

Professional Archaeologists of New York City

PANyc

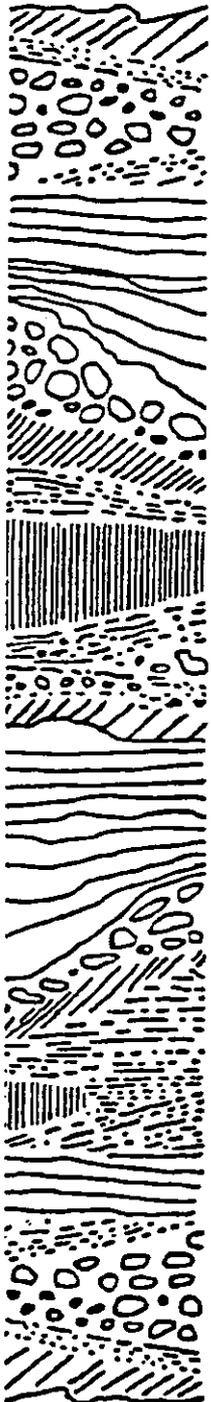
NEWSLETTER

Number 94, January 2000

Contents	
Minutes, General Meeting	1
Correspondence	3
In the News	4
Events Calendar	11
PANyc Membership Application	12

Materials for the PANyc Newsletter may be sent to:

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.....
NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING: 19 JANUARY 2000

Hunter College North, the intersection of East 68th and Lexington, Manhattan; Room 710
Turn right out of elevator, go through doors, turn left and go to end of hall, the room is on the right
Executive Board: 6:00 P.M.
General Membership: 6:30 P. M.

.....
Minutes of the PANYC General Membership meeting: 17 November 1999

President Dallal called the meeting to order at 6:37 P.M.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Stone commended the previous minutes. The minutes of the previous General membership meeting were approved with the following corrections: Under **SECRETARY'S REPORT:** the penultimate sentence should read - Basa likes CEQR as a model. Under **NYAC:** NYAC will be amending their standards. Under **OLD BUSINESS:** The fifth sentence should read - Geismar wrote a letter in the newsletter in support of New York Unearthed. The archaeology education program in New York City was initiated by the South Street Seaport.

Dallal introduced a motion to give the PANYC mailing list to Nancy Brighton for requesting submissions to the CNEHA newsletter. The motion was approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: There is a balance of \$1665.63 in the PANYC treasury.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President Dallal stated that Lattanzi had asked Oates about a PANYC meeting space. Hunter College will allow PANYC to meet there in Room 710. Dallal thanked Lattanzi. Geismar expressed gratitude to the two attorneys working on the PANYC not-for profit status, and stated that we have the certificate of incorporation. The discussion was turned over to the attorneys.

Jacqui Rubin and Steve Lee informed the membership that they would answer questions about the certificate of incorporation and discuss PANYC's bylaws. Lee stated concern about the provision against lobbying. Once PANYC has gotten 501C3 status we can not do substantial monitoring, however, trying to get laws enforced is not monitoring. Rubin stated that a 501H election seemed to be appropriate. The IRS would look at our expenditures. Up to 20% of the budget can be spent on lobbying. More than 20% is considered substantial. Stone asked if this referred to the annual budget or PANYC's total assets. This refers to PANYC's total assets, was replied. Spritzer stated that lobbyists can't be hired. Geismar said that 20% of a larger budget would allow us to spend more money. She added that we qualified for the charitable and educational category.

Rubin stated there are seven issues to discuss, and asked for feedback about the document summarizing them.

1. Membership Dues, Members In Good Standing

What is meant by the lapsed year, Stone asked for Freeman. The issue of lapsed members was discussed. Geismar stated that a lapsed member has one years' grace to receive the newsletter, but not for voting. A member that moved away can resign and later be reinstated. Mailings can still be received in this instance with payment. Stone moved to accept these resolutions and Pickman seconded. These resolutions were approved by the membership.

2. Term Of Office For Officers Or Executive Board Members

Yamin stated that there is too much stability on the executive board. It was suggested that the secretary serve a mandatory two year term. Stone moved that a two year term be served by the secretary. Issue 2 was approved unanimously.

3. Removal Of Members and of Directors/Officers

Pickman asked if a grievance committee should be instated. Rakos inquired if a notice should be mailed telling of a removal vote at the next meeting. Pickman and Geismar answered affirmatively. Rubin said that a grievance committee should be formed. Pickman moved to accept the motion and Stone seconded. The motion to form a

grievance committee was approved with two dissenting votes. Rubin advised that standards for removal should not be agreed upon at this time. Geismar said that only the procedure would be decided at this time. Killeen will consult the ROPA guidelines about removal. Option 3 of the removal of members and of directors/officers was voted on and approved.

4. Quorum Of Board

The fourth issue regarding quorum of board was voted on and approved.

5. Special Meetings

The proposal was voted on and approved

6. Dissolution Procedures

The proposal was voted on and approved.

7. Committees

A vote was unnecessary at this time.

Rubin will be sending the articles of incorporation to the New York State Department of Education. Lee stated that it will be filed with the State Department. The process will be complete about one month from the meeting. Stone inquired about tax returns. A 501C3 status will be filed, Rubin replied. What forms should be filed, asked Stone. There is nothing to file until the budget is over \$25,000., stated Rubin. Harris asked if we have to do standard bookkeeping. Only a minimum is needed, replied Rubin. Our records will be evaluated in 5 years by the IRS. This will give PANYC more options, said Lee. PANYC will have a reduced postage rate, stated Rubin. Geismar spoke for the membership in thanking Jacqui Rubin and Steve Lee of Columbia Law School for their fine efforts. Further discussion of the certificate of incorporation ensued.

AWARDS: The awards notices are in the newsletter.

CITY HALL PARK: A proposal for artifact analysis and a report was submitted by Parsons Engineering Science and was not yet accepted, Dallal stated.

EVENTS: The upcoming events are listed in the newsletter.

NEWSLETTER: Rakos announced her resignation. John Killeen assumed the responsibilities of Newsletter editor. Geismar noted that the November newsletter is the first with the new logo.

NYAC: Applications can not be considered until the spring meeting, Harris stated.

PUBLIC PROGRAM: Geismar announced that the Public Program will be held on April 16. Yamin, Stone and Geismar are on the Public Program committee.

STONE STREET: Ed Morin invited PANYC members to visit the site. The monitoring work is starting. Excavation units will be hand dug if intact surfaces are encountered. Harris asked if ISTEAF funds were still being used. She suggested that Dallal write to Kuhn regarding the project's significance within the Section 106 process.

URBAN STANDARDS: Comments were received from Geismar and Yamin. More comments were requested.

WEB SITE: The web site will be ready by November 21 at Ricciardi's site.

Slides of the Harriman State Park hike were shown.

Dallal moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 P.M. and Geismar seconded.



THE NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
100 OLD SLIP, NEW YORK, NY 10005 TEL: 212-487-6820 FAX: 212-487-6796 TTY: 212-487-6745



November 17, 1999

Diane Dallal
President, PANYC
c/o South Street Seaport Museum
17 State Street
New York, NY 10004

Dear Ms. Dallal:

Deputy Mayor Washington has asked me to respond to your letter of October 25 expressing concern about the analysis and conservation of the archaeological artifacts excavated from City Hall Park.

We strongly take issue with your charge that the archaeological artifacts are being mishandled and improperly stored. As I am sure you know, Dr. Petar Glumac and Parsons Engineering Science are responsible for proper care of the material excavated from City Hall Park pending analysis. Dr. Glumac has assured the City that the artifacts are being stored in a facility which meets Federal standards for the temporary curation and storage of archaeological materials.

As you know, the City has required that a final report on the City Hall Park archeology be part of the project. Dr. Glumac must present a preliminary report which details the artifacts found during the excavations, and a scope of work which explains further steps necessary to complete the final report. Dr. Glumac has not yet submitted an adequate proposal. Once he has done so, the City will be able to assess the next steps and address appropriate levels of study and funding.

Thank you for your concern.

Sincerely yours,

Ronda Wist
Executive Director

cc: Deputy Commissioner Rudy Washington
Chairman Jennifer J. Raab
George Vellonikas
Petar Glumac
Robert Kuhn

BURIAL AT SEA

A ship graveyard at Bayonne inspires art and archeologist



Bayonne resident Al James stands in the hull of an old sailing ship that rests in the mud of Port Johnson on the Kill Van Kull.

rdon

been 70 years since acclaimed
artist John A. Noble first viewed
"silent city of forgotten ships" at
Port Johnston, and 15 years
since his death at 74.

Not much is left of the once great
city of disintegrating vessels that
inspired Noble's artistic vision and
inspired him on a long career of
documenting the pathos of the age of
ruins.

It succumbed to time, tide, scavenger
and front development.

The remnants of the wooden ship grave-
yard are too fascinating to
destroy. This time, however,
the Army Corps of Engineers that, like
the state, is dedicated to preserving the strange
— even as it methodically clears
the state's waterways.

The New York District Corps of Engineers,
is busy inventorying and documenting
the remaining carcasses of vessels from
the same time era in hopes that something
significant may still remain to add to
the knowledge of wooden vessel construction.

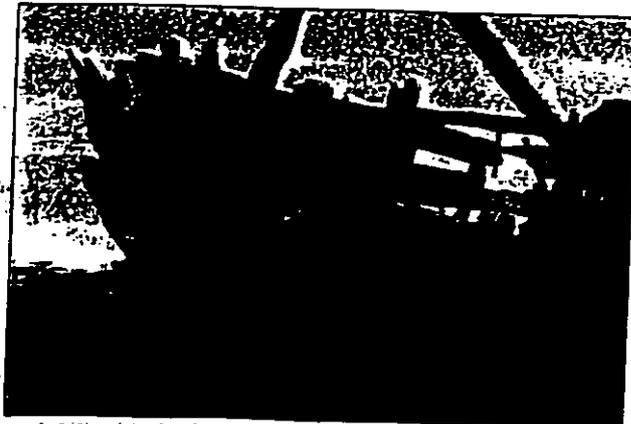
"Some of this treasure — the history
and the information hidden among
the remains is invaluable," said Nancy
Archeologist with the Corps'
Analysis Branch. "Some of the
types no longer found or for
exist."

Of the 2,000 derelict vessels located
in a 1964 survey, only 463
are slated for removal. Of the
76 vessels have been identified
as "significant resources" that could

PLEASE SEE SHIPS, PAGE 35



THE JOHN A. NOBLE COLLECTION



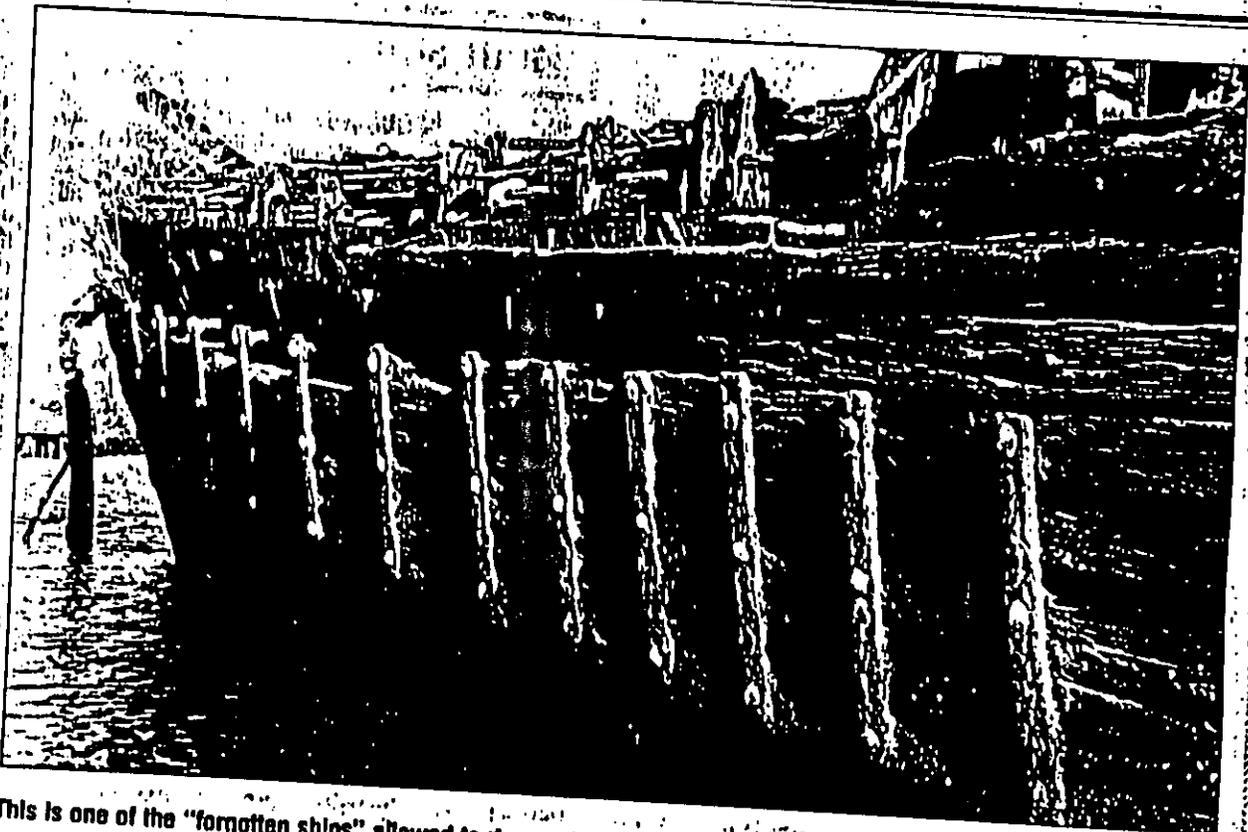
Above left,
a 1973 photo
of artist
John A. Noble,
who painted
ruined vessels
such as those
shown left
and above
right.

tion was relatively simple. You
could argue for a physical inspec-

MONROE COUNTY
CLERK
OFFICE
100 N. 10TH ST.
MONROE, LA 70002
TELEPHONE 281-1111

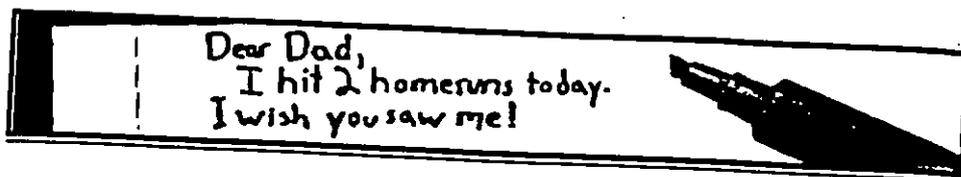
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LAWLESS 11:20 1:55 4:25 7:25 10:05
LEPPY HOLLOW 11:20 1:55 4:25 7:25 10:05
0:45 1:15 1:30 2:00 4:15 4:50 7:15 7:45 9:56 10:26
no World in Mind Kenneth P. B. B.

THE STAR-LEDGER



This is one of the "forgotten ships" allowed to decay along the Bayonne waterfront.

PHOTO BY TOM KITTS



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The Star-Ledger
 THE NEWSPAPER FOR NEW JERSEY
 NEWS BUSINESS SPORTS FEATURES OPINION

Burial at sea

A ship graveyard at Bayonne has inspired art and archaeologists

12/06/99

By William Gordon
STAR-LEDGER STAFF

It has been 70 years since acclaimed marine artist John A. Noble first viewed the "silent city of forgotten ships" at Bayonne's Port Johnston, and 15 years since his death at 74.

Not much is left of the once great armada of disintegrating vessels that inspired Noble's artistic vision and launched him on a long career of capturing in his art the pathos of the age of sail as it lay in ruins.

Most have succumbed to time, tide, scavengers and waterfront development.

But the remnants of the wooden ship graveyard continue to fascinate. This time, however, it's the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that, like Noble, is dedicated to preserving the strange decayed fleet — even as it methodically clears its debris from the state's waterways.

The New York District Corps of Engineers, has been doggedly inventorying and documenting the fast-disappearing carcasses of vessels from an earlier maritime era in hopes that something historically significant may still remain to add to the knowledge of wooden vessel construction.

"The value of this treasure — the history it represents and the information hidden among the jumbled timbers is invaluable," said Nancy Brighton, an archaeologist with the corps' Environmental Analysis Branch. "Some of the vessels represent types no longer found or for which no plans exist."

Of the almost 2,000 derelict vessels located around the harbor in a 1964 survey, only 463 remain today, and are slated for removal. Of the surviving wrecks, 76 vessels have been identified by the corps as

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"significant resources" that could provide valuable data to shipbuilding in America.

The corps' research, which has been going on since the mid-'80s, involves a team of surveyors, including archaeologists and maritime historians. They have been making low-tide forays along the harbor's shoreline and into its backwaters to measure, photograph and attempt to identify the skeletal remains of ships imbedded in foul-smelling sediment, as well as lesser port vessels such as scows, lighters, canal boats and dredges.

It isn't exactly like putting brush to canvas.

"It's frightening work," said Gerry Weinstein, a 49-year-old photographer, who has worked with a survey team in what the corps calls its "Reconnaissance Cultural Resource Investigation."

"The mud is a real sucker," he said. "It's blue, stinking and full of toxins. The wreck's beams are rotting. Rusted spikes stick out everywhere. You fear for your life walking among jackstraws of timbers that can suddenly collapse. But it's worth it to see all this great stuff."

The corps' initiative grew out of its decades-old, congressionally authorized program to rid the harbor and its tributary waters of driftwood and other debris to reduce potential hazards to navigation. In 1976, the corps' authority was extended to include sources of drift, such as wharves, piers and derelict vessels.

"The problem was that each winter, ice floes would dislodge timbers of the wrecks and old piers, and in the spring they'd float away and do serious damage to boats plying the waters of the harbor," said Weinstein.

The corps' mandate led to clearing of derelicts on both sides of the Hudson River. On the New Jersey side, the work extended from the George Washington Bridge to Jersey City, where ferry boats, barges and canal boats were removed from the shoreline of what became Liberty State Park.

"In the early years, documentation was relatively simple: You crawled around for a physical inspection, took photographs, and wrote a short report," said Brighton. "Today, we're more into the history of the vessel, how it was used, how it was converted to other uses."

Most of the derelicts are strewn along the Kill van Kull and the Arthur Kill, shipping lanes separating New Jersey from Staten Island. The largest cluster of derelict vessels are the eight hulks -- all that remain of the ghostly fleet that inspired marine artist Noble -- lying in the oily waters at Port Johnston near the tip of the Bayonne Peninsula.

In 1928, Noble was 15 years old and a working hand on the two-masted schooner Anna Sophia when it one day passed Port Johnston on the Kill van Kull, formerly one of the biggest coal ports in the world, but at that time an immense and growing graveyard of wooden sailing vessels.

Noble was awed by the sight of the forest of masts, and the budding artist

in him was excited. Tied up three-deep in some places were hundreds of sailing ships, many of them new, their hulls anchored to the tidal mud flats.

Among the ships were rakish schooners, huge five-masted barkentines, and a rare, Maine-built "down-easter," the square-rigged, three-masted Occidental, built in 1874, the oldest vessel in the ghostly fleet. Noble would return to the harbor in 1934 and, at Port Johnston and other "boneyards" scattered in New Jersey and New York waters, begin a 40-year career of recording, in charcoal, oil paint and lithographic crayon, the age of sail as it was left to rot.

Some of the ships the artist depicted in masterful lithographs were described by him as being among the "most massive pieces of wooden architecture ever made by man." Many were constructed during the shipbuilding frenzy of World War I, only to be abandoned as obsolete after the armistice, when war shipping ended.

"More than a thousand wrecks are rotting faster than I could ever paint them or even adequately sketch them," he would recall, feeling compelled to use a camera. "I am a painter, but I am fighting against time."

Brighton said the Corps has had environmental concerns in its removal of drift sources. Some debris clusters have become part of the ecosystem and are serving as habitats for birds and fish.

An example, she observed, is Shooters Island in lower Newark Bay, a shipbuilding center at the turn of the century, abandoned in 1921 to become a graveyard for more than 150 vessels.

Brighton said the 40-acre island, located in one of the most polluted estuaries in North America, has become one of the prime bird habitats in the harbor, with a total of 74 species, including the snowy egret, little blue heron, ring-necked pheasant and spotted sandpiper.

Surprisingly, research at several tidal sites in the harbor has shown that wetlands protected by drift produce more living matter, support larger fish populations and are used by water birds to a greater extent than natural marshes. The birds are also attracted by the artificial pools created by the hulls of wrecks.

"Instead of removing the sources of drift, we plan to build a barrier at three feet mean low water to anchor the debris to the island," said Brighton. "That will prevent it from moving off to become a hazard, and it will preserve the sanctuary."

On a blustery day, Weinstein led a small expedition to view the remains of some canal boats and coal barges at Perth Amboy on the Arthur Kill. He found them after traversing an empty field at the foot of Buckingham Avenue. They were partly concealed by a thicket of cattails. The captain's cabin on one barge was still fairly intact.

"The remains of 30 barges and canal boats are here, tied up at what's left of five finger piers," he said. "The canal boats probably tied up here for the winter when the canals did not operate. In the spring when the canals

failed to reopen, they were left to sink and fill up with silt."

Weinstein said the harbor still has its share of treasures. One he particularly fancies is the hull of a 1862 wooden paddlewheel steamer at Smoking Point, Staten Island, one of the oldest hulls in the harbor.

"Its timbers are sticking out of the mud with grass growing in them," he said. "There's not much left, but even a little bit of a Civil War hull is of major significance."

"The John A. Noble Collection" of prints and other art work depicting the harbor's ship graveyards is housed in Building D at the Snug Harbor Cultural Center, formerly a home for retired seamen, at 1000 Richmond Terrace, Staten Island. The building has just undergone a \$3.5 million renovation and will reopen to the public in the spring of 2000. The museum has resumed its education program designed for students in pre-school through high school. For information call: (718) 447-6490.

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PANYC EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT - January 19 - March 31, 2000

EVENT	SPEAKER	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	PHONE #	FEE
Archaeology of the Ancient World	William Scott Green	1/30/99	7:30 PM	92 nd Street Y	212-996-1100	\$20
Eastman Johnston: Painting America	exhibit	thru 2/6/00		Brooklyn Museum of Art	718-849-8300	admission
Met. Chapter Meeting	TBA	Tues. 2/8/00	6:30 PM	Hunter College Room 710		
African Burial Ground Film Festival	films	Sat. 2/11/00	12 - 5 PM	OPEI 6 WTC Room 239	212-432-5920	free
Archaeology on Earth's Final Frontier: Deep Water Roman Shipwrecks off Skerki Bank (Sicily)	John Peter Oleson	Tues. 2/22/00	6:30 PM	South Street Seaport, AA Low Gallery	212-748-8786	
Breaking Ground, Breaking Silence	Gary McGowan	Sat 2/26/00	2 PM	South Street Seaport Children's Center, 165 John	212-718-8786	
Colored Cemetery of Flushing: Uncovering Its History, Preserving Its Past	Linda Stone & Mandingo Tshaka	Sun 2/27/00	2:30 PM	Flushing Library	718-990-0896	free
\$24: The legendary Deal for Manhattan	exhibit	thru 3/9/00		New York Historical Society	212-873-3400	admission
Gold Treasures and Nubian Pharaohs: Egypt in the Late Period	David Moyer	Thurs 3/16/00	8 PM	Bruce Museum, Greenwich, CT.	203-661-4654	\$5
The New York Century: World capital, Home Town, 1900-2000	exhibit	thru 7/9/00		Museum of the City of New York	212-534-1672	admission
Crossroads and Cross Rivers	exhibit	thru 8/15/00		Philipsburg Manor	914-631-8200	

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.

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 Michael Bonasera, PANYC Secretary, 65-62 Saunders St. #7D, Rego Park, NY 11374

NAME:			
ADDRESS:			
PHONE:		E-MAIL:	

Please indicate preferred mailing address and check below as appropriate.

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

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

Amount of additional donation to PANYC _____