



PANYC NEWSLETTER

Professional Archaeologists of New York City Newsletter No. 84

January 1998

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NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING: 21 January 1998

Room 1127 Graduate Center, C.U.N.Y.

Executive Board: 6:10 P.M.

General Membership: 6:30 P.M.

Minutes of the PANYC General Membership Meeting: 12 November 1997

President Harris called the meeting to order at 6:40 P.M. The following committees will report to the General Membership: Archives, Events, Exhibits, Landmarks, Membership, Metropolitan Chapter of the NYSAA, Newsletter, Nominations, PANYC/NYAC Urban Standards and Stone Street, Public Program, Repository, Research and Planning, Website.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The minutes of the last General Membership meeting were accepted with the following corrections: Under PRESIDENT's REPORT: Add "Wall" to the PANYC/NYAC Urban Standards and Stone Street Committee. Under EXHIBIT: add "be" to second sentence after "will." Under MEMBERSHIP: change "a" to "as" in second sentence. Under PUBLIC PROGRAM: add Dallal and Harris to committee. Under NEW BUSINESS: end of 2nd sentence, add "and to cover post conference expenses."

TREASURER'S REPORT: Stone reported \$1280.47 in the PANYC treasury.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President Harris noted that the PANYC secretary will be leaving and a replacement is needed. Yamin volunteered to cover the next meeting.

Harris reported that the PANYC Symposium "Changing Career Paths and Training of Professional Archaeologists" was well attended and very well received.

Harris stated that she would discuss PANYC activities regarding Stone St. during the newly formed Stone St. committee report. NYAC has sent a letter and an accompanying resolution to Landmarks supporting PANYC's efforts on Stone Street. NYAC is holding a meeting in Albany on 24 January 1998 and PANYC members are urged to attend. NYAC encourages interested PANYC members to run for the positions of Vice President, Recording Secretary or Board of Director in the upcoming NYAC election. Harris noted that the NYC area is not well represented in NYAC and a PANYC member on the NYAC board would be beneficial to PANYC and to the resources in our area. Submissions to the NYAC Newsletter are welcome.

ARCHIVES: Geismar reported that the PANYC archive has been moved from her home to the South Street Seaport Museum where it will under the care of the Seaport Librarian, Norman Brower. Brower will be added to the PANYC Newsletter mailing list.

EVENTS: Stone noted that the events calendar can be found in the Newsletter and includes the information on the NYAC meeting in January.

EXHIBIT: Materials from the PANYC exhibit, including the video, have been archived at the South Street Seaport Museum.

LANDMARKS: Geismar has excused herself from chairing this committee.

MEMBERSHIP: An application for membership and resume from Donald Thieme was received. This information was reviewed and accepted by the General Membership. Thieme was welcomed as the newest member of PANYC.

METROPOLITAN CHAPTER OF THE NYSAA: New officers have been installed. The next meeting will be on 13 January, 1998 and the speaker will be Richard Schaeffer who is an expert on ceramics.

NEWSLETTER: It has been determined that Fitts will bring to the meetings enough copies of the Newsletter to provide those in attendance with a copy. He will provide Yamin with the master copy and the remaining mailing labels and she will send the Newsletter to those members not in attendance.

NOMINATIONS: A committee was formed consisting of Harris, Dallal, Stone and Ricciardi to work on the nominations for the 1998-99 executive board.

PANYC/NYAC URBAN STANDARDS AND STONE STREET: Harris reported that monitoring of Con Edison excavations at Stone Street is being undertaken by Landmarks staff members Bankoff and Sutphin and Bankoff's students. Stone Street committee members Geismar and Rothschild toured the excavation site and reported that the current excavations are limited to disturbed areas.

Harris requested, under the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the Monitoring Plan and Scope of Work for the Stone Street activities from the NYSHPO. The information she received in response to her request includes Section 106 comments. This information will be archived and available to PANYC members in the South Street Seaport Museum but will not be included in the PANYC Newsletter. Harris reported that the National Register Nomination for the Stone Street Historic District does not include archaeological resources. Louise Basa (PANYC and NYAC) has offered to obtain a copy of the nomination for PANYC. Basa has also offered to assist PANYC in drafting an addendum to the nomination that will address the archaeological component of the district. Harris suggested that a committee could be formed to review other NYC historic district nominations with a view towards creating addenda to address archaeological concerns. The addition of archaeology to the nominations will raise associated archaeological issues to a higher level of review.

PUBLIC PROGRAM: Yamin reported that planning for the 19 April 1998 event is moving along wonderfully. It was decided that the theme of the event, celebrating the centennial of the consolidation of the 5 boroughs, will also include an element of heritage tourism, as suggested by Pagano at the last PANYC meeting. Archaeological sites in each borough will be discussed and a guide for archaeological tours of each borough will be produced as handouts. The guide will take

into consideration security of the resources as well as public transportation access. Preliminary speakers include Geismar and Fitts on Brooklyn, Wall on Manhattan, Howson and Stone on Queens, Pickman and Yamin on Staten Island and possibly Boesch on the Bronx. The title of the program is "Seeing the Sites: Archaeology of the Five Boroughs." A publication may result from this endeavor.

REPOSITORY: It was decided that the Museum and Repository committees would consist of one committee, the Repository Committee. The committee members are Cantwell, Wall, Rothschild, Geismar and Yamin.

RESEARCH and PLANNING: The PANYC symposium, "Changing Career Paths and Training of Professional Archaeologists," was held on October 25th and was very well attended and well received. Many students attend the symposium. The talks generated a lengthy dialog between the attendees and speakers. The tape recording of this session is currently being reviewed by Rothschild's students in an attempt to generate a position paper. The committee is working on a summary of the presented papers. SAA is interested in publishing the summary in their Newsletter.

WEBSITE: Ricciardi and Griggs reported that work has begun on the PNYC Website. They have developed a number of ideas for the site and are seeking input from PANYC members. Such items as slides, drawings and summaries of site reports and research can be submitted to them. One issue that needs to be addressed is a location for the website to reside. An academic institution or a members personal account is preferred.

Respectfully submitted, Lynn Rakos, PANYC Secretary 1997-8.

PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY

Wendy Elizabeth Harris, President
545 West 111th Street, #6C
New York, New York 10025

December 16, 1997

Mr. Peter A. Sneed
Senior Program Analyst
Portfolio Management Division
General Services Administration
26 Federal Plaza – Room 1609
New York, New York 10278

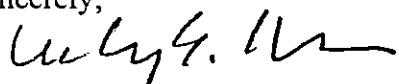
Dear Mr. Sneed:

I am writing on behalf of Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC) regarding the environmental review for the proposed disposition of Governor's Island. As part of the scoping process for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), our organization urges the General Services Administration to give special consideration to addressing the cultural resources of Governor's Island in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Although above-ground historic structures, such as those contained within the Island's National Landmark Historic District, are recognized and preserved, buried archaeological sites – often associated with Native American cultures – are routinely overlooked. New York City is rapidly losing this component of its heritage. We hope, therefore, that your program of environmental compliance includes an archaeological sensitivity study followed by subsurface testing.

PANYC requests to be furnished with copies of the Draft EIS, including the cultural resources appendices. We would also like to receive all other documents that relate to the scoping process. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (212) 865-1463. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Wendy Elizabeth Harris
President, PANYC

c.f.: Dr. Robert Kuhn, NYS Division of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
Dr. Christopher Lindner, New York Archaeological Council
Dr. Ellis E. McDowell-Loudan, New York Archaeological Council

PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY

Wendy Elizabeth Harris, President
545 West 111th Street, #6C
New York, New York 10025

December 16, 1997

Ellis E. McDowell-Loudan
Action Committee Co-Chair
New York Archaeological Council
P.O. Box 502
McGraw, New York 13101

Dear Dr. McDowell-Loudan:

On behalf of Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC), I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the New York Archaeological Council (NYAC) and their Action Committee for drafting and distributing the September 20th Resolution in support of our organization's efforts regarding Stone Street in Lower Manhattan, New York City. Additionally, several NYAC members, most notably Louise Basa and Christopher Lindner, have worked closely with PANYC, offering information and advice that contributed to the resolution of this issue. Once again we wish to express our sincere appreciation for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Wendy Elizabeth Harris
President, PANYC

c.f.: Christopher Lindner, President NYAC
Louise Basa, Boardmember NYAC

PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY

Wendy Elizabeth Harris, President
545 West 111th Street, #6C
New York, New York 10025

December 16, 1997

Dr. Gregory Johnson
Department of Anthropology
Hunter College, City University of New York
695 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Dr. Johnson:

I am writing on behalf Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC) regarding a proposed Web site for our organization. As it is our understanding that it may be possible to install our Web site on the Hunter College server, we would like to provide you with some background information.

PANYC was founded in 1980 and is composed of archaeologists who work on issues related to the archaeology of New York City. Our members include approximately fifty archaeologists who are employed by universities and colleges, consulting firms, museums, and in city, state and federal governments. Our primary mission is ensuring the protection of the city's rapidly disappearing archaeological resources. To this end, we advise government agencies on regulatory matters. We also provide a forum for local archaeologists to discuss their professional concerns. In addition to our five annual meetings, we sponsor symposia dedicated to topics of interest to the profession and to graduate students. We are also dedicated to educating the general public in order to heighten their awareness of the city's archaeology. For eighteen years, PANYC has sponsored an afternoon public program at the Museum of the City of New York, consisting of presentations that deal with archaeological topics of interest to New Yorkers.

We believe a Website would greatly assist us in accomplishing our many goals. Please let us know if you need any additional information or have any questions. I can be contacted at my office during working hours, (212) 264-0473. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Wendy Elizabeth Harris
President, PANYC

ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

NOMINATIONS REQUESTED FOR
SPECIAL PANYC AWARD
FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY A NON ARCHAEOLOGIST TO
NEW YORK CITY ARCHAEOLOGY

PANYC (Professional Archaeologists of New York City) is pleased to request nominations for a special award honoring non archaeologists or institutions who have made outstanding contributions to the furtherance of New York City archaeology. Please send three copies of letters of nomination documenting the nominee's qualifications to Anne-Marie Cantwell, PANYC Awards Committee Chair, Apt. 5C, 14 Stuyvesant Oval, New York, New York, 10009. Nominations must be received by March 30th, 1998. The award will be presented at the PANYC Public Program at the Museum of the City of New York.

ANNOUNCEMENT

1998 BERT SALWEN AWARD
FOR THE BEST STUDENT PAPER ON NEW YORK CITY ARCHAEOLOGY

A prize of \$100.00 will be awarded by Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC) to the author of the best paper on New York City archaeology written by a student in fulfillment of an academic requirement. Although preference may be given to papers written using materials from contract archaeology projects in the city, the competition is not limited to such research. Both graduate and undergraduate students are urged to apply. Papers should not be longer than 50 pages and must be submitted in duplicate. The deadline for submission is March 30th, 1998. Please send manuscripts to Anne-Marie Cantwell, PANYC Awards Committee, Apt. 5C, 14 Stuyvesant Oval, New York, New York 10009. The Bert Salwen Award will be presented at the annual PANYC Public Program at the Museum of the City of New York in April.

PLEASE POST

Habitats/35 Wyckoff Avenue, Boerum Hill

Digging Up History

A couple unearth eggshells and other Brooklyn artifacts.

By BARBARA WHITAKER

LAUREN GLANT gazed at the contents of a small plastic container as if they were diamonds. "Eggshells," she said proudly.

Very old eggshells, she said, mixed with a little bit of ash, that she had helped unearth from a cistern in her backyard, at 35 Wyckoff Avenue in the Boerum Hill section of Brooklyn. Chances are they landed there sometime in the mid-19th century, part of the refuse of everyday life.

The shells are as mundane as the chicken bones and oyster shells they nestled with for decades, but they are all treasures to Ms. Glant, who, with her husband, Michael Gillespie, and a professional archeologist friend, Robert Fitts, went through the cistern layer by layer.

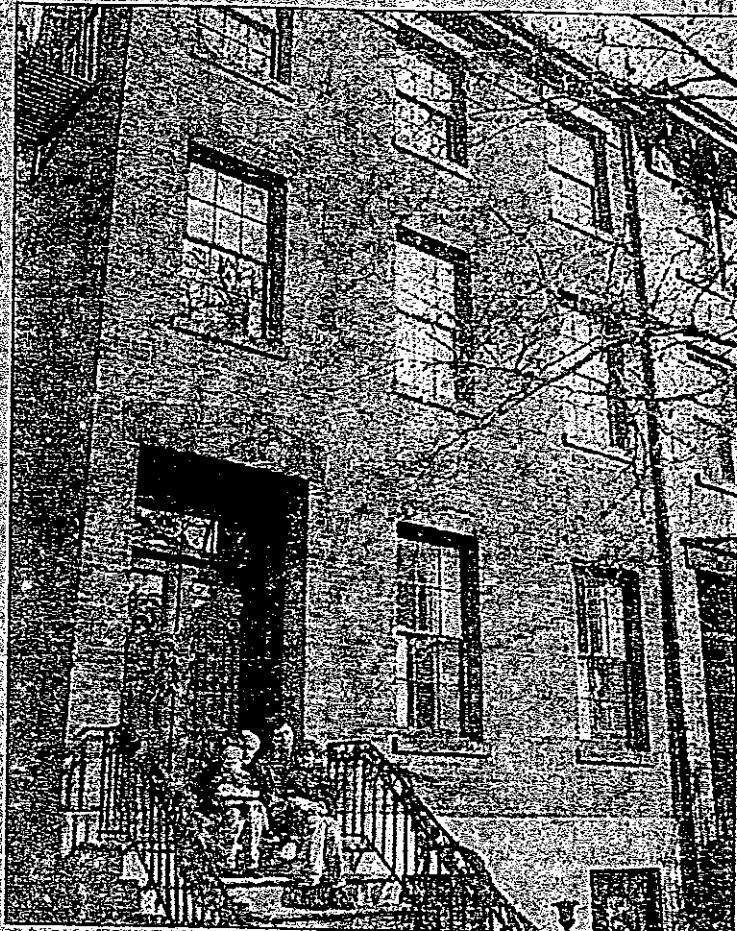
"We found a number of shoes, including a pair of wingtips that are really in phenomenally good shape, marbles, broken dolls," she said. "It gives you a concrete sense of what was going on in this house."

Most of the items, she said, were probably buried after the introduction of indoor plumbing. After the onset of plumbing, backyard cisterns, which had been used to hold rainwater, and privies were used to dispose of smaller items because private hauling companies had to be paid to pick up garbage.

Everyday items would be taken from the first-floor rear kitchen and deposited in the cistern. The pattern became obvious, she said, as they dug and sifted through the beehive-shaped brick cistern, where items were layered between fireplace ashes.

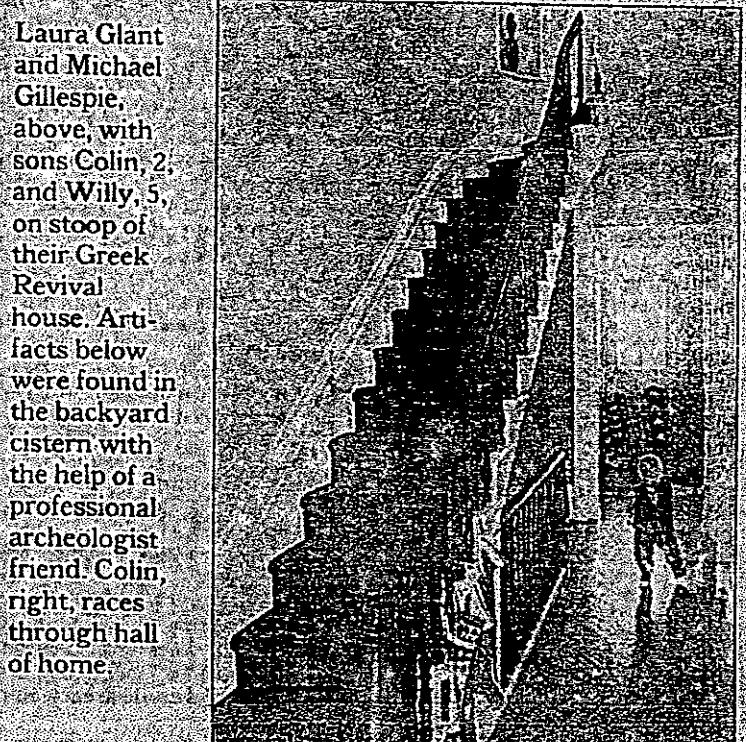
Most of the contents of the 9-foot-wide-by-9-foot-deep cistern were nothing special: a variety of bones from food, bits of hair, worn-out shoes, broken crockery and a large number of wine and liquor bottles.

But the items, excavated over four weekends, tell a story of the middle class in Brooklyn in the last half of the 19th century. "We're finding they drank a lot of alcohol," said Mr. Fitts. "This is interesting because in the 1860's and 1870's the middle class was beginning to abstain from alcohol consumption. This family doesn't seem to be among those."



Photographs by Andrea Mohin/The New York Times

Laura Glant and Michael Gillespie, above, with sons Colin, 2, and Willy, 5, on stoop of their Greek Revival house. Artifacts below were found in the backyard cistern with the help of a professional archeologist friend, Colin, right, racing through hall of home.



ALTHOUGH Mr. Fitts is not yet sure which family deposited the artifacts, he said, "I'm beginning to think it's the first. A lot of ceramics seem to date to the 1850's, suggesting they were bought about 10 years before they were thrown into the cistern broken."

For Ms. Giant the dig was all part of learning as much as possible about the Greek Revival rowhouse the couple bought in June 1996, and about what Brooklyn was like in the mid-to-late 19th century. In particular, she is interested in the role of women in the middle class in those years, and in that respect her home has a story to tell.

"The first owner of the house, built about 1843, was Jane Griswold, the second wife and widow of a Brooklyn sea captain, Edmond Griswold. "Jane Griswold headed a household, and I think that's going to be more common than people think," she said.

Ms. Giant, who teaches at Pace University Law School and has a long interest in history and archeology, said that the fact that her house seems to have remained fairly intact over the decades makes it an attractive subject. "I'm getting a real sense of who was living in Brooklyn, making it the first suburb in New York," she said.

While the couple already felt an obligation to maintain the historic nature of the house, Mr. Gillespie, a lawyer with Debevoise & Plimpton, said the dig made it even more unlikely that they would make any significant changes.

"We might put in a new stove," he said, "but we'll be less likely to throw on an extension or put in central air, some of the things that are often done."

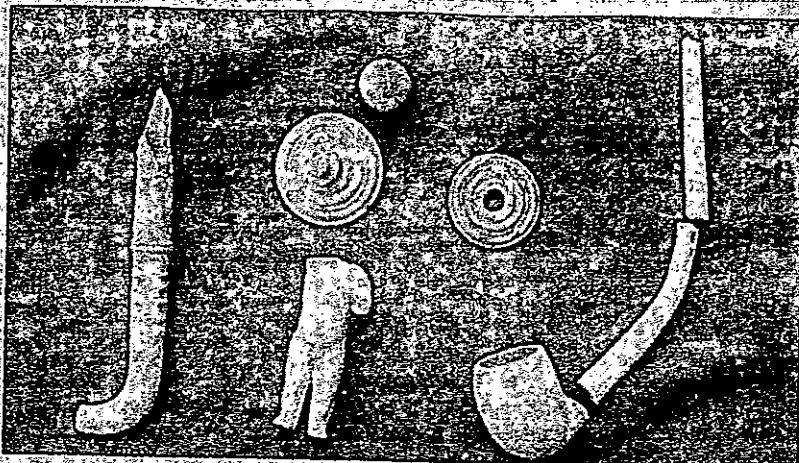
The house, which they purchased for \$675,000 — \$20,000 less than the asking price — has never been broken into apartments and still has several of its original features.

"The family living here had clearly loved it," said Ms. Giant, noting that the sellers had been there for 17 years.

Extensive moldings can be found throughout the house, particularly in the second-floor parlor and dining room, which have brass chandeliers and parquet floors; each of the two rooms has a gold-streaked marble fireplace. The original pocket doors can still be used to separate the two rooms, and a tea porch still exists on the back.

In the garden-level kitchen and the parlor, the original fireplaces still work, although fireplaces in the upper-floor bedrooms have been closed off. A rustic fresco runs along the wall of a stairway leading to the parlor from the garden-level kitchen.

Ms. Giant said she and her husband, who had been living in neighbor-



boring Cobble Hill, had looked at houses for three-and-a-half years before finally winning theirs in a blind bidding process with the help of their real estate agent, Paula Hollins of William B. May.

The only work needed on the house was a new finish for the floors and some painting to alleviate the chance of lead exposure to their two sons, Willy, 5, and Cullen, 2.

Once the interior was taken care of, her interest quickly turned to the backyard. But before digging in, she checked borough records to find out as much as she could about prior owners. Ms. Giant said that when she and her husband bought the house the only thing they had been told — by the previous owners — was that a furniture-company owner had lived there at the turn of the century.

Through conveyance records, deeds and Census material she found that the house had been built about 1843 by William Beard as part of a row of six houses known as "Beard's Row." Its first residents were Jane Griswold and her extended family. The house was sold in 1863 to Michael Flynn, who rented it to William Dempster, an Irish immigrant who was in the import business and had offices on Murray Street. The Dempsters later moved to Clinton Hill.

It was bought by J.F. Christian Schmidt in 1867 about the time German immigrants began moving into Brooklyn. His family owned the house until 1901, when they sold it to the Kurtz family, who owned two furniture stores, one just down the street. While Ms. Giant has the entire list of owners, she is most interested in those before the turn of the century.

"I think one of the things it has done for us — me in particular — is provided a much better sense of what these houses were about," said Ms. Giant. "Who lived here and

why." The items excavated are now being researched and catalogued to provide a fuller history.

Shortly after finishing the dig, Ms. Giant said, she was approached by some people offering to unearth buried items in her backyard for a share in any bottles found. These weekend archeologists, Mr. Fitts said, are generally just interested in bottles they might be able to resell and do not keep comprehensive records on other items they find.

"All information about those who lived there will be lost," he said, adding that the work can also be dangerous because the old privies and cisterns can easily collapse.

MR. FITTS, of John Milner Associates, said that hiring a professional could cost as much as \$10,000 but that students or well-trained amateurs often work for free. He suggested contacting Professional Archeologists of New York City or obtaining a reference from the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission. Mr. Fitts donated his time to the Giants because he is a friend and was looking for some comparative information.

Mr. Gillespie cautioned that anyone considering such a project should also keep in mind that it is a messy proposition.

"Psychologically, and emotionally, to have a hole that big in your backyard for four or five weeks takes its toll," he said. "But that was nothing compared to the fascination at unearthing these little tidbits from the past and piecing them together."

Ms. Giant said she had been thinking of pursuing a new line of work — developing house histories. She has already offered to do one as part of a fund-raiser for her son's school. But for now, her eyes are trained on her backyard.

"The privy is waiting," she said. ■

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PANYC EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT - January 21 - March 31, 1998

EVENT	SPEAKER	TIME	DATE	LOCATION	PHONE #	FEE
NYAC Meeting including Joint NYAC/PANYC Urban Standards Committee meeting	meeting	committees 10:30, general meeting 1:30-4:30	Sat 1/24	NY State Museum, Albany, NY	914-758-6822	free
Heritage, Culture, and the Politics of Endangerment in an American Indian Community of the Pacific Northwest	Robert Moore		Mon 1/26	New York Academy of Science	212-838-0230	
The Sevres Porcelain Manufactory: Alexandre Brongniart and the Triumph of Art and Innovation, 1800-1847.	exhibit		thru 2/1	Bard Graduate Center	212-501-3000	\$2/1
Scotland's Submerged Cultural Heritage	T. Nicholas Dixon		Mon 2/2		212-501-9372	
Historical Geology: Earth Through Time	Sidney Horenstein	7:00PM	Tues 2/3 +	AMNH	212-769-5200	\$30 series
Ancient Near East	Elizabeth Stone		Sun 2/8		718-444-7865	
Ancient Cities of the Indus Valley Civilization	Jonathan Kenoyer	6:30PM	Wed 2/11	Asia Society	212-517-asia	\$7/10
Only So Free: African-Americans in the Antebellum World	William Askins	6:00PM	Thurs 2/19	Seaport Museum, AA Low Bldg, 171 John St		\$8
Human Evolution: The Evolution of Humans and Apes	Jeffrey Schwartz	7:00PM	Fri 2/20	AMNH	212-769-5200	\$18 series
Human Evolution: Who Were the Neanderthals			Fri. 2/27			
Saluting Preservation's Past: Jefferson Market Library 30 th Anniversary	panel	6:00PM	Wed. 2/25	Jefferson Market Library, 6 th Ave at 10 th St.		free
Master hank: Individuality and the Creativity Among Yoruba Sculptors	exhibit		thru 3/1	Metropolitan Museum of Art	212-879-5500	\$8/4
Forgotten Cities	conference	2-5:00PM	Fri 3/6	Asia Society	212-517-asia	
		9-5:00PM	Sat 3/7	NYU		

Continued

EVENT	SPEAKER	TIME	DATE	LOCATION	PHONE #	FEE
Malta: Island in Time	Anthony Bonano	8:00PM	Wed. 3/25	National Arts Club	Archaeology Mag.	\$10
SAA annual meeting			3/25-29	Seattle	604-291-4182	
Reconstructing One of Egypt's Great Tombs	Elena Pischikova	8:00PM	Thurs 3/26	Bruce Museum	203-661-4654	\$5
Criminal Virtues: Women and Crime in Antebellum New York	Rebecca Yamin	6:00PM	Thurs 3/26	Seaport Museum, AA Low Bldg, 171 John St.		
The Archaeology of Israel	Hershel Shanks	8:15PM	Sun.3/29	92 nd St. Y		\$18
Taino: Pre-Columbian Art and Culture from the Caribbean	exhibit		thru 3/29	El Museo del Barrio	212-831-7272	\$4/2
Small Treasures, Great Cities: The Ancient World of the Indus Valley	exhibit		2/11-5/3	Asia Society	212-517-asia	

If any members have events which they would like listed, please contact Linda Stone by phone or fax at (212)888-3130 or by mail 249 E 48 St. #2B, New York, NY 10017.

PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in PANYC is open to any professional archaeologist who subscribes to the purpose of the organization and who meets the following criteria:

- a. Applicants must have been awarded an advanced degree (M.A., M.S., M.Phil., Ph.D., D.Sc., or official A.B.D.) from an accredited institution in archaeology, anthropology, history, classical studies or other germane discipline with a specialization in archaeology.
- b. Applicants must have at least six weeks of professionally supervised archaeological field training and four weeks of supervised laboratory analysis and/or curation experience. Requirements for both field and laboratory experience will be considered to have been met by attendance at an archaeological field school which meets the guidelines set by the Society of Professional Archaeologists (SOPA).
- c. Applicants must demonstrate professional experience in one or more areas of archaeological activity, such as: field research and excavation, research on archaeological collections, archival research, administration of units within public or private agencies oriented toward archaeological research, conduct of cultural resource management studies for public agencies, or teaching with an emphasis on archaeological topics. Applicants meeting the education and training criteria and having other professional interests related to archaeology will be considered on a case by case basis.
- d. All prospective applicants must be approved by a majority of members present at a regularly scheduled meeting of the general membership.
- e. Applicants should submit a statement of purpose that includes their interest in New York City archaeology. Members of PANYC have a commitment to protect and preserve the city's archaeological resources and to support research and encourage publication of information recovered from those resources. Members will not engage in illegal or unethical conduct involving archaeological matters. In applying for membership it is expected that an individual is in agreement with these goals. PANYC is not an accrediting organization and is not to be used as such.

Application for membership shall be in writing and shall include a copy of the applicant's resume or *vita*.

We invite anyone interested in New York City archaeology to subscribe to our Newsletter and to attend our general membership meetings and annual Public Symposium.

If you are interested in joining PANYC or if you would like to subscribe to the PANYC Newsletter, please complete the form below and return it to Robert Fitts 200 East End Ave Apt 2M New York NY 10128

NAME

BUSINESS

HOME

PHONE

ADDRESS

Please indicate preferred mailing address and check below as appropriate.

I wish to apply for membership to PANYC (Dues \$15)

I wish to subscribe to the PANYC Newsletter (Fee \$10)

Amount of additional donation to PANYC

Signature

**200 East End Ave Apt 2M
New York NY 10128**