

Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

PANYC

NEWSLETTER

No. 143

March 2010

Table of Contents:	1
Meeting Minutes	2
Correspondences	5
Related Articles/Fun Stuff	7
Events	16
Membership Information	17

Next Meeting:

March 24, 2010 and May 19, 2010
Neighborhood Preservation Center
232 East 11th Street
New York, NY
6:30pm

Newsletter Editor:

Christopher Ricciardi
4110 Quentin Road
Brooklyn, New York 11234-4322
Phone/Fax: (718) 645-3962
Email: chrisricciardi@optimum.net



PANYC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
November 18, 2009, 6:30 P.M.
Neighborhood Preservation Center (NPC)
232 East 11th Street, New York, NY

Present: Geismar, Linn, Spritzer, Stone, Cantwell, Rakos, Pickman, Wall, MacLean, Ricciardi, and Freeman.

Treasurer's Report / Secretary's Report

Spritzer reported there is \$3,684.19 in the treasury. There are 46 paid and 4 delinquent members. The general minutes from the September 23, 2009 meeting have been approved and accepted into the record.

President's Report

- a) Geismar spoke with Amanda Sutphin at Landmarks and learned the William Street project is still in abeyance and thus there has been no forward movement on funding an archaeological repository for the City. Stone, Geismar, and Rothschild also met with Sutphin about posting the recently digitized archaeological reports on file at Landmarks online. She responded positively to the suggestion to password protect access to the reports as she had similar concerns about access herself. She's going to explore the possibility with her IT staff.
- b) Charles Bello, president of the Eastern States Archaeological Federation, emailed PANYC about posting a link to our organization on their newly designed website. He's also requested that PANYC send a blurb about our organization, an application for membership, and a list of upcoming meetings, in addition to anything else we might like to include. This information will all be posted on their website. It was generally agreed that some level of publicity on the Eastern States website was a good idea. Geismar will respond to Bello.
- c) Stone and Geismar continue to represent PANYC and NYAC in discussions concerning the development of Admiral's Row (Brooklyn Navy Yard), which continues to be a fiasco. The Navy Yard issued an RFP from interested developers but has failed to disclose the existence of areas of archaeological sensitivity / significance identified in the Phase 1A report. The National Guard would like to turn the property over to the city. As it stands now, any developer who takes on the project will be responsible for doing archaeology but doesn't know it based on the RFP.

Committee Reports (only those making a report are mentioned)

Awards: Cantwell reported the committee is waiting until public program date is set to determine recipient.

Events: See newsletter.

Landmarks: See President's Report.

Membership: No new members. Spritzer and Freeman have drafted a letter to be sent to members encouraging greater participation in general meetings. She will coordinate with MacLean to circulate letter among members.

Met Chapter: Wall reported they are in the process of organizing elections for new round of chapter officers. Wendy Harris and Arnold Pickman will be speaking on the Ice Houses of the Hudson River at the December 3 meeting at Fordham. Ralph Solecki, the first PANYC president, will be speaking this spring and she encourages all PANYC members to attend.

Municipal Arts Society: The Preservation Committee, temporarily on hold, will be reconvened. The next meeting is in January after they've completed the move to their new offices in the Steinway building on 57th Street.

Newsletter: Thanks go to Chris Ricciardi for his ongoing efforts in producing the PANYC newsletter, huzzah! Ricciardi reported that he's completed the first phase of his efforts to digitizing the PANYC archive. He still needs to redact some of the scans to remove addresses and would like to include more Public Program files. If any members have flyers or programs from past public programs—especially if you were a past organizer—or anything else relating to a past PANYC event, please send them to him.

Ricciardi now has the hard copies of all the documents he has scanned and would like to know what should be done with them. The City Hall Library has a new head librarian who has requested digital copies of PANYC newsletters and materials. Geismar will speak to the library about the possibility of expanding the paper archive to include the documents collected by Ricciardi and see if they are willing to serve as a repository for the archive of PANYC materials. Ricciardi also asked what to do with the CD's of the newsletters he's just created. He will put labels on them and assumes they should be mailed to members. It was agreed they should be offered and sent to members who are interested in having one free of charge.

NYAC: Stone's report from the October 3, 2009 meeting:

- 1) New York State Library now has collection of books and journals online, including archaeological resources, accessible with a New York State driver's license number: <http://novelnewyork.org/>
- 2) NYAC is looking for nominations for the Founders award by January 15th.
- 3) Stone reported the proposed burial bill is still outstanding. However, it was stated that the Department of Health wants involvement in the SHPO review process for sites that include burials and that Funeral Directors are also requesting input. Geismar will look into question.
- 4) Afternoon session was devoted to clarifying process for completing State Register nomination forms. It's important for archaeologists to know that *sites are eligible for nomination even after they have been excavated*.
- 5) The NYAC/SHPPPO working group is in the process of putting together guidelines for "best practice" that will include urban issues. Stone sees this as a positive step.
- 6) Next meeting will be the winter board meeting followed by a spring meeting to be held in conjunction with NYSA. Stone concluded by urging anyone from PANYC interested in running for NYAC board to submit their name for consideration, as this part of the State is not well represented.

Parks: When president, Stone sent letter a welcome on behalf of PANYC to Therese Braddick, the new Deputy Commissioner for Capital Projects for the City of New York Department of Parks and Recreation. Geismar suggested it was time for PANYC to send a follow-up letter to promote continued awareness of archaeological issues within Parks and Recreation.

Public Program: Linn reported she's in the process of confirming a date for the public program (now scheduled for Saturday, April 24). The Museum of the City of New York has changed its policy for hosting outside entities in an effort to better control publicly presented content at the Museum. As a result they're looking to be more involved in the planning process for the public program but will defer to our expertise. At their request, Linn emailed them a description of our public program "planning procedures". As such a document did not previously exist, Linn drafted procedures that she will circulate via email. The Museum also requested that the program be moved to a Saturday. Cantwell asked how they would feel about us giving out an award now their policy has changed. Linn will discuss this with Sara Henry and Paula Zadigian at the Museum. The Museum has also requested that anything printed by PANYC or the Museum about the program must be run past the other first, a mutual process. This year's topic is the

Archaeology of Historic Houses and the committee is in the process of confirming participants. The goal is to have each of the five boroughs represented. The committee currently consists of: Linn, MacLean, Geismar, and Stone.

Website: Pickman announced the website was ready to launch and Ricciardi's digital archive will be integrated once it becomes available. The committee proposed two URL options and www.panycarchaeology.org was selected and approved as the new URL by those present.

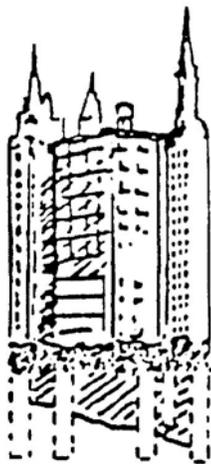
There will be a link to the membership application and will include two options for completion: 1) an interactive PDF form that can be submitted online that Ricciardi volunteered to create; and 2) a pdf that can be printed and mailed. Spritzer volunteered a P.O. Box address where applications can be sent to avoid publicly printing the secretary's address. Pickman reported the URL also comes with the option of having several additional email accounts such as info@panycarchaeology.org. It was generally agreed this could serve as the email destination for membership applications submitted online. Geismar has volunteered to monitor this email account.

New Business

- a) URS archaeologist, Jeffery Harbinson of Lambertville, NJ accidentally drowned on November 17th in a boat accident on the Hudson River while surveying the coastline north of Albany. A condolence letter to his family from PANYC was proposed and unanimously approved. Ricciardi will obtain their contact information.
- b) PANYC vice-president, Meredith Linn, won the SHA 2010 dissertation prize and will be honored at the forthcoming Annual Meeting in Florida this January. Congratulations, Meredith!
- c) Geismar reported that the 1799 gravestone of Irishman James Jackson was unexpectedly unearthed during their work at Washington Square Park. The news item was picked up by Irish television among other news agencies. A photo of the gravestone can be found on the gothamist.com website at: http://gothamist.com/2009/10/28/washington_square_park_gravestone.php
- d) Wednesday, January 20, 2010 is the date of our next meeting. It was proposed that this meeting be a wine and cheese gathering and that Geismar give an account of the Washington Square find. Geismar will research the viability of the addition of a wine and cheese refreshment with the Neighborhood Preservation Center.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM
Respectfully submitted by Jessica S. MacLean

Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.



January 26, 2010

PANYC

Letters to the Editor
Time Out New York
475 10th Avenue
New York, New York 10018
Letters@timeoutny.com

Re Things Found Underground in NYC

Dear Sir or Madam:

Your highlight of the South Ferry artifacts in this week's *Time Out New York* (225 Things You Don't Know About NYC: Found underground, January 21-January 27, 2010) is very gratifying to New York City's urban archaeologists. These wonderful and often unique objects, recovered by professional archaeologists for the MTA, reveal unknown aspects of New York City's history. However, to our dismay, your feature also highlights the admitted trespassing of so-called "archaeologists" who clandestinely loot and then sell or trade similar objects for personal gain. This is misplaced glorification that, unfortunately, encourages site looting. It is a loss to the general public and an outrage to the professional and avocational archaeologist who carefully records sites, features, and artifacts according to established laws and then makes this information available in public documents, articles, and books.

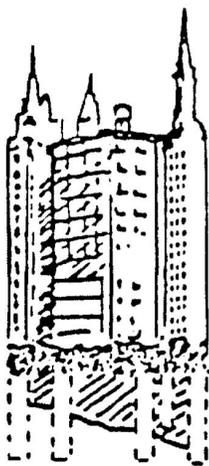
Sincerely,

Joan H. Geismar
PANYC President
40 East 83 Street
New York, NY 10028
Jgeis@aol.com/ 212 734-6512

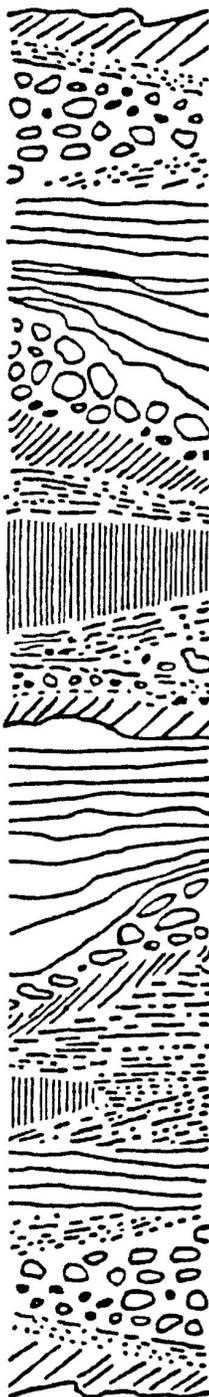
PUBLISHED IN *TIME OUT NEW YORK*, FEBRUARY 4-10, 2010, _____,
UNDER HEADING "FINDERS NOT KEEPERS..."



Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.



PANYC



March 3, 2010

Jean Ashton
Vice-President and Library Head
New York Historical Society
170 Central Park West
New York, New York 10024
jashton@nyhistory.org

Re: Artifact Repository

Dear Jean:

Thank you for arranging last Thursday's meeting to discuss the Society's potential association with a repository for New York City's archaeological collections. It was not only encouraging, but also a pleasure. Louise Mirrer's positive response to our outreach, and her willingness to tackle new undertakings, gives us heart. And your efforts on our behalf are invaluable and very much appreciated.

As we discussed, I have contacted, but not yet reached, Dan Brodsky in regard to buildings that might serve as a repository and also meet the Society's storage needs. I also hope to obtain information about city-owned buildings that might be available. In the meantime, once again, thank you.

Best regards,

Joan H. Geismar
PANYC President
40 East 83 Street
New York, NY 10028
Jgeis@aol.com/212 734-6512

cc. Louise Mirrer, NYHS President and CEO
R. Tierney, NYCLPC Chair

The New York Times

Tuesday, January 26, 2010 Last Update: 4:00 PM ET

Art & Design Section

Coffin's Emblem Defies Certainty

By [SEWELL CHAN](#)

Published: January 26, 2010

When the remains of hundreds of colonial-era Africans were uncovered during a building excavation in Lower Manhattan in 1991, one coffin in particular stood out. Nailed into its wooden lid were iron tacks, 51 of which formed an enigmatic, heart-shaped design.

The pattern was soon identified as the sankofa — a symbol printed on funereal garments in West Africa — and it captured the imagination of scholars, preservationists and designers. Ultimately, it was embraced by many African-Americans as a remarkable example of the survival of African customs in the face of violent subjugation in early America.

The sankofa was widely invoked in 2003, when the 419 remains were reinterred at the site, now known as the [African Burial Ground](#), following painstaking examination. It was chiseled into a black granite memorial unveiled in 2007. It is featured in an interpretive display in the federal building at 290 Broadway (the construction of which led to the discovery of the graves), which describes it as a direct link to “cultures found in Ghana and the Ivory Coast.” And it serves as a logo for the African Burial Ground as a whole.

Michael A. Gomez, a professor of history at [New York University](#) and an authority on the African diaspora, said the design’s apparent link to 18th-century Africa “is of enormous meaning and carries a lot of symbolic weight.” For decades, historians and anthropologists have debated the extent to which the continent’s cultural practices endured and came to influence art, language, music and religion in the Americas — a question with particular resonance for the African-American community.

The burial ground sankofa was important in this debate, Dr. Gomez said, “because, let’s face it, we don’t have an extremely large amount of material culture with which to work.”

But now a peer-reviewed study, published this month in a leading history journal, argues that the heart-shaped symbol is not, in fact, a sankofa, and probably does not have African origins at all. Indeed, it suggests that the sankofa probably did not yet exist as a symbol in Africa at the time the coffin was made, and that the design is likely Anglo-American in origin.

The [National Park Service](#), which has managed the burial ground since it was declared a national monument in 2006, is itself stepping back from the original claim. As a result of research by scholars who prepared reports in 2006 for the federal government, the interpretive sign in the service's new \$5.2 million visitor center, scheduled to open on Feb. 27, will say only that the design "could be a sankofa symbol" and that "no one knows for sure."

In an interview, Erik R. Seeman, the historian whose new study treats the sankofa claim skeptically, acknowledged that his argument could be politically fraught. In his article, published in the January issue of [The William and Mary Quarterly](#), he makes a point of emphasizing his belief that African influences did play a major role in the lives of early black Americans — although generally as part of hybrid traditions.

"As free and enslaved blacks created a distinctive culture in the New World, they drew on remembered African practices and Anglo-American religious and material culture to fashion something altogether original," wrote Dr. Seeman, who teaches American history at the [University at Buffalo](#). Dr. Seeman's article, adapted from a book, "Death in the New World: Cross-Cultural Encounters, 1492-1800," to be published in May by the [University of Pennsylvania Press](#), argues that scholars "have too readily attributed cultural practices to African antecedents without convincing documentary or archaeological evidence."

After archaeologists who examined the bones "emphasized the African origins" of the beads, shells, rings and other objects in the graves, Dr. Seeman writes, "historians followed this lead, seeing in the African Burial Ground artifacts glimpses of a long-hidden African worldview in New York."

Particularly striking was the coffin labeled Burial 101, containing the remains of a man between 26 and 35 who died sometime after 1760. (Some of the tacks within the heart-shaped symbol can be read as the number "69," suggesting that the man died in 1769.)

The hexagonal, larch-wood lid of the coffin was studded with 187 cast-iron tacks, 51 of which made up the heart-shaped pattern, about 18 inches wide and 19 inches high.

“It can be safely concluded,” Kwaku Ofori-Ansa, an expert in African art at Howard University, wrote in a 1995 newsletter of the archaeological excavation, “that the image was meant to be” the sankofa — one of several hundred symbols that are stamped on adinkra cloth, used by the Akan people of present-day Ghana and Ivory Coast.

Although a series of reports produced for the African Burial Ground project in 2006 backed away from this definitive stance — stating only that the design “has been interpreted” as a sankofa — it was nevertheless used as a central element in the granite memorial completed the next year at a cost of more than \$5 million.

(There has also been some inconsistency regarding what the sankofa, thought to stand for a West African proverb, means. The 2006 reports render the proverb as, “It is not a taboo to return and fetch it when you forget,” while the new interpretive display offers the easier-to-grasp phrase, “Look to the past to understand the present.”)

Dr. Seeman’s study finds several problems with the sankofa identification. First, he writes, there is no evidence that the cloth existed in the 18th century. (The earliest surviving example of adinkra cloth, now in the [British Museum](#), dates to 1817, and the earliest known depiction of the sankofa comes from a 1927 catalog of adinkra symbols.)

Second, Dr. Seeman writes that it was customary for masters to supply coffins for their slaves, and so, if the man in Burial 101 was a slave, “it would have been his master’s decision to pay extra for the tacks on his lid.” Finally, Dr. Seeman notes that hearts portrayed by an outline of tacks were a common form of decoration on Anglo-American coffin lids.

But several anthropologists and historians, including Michael L. Blakey, who as the scientific director of the African Burial Ground project oversaw the archaeological excavation and analysis of the remains and artifacts, remained unconvinced that Dr. Seeman’s arguments were decisive. They were shown a draft of his article.

“We often are unable to ascertain which meanings persons in the past held for the objects they created,” Dr. Blakey, director of the Institute for Historical Biology at the College of William and Mary, wrote in an e-mail message. (The journal publishing Dr. Seeman’s article is based at the college, but Dr. Blakey had no role in the publication of it.)

The sankofa, Dr. Blakey maintained, is one of several “plausible meanings” of the design, and one that “most perfectly expresses the meaning of the site for many people around the world.”

Anne-Marie Cantwell and Diana diZerega Wall, authors of “Unearthing Gotham: The Archaeology of New York City” (Yale University Press, 2001), said it was not enough to look at documentary records or — given how little West African cloth of any kind has survived from before the 19th century — the extremely limited physical evidence.

“As archaeologists, we are keenly aware of how much is left out of the written record and the consequent pitfalls of relying on it, especially in such cases where the texts are few, far between and written by outsiders,” they wrote in a statement in response to a reporter’s question. “In this case, we think it is better to keep the door wide open to the possibility that the heart-shaped symbol might have been interpreted by the 18th-century mourners as a sankofa from their homeland.”

And Dr. Gomez — who says he sees Dr. Seeman’s article as part of a wave of scholarly work that “pushes back against the notion of concrete, specific connections between Africa” and its slavery-related diaspora — predicted that it would “cause a ripple” because “it was meant to cause a ripple.”

He said that he believed that the article was vague and excessive in its claim that scholars had too quickly ascribed African origins to black American cultural practices and that it contained some faulty assumptions — that Anglo-American burial practices of the time were uniform and stable, for example.

Still, Dr. Gomez said, even if he was unconvinced by the argument for an Anglo-American heart motif interpretation, “Seeman may very well be right that this is not a sankofa symbol,” either. Perhaps the best answer, he said, is the National Park Service’s answer: “No one knows for sure.”



A sculpture with a facial reconstruction of the man whose remains were found in Burial 101.



The African Burial Ground Monument in lower Manhattan.



Archaeologists excavated the area after the cemetery was discovered.

Found underground

Per **Audrey Heffernan**, chief environmental officer of MTA

Capital Construction:

- ▶ Pieces of the Battery wall and Whitehall Slip underneath the South Ferry subway station
- ▶ Clay pipes
- ▶ The soles of leather shoes
- ▶ Shards of pottery with biblical verses carved into them
- ▶ Coins
- ▶ Cannonballs

Per **Michael Kertzner**, general counsel, Joy Construction:

Joy Construction:

- ▶ Seven beer caves that were once used by the Ebling Brewing Company to cool beer (discovered in the Bronx last summer)
- ▶ Building ornaments
- ▶ 300 glass bottles dating from the mid-1850s to the present

Per **Scott Jordan**, artist/amateur archaeologist, proprietor of **New York Artifact Art** (newyorkartifactart.com):

- ▶ A tricornered hat worn by an American soldier during the Revolutionary War
- ▶ Bottles from the 1690s at South Street Seaport
- ▶ A 5,000-pound (approximately) cannon ("It was stuck in the mud, and it was 10 degrees

and we were trespassing on the site—so we literally couldn't move it.")

- ▶ Pottery shards
- ▶ Old shoes and belt buckles
- ▶ Food remains and bones

- ▶ Porcelain dolls and marbles
- ▶ Newspapers dating from the 1920s through the 1950s



A shift in the life



Name: Solomon Neuschatz

Age: 37

Years behind the wheel: 11

Average shift: 1pm–1am

Number of breaks: "A few, but they're always just five or ten minutes. I multitask while I drive."

Number of pickups in a 12-hour shift: "Ten to 14 when I'm doing airport runs; about 30 if I don't go to the airport."

Miles accrued per shift: 150 to 200

Money made before expenses per day: \$250 to \$300

Money made after expenses per day: \$50 to \$75 ("My lease is \$150 per day; gas is \$45")

Biggest "tip": \$100. "It was on a long trip out to Jersey—the fare was \$80 or something. The guy wanted to give me \$100 total, and there were two \$50 bills stuck together between his five twenties. I didn't realize till later."

Why do you drive a cab?

My father drove a cab for 40 years. I was a stockbroker, a dental technician and a salesman before coming to this. I was making other people money and being confined to a cubicle. Now, I'm always on the go. Are there sacrifices? Certainly. I'll probably be a hunchback by the time I'm 50.

[Laughs] But you gotta have fun with it. I consider this a career, not a job.

Do you always talk to your passengers? I'm a sucker for a good conversation. But I gauge the passenger; if you don't wanna talk I'm not gonna make you. People from Brooklyn, Queens or out of town are more talkative; old-school Manhattanites never want to talk.

I bet you overhear some good stuff. Oh my God. I've had people get divorced, get engaged, throw up... There have been fights where the wife literally got out while I was driving. I've had Uma Thurman, Kevin Bacon,

Adam Sandler. I've had old ladies ask me out. I've heard all kinds of things I don't want to hear. I've had people have sex in the backseat—

And you let it happen? Sure. Matter fact, I turned my rearview mirror to get a nicer view. [Laughs]

Awesome. Do you tend to remember your passengers? For about two weeks or so. A couple years ago, I picked [a couple] up from JFK and took 'em to the Hilton on 53rd Street and Sixth Avenue. Two weeks later, I picked the same couple up and took them back to the airport. Total coincidence. In the 11 years I've been driving, that's happened to me three times.

Ever feel unsafe? All the time. This is a dangerous job. When I was just two weeks in the business, I picked up these four kids from Times Square. They seemed really shady and I could tell I was in danger of getting robbed, but I didn't want to throw them out of the cab. They wanted to go to the Bronx. I'm running

every red light and praying that a police car pulls me over. I make it to the Madison Avenue Bridge and cross over. Suddenly, four paddy wagons pull me over. They frisk the kids; turns out two of them have knives and all of them had a bunch of knickknacks they had robbed.

Yikes. Okay, now tell me a nice story. I was at the Plaza Hotel and a guy comes up. All I could smell was money. He wants to go to Monticello [New York]. Turns out he was going out there for a few races; he owned a horse. As we go, I talk to him about the horse, the race. I had some money on me from the day, so I put like \$150 on his horse, and it won. It was a favorite, so I only won like \$100. I never told the guy what I'd done, but I knew he was a happy camper because he'd told me he'd had a \$2 million purse on that horse. He ended up paying me \$700. I wouldn't have made that in three days of work.

—Kate Lowenstein



The modern abode at 18 West 11th Street is known to many as the Weathermen house, because that's where three members of the group died in an explosion on March 6, 1970. Merrill Lynch cofounder Charles Merrill had lived there 50 years earlier, and Dustin Hoffman resided next door at the time the bomb accidentally went off. Look in the window of the redesigned domicile and you'll see a Paddington Bear plush toy whose outfit changes with the seasons.



Letter of the week

Under consideration

I'm tired of "naked readers" showing up in my mailbox. When is *TONY* going to do a "naked editorial staff" issue?—Elizabeth Miller, Ridgewood, NY

Fake isn't funny

Please do not waste our time with nonsense like the John Hodgman article ["225 things you don't know about NYC," *TONY* 747]. *Time Out New York* is supposed to be a fact-based resource, not David Letterman. I have too much agita from sorting out all the cutesy fakery in the world without you adding to it. When somebody actually hires me, and I don't have to worry about every dollar and minute, then maybe I'll get my sense of humor back.
—Jeff Epstein, New Jersey

In Gaga we trust

[In response to "Lady Gaga," Music, by Sophie Harris and Jay Ruttenberg, *TONY* 747]: Enough is enough. She is not Jesus, this is not the 12 stations of the cross.—Crankychick

Everybody's not fine

[In response to "Fines to be wary of," by Allison Williams, *TONY* 747]: You forgot noting a \$50 fine I paid on behalf of my teenage daughter for having her bag on a subway seat on an empty F train. Using more than one seat is unlawful, though it is not stated publicly, and likely at the end of the month to meet quotas, a police person could fine you if you are

★ ★ ★ Singles bash! ★ ★ ★

Hey, dateless New Yorkers—you know that *TONY* has your back, right? Not only did we score 100 grade-A singles for your perusal (page 14), but we're herding them together for your convenience. Join them at our 2010 *TONY* Singles bash, Monday 8 at Thom Bar (60 Thompson St at Broome St, 212-219-3200) from 6 to 9pm, and scout a new sweetie over drink specials and complimentary Stella Artois beer. R.S.V.P. to events@timeoutny.com—space is limited!

seen placing your backpack or shopping bag on the seat next to you—whether the train is crowded or empty!—Gail

Finders not keepers

Your highlight of the South Ferry artifacts in this week's *Time Out New York* ["Found underground," *TONY* 747] is very gratifying to New York City's urban archaeologists. These wonderful and often unique objects, recovered by professional archaeologists for the MTA, reveal unknown aspects of New York City's history. However, to our dismay, your feature also highlights the admitted trespassing of so-called archaeologists who clandestinely loot and then sell or trade similar objects for personal gain. This is

misplaced glorification that, unfortunately, encourages site looting, which deprives the general public of information about these objects. It is also an outrage to the professional and avocational archaeologist who carefully records sites, features and artifacts and then makes this information available in public documents, articles and books.—Joan H. Geismar, president, Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

The writer of the letter of the week wins a *Time Out* guide of their choice. Now available: *Time Out France*. Don't forget to include your name and address.



What's up with that?

Q What is the Commodore Criterion Building, why is it never open, and why is it that Christmas decorations have been sitting in the windows all year for the past few years? Just wanted to know.—J.U.

A The Commodore Criterion Building, often referred to as the Toy Center North Building, due to the various toy firms that kept their offices here during World War I, has been a designated landmark since 1981. Located on Broadway at 24th Street, facing Madison Square Park, it was built in 1915 and designed by H. Craig Severance and W. Van Alen—who is also known as the mastermind behind the Chrysler Building. "It replaced the Albemarle Hotel at a time when the area was transitioning from residential to retail and wholesale commercial uses," says Alex Herrera, director of technical services at the New York Landmarks Conservancy. "Now the area is reverting back to residential use and there are plans to convert the building to luxury residences." And while that process takes place—physical alterations need to be reviewed and approved by the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission—everything is on hold, including interior cleanup.
—Mary Wheeler



● = You rule, *TONY* ● = How dare you! ● = The more you know... ● = Thanks, Mom

On the blogs

TIMEOUTNEWYORK.COM

This month may be short, but it's mighty. Get with the program at **Black History Month events** throughout February.

We have the **week's best things to do**, from book readings to burlesque—if you do only one thing this week, it should be one of these.



Artists love to perform at our offices—Suzanne Vega, Kevin Bacon, even some guys who played percussion on our stairs. Check out the latest **Live at TONY** videos online.



THE VOLUME
MUSIC NEWS OF NOTE

6 SAT Lewis Carroll might have frowned upon the nudity at today's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland-inspired Draw-a-Thon (michaelalanart.com).

6 SAT Boogie down during a dance party celebrating Black History Month and Mardi Gras at the Brooklyn Museum's First Saturdays event (brooklynmuseum.org).

CITY LIVING

✦ DIGGING UP THE PAST

HANDLING HISTORY When relics are found: 1) Construction stops. 2) Archaeologist examines the site. 3) Experts take samples and do research. 4) MTA works around important finds. 5) Items are examined. 6) Historic registration and exhibits follow.

Unearthing Colonial New York

South Ferry project yields 65K artifacts

BY HEATHER HADDON
hhaddon@am-ny.com

The goat bones and oyster shells tell us what our Colonial forefathers ate. Stone jugs from Germany show where they traded, and stylish brass buckles and pointy leather shoes are a reminder that New Yorkers have always been fashion savvy.

These are among 65,000 historic artifacts that have turned up during construction at the South Ferry subway station and offer a



Dallal

rare glimpse into Colonial New York. Next month, a new exhibit will provide the public with a window into this vanished

way of life.

"This is probably the only time in our lifetime that this area will be dug up and studied," said Carissa Amash, curator at the New York Transit Museum, which will showcase the artifacts dis-



A child examines a surviving chunk of the Battery Wall at the South Ferry station. It was discovered nearby. (BRIAN DRISCOLL)

covered at South Ferry.

The MTA must follow strict preservation law and keeps archaeologists on call for when contractors

encounter remains. Discovering materials sets off a chain of events that lasts for months, wrapping up with a written history of the site

and public preservations.

"There is more than a local interest. The archaeologists are very excited about [the findings]," said Audrey

Heffernan, the MTA's chief environmental officer.

The artifacts include two bombshells: well-preserved stretches of the stone Battery Wall that protected the island until 1790, and an early-18th-century dock made of logs and fill.

Archaeologists also found uniform buttons, coins, war medals, 17th-century tobacco pipes and bright household ceramics, some originally from England, the Netherlands and China.

The remains come from people of all classes, as the dirt was once part of the city dump, said Diane Dallal, archaeology director for AKRF, a firm that analyzed the remnants.

"We have history books. But the artifacts provide information about what was actually going on," she said.

HIDDEN NO MORE

These items are among the lost treasures found at South Ferry.



Local stoneware jar handle



Commemorative war medal



Crucifixion on a wall tile



British pipe circa 1660-1722



Cast copper alloy buckles



Colorful painted saucer

GREAT VALUE! 1-BEDRM APT - \$1995
LUXURY GREEN BUILDING

In Tribeca at North End of Battery Park City

Amenities include 24-hour attended lobby, on-site resident manager, laundry room on every floor, state-of-the-art health and fitness center, children's playground, party room, business center, on-site ATM, bike storage and garage. The site overlooks a landscaped garden park with nearby dog run. LEED certified.

Household Size	Minimum Income	Maximum Income
1	\$73,491	\$83,100
2	\$73,491	\$95,100

Income ranges and rents are subject to change.

To request an application, send your complete mailing name and address, including apartment number and zip code to: Related Management, Attn. TG, 330 West 30th Street, New York, NY 10001 or by toll-free fax to 866-848-6866 or by e-mail to: tribeca.requests@related.com. An application can also be picked up at Related Management, 330 West 30th Street, between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information, call toll-free: 877-944-1144.

Equal Housing Opportunity

DAY CARE COUNCIL OF NEW YORK, INC.
www.dccnyinc.org

Our professionally trained Phone Counselors can offer you FREE child care referral information on:

- The Location of Child Care Provider
- Summer Camps
- Infant/Toddler Programs
- Licensed & Registered Family and Group Family Care
- After-School Programs
- Nanny Services
- Nursery Schools
- Becoming a Child Care Provider
- Head Start Programs
- The New NYS Medication Regulations

Helping Parents Seeking Child Care Information in the five boroughs since 1952.

(212) 206-7818
M-F 8:30AM-5:30PM

12 West 21st St., 3rd fl., NYC, 10010

If you go On March 18, the New York Transit Museum Annex at Grand Central Terminal will open an exhibit of 100 South Ferry artifacts.

The remains come from people of all classes, as the dirt was once part of the city dump, said Diane Dallal, archaeology director for AKRF, a firm that analyzed the remnants.

"We have history books. But the artifacts provide information about what was actually going on," she said.

Event	Topic	Speaker	Time	Date	Location	Contacts	Fee
Exhibition: "Where New York Began: Archaeology at the South Ferry Terminal"	A New York City Transit Exhibit in Grand Central Terminal. Celebrating Dutch achievement using maps and books from the Map Division			March 18 – July 5, 2010	Grand Central Station		Free
Exhibition at the NYPL: "Mapping New York's Shoreline"				now through June 26 th	New York Public Library, 42 nd St. and Fifth Ave.		Free
Graduate Center Events: "The Row House Reborn"	Architecture and Neighborhoods in new York City, 1908-1929	Architectural Historian Andrew Dolkart (Columbia U.)	6:30pm	March 10, 2010	The Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Ave	Gotham Center for New York City History 212-817-8215	Free
Graduate Center Events: "David Ruggles: A Radical Black Abolitionist and the Underground Railroad in New York City"	A discussion of a new biography of David Ruggles (1810-1849)	Graham Russell Gao Hodges	6:30pm	April 13, 2010	The Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Ave	Gotham Center for New York City History 212-817-8215	Free
Society for American Archaeology (SAA) 75 th Anniversary Meeting, St. Louis, MO				April 14-18, 2010			
Exhibition at the N-YHS: "Lincoln and New York"				through March 25, 2010	New York Historical Society (N-YHS) 170 Central Park West	212-873-3400	Free to members, Adults \$12, Seniors \$9, Students \$7
Exhibition at the N-YHS: "John Brown, the Abolitionist and His Legacy"				through March 25, 2010	New York Historical Society (N-YHS) 170 Central Park West	212-873-3400	Free to members, Adults \$12, Seniors \$9, Students \$7
Met Chapter Event: Tour of the Calver and Bolton Collection at the Dyckman House		Susan DeVries, Director of the Dyckman House Museum	4pm	March 27, 2010	Dyckman House Museum, 4881 Broadway at 204 th St.	reserve with Meredith Linn, mb2002@columbia.edu	
Met Chapter Event: a Talk on Africans in New Amsterdam		Diana Wall	2:30pm	April 17, 2010	Brooklyn Museum		
Met Chapter Events: a Talk on Burling Slip	An overview of recent discoveries at Burling Slip, South Street Seaport	Molly MacDonald	6pm	May 18, 2010	AKRF, 440 Park Ave. South, 7 th flr., Big Apple Conference Rm.		
Met Chapter Event: a Tour of the Archaeology Project at Battery Park		Linda Stone	2pm	June 27, 2010			

MEMBERSHIP/NEWSLETTER/INFORMATION:

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:

Jessica Striebel MacLean
156 Bainbridge Street
Brooklyn, NY 11233

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE: _____

ZIP (+FOUR): _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Please indicate your preferences below, as appropriate.

I wish to apply for membership to PANYC and would like to receive the application form _____

The application form may also be downloaded from:
http://www.panycarchaeology.org/membership_information.html

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

I wish to make an additional donation to PANYC _____

I wish to receive the PANYC Newsletter in digital (e-format) _____

I wish to receive the PANYC Newsletter in printed (mailed) form _____

If you have any questions please email: info@panycarchaeology.org