

PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY NEWSLETTER

March 2021

Issue 185

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear PANYC members and friends,

Hello and happy spring! I hope that this newsletter finds you well and that the spring blooms are uplifting signs of better times to come.

PANYC has continued to meet virtually on our normal schedule and most of our members are as busy or busier than ever (hence the delay in this edition of the newsletter). In recognition of the difficulties of this past year, the Board decided to make 2020 dues voluntary, and no one will be considered in arrears for nonpayment. If you wish to pay your 2020 dues, we would greatly appreciate it, and we will use the funds to offset the cost of upgrading our website. Dues notices for 2021 (with the option to pay for 2020) will be sent out soon. Thanks to our treasurer, Elizabeth Meade, there will be a new electronic payment option for your convenience!

If you haven't done so already, there is still time to write to Sarah Carroll and Amanda Sutphin at the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission to voice your support for their proposal to make Conference House Park a city archaeological landmark. Details about how to send your letter and some talking points are enclosed.

I'm pleased to announce that we have a new member, Zoe Crossland, Professor of Archaeology at Columbia University. Welcome Zoe!

Congratulations to the co-winners of this year's Salwen Prize, Amanda Althoff and Madison Aubey. Please refer to the March meeting minutes for more details.

Thanks to Elizabeth Meade for creating this edition of the newsletter. Please send her updates about your recent fieldwork, interesting or curious finds, publications, talks, etc. so we can include them in the next one!

Wishing you all the best,

Meredith Linn, PANYC President

IN THIS ISSUE

I. President's Message.....	1
II. News and Notes.....	2
III. General Meeting Minutes, November 2020.....	3
IV. General Meeting Minutes, January 2021.....	5
V. General Meeting Minutes, March 2021.....	7
VI. PANYC Correspondence.....	10

NEWS AND NOTES

MEMBER UPDATES

Jessica MacLean and Meredith Linn visited (virtually) Elizabeth Macauley-Lewis and Jason Montgomery's CUNY Graduate Center class, "Metropolis: A Political, Historical, and Sociological Profile of New York," on March 3rd. They spoke about learning about the city's history from artifacts, the NYC Archaeological Repository, and the Five Points and Seneca Village sites. The students were very enthusiastic, especially about a small-group activity in which they examined photographs of "mystery" objects from the Seneca Village site that MacLean and Linn asked them to try to identify and interpret. A good time was had by all.

Chris Ricciardi reported "We are not sure how. We are not sure why. But NYC Archaeology appeared on the 2020 SAT (and P-SAT) – including in their prep book." One of the reading passages featured Chrysalis Archaeology. It included quotes pulled from various news articles. The College Board did not contact Chrysalis.

The United Order of Tents is the oldest all Black female benevolent society in the country. Started during the Civil War by two enslaved women Annetta M Lane and Harriet R Taylor with assistance of two abolitionists, with a mission to assist the sick, burying those who had passed away, and help enslaved to freedom. Tents were started across the Atlantic seaboard with Eastern District's headquarters located in Brooklyn, New York. Since the organization is a secret society, little is known about the organization and their history. The United Order of Tents Eastern District #3 Grand Tent held a panel discussion on March 13, 2021 to celebrate Women's history month and to share some of their history. Kelly Britt, serving on the auxiliary group Friends of the Tents, spoke on the panel regarding the history and preservation of their 19th century home located in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. To watch a recording of the event, you can visit The Tents website to watch under the Events tab: <https://www.unitedorderoftentseasterndistrict3.org/>.

Looking for a New Newsletter Editor!

We will be looking for a new newsletter editor for 2022! If you're interested, please contact

PANyc President Meredith Linn:

mbl2002@gmail.com

PANYC General Membership Meeting
via Zoom
18 November 2020, 6:30 PM

Present: Britt, Cantwell, Czerkowicz, Geismar, George, Juergens, Linn, MacLean, Martin, McGovern, Meade, Rakos, Stone, Wall

President's Report: Linn reported that there still has been no contact from MCNY about rescheduling the Public Program. The idea of an online PANYC event was further discussed. Whether the event would be considered our annual Public Program was not decided. Linn will reach out to MCNY to see if they are interested in co-sponsoring such an event. Speakers scheduled to speak at the canceled 2020 program will be contacted to see if they are interested in speaking at an online event. Stone noted that, as per the by-laws, the President-Elect is provided the opportunity to organize the public program. Stone indicated that she, the current President-Elect, is fine with Linn pursuing the program that was originally proposed for 2020. Also discussed was holding an event co-hosted with the Met Chapter.

Treasurer's Report: Due to COVID restrictions, Spritzer and Meade have yet to transfer the bank account to Meade. They are working on it. Any reimbursement requests should be sent to Spritzer.

A discussion on changing renewals for this the year was tabled for a later decision by the board, as per the by-laws.

Committees:

Advocacy: No report.

Awards: There was discussion as to whether the trophy trowel should be mailed to the 2020 awardee. Public recognition is a key component of receiving the award so it was decided to wait and see about a future program. Discussion was continued from the last meeting as to whether there should be an award presented in 2021. As Linn noted, it is particularly important that we acknowledge a student as it helps their build their resumes and the cash award, though not large, can be helpful, particularly in these times. It is likely that a call for nominations for both awards will go out at the end of this year.

Education: No report.

Landmarks: Public hearings are proceeding remotely. Despite no response from LPC, Geismar agreed to continue to send testimony for properties with potential for archaeological resources. Several members volunteered to go through the LPC hearing schedule to identify such

properties. More volunteers will be welcomed! The work entails a little bit of research over the course of one month. Please contact Geismar or Rakos if interested.

As indicated at the September meeting Geismar reached out to the Packer Collegiate Institute in Brooklyn regarding the potential for archaeological resources where they propose to build an extension but has not heard from them.

Membership: No new applications. Stone updated the application form.

Met Chapter: See President's Report, above, regarding a possible virtual event co-sponsored with PANYC. MacLean and Linn will be attending an event for chapters about virtual programming.

MAS: Geismar reported that they continue to meet via Zoom but there have been no archaeological issues.

Newsletter: Meade will send the latest newsletter out soon.

NYAC: No report.

Parks: No report, although Linn noted that she had heard from various Parks' staff that they were receiving a lot of emails in praise for parks helping people manage life during the pandemic

Public Program: See President's Report.

Repository: No report

Website: It was noted that the domain and hosting were renewed with GoDaddy but they need to be transferred to Wix. Linn extended a big thank you, reiterated by meeting attendees, to the committee for all the work that has gone into the website update.

Old business: None

New business: None

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday, January 21st at 6:30** via Zoom. A link will be sent near the date.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Minutes prepared by: Lynn Rakos, PANYC Secretary

Minutes
PANYC General Membership Meeting
via Zoom
21 January 2021, 6:00 PM

Present: Bergoffen, Britt, Cantwell, Czerkowicz, Geismar, Janowitz, Klein, Linn, Martin, McGovern, Meade, Rakos, Rothschild, Stone, Spritzer

President's Report:

Linn noted that NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission is considering the Conference House Archaeological Site to be designated a city landmark. This would be only the second site designated for archaeology and the first that is Native American. The African Burial Ground is the first site designated a city landmark. Information had been provided to the membership before the PANYC meeting but can be reviewed through the links below. Meeting attendees were very encouraged that the site has been calendared. Linn will write a letter to LPC in support of the designation and encouraged all members to write with their support.

The hearing and Q&A was recorded. You can watch it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4NPQfow3cr4>

The presentation about Conference House begins just after the 16-minute mark in the video.

Additional information:

https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/lpc/downloads/pdf/proposed_landmarks/ConferenceHousePk_Blurb_Calendar.pdf

Treasurer's Report: Due to COVID restrictions, Spritzer and Meade have yet to transfer the bank account to Meade. Any reimbursement requests should be sent to Spritzer.

A discussion on 2020 and 2021 dues was tabled for a discussion and decision by the board.

Awards: The call for nominations was sent out and Rothschild encouraged people to send her nominations. The fact that we cannot recognize the awardees in public was discussed. The hope is that in the not-too-distant future we will be able to do so at an in person program.

Landmarks: See President's report. It was also reported that, while not about archaeology, the LPC is conducting a new comprehensive survey of the Bronx to look at properties for landmarking that better reflect the history of the population of the borough and city.

Met Chapter, NYSAA: The Met Chapter is collaborating with NYSAA to host online events. Meade and McGovern have talks coming up this spring. The chapter is also looking for submissions to the newsletter and bulletin.

Public Program: Linn reported that there still has been no contact from MCNY about rescheduling the Public Program. She will reach out to them again. There was discussion that we should keep our ties with MCNY. The idea of an online PANYC event was further discussed. Also discussed was holding an event co-hosted with the Met Chapter.

Old Business: There was a vacant board position to fill as Anna Jansson, elected to the board in March, resigned. As per PANYC by-laws, the board approved that Jessica MacLean be asked if she were willing serve. Linn contacted Mclean who agreed to fill the vacant Director position.

New Business: The Website Committee reported that there are costs associated with transferring the site from GoDaddy that was recently renewed, to WIX, the platform used to create the new site. A fund raiser to defray the cost of switching hosts will be sent with the dues renewal. Rakos requested photographs to use on the site and is looking for volunteers to help edit and add text. Bergoffen suggested we check if WIX can support 3-D models.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 24th at 6:30. A link will be sent prior to the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Minutes prepared by: Lynn Rakos, PANYC Secretary

Minutes
PANYC General Meeting
via Zoom
24 March 2021, 6:30 PM

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 25th at 6:30.

Present: Britt, Cantwell, Czerkowicz, Geismar, George, Linn, Martin, McGovern, MacLean, Rakos, Rothschild, Spritzer, Stone, Wall.

President's Report:

There was a discussion on the NYSAA- hosted lecture entitled "New York State Burial Laws" by Dr. Joe Stahlman, Director of the Seneca Nation's Seneca-Iroquois National Museum - Onöhsagwë:de' Culture Center. The current status of the New York State "Burial Bill" was questioned. PANYC had previously provided language to the bill but that was long ago and it is likely that updates are needed. Stone will reach out to Lisa Anderson, who had been working on the bill for NYAC, to see where things stand.

Stahlman lecture can be viewed: <https://nysarchaeology.org/nysaa-march-spring-lecture-with-dr-joe-stahlman/>

Treasurer's Report: Meade provided a report via email as she could not attend. She anticipates the PANYC bank account being transferred from Spritzer and establishing an on-line payment option in the next month or two.

It was noted during this portion of the meeting that the board voted to consider dues payment for 2020 to be optional. Any dues paid for 2020 will be considered a donation and will be used to defray costs associated with transitioning the website from GoDaddy to Wix. No member who elects not to pay for 2020 will be considered in arrears. Once Meade establishes the on-line payment option an email will be sent requesting 2021 dues payment as well as voluntary payment of 2020 dues.

Committee Reports:

Awards: Rothschild reported that the Bert Salwen Student Paper Award will be split between two recipients this year as the committee, consisting of Rothschild, Cantwell and Schuldenrien, found the works of the two awardees compelling and worthy of recognition. The awardees are Amanda Althoff and Madison Aubey. Their research papers were prepared for Zoe Crossland's "Writing Archaeology" course at Columbia University. The board voted that for this year, as there are two awardees, each will be given the award's associated \$100 stipend.

The awardees from this year, and those from last year who were not provided recognition due to the cancellation of our annual Public Program, will be invited to our May PANYC meeting to receive the recognition they deserve.

Landmarks: Reminder that there is still time to comment on the Conference House Archaeological Site's designation as a city landmark.

Membership: Zoe Crossland was unanimously voted in as a PANYC member. Congratulations and welcome Zoe!

NYAC: PANYC member Allison McGovern is running for the board. It was noted that it would be good to have PANYC representation on the NYAC board. For many years Geismar and Stone served on the NYAC board and provided PANYC with regular updates.

Website: Rakos reported that the Public Program handouts have all been uploaded. A few are missing and she will send an email to see if members have them. She looked through the handouts to glean past PANYC award recipients but will solicit more information from members as the list is lacking in detail.

Old Business: None

New Business:

The ideas of inclusivity and of expanding the reach of our discipline, particularly in relation to NYC archaeology, were brought up by Martin. This generated a very thoughtful discussion.

It was observed that historic archaeology has many women practitioners. Some of our founding members, Rothschild, Geismar and Wall, shared their experiences as women with young families while in graduate school and just starting out in the discipline. The archaeology in New York City provided them with rich material locally so they did not need to disrupt their families to conduct research and fieldwork. It was suggested that an oral history of these historical archaeology pioneers and founding PANYC members would be great to have. If you are interested in leading such a project let one of the board members know!

As there are several tribes with an interest in their ancestral lands in what is now NYC it was suggested that we reach out to their Tribal Historic Preservation Officers. It was also suggested that we reach out to the Society of Black Archeologists.

Britt noted that there is a consortium of universities in NYC coming together to address lack of diversity. MacLean suggested that PANYC might join forces with the consortium as PANYC can provide insight into working in archaeology outside of the academic realm.

Encouraging young and diverse students to pursue archaeology as a career, particularly with a focus on NYC, was noted as important to continuing the goals of PANYC. Working with high school students as well as those in college is key. PANYC could be more active at being inclusive and inviting. We have a membership category for students pursuing a degree and for people working in the field who do not have an advanced degree that has not been promoted. We have no members in that category. It was mentioned that we should utilize this category and appeal to students and younger people starting out in archaeology. Though it was also noted that PANYC would have to provide something to maintain their on-going interest in the organization.

The **Advocacy and Education** committee have merged and will meet on these topics. Members are Britt, George, Linn, Meade, MacLean and Martin. Suggestions on diversifying PANYC and recruiting young people to the field will be welcomed by the committee.

MacLean brought up the fact that Hart Island is being transferred and demolition of buildings is being proposed. She will provide further information.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 25th at 6:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45PM.

Minutes prepared by: Lynn Rakos, PANYC Secretary

CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PANYC PRESIDENT

Copy of Feb 17th email sent to PANYC re: Conference House Park proposed landmark

Dear PANYC,

Hello! I write to you with the good news, discussed at our most recent meeting in January, that the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission has recently proposed designating Conference House Park in Staten Island a landmarked archaeological site. A recording of the hearing is available on YouTube; the portion about Conference House starts about 16 minutes into the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4NPQfow3cr4>.

I urge everyone to write a letter in support of landmarking Conference House Park. Rumor has it that although there is considerable support at LPC, there is some local resistance. I will draft a letter on behalf of PANYC. Here are some details I will include that you might also wish to include in your own letters:

1. The site is extremely significant, having been used by Native Americans since the Early Archaic period (8000 years ago) and remaining largely undisturbed by modern development. Previous archaeological projects indicate the site contains the largest known pre-contact Native American burial ground, a Woodland period village, as well as features and artifacts dating to the Early Archaic period.
2. The site would be the first landmark recognizing Native Americans.
3. The site would be only the city's second *archaeological* landmark (the first was the African Burial Ground).
4. The site is already recognized nationally on the National Register, but it is still important to designate it as a NYC landmark to ensure that city projects would have to follow proper protocols to protect underground cultural resources in what today is a city park.
5. You might choose to mention the importance of involving LPC's archaeological staff in future hearings about this or any other proposed archaeological sites, so that questions asked can be correctly answered. A couple of questions at the most recent hearing were answered incorrectly by LPC personnel who are not part of the archaeology department and thus not familiar with the site. These include the questions about the designation of the site—it is to be designated an archaeological landmark and not an individual landmark—and whether or not the site was affected by Hurricane Sandy—it was.

6. You might also point out that the proposed spatial boundaries of the designation do not encompass all of the known underground cultural resources at the site and urge LPC to expand the boundaries.

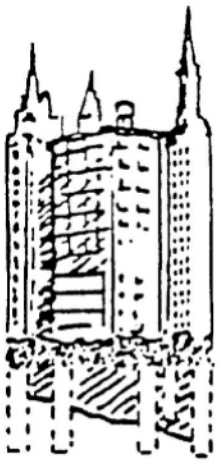
Letters should be addressed to Sarah Carroll, Commissioner and Chair of the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission and Amanda Sutphin, Director of Archaeology at NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission, and sent via email to their respective addresses: scarroll@lpc.nyc.gov and asutphin@lpc.nyc.gov.

Here's a link to some additional information about the proposed Conference House Park Archaeological Site:

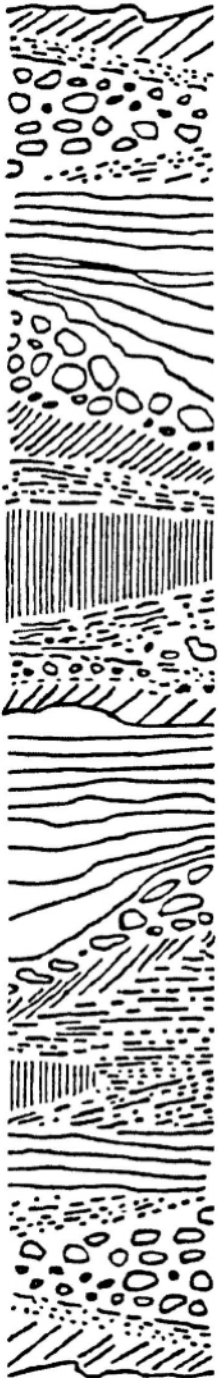
https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/lpc/downloads/pdf/proposed_landmarks/ConferenceHousePk_Blurb_Calendar.pdf

If you have any questions, please let me know!

Best wishes,
Meredith Linn, PANYC President



PANYC



Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

April 15, 2021

Sarah Carroll, Commissioner and Chair
Amanda Sutphin, Director of Archaeology
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street , 9N
New York, NY 10007

Re: Proposed landmarking of Conference House Park

Dear Ms. Carroll and Ms. Sutphin,

On behalf of Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC), I write to commend your proposal to designate Conference House Park in Staten Island a landmarked archaeological site. This would be an important step to recognize Native Americans in the history of our region as well as our city's rich archaeological cultural resources.

We strongly support the protection of this extremely significant and largely undisturbed site used by Native Americans since the Early Archaic period (8000 years ago). Previous archaeological projects indicate the site contains the largest known pre-contact Native American burial ground, a Woodland period village, as well as features and artifacts dating to the Early Archaic period. The site contains sacred spaces, objects, and ancestors. We thus applaud your proposal to provide critical local city protections to this site that is already recognized on the National Register.

We urge you to consider expanding the spatial boundaries of the city landmark designation beyond the national landmark boundaries currently proposed because they would not protect all of the known significant Native American cultural resources at the Conference House site. We also humbly suggest that at future hearings about this or other archaeological sites you include LPC's archaeological staff, so that they can more accurately answer questions that arise and thus more strongly represent both the sites and LPC's mission to protect the city's cultural resources.

Thank you for your consideration and for your efforts to protect Native American archaeological resources at Conference House Park.

Sincerely,

Meredith B. Linn

Meredith B. Linn, Ph.D.
PANYC President 2020-2022
meredith.linn@bgc.bard.edu