Dear Members and Friends of Bartow-Pell,

It is with enormous pride that we publish this new edition of the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum Newsletter. This issue is jam-packed with information about the programs and endeavors that are underway on all fronts and about our colleagues whose efforts and dedication are making them happen.

The Bartow-Pell Conservancy, whose mission is to preserve, restore, and interpret the site, is so fortunate to have the wisdom and experience of long-time members as well as the contributions of the many individuals who have joined our ranks in more recent years. We hope that learning about our garden revitalization, our new furnishings plan, or our preservation plans for the interior of the mansion will encourage you to contact us to find out more or become a member. The Bartow-Pell Conservancy is a singular opportunity for volunteering because of the unique range and depth of interest areas that are represented.

In 2014, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the International Garden Club, the group originally responsible for preserving the mansion. The Conservancy’s board has already begun to discuss how to address this significant event. Stay tuned for updates.

Come visit, stroll through the grounds, or participate in our diverse selection of programming. We look forward to seeing you!

With much appreciation for your on-going support of the beauty and spirit that is Bartow-Pell,

Marion Cooke
President, Bartow-Pell Conservancy

How our gardens grow! For the past three years, we have re-envisioned our grounds, and it shows—with vistas opened, stonework and brickwork restored, and the gardens around the mansion rethought and replanted to beautiful effect.

Nineteenth-century design concepts of simple plantings in front of the mansion pay tribute to the Bartow family who built it. To highlight the austerity and symmetry of the front façade, the pachysandra beds were squared off, the pyracanthus pruned, random azaleas and hostas removed, and boxwoods added. Signature hollies with unusual yellow berries continue to frame the front entrance.

The formal walled garden behind the house reflects the International Garden Club’s design created by William Adams Delano in 1916. This vision of flower beds in a symmetrical, formal style mirrors the house’s clean lines. The L-shaped beds around the pool were cleared and edged with 200 dwarf boxwoods. They feature recently planted tulips for spring and a profusion of annuals for summer. The perimeter has been renewed, with ivy, shrubs, and hosta removed, trees pruned, and the hollies shaped. Also refreshed is the fountain pool, cleared of invasive growth and replanted with water lilies and papyrus, with partial funding from the City Garden Clubs of NYC.

The Mary Ludington Herb Garden set outside the garden’s southern wall, is transformed with reset vintage brickwork, new soil, and an intermixing of new and old herbs labeled by type—culinary, medicinal, and aromatic.

Decorative topiary, restored garden views, and attractive plantings now enhance the pebble court and its surrounds. Many challenges existed here: an overgrown hedge, a motley collection of arborvitae and other plants, poor soil, and concrete remains of an old dog pen. We removed the taxus hedge, opening the views beyond. Ornamental topiary and deep red azaleas now grace the area below the central porch. Bright pink knock-out roses bloom outside the Orangerie, and white azaleas, ferns, and hosta fill in the perimeter of the service wing. Complementing all this is seasonal cuttings in a new urn in the porch niche. (continued on page 4)
Both a New York City and a National Landmark, Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum is owned by City of New York Parks & Recreation, operated by the Bartow-Pell Conservancy, and is a member of the Historic House Trust of New York City.

The site is home to one of the most beautifully situated historic houses in the city. The museum welcomes thousands of visitors each year for guided and group tours, education programs, garden strolls, trail hikes, and a variety of special events.

The museum is open to the public Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday 12–4 p.m. for guided tours.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ELLEN BRUZELIUS

Much has transpired at Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum in this second decade of the 21st century. This issue of our newly redesigned newsletter, edited by BPC Board members Catherine Campbell Scinta and Margaret Highland, will give you a taste of our many offerings and activities. We hope that what you read piques your interest and inspires you to attend a program, visit the mansion for a tour with a docent, or simply revel in the glory of the gardens now that summer is (almost) here.

Summer, in fact, brings one of our newest programs. At the end of June and again in August, we will once again offer BPMM Adventures: Summer Sessions, a week-long daily program for children 7–11 focusing on history and the environment. This unique experience for both younger children who attend and volunteer teens who help run it was developed and implemented in 2010 by three Girl Scouts working toward their Gold Star awards.

Recent programs for adults have ranged from Local Author Spotlight, launched in February with Fen Montaigne speaking about his book Fraser’s Penguins: A Journey to the Future in Antarctica, to craft workshops on paper quilling and tussie-mussie making. Our ever-popular owl events feature the always enlightening and entertaining Dr. Robert DeCandido calling owls on the grounds, and owls close enough to touch brought on site by Bobby and Kathy Horvath of WINORR (Wildlife in Need of Rescue and Rehabilitation), who recount the sagas of these remarkable rescued birds of prey.

As you’ll read in more detail, gardens have been very much on our minds, and we’ve made many improvements to ours. Programs and partnerships focused on the garden have included three summers of volunteer garden stonework restoration workshops organized together with Adventures in Preservation; three composting workshops with the NYC Compost Project; a kitchen garden along the carriage house driveway planned, planted, and harvested by seniors at Morningside Nursing Home on Pelham Parkway; and a week-long Sierra Club work/service vacation at BPMM clearing invasive species. Of course, we continually work together with our partners at the NYC Parks & Recreation department on our grounds. Thanks to their efforts, we now have a wonderful wildflower garden and reclaimed water views.

In 2011, overall visitation to BPMM surpassed 11,000. Much of this is due to our outreach efforts, which include participation in local street fairs, Parks department events, college internship fairs, and the like.

But there is much more to do! Happily, we have plans in place to guide us and more in formation. We have recently completed a furnishings plan, a marketing plan, and a master plan. We welcome your involvement and urge you to give as generously as you can to help us continue to preserve this wonderful historic house museum, its collection, and landscape.

From top to bottom
* Samantha Scinta leads an activity during BPMM Adventures
* Volunteers construct a compost bin during a workshops with NYC Compost Project
* Participants get up close to a falcon during a WINORR program
* Amanda Kraemer teaches the art of bending and curling paper during a quilling workshop
BUILDING UPDATE

By Bill Rainford, BPC Co-Chair, Buildings and Grounds Committee

This spring, visitors and members of Bartow-Pell alike enjoyed the unique environment at the museum that has been preserved by the wisdom of the Parks department, the Historic House Trust, and the Bartow-Pell Conservancy (successor to the property’s original custodian, the International Garden Club).

Partnership in Reinterpreting the Museum and Its Grounds
Recently, the museum’s guardians came together to devise comprehensive strategies to revitalize the house and property, giving birth to a cultural landscape report and a feasible master plan that reinterprets the property in a period-authentic manner. The Board and its friends are the ultimate driving force behind the effort to realize this global overhaul, which, although ambitious, serves as a compass to guide and focus future collaboration with resulting benefits for both the building and the gardens at Bartow-Pell. As with all works, the master plan awaits capitalization before implementation.

Museum Exterior Restoration
The mansion has long been in queue for a major exterior restoration now on the brink of execution by the City. General waterproofing, restoration of integrated gutters, façade pointing, cornice and trim repair, and basement window replacement will reverse and stay the ravages of time. This far-reaching renovation scope will not, however, address the deterioration of the iron balconies and railings or the Orangerie’s exterior colonnade relief. Once the proposed exterior work is completed, we will address these other pressing exterior issues and the building’s interior needs.

Public Restroom Renovation
Concurrently we are challenged by the rotting floor deck in the cloak room which also serves as our only public restroom. Since this space is not landmarked we are afforded some latitude and are investigating the feasibility of adding a second toilet. The lack of adequate public facilities has long been a challenge at the mansion. To remedy this would greatly improve BPMM’s financial viability by better serving revenue-producing functions. We hope to link the necessary repairs with the expansion of the restroom complex and we are working to build corporate and individual support for it. Our HHT and Parks department partners are always receptive when we bring money as well as ideas to the table.

Shutter Restoration Workshop
Building on our success with the volunteer garden stonework restoration workshops, we are developing a week-long shutter restoration program, scheduled for August 1–5. Volunteers will learn preservation-related skills from professionals, including how to catalog components, remove lead paint, repair wood rot, and reinstall the restored shutters. In surveying the house, our experts have identified twelve shutter sets in need of attention. Our program projects that an individual could complete one-half set over the week-long course, thus requiring two participants per window. We have early sign-ups and at a minimum will complete the Double Parlor shutters, which are in the poorest condition, with hope that the Launnier Chamber shutters will also be repaired.

Support the “Shutter Shop on Shore Road”
Please help us make this preservation program feasible with a special donation. Call 718.885.1461 or email info@bpmm.org.

Photo: Richard Warren

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Photo: Richard Warren
The influential ébéniste Charles-Honoré Lannuier (1779–1819) made this magnificent labeled bedstead—with its rare original crown—for Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Bell of New York sometime after their marriage in 1810. The tangerine-hued silk hangings with violet trim, which are surprising to modern eyes, were made by conservators at the Metropolitan Museum of Art following period designs by Pierre de la Mésangère. Bell descendents gave the bed to Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum.

Robert Bartow built his country seat around 1840, about a generation after Lannuier’s death. Although the bed pre-dates the house, its elegant Classicism complements the mansion’s fine Greek Revival interiors. Sadly, none of the Bartows’ original furnishings remain, but a valuable and beautiful piece of New York furniture such as this could have been a cherished part of their inheritance. The bedstead enhances the many Classical furnishings at BPMM that were chosen in the 1940s by a group of curatorial advisors from major New York City museums and have since been on long-term loan to the house. This important and dramatic bed, with its impeccable provenance, was featured in the Lannuier exhibition at the Met in 1998. Today, it adds a large dash of glamour to the museum.

GARDENS AND GROUNDS RETROSPECTIVE
(continued from page 1)

A unique restoration project affecting the garden, but not involving a single plant, was the three-summer stone workshop. Volunteers traveled from as far as France each August to learn from experts the skill of galleting, the technique of building stonework without mortar using small stones called gallets. While our vacationing volunteers worked hard, Bartow-Pell reaped the benefit with beautifully restored stone steps and pathways throughout the garden.

Restoration of native plants is also important to us, and the Parks department has created a garden of native meadow and woodland plants to the north of the formal garden. To enjoy this area, follow the serpentine path from the carriage house, ending at the north gate of the formal garden. Bright red cardinal flowers, goldenrod, and many different hues of asters emerge throughout the seasons. During the early morning and at dusk, hundreds of birds chirp and sing.

Many have volunteered their time to improve our grounds. With the manpower of hundreds on BPMM Clean-Up Days, sponsored by Con Edison each spring and fall, and the expert direction and equipment of the Parks department, we have newly opened vistas to the water and grounds, having reclaimed these areas from the porcelain berry vine invasion. Sierra Club service vacationers and Parks employees hacked vines, shrubs, and weeds for 5 days, clearing the view to the carriage house and providing a more interesting interpretation of the grounds.

We hope that you will visit, explore, and enjoy our beautiful gardens and parkland. Hike the trails, delight in the summer flowers, listen to the sounds of nature, discover new views of the Sound, or even don a pair of gardening gloves.
FURNISHINGS PLAN OVERVIEW
The Bartow Mansion in the 1850s

Thanks to help from the Historic House Trust and others, BPMM received funding for a historic furnishings plan in 2009. Jacquetta M. Haley, who wrote the 448-page document, holds a Ph.D. in American history from SUNY-Binghamton and has worked at Historic Hudson Valley. Ms. Haley, who came highly recommended, has completed furnishings plans for Lyndhurst, the Mark Twain House, the Conference House on Staten Island, the Owens-Thomas House in Savannah, and other historic homes. Our report includes a comprehensive record of primary source documents, floor plans, illustrations, and a room-by-room interpretation of how the mansion would have appeared during the 1850 to 1855 period. With this invaluable guide, we are now implementing feasible parts of the plan.

In 1850, the household bustled with children and servants. Robert and Maria Lorillard Bartow presided at the mansion, living there with their oldest son George Lorillard Bartow, 22, and their five youngest children—two girls and three boys, ages four to twelve. Only three adult family members lived at the mansion during this time, and it is likely that George would have occupied one of the better bedrooms. Thus, we have transformed the former Boys’ Room into his room. A bachelor and a man of leisure, George was possibly an avid fan of horse racing like his Lorillard cousins, who owned thoroughbreds. His juvenile siblings probably occupied the nursery wing, which has not been restored and is closed to the public today.

Our magnificent Greek Revival double parlors, which open to the pebble court, are now interpreted as symmetrical spaces as originally intended. These formal rooms would have been used for special occasions and grand entertaining. The magnificent period dining table that previously dominated the north parlor has been moved to the dining room, and the revival table it replaces—with several leaves removed—now graces the entry with a display of fresh cuttings from the gardens.

Fortunately, the plan uses most of our present furnishings due to good decisions in the past. However, implementation funds are needed for projects such as new draperies in the double parlors, reupholstering furniture, and replacing the badly worn floor cloth in the front hall.

Historical Tidbits
Two Bartow daughters married Episcopal priests. Catharine Ann Bartow (1830–1907) married her cousin Rev. Henry Erskine Duncan, at St. Paul’s Church, Eastchester, where he was Rector. Her sister Clarina (1838–1898) was the wife of Rev. James Hervey Morgan. Finally, their younger sister Henrietta (1843–1902) wed William Henry Jackson, whose father was Rector of St. Peter's Church, Westchester Square, where the Bartows are buried.

- Margaret Highland

LOOK WHAT’S HAPPENING AT BPMM

From left to right
Amanda Kraemer demonstrates Lenape Indian food preparation methods • Volunteers learn the art of galleting; fitting smaller stones in between larger stone blocks • Participants take a break from holiday craft-making to strike a pose with Santa during our Holiday Family Day • Volunteers roll up their sleeves to help keep our grounds and gardens beautiful during a clean-up day • Musicians captivate visitors during a First Friday! performance

SUMMER 2011
THE BOLTONS OF PELHAM PRIORY EXHIBIT WINS MUSEUMWISE AWARD OF MERIT

BY MARGARET HIGHLAND, CURATOR

Our fall 2010 exhibition *The Boltons of Pelham Priory: A Cultural Legacy from England to America* is one of six winners of an Award of Merit from Museumwise (www.museumwise.org), a statewide membership organization for New York museums. Other honorees include the Whitney Museum of American Art, the New-York Historical Society, and Lyndhurst. The presentation ceremony took place on April 3 in Buffalo during the Museums in Conversation Conference at the Burchfield Penney Art Center.

*The Boltons of Pelham Priory* celebrated the achievements of the Reverend Robert (1788–1857) and Anne Jay (1793–1859) Bolton and their thirteen children, a vibrant Anglo-American family who were neighbors and contemporaries of the Bartows. The Boltons’ life on two continents emphasized religious, intellectual, and artistic pursuits in a warm and lively family setting. The children were all accomplished artists, writers, ministers, and educators. One son, William Jay Bolton (1816–1884), was an important stained glass artist who designed the first known figural stained glass window in America, and the innovative Pelham Priory, designed by Rev. Bolton and his sons, was at the vanguard of Gothic Revival architecture in this country.

The first exhibition to study their impressive legacy, *The Boltons of Pelham Priory* featured rare works of art and historical memorabilia, some never before on view to the public. A highlight was the display of six significant and previously unexhibited watercolors of the Pelham Priory by the 19th-century American artist William Rickarby Miller (1818–1893), which we discovered and borrowed from a private collection in Philadelphia. In addition, our study of the Boltons led us to reunite an English chair made in 1639 and owned by the family (now belonging to the National Park Service) and a companion chair made by a Bolton son in 1870.

The Boltons of Pelham Priory was an irresistible subject for more research and a long-overdue exhibition, a collaborative adventure that hopefully will inspire further study in the years to come. Congratulations to all!

Our sincere thanks to the exhibition lenders and supporters.

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**Historical Tidbits**

At one time, many grand estates graced the area around Pelham Bay. After their lives as private homes, several were leased to charitable institutions. For example, the Bartow mansion became a hospital for crippled Children, and the Hunter mansion housed the Little Mother’s House for Young Girls. Others were used as inns, roadhouses, or restaurants; during Prohibition, they became probable speakeasies. These now-lost houses have observable ruins that can literally be tripped over on a walk.

**“A lovely day followed by a most informative tour. I just love the history and the care you all take in keeping it alive.”**

- A Bronx Resident

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BARTOW-PELL MANSION MUSEUM

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

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 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. It provides 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 the school programs, care of gardens, or acquisitions.

MATCHING GIFTS
Companies often will match employee’s 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 gift.

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, discounts on museum store purchases, and advance notice of lectures and concerts.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!
Become a member today and join an ever-widening circle of friends who are helping to keep this historic site vibrant for generations to come. Your membership helps support the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum’s ongoing operations and programs. Members at all levels enjoy free museum admission as well as member discounts on programs and purchases from the gift shop.

FRIEND $40
Fully tax-deductible
* Free individual admission
* Advance program notice
* Discounts on programs and shop purchases

FRIEND FAMILY $100
Fully tax-deductible
* Same as Friend level plus
* Admission free for a family of two adults and two children up to age 21

HERITAGE $180
Fully tax-deductible
* Same as Friend level plus
* Two free guest passes
* Invitations to members only events and trips
* Free copy and listing in annual yearbook
* Participation in annual meeting and luncheon
* Voting rights at annual meeting

HERITAGE FAMILY $300 Fully tax-deductible
* Same as Heritage level except
* Admission free for a family of two adults and two children up to age 21
* Four free guest passes

BARTOW-PELL SOCIETY $500 $450 tax-deductible
* Same as Heritage Family level plus
* Invitation to donors’ reception and recognition in selected print materials

CONSERVATION SOCIETY $1,000 $750 tax-deductible
* Same as Bartow-Pell Society
* Use of Orangerie (certain restrictions apply)

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE $3,500 $2,000 tax-deductible
* Same as Bartow-Pell Society level
* 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:

☐ FRIEND $40  ☐ HERITAGE $180
☐ FRIEND FAMILY $100  ☐ HERITAGE FAMILY $300
☒ BARTOW-PELL SOCIETY $500  ☐ CONSERVATION SOCIETY $1,000
☐ 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 MM/DD/YYYY

Name as it appears on credit card ____________________________

Credit card billing address ________________________________

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.