BPMM Front Entrance Hall featuring the new floor covering by master decorative painter Franklin Tartaglione
LETTTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I write this letter, it is summertime, the season when all of us—the members, board, and staff of the Bartow-Pell Conservancy—can look back on the past year at BPMM with a sense of accomplishment and pride.

Certainly, there has been a lot going on. We offered many lively programs, including the Fall into Fall Harvest Festival, which debuted last year, and our popular First Fridays, as well as special events, including Halloween’s Gravestones and Goth and December’s holiday parties. We have presented exhibits, lectures, concerts, the annual Easter Egg hunt, volunteer clean-up days, yoga sessions, nature hikes, fundraisers, school and group tour visits, and, last but not least, we renovated the front stoop and installed a new floor cloth in the front hall.

As we take a moment to look back with satisfaction on a year of excitement, education, and preservation, we are also looking forward to the coming year and beyond. Those of us who are committed to the Bartow-Pell Mansion strive to offer vital programming to our local communities and to maintain and preserve the buildings and grounds where we work, play, and congregate. Historic house museums need not and should not be staid, musty, or static. As Franklin Vagnone, former Executive Director of the Historic House Trust, to which BPMM belongs, and Deborah Ryan advise in their book, The Anarchist's Guide to Historic Houses, we need to move away from a paradigm in which preservation and conservation are the primary concerns and toward one in which community, communication, and experience are of equal significance, since they are what enhance and preserve such a place.

The best way to stay informed about Bartow-Pell’s many offerings is to become a member and then to sign up for and attend programs. To set foot on this New York City property, whose setting brings the past to life, is to allow oneself a welcome break from the present. It is our hope that each visitor will join us in caring about this historic house and enjoy the opportunity to visit.

Without our dedicated staff, volunteers, and board members, Bartow-Pell would not be the busy and vital place it is today, and I would like to extend my thanks to each of them.

We have lots in store for this coming year! Stay tuned and thank you for your support! ~ Cynthia Martin Brown

ZEN IN THE GARDEN

Continuing the theme of celebrating garden designs around the world, this year’s June Luncheon focused on the contemplative landscapes of Japan.

Esteemed horticulturist and Japanese garden designer Stephen Morrell explored the aesthetic characteristics and design dynamics that are at the heart of the Japanese garden and revealed their underlying spiritual foundation.

After Mr. Morrell’s presentation, lunch was served on the pebble court complete with bento boxes, sake, and a mocha dessert—a soft, pounded sticky rice cake formed around an ice cream filling.

Thanks to chairs Nancy Davis and Dana Dierson making this event so special.

Coming in September: An Early Fall Farm Stand by the Carriage House. Organic vegetables, flowers, and herbs from the Children’s Garden will be available for purchase Saturdays between 12 and 4 p.m.
Mint juleps, fancy hats, bow ties, and an old-time Dixieland band in Pelham Bay Park can mean only one thing—the annual Kentucky Derby fundraiser at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum! Held this year on May 5th, the festivities at the mansion were followed by six dinners throughout the area in Pelham, Bronxville, and City Island. Dinner hosts included Kelly Donovan and Edward Coyne, Tracey and Stephen Doka, Susie and John Kraus, Martin Nash with Anne Dowling, Elizabeth and Gavin Leckie, and Jennifer and Matthew Meyer. The event was co-chaired by Sherry Gelb and Ellen Lasch. Photographer Tom Bricker captured the excitement flawlessly. Visit Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum’s Facebook page for the complete series of photographs of the day’s events.

Immediately following the 143rd Run for the Roses, which was streamed on flat screens in the parlors, a live auction was held, with proceeds supporting many ongoing programs at the museum. The spirited auctioneer for this year’s event was Sally Preston. Auction items included a stunning 8 by 3-foot silk wall panel; a weekend stay in a Central Park pied à terre, an extreme home makeover package (which included an interior design consultation and an afternoon with a home organization specialist, as well as a handyman, an electrician, and a horticultural oil treatment). And, of course, BPMM offered its signature event, a summer cocktail party for 40 guests on the pebble court with fireworks.

The party concluded with a Best Hat competition in four categories, including “Best Gentleman’s Hat.” The competition was judged by local fashionistas, Assembly Member Amy Paulin and County Legislator Jim Maisano. New York State Senator Jeff Klein was also on hand to present BPMM with a proclamation. Thank you to the many individuals, sponsors, and auction item donors who made the event such a success!
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Like the seasons, Bartow-Pell follows a cyclical pattern and takes an estivating approach to the summer months . . . sort of. Visitors seem to linger a little longer in the garden, relax a little more completely during our First Friday events, and unwind a little more thoroughly at BPMM’s Croquet Days. For the staff, the summer affords an opportunity to refine projects and events that are slated for the coming year and to wrap up final reports on grants with deadlines in July and August.

This is not to say that plenty isn’t going on at the mansion during the summer. Music from July’s Classical Concert in the Conservatory filled the night air; BPMM Adventures Camp got under way in August; and Franklin Tartaglione and his assistants could be found on their hands and knees in the entrance hall of the mansion painting a custom-designed art work for the newly installed floor covering. We are thrilled that this project finally came to fruition—one that had been years in the making—thanks to the Curatorial Committee’s dedication to the project. The restoration of the front stoop is another capital project we can check off our “to-do” list, as is the repair of clerestory windows in the attic, which brings us one step closer to opening the third floor to visitors as an interpretative space. The raw, unfinished attic was home to several Irish immigrant women who worked for the Bartow family between the 1840s and 1880s, and BPMM is looking forward to telling this part of the mansion’s story. Stay tuned!

Although summer is traditionally the quietest season at Bartow-Pell, autumn is when the pace picks up momentum. There is harvesting to be done in the Children’s Garden, field trips to be scheduled, and details for the Fall into Fall Festival to be finalized.

This year, visitors will also be able to delve into what is was like to be female in 19th-century New York through the “Quiet Circle” exhibition installed in the gallery bays on the first floor and peppered throughout the period rooms of the mansion.

The winter will be dedicated to decorating the mansion, organizing holiday parties and Valentine’s Day celebrations, and preparing for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Special events, additional programs, and school class trips will take place almost daily during the springtime. One of these events includes our long-standing partnership with New York Cares, a not-for-profit volunteer organization, when more than a hundred participants descend annually upon the site to plant, weed, and lay wood chips along the many paths winding throughout the grounds.

We are grateful to the many cultural, environmental, and historical organizations that collaborate with BPMM annually to bring a diverse, complex, and meaningful variety of offerings to the community each year. These partnerships include the Bronx Tourism Council, the Bronx Arts Ensemble, the Bronx Chamber of Commerce, City Island Chamber of Commerce, City Island Theater Group, Friends of Pelham Bay Park, Historic House Trust, the Natural Areas Conservancy, and the Sierra Club, among others. By participating in free, city-wide cultural events, including Smithsonian Museum Day Live, OpenHouse NewYork Weekend, NY Path through History, Sing for Hope, and Make Music New York, BPMM provides abundant opportunities for visitors to approach this multifaceted historic site in different ways; layering new experiences over enduring favorites.

We hope you’ll have an opportunity to stop by the mansion soon. To find out what’s happening, please visit our social media pages, as well as our newly redesigned website at www.bpmm.org.

~ Alison McKay
YANKEE STADIUM COMMUNITY GRANT

Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum was recently awarded a grant for program supplies from the New Yankee Stadium Community Benefits Fund, whose mission is to improve the quality of life in the Bronx by addressing civic, socioeconomic and educational needs and providing social arts, health, and cultural and recreational opportunities. The new BPMM programs will include workshops on edible flowers; the use of herbs for medicinal, aromatic, and culinary use; and the canning of freshly harvested berries; all of which incorporate the economical and nutritional benefits associated with Farm to Table eating.

With the addition of 10 x 10-foot pop-up tents, folding tables, “stack-and-grow” lighting systems for seed starting, drying racks and kilns for herbs, and canning supplies for preserves, Bartow-Pell is now in a position to expand its current offerings to a wider audience, to actively engage community members, and to ensure that Bartow-Pell remains a vital component of the area’s cultural and educational resources.

The grant enabled BPMM to purchase a small tractor in order to haul equipment, compost, hay bales, and woodchips throughout the museum’s nine acres. The old borrowed tractor that we had been using was in disrepair, and it was not economically feasible to have it fixed. Three years ago, Bartow-Pell was given a new trailer for the borrowed tractor by a Sierra Club member who is part of our annual volunteer work coalition. The Sierra Club’s week-long work trip to the museum includes clearing out invasive species, thinning non-native plants, and maintaining BPMM’s hiking trails around the site, which the New York City Department of Parks has deemed a “Forever Wild” zone. Without a tractor, the trailer sat idle and made heavy-duty, labor-intensive tasks difficult. We look forward to implementing these new programs in the months to come.
STEP THIS WAY...

After years of researching, planning, and raising funds in order to replace the existing floor covering in the mansion’s front entrance hall, the project finally came to fruition this summer. The material that was placed over the floor boards in 1982 had developed cracks, split seams, and yellowing varnish. The Bartow-Pell Curatorial Committee spearheaded the replacement effort while keeping a close eye on historical accuracy, durability, and cost.

Floor cloths, commonly referred to as oilcloths during the middle of the 19th century, were a viable alternative to painting or carpeting. "Floor cloths were admirably designed to withstand rigorous hallway traffic, for on them could be wiped the mud, sand, slush, or salt that were inevitably carried in on boots and slippers. The floor cloth prevented dirt from being tracked about the house, and its water-repellent coating offered a significant advantage over wooden floorboards or woolen carpets, which once wet required considerable time to dry." (Elisabeth Donaghy Garrett: *At Home: The American Family 1750–1870*, 1989).

While researching the possibilities of floor covering manufacturers and potential artists to paint a site-specific design for the entrance hall, the curatorial team discovered the signatures of the artist and his apprentices who had created the 1982 floor covering tucked away in an inconspicuous corner of the entrance hall. One of those apprentices, Franklin Tartaglione, was sought out to create a new design for Bartow-Pell. After submitting several suggested pattern designs for review by the Curatorial Committee, Mr. Tartaglione visited the mansion to review the final design. After it was approved, a new covering had to be laid down on the floor before he could paint his design. After the 1982 linoleum was removed, a product called Marmoleum was installed in a floating fashion over the entrance hall floorboards. Much like preparing a canvas with gesso, the installer of the Marmoleum applied three coats of paint, on top of which Mr. Tartaglione stenciled and painted his design. That custom-made pattern reflects the period of the mansion with a design and color scheme featuring alternating light- and dark-hued octagons simulating marble with a Greek key border.

A tremendous debt of gratitude is owed to Nora Mazur and Leah Lenney, along with the rest of the Curatorial Committee, co–chaired by Nora and Carswell Rush Berlin, for their unwavering commitment to this project. Bartow-Pell is thankful for their tireless efforts to preserve this mansion for present and future generations to enjoy.
FRONT STOOP RESTORATION

A paddle-raise fundraiser was initiated at the 2015 Holiday Party in order to secure funding for the restoration of the mansion’s front stoop, which was in desperate need of repair.

Together with a $5,000 donation from the Paul and Klara Porzelt Foundation, BPMM secured enough capital to launch the project and quickly dive into the application process in order to obtain approval for the restoration. The first step was to get permission from the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation’s Capital Division and then to obtain permits from the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Once the scope of work—including the contractor, materials, site-impact maps, two mortar mix recipes, and special cleaning solutions—was approved, the restoration work was launched this past spring.

The resulting efforts by all involved are stunning! We hope you will soon have an opportunity to walk up the front steps of the mansion knowing that your contribution made such a dramatic and lasting impact.

Below: The mansion’s front stoop landing showing worn and cracked marble and slate (left) with new inlaid pieces (right).

BPMM TO UNVEIL NEW WEBSITE DESIGN

Bartow-Pell will soon be fully integrated across all virtual platforms! From desktop to tablet to smart phone, visitors to BPMM’s website redesign will be able to seamlessly navigate all areas of the site on any device, allowing for optimal online wayfinding. Visitors will effortlessly be able to learn about upcoming events, register for programs, renew memberships, sign up for e-news, and quickly link to our social media pages.

Please visit www.bpmm.org and let us know what you think of our new look!
In 1841 the influential educator Catharine Beecher (1800–1878) wrote that although American women of her time were confined to “the quiet circle” of domesticity, they had “a manly energy” and sometimes showed “the hearts and minds of men.” What was it like to be female in 19th-century America?

Bartow-Pell’s 2017 fall exhibition explores the diverse lives of 19th-century women and girls, from household servants to society women. A fancy dress for a costume ball, a doll’s tea set, and an engraving of women working in a hoop-skirt factory are among the artwork, clothing, domestic items, books, ephemera, and decorative arts that tell the story of female lives in the past. These objects will be on view throughout the fall in the library exhibition space as well as in the period rooms.

A highlight is a superb portrait of a young member of the Masterton family of Bronxville (owners of the Tuckahoe marble quarry). This exquisite 1834 painting of Catherine Jane Masterton by the Scottish-born artist William Hamilton (1795–1879) belongs to a private collector of Americana and has rarely been on public view.

By 1900, although many women still stayed within the domestic sphere, some had entered the professions or were advocates for social reform. And one hundred years ago, in 1917, women got the right to vote in New York State, making this a fitting time to recognize the critical era leading up to that landmark in women’s history.

Curated by Margaret Highland with the assistance of Christine Williams, Gina D’Angelo, and Barbara Burn Dolensek, The “Quiet Circle”: Women and Girls in 19th-Century America will be on view from September 1 to November 19, 2017.
The Enfilade Experience at Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum

Discovering the enfilade on the first floor of the mansion is a wonderful experience for visitors. This architectural term, which originated as a type of military formation, refers to a series or suite of rooms that align with each other on the same axis to offer an uninterrupted view through doorways, a feature that can be found in a number of Baroque palaces, mansions, and museums, such as Blenheim Castle and the Chateau of Versailles. The Bartow enfilade is a subtle feature that invites visitors to discover what rooms lie beyond the next doorway. Whereas a hallway serves as a central space that leads to other rooms, the enfilade, often enhanced with architectural detail and special lighting, creates a sense of mystery and intimacy that draws the visitor from one end of the mansion to the other.

Minard Lafever was a prominent American architect whose pattern books inspired many Greek Revival houses and churches during the mid-19th century. His 1833 book, The Modern Builders Guide, illustrates a floor plan similar to the interiors at Bartow-Pell, including an enfilade that traverses the first floor, and his name is often invoked in connection with Bartow-Pell, although there is no evidence that he was actually the architect.

~ Karen Hansen Lambdin

Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum’s enfilade; looking north from the first-floor sitting room, through the entrance hall, into the dining room

Open House New York weekend is a five borough-wide event that celebrates architecture and design. This year, Open House New York takes place throughout New York City October 14 and 15, and Bartow-Pell is proud to participate again in this annual event. BPMM will be giving free tours of the mansion that weekend.
WE LOVE FAN MAIL!

Letters from students

As summer winds down, and another school year gets under way, BPMM would like to take this opportunity to share some of the wonderful letters and comments we received from students who participated in BPMM’s on-site elementary school programs. This past school year, Bartow-Pell hosted more than 3,500 students who took part in one of four school field trip offerings; Family Life in the 19th Century, Lenape People of the Bronx, 19th Century Toys & Games, and Children’s Gardening at the Mansion.

While it’s always fun to receive letters from students who have enjoyed their visit, their comments are often insightful and help us refine our teaching methods and program content. One of the goals of BPMM’s school programs is to support the scope and subject sequence that students are taught in the classroom while creating a unique place-based learning experience. Through touch-tours, open-ended inquiry challenges, craft projects, and interactive games, these curriculum-rich sessions build critical thinking and evidential reasoning skills that benefit students across disciplines. BPMM aligns its programs and tailors the sessions to meet the needs of the students for grade-appropriate learning.

“Thank you for showing us the museum.

I learned that without TV and iPads they still had fun!

...and the toy we made was special to me.”

- Leilan Y. grade 3

IMPACT SPOTLIGHT

Linda Sacewicz

**BPMM Volunteer Educator**

Linda Sacewicz first came to the Bartow-Pell Mansion in the summer of 2004, when she attended the 350th anniversary celebration of the signing of the Pell treaty for which the wigwam was first built. Pat Ernest then held the new title of educational director and ran a series of summer workshops, which included quilling, counted cross stitch, and basket making. Linda was recently retired and looking for something to do. She had lived in the Pelham Bay area all her life but had never visited the mansion, which, as she puts it, always seemed “uninviting, with the long driveway with no end in sight.”

She loved her first experience here and became a member that year. When she came for a members’ tea, Pat took her on a tour and asked if she would be interested in helping start a new Native American program for schoolchildren. Linda eagerly agreed. “Besides learning a lot from Pat, I did a great deal of my own research, attending workshops and lectures, speaking to Lenape experts, researching in libraries, and visiting reservations. I am still learning and adding items to the collection.”

When Pat Ernest left in 2006, Linda made an outline of the Native American program for the new director, hoping that it would continue, as it is a unique educational program and the children enjoy being outdoors taking on the role of Native Americans. Although she was involved with the program from its beginning, Linda credits Pat for the original idea, but she has kept it going for the past decade, making suitable changes along the way.

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Lenape People of the Bronx

BPMM’s authentically fabricated Northeast Woodlands wigwam serves as the backdrop for the interactive elementary school program on Lenape culture and lifestyle. It is where history meets social anthropology, earth science, and biodiversity, together with environmental stewardship.

In this outdoor classroom space, children sit on stumps from felled trees and learn about shelter, clothing, food, language, and customs. They also handle artifacts from the museum’s teaching collection, search for animal tracks, and make a Native American craft.
TIME • TALENT • COMMITMENT

As the adage goes, “many hands make light work,” and if it were not for the tireless efforts of the hundreds of volunteers who give of their time, talent, and energy throughout the year, Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum would be hard pressed to achieve its mission.

There are several volunteer days in which Bartow-Pell participates annually at the organizational level, including New York Cares Spring Clean-Up Day and Con Edison Community Partnership events, but there are other less publicized volunteer opportunities in which individuals may become involved. The Manresa Scholars of Fordham University regularly come to help maintain the grounds, and the Roof Raisers Curatorial Brigade, managed by Historic House Trust, often visits the mansion to give special attention to its collection. Other opportunities include joining committees for special events and activities, providing docent-led tours, researching for future exhibitions, snapping publicity photographs at events, or lending a hand in the vegetable garden.

Volunteers make an indelible impact on the museum through their efforts. To learn more about how to get involved, please give call, send an email, stop by the mansion, or visit www.bpmm.org.

Above: Ida Lo and Cherrie Greenhalgh setting up the BPMM Gift Shop. Below (left to right): New York Cares Day volunteer, HHT Roof Raiser cleaning the collections, and Sing for Hope piano delivery volunteers.
Although some might think that being on a garden committee was a seasonal commitment, this is definitely not the case with the Bartow-Pell Garden Committee. Its dedicated members can be found at the mansion year-round, working to maintain the splendor of the garden and grounds. This past year, under the direction of chair Alice Dean, the committee’s efforts focused on the beds outside the north wall of the formal garden, where Native American species were planted. Over the winter months, the committee hunker down in the conservatory studying books and catalogues in search of varieties to offer at the annual Plant Sale; they also strategize about staffing and timing the deliveries and research recipes that incorporate herbs from the Mary Ludington Herb Garden for a special cocktail to be featured at the fall Cocktail Party each year.

Future projects that the committee will undertake include planting beds at the front gate, installing way finding signage, developing a garden tour and tea program, and sprucing up the service entrance area. Although this is very much a working committee, it takes a playful approach with their Wednesday Wine and Weed meetings.

The committee’s hard-working efforts are realized every day when visitors stroll through the gardens to admire the beds, urns, and plantings throughout the site, or when private wedding photography sessions are scheduled, as these are an integral part of what makes Bartow-Pell such a magical place.

Bartow-Pell is honored that these couples chose the site as part of their special day. All images can be found on Instagram: #bartowpell
Top to bottom (left to right): Paula Canning and Dana Thayer; Sydney Thayer, Patricia Wakeham, and Jeffrey Marcks; Dad and baby Louisa with members of the New York Mutuals at our Bats! Brats! Beer! Father’s Day event; Susan and John Kraus and Tracey and Stephen Doka at the Holiday Party; attendees at the Harvest Festival; Curatorial Committee observing the floor cloth artist at work; pysanky crafting; attendees at an exhibition reception; Easter Egg Hunt attendee; Patrick Falci as General A.P. Hill; Franklin Tartaglione, Cynthia Brown, and Carswell Rush Berlin discussing the entrance hall floor
Top to bottom (left to right): Cynthia Brown and Easter egg hunter; New York Cares volunteers; a raffle winner at the Fall Festival; a crafter at work; Barbara Burn Dolensek and Deborah Wye during the Bartow to Bartow Walk; author Sergey Kadinsky; Lisa Hill-Ries and friends at the Holiday Luncheon; Nancy Davis and Dana Diersen at the June Luncheon; attendees at July’s First Friday; David Jeffries and Suzanne Grimes at Derby Day; garden clean-up volunteer with Martin Nash.
FOUR WAYS TO JOIN!

Whether you have an affinity for historic preservation, the arts, or environmental stewardship, we would like to welcome you to become a member of Bartow-Pell Conservancy and hope that you take advantage of all that the museum has to offer.

Membership entitles you to free or reduced admission to events, programs, and exhibits, advanced copies of BPMM newsletters and, perhaps most importantly, the knowledge that you are supporting a unique landmark-designated site that provides a unique link to New York City history for current and future generations to enjoy.

Become a member today

and join the efforts to preserve the past, and build for the future.

Membership enrollment is easy: join online, in person, by check, or credit card.

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**Friend** $50 (100% tax deductible)
- Free unlimited individual museum admission
- Advance program and event notice
- Subscription to BPMM’s newsletter
- Discounts on select programs and events

**Friend Family/Dual** $100 (100% tax deductible)
- Same as Friend level plus...
- Free unlimited museum admission for your immediate family

**Heritage** $180 (100% tax deductible)
- Same as Friend level plus...
- Two tickets to BPMM’s Fall Cocktail Party
- Listing in annual Bartow-Pell Conservancy yearbook
- Participation in the BPC annual meeting and brunch
- BPMM tote bag

**Heritage Family/Dual** $300 (100% tax deductible)
- Same as Heritage level plus...
- Four tickets to one of the following events:
  - Holiday Family ● Egg Hunt ● Bat! Brats! Beer! ● Fall Festival

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**Bartow-Pell Society** $500 ($464 tax deductible)
- Same as Heritage Family level plus...
- Tickets to BPMM Donor Dinner in the Parlors
- Recognition in select printed materials

**Conservation Society** $1,000 ($900 tax deductible)
- Same as Bartow-Pell Society plus...
- Behind the Velvet Ropes private tour of the mansion and gardens for the designated member and up to six guests followed by refreshments in the Conservatory (prior appointment required)

**Leadership Circle** $2,500 ($2,150 tax deductible)
- Same as Conservation Society plus...
- Heritage membership to give as a gift
- Host one private catered event in the Conservatory for up to 30 people (host covers catering cost)

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*Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum is a 501 (c) non-profit organization that offers programs, exhibitions, and special events that speak to contemporary life, connect the past to the present, and cultivate appreciation for the area’s historical, natural, and cultural resources.*