trained volunteers and Historic House Trust (HHT) staff—equipped with nitrile gloves, soft brushes and rags, and mesh vacuuming screens—gathered at the mansion. The HHT Roof Raisers Curatorial Brigade was ready for action. They washed architectural moldings, dusted carved details on furniture, and cleaned soft furnishings with brushes and light vacuuming.

Thanks to a $25,000 grant from the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation, HHT recruited a talented volunteer pool and last summer provided training sessions in good curatorial practice by Greater Hudson Heritage Network professionals. Brigade members participate in team days and solo projects, working with staff at HHT houses upon request.

Our Bartow-Pell team day volunteers are working on a deep cleaning of the mansion interiors, and three solo projects are under way. Meghan DeVito is labeling our textile and costume collection; Jonathan Marshall’s projects include collection photography and PastPerfect database enhancements; and Izzy Kleiner, Chris Williams, and Jon Marshall are updating locations and condition for all objects in the collection.

Our thanks go out to Mandy Mackenzie and Caroline Drabik of the Historic House Trust for their hard work on this project.

Top: HHT Roof Raisers Curatorial Brigade Manager Mandy Mackenzie removes dust from finely carved furniture details; Bottom: Volunteers Jonathan Marshall and Isabel Kleiner clean architectural moldings in the downstairs sitting room. Photos: Richard Warren
SETTING THE TABLE AND GETTING IT RIGHT

Finally, clear everything off the table, and turning up the cloth all round … carry it away…. Then put on the wine, fruit, and cake…. Set for every person a small plate, a fruit knife, a nut picker. …

Miss Leslie’s Lady’s House-Book (Philadelphia, 1863)

Eliza Leslie and other nineteenth-century domestic divas help us better understand the finer points of life in a bygone era and its often long-forgotten customs. Among these is the ritual of removing the white tablecloth from the dining table for a final fruit, nut, and coffee course served on a bare polished surface.

Now, as in the Bartow family’s period, the museum’s hand-painted Staffordshire dessert service—with its fruit- and nut-filled serving dishes—makes a glittering impression on the lustrous mahogany dining table, which is set with sparkling stemware, silver candelabra, fruit knives, and a nut pick.

By the 1890s this custom had gone out of style. According to the Ladies’ Home Journal (1891): “An old time expression, ‘When the cloth was removed,’ is going into disuse, as the cloth is never removed at the present time.”

BPMM CONNECTS TO THE COMMON CORE

Bartow-Pell’s school education programs now connect to recent Common Core State Standards (CCSS), which are designed to prepare students for college and careers in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language.

BPMM educators reinforce the following key CCSS concepts:

• **Demonstrate independence.** Inquiry-based discussions encourage independent thinking about immigration, gender roles, technology, and history.

• **Build strong content knowledge.** BPMM educators expand students’ knowledge of social studies, science, and the arts through listening, discussion, and hands-on activities.

• **Comprehend as well as critique.** Students compare and question modern and historical ideas and ideals, which provides a foundation for educated, engaged, and open-minded debate.

• **Value evidence.** Educators and students evaluate primary sources—artifacts, objects, art, and documents—by using inquiry-based methods to learn across content areas.

• **Come to understand other perspectives and cultures.**

By leaving a twenty-first-century classroom and entering a nineteenth-century estate, a Native American wigwam, or an heirloom kitchen garden, students vicariously experience different worlds and new perspectives.

Last summer Fordham University graduate student Dewis Shallcross created new BPMM pre- and post-visit activity packets for teachers that link to Common Core standards. These are available on the BPMM website.

BPMM educator Linda Sacewicz leading a Native American school program at the wigwam; inset: a deer skull found on our property helps students learn about Lenape life. Photos: Richard Warren
Top to Bottom (l. to r.): Bronx 12 interviews Valentine Workshop participants; Dart Westphal talks on Bronx parks; Dianne Smith public art installation; Margaret Roach March lecture; happiness at Easter Egg hunt; Kentucky Derby fund-raiser glamour; Wildlife in Need of Rescue and Rehabilitation visit; Molly Morkowski concert on Sing for Hope piano; June luncheon fund-raiser; Dr. Eric Sanderson book signing; 1864-style baseball on Father’s Day; First Friday partnership with Bronx Music Heritage Center; BPMM Adventures; shutter restoration workshop; lunch for foreign volunteers; the mansion at night; Board Presidents Catherine Scinta and Cherrie Greenhalgh; work in the herb garden; scouts at fall clean-up day; students with Children’s Garden harvest; Sierra Club volunteers; an Urban Park Ranger hike; the 48th presentation; Holiday Family Day.

Photos: photo@domenicacomfort; Candice Choi Dietz; Michelle Kahan; Richard Warren
Contributions to Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum support the care and growth of the museum collection, development and implementation of public and school programs, and general operating support. There are many ways to help. For further information or to become a member, please call 718.885.1461.

MAKE A PLANNED GIFT
BPMM’s Legacy Can Be Your Legacy
Support the preservation of the history, buildings, collection, and grounds of BPMM by entering into a planned giving program. This can be accomplished by including BPMM in your will. By doing this you can help to ensure that future generations experience the museum’s rich collection and offerings.

ESTABLISH A NAMED ENDOWMENT
Help Secure the Future of BPMM
Named endowment funds are a meaningful way to honor a loved one, celebrate a family’s commitment to history, or recognize the contribution of a foundation or corporation. These provide crucial financial support, in perpetuity, for BPMM’s important work. Income generated by named endowments may be applied to general operations or a specific use such as school programs, care of gardens, or acquisitions.

MATCHING GIFTS
Companies often will match employee contributions to cultural organizations. If you are eligible to have your gift to BPMM matched by your company, please complete the matching gift form (provided by your employer) and send this paperwork with your donation.

VOLUNTEER AT BPMM
A wide range of volunteer opportunities is available for anyone interested in donating their time and energy to help keep the mansion and property accessible to the public. Volunteer opportunities include, but are not limited to, leading education programs, supporting public programs and special events, providing administrative assistance, and garden help (seasonal). Benefits include training and advance notice of lectures and concerts.

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

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
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 ____________________________

Name as it appears on credit card __________________________________________ Exp. date ______

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.

Back Cover Photos (l. to r.): Alexander Belisle; Maggy Bruzelius; Richard Warren
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