

PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2017

ISSUE 176

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings! Our November membership meeting is just around the corner, so mark your calendars for Tuesday, November 14th! We will be discussing many important topics including the raising of PANYC annual dues, the future of the organization, next year's Public Program, and more. It will be held from 6-8 pm at the Neighborhood Preservation Center at 232 11th Street, New York, NY.

One of PANYC's founding members, Dr. Ralph Solecki just celebrated his 100th birthday! We sent celebratory wishes to him on behalf of PANYC, and hope he enjoyed his day!

Thank you to all who provided comments and thoughts on the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission's request for thoughts on the revisions to the Guidelines for Archaeological Work in New York City. We submitted a detailed letter with suggestions and look forward to reading the next draft.

Just a friendly reminder if your membership renewal is past due: if you are in arrears from last year and would like to bring dues current, or would just like to renew your membership, please bring your renewal form and membership fee either to the next PANYC meeting or mail directly to our treasurer: Shelly Spritzer, 301 East 76th Street, Apr. 14, New York, NY 10021. Also any additional donations are tax-deductible, too! Checks can be made out to PANYC.

We have some interesting presentations and workshops being put together for PANYC members and as a reminder, if anyone has an interesting topic to discuss or a presentation of recent work that may be of interest to the general membership, please feel free to contact me at: info@panycarchaeology.org.

Upcoming PANYC Membership Meeting Dates: Thursday, March 15; 6-8 PM (annual meeting/general membership meeting) and Tuesday, May 22, 6-8 PM (membership meeting). Looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting!

Best, Kelly M. Britt, PANYC President

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PANYC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

May 23, 2017 | 6:00 PM

Neighborhood Preservation Center

232 East 11th Street, New York, New York

PRESENT:

Britt, Cantwell, Geismar, MacLean, Martin, Meade, Pickman, Rakos, Spritzer, Stone, Wall

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Britt began the meeting by thanking Rakos for the wonderful Public Program on April 30th. She also said that she was so glad to see that many PANYC members attended NYC's April March for Science.

Britt then sent Marcus Watson's membership application around the table for approval for a vote by the membership.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

A recent membership renewal notice included a place for members to donate to the PANYC Public Program. Spritzer told members that this was very helpful as PANYC received \$140 in donations for the Public Program. The Museum of the City of New York lowered their original price for April's public program so that means that PANYC only had to pay \$60 for the Public Program in total. Thank you to all who donated.

As of May 23, 2017, there is approximately \$4132 in the PANYC bank account. We have 23 paid members for 2017. Please send in your membership renewal forms and dues.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Archives (Geismar, Linn, Rakos, Stone):

Most archives have been processed. Stone has some documents that should stay in hard copy as they are financial papers but she would like to know where PANYC should store the newly digitized information. Geismar (on behalf of Linn) asked for permission to shred the papers of those non-financial documents that are now scanned. Members gave permission for the shredding of these documents.

Awards (Cantwell, Rothschild, Schuldenrein):

The committee is paused until the new year for the 2018 Public Program.

Education (George, MacLean, Martin):

Those present acknowledged that the committee needs to meet in the coming months to organize.

Events (There is no events committee as of now):

There is a new exhibit on board The Lilac: "The Hidden Hulks of New York Harbor" curated by Mary Habstritt with contributions from Norman Brouwer, Joan H. Geismar, Elizabeth Meade, Lynn Rakos, Margaret Stocker, and Gerald Weinstein. Lilac will be open to view the exhibits and tour the ship from 2:00 to 7:00 Saturdays and Sundays and 4:00 to 7:00 on Thursdays through October. Lilacpreservationproject.org

Historic House Trust (Linn, Wall):

Members present are not sure if this committee is active at the moment but as the new HHT director, John Krawchuk, has expressed interest in NYC's archaeology and received the PANYC award for 2017, they believe that this may be a good time to reach out again.

Landmarks Preservation Commission: (Berghoffen, Britt, Geismar, Rothschild, Stone):

Geismar and Britt explained that they try to keep up with what properties are going up for review by the LPC but they would like to find some who will designate that as their task for PANYC. Please notify the committee if you would be willing to do this task.

PANYC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

COMMITTEE REPORTS (CONTINUED):

Municipal Arts Society (Geismar):

Geismar described that there have not been many changes in the last few months since they appointed a new director, Elizabeth Goldberg.

Membership:

Members present discussed the problems with our application process. The application has now been re-worded to make it clearer that those applying for membership need to wait for a membership meeting in order to get voted into the organization. A vote was called on the application passed around earlier. Marcus Watson was unanimously voted in.

Met Chapter (Rothschild, Wall):

Wall announced that there were no upcoming events. They are looking for fresh ideas and for people with new ideas to run for office, specifically President or Co-President. PANYC recommended that they send out an email bulletin that includes a place asking for those interested in running for Met Chapter office.

Newsletter (Meade):

Members wish to thank Ted Roberts for his efforts on the newsletter over the past few years. They also thank Elizabeth Meade for her efforts, in advance, as the new editor of the PANYC Newsletter.

NYAC (Geismar, Stone):

Stone announced that she is stepping down from the NYAC board after 15 years. She notes that she will still be involved with NYAC but not as a board member. Geismar and Stone went on to describe the most recent meeting in Lake George. NYAC has been trying out different meeting formats. A video competition will be at the next spring meeting and this program was meant to allow the archaeologists to learn from a videographer for the upcoming competition. Geismar and Stone also discussed how NYAC and NYSAA are having a complicated time designing their annual meeting to work for both organizations.

Parks (Linn):

Nothing new was discussed regarding parks.

Public Program (Britt, Rakos):

As the Public Program is over for this year the only major announcement was that PANYC needs someone to chair next year's program. Our by-laws state that if no one comes forward to help on the public program, the president must appoint someone. Rakos had recently asked MacFarlan at the MCNY about when to start working with them on the next program. Nothing before the Fall 2017 will be necessary. All present said a huge thank you to Rakos and Rothschild for working on the agreement document over the last year.

Website (Britt, Loorya, Rakos, Stone):

Loorya had recently told Britt that she needs the passwords for the GoDaddy account. Pickman stated that he will look for passwords. Britt believed that it is also possible to re-set the passwords. Rakos suggested that the committee should determine what the entire problem is and then go from there.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business was raised.

PANYC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

NEW BUSINESS:

Britt brought up the idea of keeping members informed of meeting topics after each meeting (general or board) in order to make all members feel more involved. It was decided that the president will send out a letter after each board meeting and Martin will send out the minutes after the general meetings.

The next year's meeting dates were then chosen. The 2017 are confirmed by the NPC will not allow us to make reservations into the next year so the 2018 dates are pending upon confirmation in the new year.

Thursday September 14 6-8pm, Board only

Tuesday November 14 6-8pm, Membership

Wednesday January 17 6-8pm, Board only

Thursday March 15 6-8pm, Annual meeting, general membership

Tuesday May 22 6-8pm, Membership meeting

Another piece of new business is that Arthur Bankoff at Brooklyn College is looking for a site for some high school students. He would like it to be a small site, for just a few weeks work.

MacLean brought up the final topic of the meeting. She approached The Center for Digital Learning at a conference about setting up informational or professional development webinars for PANYC members. This could be an interesting way for PANYC to encourage meeting attendance while also being useful for our work as professionals. PANYC could host one or two of these webinars at LPC for the live feed. Those present thought this might be a good idea for all members but wanted to know the cost. MacLean will check on the cost for members. If not too much, Pickman suggested PANYC could even offer to sponsor the cost for members. Outside members could be invited as well. Britt suggested doing a poll for PANYC members to see if they will be interested and what topic would interest them most. Stone points out that NYAC recently did a doodle poll to see which of certain topics their members might want to discuss and they didn't limit it in options enough. Those present understood this issue and thought members should be offered to choose from three options as a beginning point. The meeting was interested in this new possibility, in general, though. Thank you to MacLean for the good idea.

Britt then adjourned the meeting at 7pm and Rakos gave a very interesting presentation on her recent work in Laos. Thank you to Rakos for your time spent presenting on this amazing experience.

End of Minutes.

Member Spotlight: Lynn Rakos' Recent Work in Laos

In January and February 2017, Lynn Rakos deployed with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) through an agreement between DPAA and the US Army Corps of Engineers, her employer. Rakos was sent on a mission to Laos where she served as the Scientific Recovery Expert directing the excavation of an F-4 crash site from the Viet Nam War. The work was conducted in an effort to recover evidence of the two missing Air Force pilots who were on board the aircraft. She oversaw a crew of 18 US service people and up to 90 Laotian workers. Over thirty 4x4 meter units were excavated and screened. Evidence was recovered, repatriated back to the US and identified at the DPAA forensic laboratory in Hawaii. The two airmen were accounted for and their remains were returned to their families for burial.

UPCOMING EVENTS

COMPILED BY: LIZZIE MARTIN, PANYC SECRETARY

Elite Northern Colleges and Their Ties to Slavery: Brooklyn Historical Society November 30, 2017 | 6:30 PM

Event Description: Columbia, Princeton, Brown, Yale. The ties between these institutions and America's "peculiar institution" are deep.

Speakers: Eric Foner, the Columbia University and Slavery project; Martha Sandweiss, Princeton; and author Craig Wilder

Cost: \$10 (\$5) for members)

More Information: <http://www.brooklynhistory.org/visitor/calendar.html>

Free Open House: Tenement Museum December 2, 2017 | 6:30 PM, 7:00 PM, 7:30 PM, and 8:00 PM

Event Description: They invite you to explore a new tour, listen, taste, and share your way through the stories of American immigration with complimentary tours of our two historic tenement buildings.

Cost: FREE

More Information: <http://tenement.org/events-detail-new.php=id43>

Unlocking Public Space: Placemaking in Brownsville: Brooklyn Historical Society December 18, 2017 | 6:30 PM

Event Description: Starting with Jane Jacobs's first campaign against Robert Moses, urbanists have argued that public space is a critical component of a healthy, vibrant city. But what if people fear for their safety on their own street?

Speakers: Ginia Bellafante, New York Times, moderates, with Erica Mateo and Deron Johnston from the Brownsville Community Justice Center, David Burney, Director of Pratt's Urban Placemaking and Management program

Cost: \$5 (free for members)

More Information: <http://www.brooklynhistory.org/visitor/calendar.html>

HELP US IMPROVE THE NEWSLETTER!

We hope you are enjoying the new PANYC newsletter! We have plans for the continued improvement of the newsletter, but we need your help! If you would you like to submit something for a future newsletter, let the group know of your upcoming publication, or if you know of an event that will be of interest to the group, please let us know! Your thoughts and suggestions for making the newsletter better are welcome, too! Please send all submissions to the newsletter editor:

Elizabeth Meade
440 Park Avenue South, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10016
email: emeade@akrf.com

RECENT CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PANYC PRESIDENT

Recent correspondence issued by the PANYC president on behalf of PANYC are included on the following pages. The following is a brief summary of the correspondence and the relevant issues that inspired them:

Letters were submitted via email to Dean Baquet, the Editor of the *New York Times*, and to First Deputy Mayor Anthony Shorris regarding an article published in the Times describing individuals who excavate privies and sell excavated artifacts (the article can be found at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/15/nyregion/bottle-man-scott-jordan-artifacts-landfills.html>)

A letter was submitted to Amanda Sutphin, Director of Archaeology at the New York Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) in response to LPC's request for comments on the revision of LPC's Guidelines for Archaeological Work in New York City, which were last updated in 2002. A PANYC committee was formed to prepare the response (consisting of Kelly Britt, Camille Czerkowicz, Diane George, and Elizabeth Meade) and the committee's comments were circulated among the PANYC board for final approval.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF *THE NEW YORK TIMES*,

SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL IN RESPONSE TO THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/15/nyregion/bottle-man-scott-jordan-artifacts-landfills.html>

Dear Mr. Baquet,

I am writing to you on behalf of -Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc. (PANYC) regarding your June 15th on-line piece entitled, *For the Bottle Man, Business Is (Happily) in the Toilet* that was featured in your weekly "Character Study" in the N.Y./Region Section of the New York Times. At PANYC we are pleased when archaeology receives attention from the press and we applaud you for your interest. However, we are very disappointed that Mr. Jordan has been highlighted in your paper as an "urban archaeologist". Digging for treasures to be sold at market is *not* urban archaeology but is rather known as looting. Archaeological fieldwork is comprised of methodical excavation, documentation, analysis and presentation of findings to the public that provide us all with a glimpse into New York City's past. In addition, the profession has ethics that archaeologists uphold and digging and selling artifacts do *not* meet these standards. It would be wonderful if you next feature a real professional urban archaeologist! There are many of us working on fascinating projects in NYC and I would be more than happy to put you in touch with a few.

Sincerely,

Kelly M Britt, PhD

PANYC President

380 Macon Street #3, Brooklyn, NY 11233

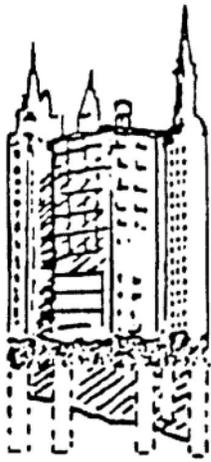
(Please note a print version of the article appeared on June 18th entitled, *Digging Down Deep*).

Dear Deputy Mayor Shorris,

I am writing to you on behalf of Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc. (PANYC) to bring to your attention the New York Times June 15th on-line piece entitled, For the Bottle Man, Business Is (Happily) in the Toilet that was featured in your weekly "Character Study" in the N.Y./Region Section of the New York Times. At PANYC we are pleased when archaeology receives attention from the press. However, we are very disappointed that Mr. Jordan has been highlighted in the paper as an "urban archaeologist". Digging for treasures to be sold at market is not urban archaeology but is rather known as looting. Archaeological fieldwork is comprised of methodical excavation, documentation, analysis and presentation of findings to the public that provide us all with a glimpse into New York City's past. In addition, the profession has ethics that archaeologists uphold and digging and selling artifacts do not meet these standards. We wanted to bring this article to your attention to make you aware that NYC history is being taken away from it's public. At PANYC we take NYC history seriously and feel it should be conducted professionally and ethically and importantly made available for the entire public-not for individual sale. We hope to have your support in this endeavor and look forward to working with city for making its history available to all. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Kelly M Britt, PhD
PANYC President

(Please note a print version of the article appeared on June 18th entitled, Digging Down Deep).

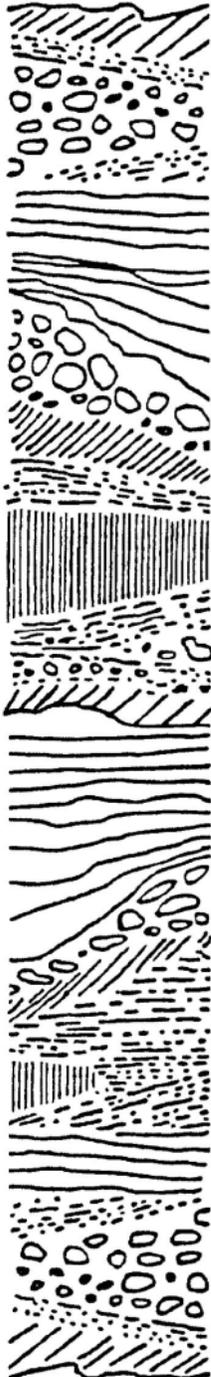


Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.
(sent via email)

August 25, 2017

Ms. Amanda Sutphin
Director of Archaeology
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street
New York, NY 10007

PANYC



Dear Amanda,

Thank you for giving Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC) the opportunity to comment on the Landmarks Preservation Commission’s “Guidelines for Archaeological Work in New York City”. We solicited thoughts from members and have compiled a set of suggestions that are attached with this letter. Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions or clarifications needed.

PANYC looks forward to having an opportunity to comment on the next draft of the Guidelines as you continue the process and provide applicants and professional archaeologists the navigation necessary for the archaeological review process and consistency in archaeological practice and methodology in NYC.

Thank you again for this opportunity.

**Kelly
Britt**

Digitally signed by Kelly
Britt
DN: cn=Kelly Britt, o, ou,
email=kellym.britt@brookl
yn.cuny.edu, c=US
Date: 2017.08.27 13:50:48
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Sincerely,
Kelly M Britt, PhD, RPA

PANYC President

Notes from Guidelines review:

Divided by Sections:

1.0 Purpose of Guidelines

- Possibly two sets of guidelines 1) Archaeologists 2) Developers.
- Make explicit to whom the guidelines are for in the Introduction.
- Use terms such as “will” vs. “should”-more explicit and direct makes it easier to enforce.
- Detailed guidelines can be an empowering tool for archaeologists and easier to enforce.
- Plan for large projects in guidelines.
- A Table summarizing how the different legislation explained on page 2 and 3 affects sites would be useful. Or at least, which regulations affect which kinds of sites (federal, state, city, privately owned...).

2.0 Significance

- Perhaps more indication of criteria and process/forms for NR, SR and Landmarks inclusion.
- Perhaps in the section that discusses the types of archaeological research questions that could be addressed with archaeological inquiry

3.0 Overview of the Review Process

- Overall would be more useful to align Phases with CEQR/SEQR Guidelines (CEQR manual also may need updating).
- Flow chart before page 6-needs to be refined and needs a page number.
- Section 3.3 Doesn't always allow for significance assessment.
- Section 3.3 “Examination” can be part of additional excavation.

4.0 Initial Review

- Perhaps this is where the two different guidelines 1) for Archaeologists 2) Developers would be useful.

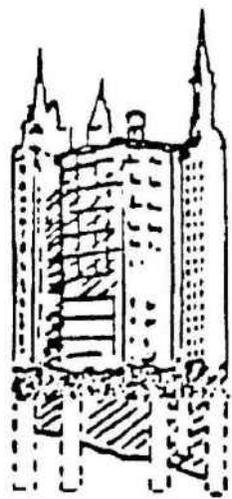
5.0 Professional Qualifications

- Principal Investigator (PI) Secretary of Interior (SOI) and Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA).
- Perhaps a statement of clarification of qualifications for different archaeological positions i.e., from Principal Investigator to Field Technician.
- PI or at least a qualified supervisor should be actively involved and on site.

6.0 Phases of Investigation

- List of resources-update (include web resources).
- Perhaps language could be changed to make it clearer that the listed sources may or may not apply and there may be additional sources not listed that apply.

- Section 6.31 MOU/MOA reference really is a contract and MOU/MOA are usually reserved for federal projects or agency contracts
 - When working for a contractor versus agency, a contractor generally just wants price not details.
 - Phase 2/3-should mandate ecofact/flotation in examination and analysis if possible.
- 7.0 Burials and Human Remains
- Indicate that city law requires a funeral director and permit to remove remains; also clarify any protections for cemeteries falling in as-of-right development.
 - Note regarding tribal nations with historical interests in NYC- Federally recognized: Delaware Nation, Delaware Tribal Nation, Shinnecock Nation, and Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of the Mohicans; State Recognized: Unkechaug Nation.
- 8.0 Archaeological Artifacts and Disposition
- More specific guidelines are needed on how to analyze and catalog artifacts; ideally, which kind(s) of database(s) are acceptable/ recommended, which sources for dating objects should be consulted. (at least for the most common types of artifacts, i.e., Jefpat for ceramics, SHABLM Bottle Guide for bottles), what terminology should be used.
 - New Provisions for how to submit digitized material related to reports and digital versions of reports—specifically what kind of programs are available for updating digitized information (as new programs and forms of digital storage emerge).
 - More specific guidelines about how to write, assemble, and format reports—e.g., NJ HPO's guidelines.
- 9.0 Conservation and Storage
- More specific guidelines are needed for how to submit artifacts to the City Repository (i.e., in archival-grade bags, which objects should be stored separately, how to label each artifact, bag, and box, and how to organize the boxes, etc.).
- 10.0 Repositories
- Clarify that material from city owned land-needs to be curated in the City Repository.
 - Note options for material from non-city owned land.
 - Guidance on curation needs for Phase 1B artifacts vs. Phase 2 or 3.
- 11.0 Site Documentation at the Landmarks Preservation Commission
- How to map and reference archaeological data to add to GIS layers and create a map.
 - Need a search engine that is easy to use and reference, and explain how GIS data from reports can be easily inputted.
- 12.0 For further Information
- Update if needed.



PANYC

Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM 2017

Please Circle Your Membership Option:

Full Member (includes Newsletter): \$20.

Adjunct Member (includes Newsletter): \$15

[An adjunct member is a non-voting member currently working toward an advanced degree and/or who is employed in a field related to archaeology]

Newsletter Subscription: \$10.

Additional 501C3 Tax Deductible Donation: \$_____

Please mail this form along with your check, made payable to PANYC, to:

Shelly Spritzer, PANYC Treasurer
301 East 76th Street, Apt. 14
New York, NY 10021-2446

Please indicate the year(s) for which you are renewing membership:_____

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

