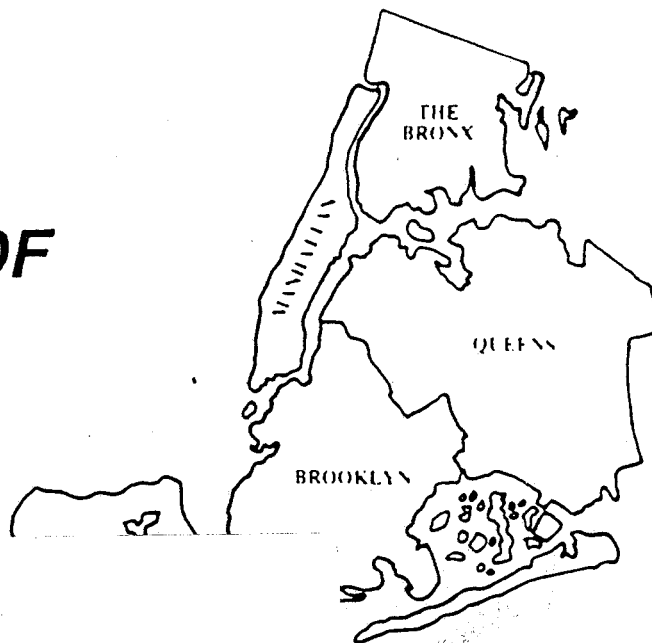


# **P**ROFESSIONAL **A**RCHAEOLOGISTS OF **N**EW **Y**ORK **C**ITY

Joan Geismar  
 40 East 83rd Street  
 New York, NY 10028



Newsletter No. 72

September 1995

## CONTENTS

Minutes, General Meeting, May 17, 1995.....	1
Correspondence.....	3
Announcements.....	4
In the News.....	7
Comic Relief.....	12
Events Calendar.....	13
PANYC Membership Application.....	15

Materials for the PANYC Newsletter may be sent to:

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 401 East 74th Street, Apt. 21A  
 New York, New York 10021  
 Telephone/Fax: 212-744-1592 (home)  
 Telephone: 212-432-2980 (office) Fax: 212-432-2981

To ensure inclusion in the next issue, please submit material at least 7 days prior to the next scheduled meeting.

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NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING: 20 September 1995  
Room 1127 Graduate Center, C.U.N.Y.  
Executive Board: 6:15 PM  
General Membership: 7:00 PM

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Minutes of the PANYC General Membership Meeting 17 May 1995

President Diana Wall called the meeting to order at 7:05PM. The following committees will report: Action, Awards, Museum Exhibit, Research and Planning, Public Program, and Special Publication.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Harris reported a balance of \$1283.64 in the PANYC checking account. This reflects 1995 dues received from 33 members totalling \$495.00 and expenditures for the year to date totalling \$375.48. These figures do not include our expenses for the Public Program.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The minutes of the last meeting were accepted with the following corrections: Ann-Marie Cantwell should be Anne-Marie Cantwell and Dorothy Minor should be Dorothy Miner.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Wall announced that Daniel Pagano (NYCLPC) will not be able to serve on the PANYC board as it may be seen as a conflict of interest: in Pagano's stead, Betsy Kearns (Historical Perspectives) will serve. Kearns had the next greatest number of votes in the elections and she accepted. Wall brought attention to several letters in the current PANYC Newsletter. The letter to Mayor Giuliani expressed concern over looting of the Ward's Point-Burial Ridge site in Tottenville, Staten Island. Yamin (JMA) suggested that a caretaker to monitor the site might be in order. Wall suggested that Charles Sachs (SSM and LPC) might be an appropriate liaison for PANYC in the effort to protect the Burial Ridge site. The letter to Governor Pataki expressed our concern over the elimination of the position of Senior Scientist (Archaeology) at the Division of Historic Preservation (State Office of Parks and Recreation); the position was filled by Paul Huey. In this letter, Wall expressed our concern that adequate supervision of the archaeological material curated by the Senior Scientist will be lacking, urging that funding be retained for this position. All Board members agreed that Paul Huey's experience was extensive and that he was invaluable to the position. Wall mentioned that there was still time for PANYC members to act and pointed out that NYAC had expressed their dissatisfaction with the elimination of the position. Another letter expressed our concern to Mr. Barry Janoff, editor Gallery Magazine over an article that "romanticized" the for-profit digging of one Scott Jordan. Wall pointed out that the article only "glorifies the illegal act of stealing for personal profit". Wall also informed the editor that this sort of activity is destroying irreplaceable archaeological sites.

ACTION: Spritzer (CUNY and Geismar) announced that PANYC was finally on the Army Corps of Engineers mailing list with respect to requests for permits to develop. Wall suggested that the ACTION committee needs additional members to address the growing number of issues that PANYC must act on. Stone agreed to serve on the ACTION committee. Wall will ask Anne-Marie Cantwell as well.

AWARDS: The PANYC Award for outstanding contributions made by a non-professional to NYC Archaeology was awarded to Dorothy Miner, former counsel for NYCLPC, by PANYC president Diana Wall (for Anne-Marie Cantwell).

MEMBERSHIP: Harris (ACE) and Killeen (LBA) announced that PANYC dues are due in March.

MUSEUM EXHIBIT: Stone reported that the Museum of the City of New York does still want to host the PANYC exhibit, but there may not be space until Spring 1997.

NEWSLETTER: The PANYC Newsletter will be mailed. Yamin (JMA) will produce the Newsletter once again.

PUBLIC PROGRAM: Killeen (LBA) suggested that the membership work on a way to increase attendance at the Public Program, as the mailing list is old and many of the people have moved. Killeen suggested adding PLEASE POST to the program flyer. Wall said that we should also have a description of the speakers and their topics on the flyer. All agreed these were good ideas.

RESEARCH AND PLANNING: Harris (ACE) announced plans for a possible encore Symposium on Landscapes. Possible topics include: Archaeological Collection Management or what to do with collections once excavated. Should Archaeological Training Relate More To Contract and CRM. Yamin (JMA) and Killeen (LBA) favored the latter topic. Wall said she would meet with the committee over the summer to firm up plans.

SPECIAL PUBLICATION: Wall proposed that the document written by herself and Marjorie Ingel some years ago be updated to become PANYC Special Publication #2. Copies will be distributed so that members can help to update telephone numbers and etc. A new title will be chosen.

OLD BUSINESS: Stone informed the membership that she has learned from Anne-Marie Cantwell that Archaeology Magazine intern Matthew Bellson may focus his article on the looting activity at the Burial Ridge site. Stone said that perhaps Bellson should have some discussions with Pagano (NYCLPC) for guidance.

NEW BUSINESS: Wall announced that the NYC Parks Department is planning construction at Seneca Village and suggested that PANYC members write letters to Commissioner Henry Stern (cc: Jennifer Raab: Senator Patterson) to voice their opinions. Wall also suggested that PANYC act on the threat to funding of the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation, this will be considered. Wall asked the members if PANYC should continue its tradition of meeting discussion topics. The members agreed that we should. The Board will discuss the topics. The PANYC meeting dates for 1995/1996 will be: September 20, November 15, January 24 and, March 20. Wall will arrange for Room 1127 at the Graduate Center for these dates.

No further business was brought before the membership.

Respectfully submitted, John J. Killeen, PANYC Secretary 1995-6



THE NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
100 OLD SLIP NEW YORK, NY 10005 TEL: 212-487-6800 FAX: 212-487-6723

JOAN R. OLSHANSKY  
CHIEF OF STAFF

May 26, 1995

Ms. Linda Stone  
PANYC  
249 East 48th Street, Apt. 2B  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ms. Stone:

Your letter to Mayor Giuliani regarding Metrotech has recently been sent to me for a response. I am writing to let you know that we are looking into the matter and will be back in touch with you soon.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joan Olshansky".

Joan R. Olshansky  
Chief of Staff

JRO/ck

NEW YORK UNEARTHED

presents a FREE lunchtime lecture

*UP IN SMOKE:  
RECOGNIZING THE  
INVISIBLE*

Thursday, September 21, 12 noon  
at the *New York Unearthed* exhibit,  
17 State Street in lower Manhattan.

Diane Dallal, Archaeological Director of *New York Unearthed*, will discuss how clay tobacco pipes found in excavations throughout the city enhance our understanding of trade, ethnicity, and gender since colonial times.



South Street Seaport Museum

THE METROPOLITAN CHAPTER OF  
THE NEW YORK STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

PRESENTS

***EXCHANGE IN  
COASTAL NEW YORK  
DURING THE MIDDLE  
WOODLAND PERIOD: A  
REASSESSMENT***

**Dr. Annette Silver**  
Dowling College

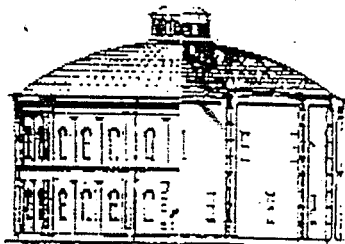
A discussion of inter-regional exchange in Coastal New York during the Middle Woodland period, using the 'interaction sphere' concept as a model for the period.

***PREHISTORIC TRADE IN  
THE NEW YORK CITY  
AREA***

**Michael Cohn**  
Time Line Associates

Trade and trade routes in the New York area can be determined by lithic material excavated from sites and from trips on the waterways around New York in everything from canoes to ice-breakers.

Tuesday, October 10, 1995  
6:00 PM  
CUNY Graduate Center, 42nd Street, West of Fifth Ave.  
Room 1127



# **SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY**

ROEBLING CHAPTER  
Greater New York Area

presents the

## **FIFTEENTH ANNUAL DREW SYMPOSIUM on INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY IN THE NEW YORK - NEW JERSEY AREA**

Co-sponsored by the Drew University Anthropology Department  
and the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office

**SATURDAY, October 28, 1995**

**9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.**

**Drew University - Madison, New Jersey**

Registration: \$15 (includes lunch if you register in advance)

### **ILLUSTRATED PRESENTATIONS**

**NEW JERSEY COPPER MINING IN THE 18TH CENTURY**  
Mark Zdepski, JMZ Geology

**THE BASCULE BRIDGE IN THE NEW YORK REGION**  
Robert Stewart, Historical Technologies

**THE INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY OF THE PUTNAM DIVISION OF THE NYC RR**  
Jim Musser, Musser Historical Research

**THE CRAFT SHOPS OF BETHLEHEM STEEL**  
Lance Metz, Hugh Moore Park Museums

**ENGINEERING THE HUDSON RIVER: TECHNOLOGY'S IMPACT ON A HISTORIC LANDSCAPE**  
Wendy Harris and Arnold Pickman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**A LOOK AT MARINE STEAM MACHINERY BUILDERS IN THE PORT OF NEW YORK**  
Charles Lawesson, RCSIA

**WORKING IN THE PORT: THE IA OF MARINE TRANSPORT ON THE HUDSON RIVER**  
Walter Meseck, ret. Pres. of the Meseck Towing & Transportation Co.  
William Rau, Editor of Steamboat Bill, Steamship Historical Society

**LOCATION: DREW UNIVERSITY HALL OF SCIENCES AUDITORIUM - see over for map**  
Come at 9:30 A.M. for coffee, pastry, displays; talks start at 10 A.M.

**REGISTRATION:** Send your name(s) plus \$15 fee for each person attending (make check payable to Roebling Chapter SIA), to Charles Scott, RCSIA Treasurer, at the address below, using the bottom of this form as your coupon if you wish. (STUDENTS may register for \$5 at door with I.D.; does not include lunch.)  
Questions? Call Symposium Coordinator Thomas Flagg at 212-780-5155, weekdays.

You will not receive confirmation, so:



PHOTOS BY LUCIAN PERKINS—THE WASHINGTON POST

A delegation of West African chiefs learns about research on the bones of colonial-era Africans buried in New York.

THE WASHINGTON POST, METRO SECTION, AUG. 3, 1995



# Bones of Forebears

## Howard U. Study Stirs Ghanaian Chiefs To Honor Ages-Old Link to U.S. Blacks

By Patrice Gaines

Washington Post Staff Writer

The West African chiefs stood ramrod straight yesterday around a laboratory table at Howard University, their eyes fixed on the brown bones laid out in rows.

Michael Blakey, project director of the African Burial Ground Project and an associate professor of anthropology at the school, picked up what looked like an open shoe box with a brown skull inside.

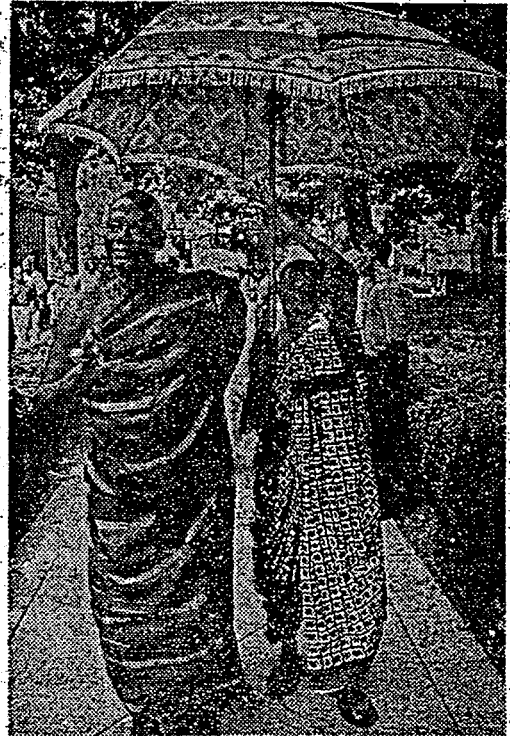
"This was a woman probably in her early twenties," he said. "You get a sense of her face, a sense of what she looked like."

Spread out on four lab tables were some of the remains of 400 Africans excavated from a colonial-era burial ground unearthed four years ago during construction of an office building in New York City. Anthropologists and scientists at Howard are studying the bones, considered to be the largest and earliest such collection in the country.

Blakey, an African American, told the African visitors that the remains are "of the very people who are your uncles and our aunts."

The Ghanaian chiefs and their delegation had come to affirm the cul-

See AFRICANS, B11, Col. 2



"This is clear evidence, indeed, [that] these are our brothers and sisters who were enslaved," says Chief Oduro Numapau II, of Ghana, who toured Howard University's anthropology lab.



BY LUCIAN PERKINS—THE WASHINGTON POST

The Baile Drums and Dancers perform during a ceremony to welcome a group of West African chiefs to Howard University to learn about the remains of 400 colonial-era Africans believed to have been from Ghana.

## Ghanaian Chiefs Honor Link to U.S.

AFRICANS, From B1

tural and spiritual ties between Africans and African Americans and to symbolically ask forgiveness for the misdeeds of past rulers who helped sustain the trans-Atlantic slave trade by selling people.

A hush fell over the lab as people entered, their eyes falling immediately on the rows of bones—some belonging to children—bearing such labels as "right hand," "left rib" and "cranium." Blakey offered some details that have unfolded about the lives of the people who he said made up perhaps 50 percent of the labor force that built New York.

"There are very few artifacts," he said. "The burials are poor. [The remains show] very large muscle attachments that are the result of working at the margin of physical capacity."

Wearing latex gloves, he picked up the curved bones of a 5-year-old who had "rickets, a vitamin D deficiency." He held a jaw bone with teeth that showed "a lack of meat and certain vegetables." A woman's skull was "fractured as if a heavy load was so carelessly placed on her head."

After the tour, the president of the Ghana National House of Chiefs, Nana Oduro Numapau II, said: "This is clear evidence, indeed, [that] these are our brothers and sisters who were enslaved. Normally when we go to a cemetery, we go home to have a day of mourning. I want to declare this a day of mourning for African people.

"We have come to say we are sorry our forefathers took part in this unfortunate thing [slavery]," he added. "We say enough is enough. We want African Americans to come home to build their own country. We do not expect each person to move but to help us build, to invest in Ghana."

Earlier, a traditional African libation ceremony, held on various occasions including when bones are transported, was held outside Frederick Douglass Memorial Hall, which houses the lab. As the sound of African drums and other percussion instruments wafted through the air, Baba Ifa Karade, a priest of the Yoruba religion, poured water on the ground and offered fruit to the ancestors, placing them at the base of a tree, "offerings from we, the descendents of the African people."

He sprinkled grains over the dirt, "for the children who must learn." When the prayers ended, the Baile Drummers and Dancers burst into performance, flinging their arms and stomping their feet as if oblivious of the stifling, humid air.

Blakey said he has tried to be sensitive to cultural concerns as well as scientific needs while handling the bones. He showed the visitors a photo of an object that helped prove the link between the remains and West Africa: brass tacks on a coffin in the symbol of a heart.

"We have determined it is a Ghanaian ... symbol called Sankofa," he said, "which means, 'Look to the past to inform the future. One can correct one's mistakes.'"

**Work stress scars show on many of the remain**

## Burial Ground reveals a striking closeness to African traditions

BY JOSH ROGERS

Scientists studying the African Burial Ground in Lower Manhattan are excited as evidence continues to indicate many of the excavated slaves were brought over from Central and West Africa and that they suffered from extraordinary levels of work stress, although very different from the stress faced by the bond-traders and civil servants who work on the streets where they once toiled.

At Howard University, Dr. Michael Blakey is studying the remains discovered at the site surrounded by Broadway, and Duane, Reade, and Elk Sts. The 18th Century cemetery was discovered in 1991 when the federal government was preparing to build an office building there.

Blakey has learned much from the dental remains uncovered. He said about a dozen of them had six different patterns of modification which are still used today in some "peripheralized groups like the so-called 'pygmies' and Nbuti [tribe].

"This old tradition has persisted with adolescents and young adults. People will sit together and do each other's teeth not unlike tattooing and ear-piercing are done in many parts of the world. Therein lies a certain cultural continuity showing how African this cemetery really is."

He will outline his findings May 20 at the Office of Public Education and Interpretation (OPEI) of the African Burial Ground third annual open house at the U.S. Custom House at 6 World Trade Center.

Blakey said the teeth also indicate that many suffered from either malnutrition or

various diseases, but more study was needed to be more precise.

He hesitated giving out numbers because he said they usually change after further research, but said 427 remains had been recovered. Previously, OPEI, which works with Blakey, estimated it had discovered 390 different remains. The original cemetery was much larger than the current dig site and assuming the density of bodies was the same throughout, 10,000-20,000 bodies were buried there.

OPEI director Dr. Sherrill Wilson, said when she opened the office in 1992 some historians told her "if there were black people here, there were few, and it would be difficult to document."

She said New York schools teach that blacks came to New York from the South in the 20th Century and don't talk about the city's Colonial-era slaves.

In 1712, there was a revolt in Maiden Lane in which slaves "planned to burn down houses and kill white people in Lower Manhattan," according to Wilson. Some were hung at what is now City Hall and Wilson said researchers were examining the bones for evidence of hanging.

She also said a school system for freed blacks began in 1797 before the white public school system originated in 1832.

Blakey has also found "evidence of work stress that is at the margins of physical capacity," by examining the neck bones and skulls. His research suggests the slaves carried heavy loads on their head, an African tradition.

He said in at least two instances, slaves

**'Therein lies a certain cultural continuity showing how African this cemetery really is.'**

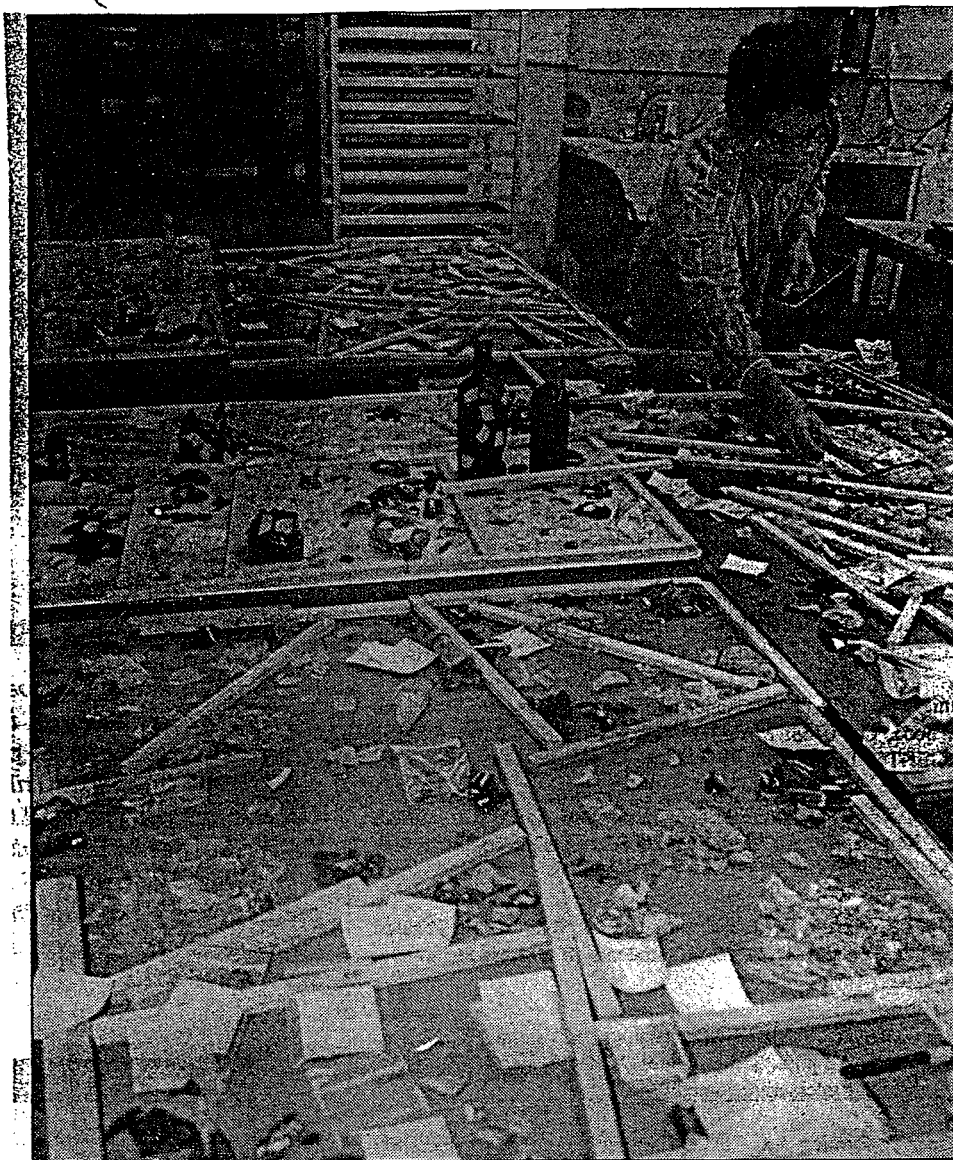


photo by Brad Rickerby

### **Michael Bonasera, glass analyst, sorts glass from African Burial Ground.**

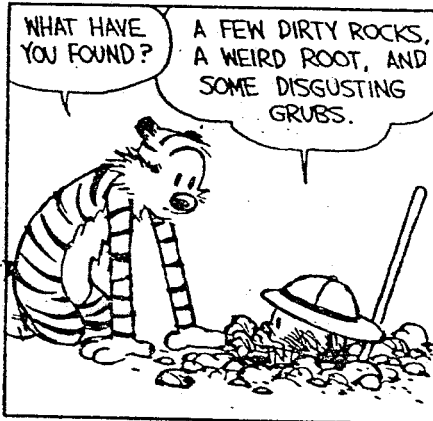
died from the shock of removing a load from their head. He was not surprised to find significantly more levels of stress than in European and Native American populations but said it was important to quantify the difference. More analysis is needed to compare it to plantation slave populations.

On one coffin Blakey found an "elaborate heart-shaped symbol" called an andinkra symbol sankofa, "which means look to the past to inform your future." He said the symbol originates from the Ivory Coast and Ghana and

is usually associated with funerals and is often connected to royalty.

Wilson said OPEI had collected over 40,000 signatures requesting the post office to issue a commemorative stamp. Previously, it was denied because no congressman supported it, but now Congressman Earl Hilliard has supported it and Congressman Jerrold Nadler's spokesman Brice Peyre said his office was drafting a letter. The cemetery is in Nadler's district.

**CALVIN AND HOBBS**



PANYC EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT for September 20 - November 15, 1995

EVENT	SPEAKER	TIME	DATE	LOCATION	PHONE #	FEE
Up in Smoke: Recognizing the Invisible	Diane Dallal	12 Noon	Thurs 9/21	17 State St.		free
CNEHA Annual Conference	multiple		Thurs 9/28 - Sun 10/1	Louisbourg, Nova Scotia		\$27 member \$32 non
Maps, Collect Pond, the African Burial Ground	Cheryl LaRoche <i>Cheryl LaRoche</i>	1 pm	Sun 10/1	New York Historical Society	212-873-3400	free with admission
Avenues to the Past: Oral Traditions	Robert Grumet	7:30 - 9 pm	Wed 10/5	American Museum of	212-769-5310	\$25, series
Written Record			Wed 10/12	Natural History		
Physical Evidence			Wed 10/26			
New Directions	Joel Grossman		Wed 11/2			
Connecticut State Archaeology Week			Sat 10/7 - Sun 10/15	Multiple	Dave Poirier 203-566-3116 or Nick Bellantoni 203-486-5248	
The Map Project	Gallery Tour	1 pm	Sun 10/8	New York Historical Society	212-873-3400	free with admission
Metropolitan Chapter NYSAA meeting	Toni Silver, Mike Cohn	6:00 pm	Tues 10/10	CUNY Graduate Center, Room 1127		free
New Interpretations from the Forum at Pompeii	John Drobbs		Wed 10/11		Karen Rubinson 212-865-2102	
Staffordshire, Redware and Yellowware	Gallery Tour	1 pm	Sun 10/15	New York Historical Society	212-873-3400	free with admission
Three Centuries of English Decorative Arts	Lorella Brocklesby	6:30 pm	Mon 10/16, 23, & 30	Cooper-Hewitt, 2 East 91 St.	212-860-6321	\$45, series \$15 student

continued

Margaret Mead Film and Video Festival				Wed 10/18 -Mon 10/23	American Museum of Natural History	212-769-5310	\$7-8 each, \$40-44 series
Symposium: 17th Century Dutch Art and Life	multiple			Thurs 10/19	Hofstra University	516-463-5722	
Celebrate the Publication of "The Encyclopedia of New York City"	panel	5 pm		Thurs 10/26	New York Historical Society	212-873-3400	free with admission
Roebeling Chapter SIA Symposium on Industrial Archaeology	multiple	9 am - 5 pm		Sat 10/28	Drew University, Madison, NJ	201-455-0491	
ESAF Annual Meeting	multiple			Thurs 10/26 - Sun 10/29	Raddison Hotel, Wilmington, DE	Ronald Thomas 302-368-5777	
From Rome to Euphrates: New Light on Ancient Synagogues	Dr. Steven Fine	8:15 pm		Mon 10/30	92nd Street Y	212-996-1100	\$6
Missions of Spanish Florida: Converting the Natives	Jerald T. Milanich			Mon 11/13	National Arts Club, 15 Gramercy Park South	Archaeology Mag.	\$8

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 John Killeen, PANYC Secretary, 58 Garnsey Pl., Belford, NJ 07718.

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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