

PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY NEWSLETTER

March 2019

Issue 181

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear PANYC Members,

Uppermost on my mind as I write this is the passing on March 20 at the age of 101 of Professor Ralph Solecki. In addition to being a distinguished Columbia University professor and scholar, Ralph was a founding member of PANYC and our first president. Those of us fortunate enough to have attended his fairly recent talk for the Met Chapter of the NYSAA on his finds at Maspeth, LI, when he and his friend, fellow budding archaeologist Stan Wisnewski, were teenagers, still marvel at his recall and presentation. A long and fruitful life, indeed, and one that has in one way or another touched us all.

As for PANYC business, Meredith Linn, our president elect, and I met with LPC's Chair Sarah Carroll, its Counsel, Mark Silberman, Lisa Kersavage, now Executive Director, and Director of Archaeology Amanda Sutphin. It was a very cordial meeting, but what actually may transpire in terms of LPC's practice toward archaeological issues within its purview remains to be seen. In this regard, the PANYC LPC committee established a procedure to review potential archaeological issues to be heard at LPC's public meetings/hearings (I thank Linda Stone and Anna Jansson for their participation in this effort). So far, a single property has warranted notice and I presented testimony (see pages 8 and 9) at the hearing that appeared to be well received, but, again, the outcome remains to be seen. And stepping back a bit, just a mention of the joint N-Y Historical Society/PANYC Program on December 6 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the society's Field Exploration Committee. The event was very well attended (actually, beyond the society's expectations). While my role was to bring what was done in those many years ago into the present, Bill Parry's role was to enlighten all of us about Calver and Bolton and the FEC, and he did a wonderful job!!

Our upcoming meeting, rescheduled from March 13 to March 27th, is our annual meeting and I trust it will be well attended. We look forward to seeing you and benefiting from your input on several timely issues.

Joan Geismar; PANYC President

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---|----|
| I. President's Message..... | 1 |
| II. General Meeting Minutes, November 2018..... | 2 |
| II. General Meeting Minutes, January 2019..... | 4 |
| IV. Events..... | 6 |
| V. News and Notes..... | 7 |
| VI. Correspondence from the President..... | 8 |
| VII. Membership Information..... | 10 |

PANYC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

November 27, 2018 | 6:30 PM

Neighborhood Preservation Center

232 East 11th Street, New York, New York

PRESENT: Cantwell, Geismar, Jansson, Linn, MacLean, Martin, Meade, Rothschild, Stone, Spritzer, Wall

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Geismar thanked Britt for organizing the talk with Whitney Battle-Baptiste “Black Feminist Archaeology in Practice.” She was a vibrant speaker. PANYC thanks Battle-Baptiste and Britt for organizing.

Geismar then brought up the topic of the Newsletter. Board members have previously discussed if PANYC needs to provide a newsletter for every meeting. It was agreed that perhaps every meeting is not necessary except that it is our archival “record” as an organization. Rothschild suggested 3 times a year - Sept, January, May. This was met with affirmation and it was decided to do 3 per year, cutting the November and March issues. The website will take over some of the current events that the Newsletter had covered in years past. The discussion was then tabled until the website committee portion of the meeting.

Finally, Geismar announced that the board had decided to give a transportation reimbursement to a student who is traveling for the upcoming Public Program and that PANYC consider for future Public Programs on a case by case basis, for students only.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Spritzer announced that there are 41 paid members and \$4749.25 in the bank.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE: The committee had nothing to report. MacLean asked about if past Secretaries should place their old meeting minutes into the Dropbox. Membership lists and board meeting minutes can and will also be uploaded.

AWARDS COMMITTEE: Cantwell will send out an announcement for the public program awards soon. [This was done within the same week.] The program is set for May 8 at 6:30pm at the MCNY. Two awards are being offered - the student prize for research paper and one for a non-archaeologist who has done something to benefit NYC archaeology.

LANDMARKS COMMITTEE: Geismar told members about how the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) now puts all properties under investigation on their website but they do not send out announcements. She is asking for a team (committee members perhaps) to check their website monthly. All committee members agreed to look for a month of the year. Jansson offered to help as well. As a committee, they agreed to divvy up the months of the year. Rothschild is taking January; Stone, February; Jansson, March. The question is what do we do once we find an issue was raised and Geismar reported that they notify the committee and then the committee notifies the president so that the president can write a letter to LPC.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Rothschild has a new candidate who will get the application from the PANYC website.

NOV. 2018 GENERAL MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

COMMITTEE REPORTS (CONTINUED):

NEWSLETTER: All said thank you Elizabeth Meade for a wonderful newsletter. See the above president's report for the decision to change the number of issues of the Newsletter per year.

NYAC: Stone reported that the last meeting was in October and it was very successful. Joe Diamond was going to talk but that changed. Instead Sissie Pipes organized a Dutch themed program and Joan talked about 175 Water St. All the presentations were well received.

PARKS COMMITTEE: Linn notified members that Marie Warsh at the Parks Conservancy is working on creating more signage for Seneca Village.

PUBLIC PROGRAM COMMITTEE: Geismar, Linn, Rakos, Stone are on the committee and they reported positive recent communications with Tracy MacFarlan at the MCNY. The program is titled: "Uncovering the Lost Lives of Workers: the Archaeology of Labor." Meta Janowitz, Jean Howson, and Alanna Warner-Smith are presenting. Members expressed interest and excited are for the program. The format will be the same as last year. Sharon Wilkins has been contacted to be moderator but she is not yet responded. Linn will ask for contact information for her and call personally. Stone added that the museum has kept it to the concept of using one of their exhibits to go with the program. They are opening a new exhibit about working labor and organizing in the Spring so that is why they were interested in this program topic. They are also giving us a price discount for PANYC members and free tickets for 10 students. They will be kept on a separate list. Details to be ironed out still. PANYC speakers and awardees will get free admission.

REPOSITORY COMMITTEE: Geismar brought up the question about what to do with collections housed by private developers over time. Is there room for them at the repository? Members thought another solution might be found as the repository was not built for these collections. Cantwell advocated for them to be housed in Albany as it allows other people to look at and utilize the collections. MacLean added that the state museum and the repository are both working on making collections more available digitally as well. Those present discussed if Governor's Island will become a possibility again. Stone stated that she believed that any building on Governor's Island being repurposed now require their own money for necessary utilities and renovations.

Web Site: Stone reported that Britt has created a mockup of a new site for us that is viewable on all platforms. However, Britt is still looking for photos and they will still change the content some. They are working on designing the best organization for that content now. Geismar asked about their plan for updating content on a regular basis and Stone says they had decided to separate it into thirds so they each will update it once a year. That means the website will be updated three times a year. When its design is finalized, they will send an announcement out to the membership and others.

OLD BUSINESS:

MacLean described the "Bricks and Mortar" event she is organizing. There will be a student talking about her master's thesis and John Walsh will talk about mortar. She thinks this event will happen at the end of February. Venues are being discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7 pm.

PANYC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

January 24, 2019 | 6:30 PM

Neighborhood Preservation Center

232 East 11th Street, New York, New York

PRESENT: Meade, Spritzer, Stone, Wall, Geismar, Martin, Linn, Jansson

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Geismar had just a few things to discuss before the general meeting begins. Geismar is pleased to announce that she and Linn have a meeting with the new LPC chair Sarah Carroll, Amanda Sutphin and Mark Silberman. The goal is to introduce PANYC to Sarah but, in addition, to discuss if PANYC could set up a procedure with Daniel Pagano whereby the PANYC LPC committee would identify calendared landmarked properties that may have archaeological significance and he could then provide information from the LPC GIS program to determine if PANYC should send comment or give testimony. She is hopeful that they will allow for this protocol to be instated. As a reminder - when there is a property that the committee believes has archaeological significance, the committee chair will send a letter to the LPC or testify at public hearing asking for further research before development or renovation of the property begins. Stone and Jansson have both agreed to look at the next two months: February and March. Their protocol is to look for properties and then contact Geismar as head of the committee to contact Landmarks. Geismar suggests focusing on backyards prior to 1875.

The next topic related to the Parks Department. Geismar was following up on a previous question about whether Parks has a public list of upcoming development contracts available only at the Olmsted Center. She found out this is the case. While Parks does not recommend specific archaeological contractors for the upcoming jobs, they do not offer the contractors a complete list of firms working in this field. Geismar will ask Sybil Young if there is a way to make a complete list of archaeological sub-contractors available to contractors.

Third, Geismar was pleased to say that the joint NY Historical Society/PANYC commemoration of the FEC centennial in December went very well. She saw it as a successful event for the Historical Society and for NYC archaeology in general. Thank you to Bill Parry for his well-prepared remarks. Finally, PANYC was invited to add commentary on a development project proposed by Amtrak. They are beginning a project titled The Amtrak East River Tunnels project. The board decided to leave out comment at this time as this is not our mission.

Stone reported on a very interesting presentation by the Coalition for American Heritage, at the recent SHA meeting. PANYC voted to join CAH during Britt's presidency, but, Stone reported, Britt was unable to follow through for technical reasons. Stone reported she spoke with the head of CAH, Marion Werkheiser, who suggested PANYC could join by emailing info@CAH, rather than joining via their website. Stone and Geismar also spoke with Werkheiser after her session and asked for some suggestions about what PANYC could do to be more visible for our cause. Werkheiser suggested that contacting community boards is a very good idea for organizations like ours. Geismar and Stone will work on this plan for outreach.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Spritzer reported that there are 37 paid members, 5 unpaid. The bank account holds \$4735.26. Spritzer's membership list will be reconciled with the list for the News-letter and mass emails which is kept as a Google Sheets (Excel) page. Meade offered to set up a Google survey which will be sent out anyone on either list in order to get a current information onto one list.

JAN. 2019 GENERAL MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

NYSAA MET CHAPTER COMMITTEE: Spritzer was contacted by NYSAA about giving tax money. The membership is unknown as of now. The main chapter last their 501C-3 but Spritzer has been filing under the Met Chapter number. NYSAA could use the Met Chapter number as their 501c-3 in order to get their status back. However, Spritzer thinks that they may have it back in any case. NYSAA is not communicative.

NEWSLETTER: 2 times a year to be voted on: September and March; with special edition made if necessary. Members vote to approve as a trial. All present approve.

MEMBERSHIP: Jansson - email preference is the gmail account.

NYAC: Joint NYAC and NYSAA meeting coming up in April in Johnstown, NY.
Parks: see president's report.

PUBLIC PROGRAM COMMITTEE: The MCNY has asked for the program to be in the evening of May 8th. They wanted an evening program with shorter talks and more discussion after. The theme is organized around labor as it connects to a new labor-related exhibit. Have they given a moderator. Sharon Wilkins was suggested and Linn has had a hard time getting in touch with her. Meade will help getting her in touch with Wilkins. Linn will leave a message on her voicemail as well. Discussion then centered around who we could ask if Wilkins cannot.

WEBSITE: Stone reported for the committee. They have been looking into using free templates from Wordpress but the collaboration with GoDaddy doesn't seem to go through. Britt needs photos and photos with credits so show we have the rights to them. GoDaddy does not allow for a lot of photos and this seems like it won't work for our website. They only allow for 1 image per page. Members discuss that this isn't reasonable and perhaps we should move along to another hosting site. Stone takes that information down and she will pass that along to the committee. Other hosting sites are discussed - square space, Google sites, etc. The committee is thanked for the hard work.

EMAIL: Please send out photos to to committee - letter sent out - anything archaeologically related that come with credit. Site photos, artifacts, old sites, highest resolution, scanned high res Members can ask Martin for specific details about how to transfer the photos.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bricks and Mortar: MacLean is looking into where to host the event.

Elections: all elected officials keep their jobs through next year. All board members have to send in the COI for 2019 and dues are due.

A reminder email regarding 2019 dues renewal will be sent out in March.

The next meeting is March 13, 2019. [EDITOR'S NOTE: Following the approval of these minutes, the date of the next meeting was changed to March 27, 2019]

Meeting adjourned at 7:25.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Centennial Anniversary of the Field Exploration Committee

New-York Historical Society, December 6, 2018

Last December, PANYC and the New-York Historical Society (NYHS) co-sponsored "Underground History: Celebrating the Centennial of the Field Exploration Committee and the Dawn of Historical Archaeology of New York City," a talk given by PANYC president Joan Geismar and Hunter College professor William J. Parry with Dr. Valerie Paley, vice president and chief historian and director of the Center for Women's History at NYHS. The well-attended talk focused on some of the earliest archaeological investigations conducted in New York City in the late 19th and early 20th centuries by William Calver, Reginald Pelham Bolton, and their contemporaries. The talk coincided with the 100th anniversary of the NYHS Field Exploration Committee, which was organized to provide a formal outlet for urban archaeology in its early days, when most excavations were completed by interested amateur archaeologists working in their free time. Drs. Geismar, Parry, and Paley engaged in a lively discussion documenting the history of the FEC as well as the transition of archaeology from a hobby to a profession.



Members of the FEC excavating a British officer's but at 204th Street and Seaman Avenue, Manhattan, in 1918; from the FEC's report published in the New-York Historical Society Quarterly Bulletin (Volume 2, Issue 2) in July 1918.

UPCOMING PANYC PUBLIC PROGRAM

This year's PANYC Public Program will take place on May 8th at 6:30 PM at the Museum of the City of New York. It will be our 39th annual program in partnership with the museum and the first that will coordinate with one of the museum's exhibitions. Our program, "Uncovering the Lost Lives of Workers: Archaeology of Labor," will complement the exhibition "City of Workers, City of Struggle: How Labor Movements Changed New York" (opening May 1st) by delving more deeply into the working and living conditions of laborers. Meta Janowitz will speak about workers in the stoneware industry, Jean Howson will speak about backyard disposal and trash collectors, and Alanna Warner (a bioarchaeology Ph.D. student from Syracuse University) will speak about the on the effects of labor on workers' bodies. After their presentations, Sharon Wilkins, Deputy Borough Historian, will moderate a conversation with the speakers and field questions from the audience. We hope you can join us for a lively program!

For more details and to purchase tickets, please visit: <https://www.mcny.org/workers>. Use the code ARCH when registering to receive discounted tickets (\$10).

NEWS AND NOTES

Changes to the Newsletter

The PANYC newsletter is changing! At the last meeting, the board/membership voted to reduce the number of newsletters per year to two: one issued in March and one in September. This will allow us to send out a more robust newsletter and will grant us the time to generate new content to send out to members. As always, contributions to the newsletter are always welcome. Please contact newsletter editor Elizabeth Meade (emeade@akrf.com) to submit information for the next newsletter!

New Publication from PANYC Members!

An exciting new volume of archaeological case studies with contributions from a number of PANYC members is now available from the University Press of Florida. Edited by PANYC member Diane George and former Hunter College professor Bernice Kurchin, *Archaeology of Identity and Dissonance. Contexts for a Brave New World* examines how humans adapt to new and challenging environments by building and adjusting their identities. Featuring a wide time span that reaches to the ancient past, examples include Roman soldiers in Britain, Vikings in Iceland and the Orkney Islands, sex workers in French colonial Algeria, Irish immigrants to the United States, an African American community in nineteenth-century New York City, and the Taino people of contemporary Puerto Rico. Contributors explore multiple aspects of identity such as class, gender, race, and ethnicity, showing how these factors intersect for many of the individuals and groups studied. The questions of identity formation explored in this volume are critical to understanding the world today as humans continue to grapple with the legacies of colonialism and the realities of globalized and divided societies.

The book includes contributions from PANYC members Jessica Striebel MacLean, Kelly Britt, Meredith Linn, Elizabeth Martin, Diana Wall, Nan Rothschild, Marcus Watson, and past member Lisa Geiger.

PANYC President and President-Elect Meet with LPC

On January 31, 2019, PANYC President Joan Geismar and President-Elect Meredith Linn to discuss collaborations between PANYC and LPC with respect to potential archaeological resources associated with privately owned, landmarked domestic structures. Two letters sent by Geismar to LPC Chair Sarah Carroll relating to this issue are included on the following page.

In Memory of Ralph Solecki

As this newsletter was being finalized, we learned of the passing of Ralph S. Solecki, renowned archaeologist, long-time Columbia University Professor of Archaeology, mentor to many, founding member of PANYC and its first president. Ralph passed away peacefully on March 20th at the age of 101. PANYC mourns his passing but is grateful for our long association. We send our condolences to Rose and to Ralph's entire family as we mourn our loss. An extended obituary will appear in a later newsletter as a tribute to his legacy and contributions to PANYC.

Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

February 1, 2019

The Honorable Sarah Carroll, Commissioner/Chair
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
9 Centre Street - 9N
New York, NY 10007

Dear Sarah,

On behalf of PANYC, as well as on behalf of Meredith Linn, I thank you, Mark, Lisa, and Amanda so very much for meeting with us yesterday. You were all so gracious. You not only listened to us but also heard us. We, too, listened and understand Landmarks' position. An accomplishment indeed.

That said might Meredith's suggestion have resonated? That is, to extend staff alerts in regard to potential archaeological resources associated with privately owned 18th-century landmarked domestic structures to those erected during the 19th century. If staff review finds it likely that cultural resources could be impacted, LPC would then inform the owners and advocate for *voluntary* avoidance or archaeological excavation of possible features. This offers interested property owners the opportunity to contribute to the study of the city's past. It is a suggestion that provides a way to potentially build on what we have learned without unduly burdening owners of 19th-century structures, a step in the right direction.

The successes of LPC's archaeological repository and recent excavations on public land have shown that many New Yorkers are very interested in archaeology. Especially exciting is the potential to shed light on those excluded from, or misrepresented in, our history.

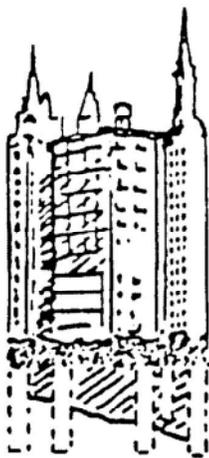
Once again, thank you for meeting with us, and thank you now for considering a small step that expands agency practice as it affects the city's irreplaceable archaeological resources. And please do not hesitate to call on PANYC if we can be of service.

Sincerely,

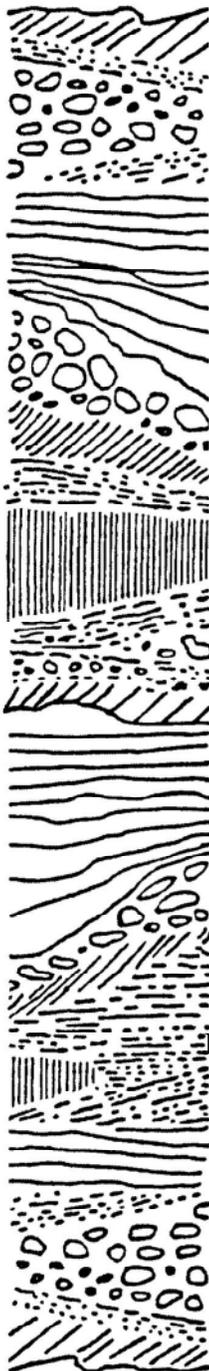


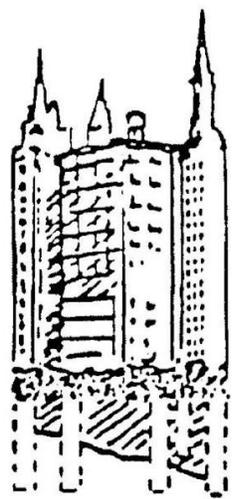
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Amanda Sutphin, LPC Director of Archaeology



PANYC





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Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM 2019

Please Circle Your Membership Option:

Full Member (includes Newsletter): \$25.

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: \$ _____

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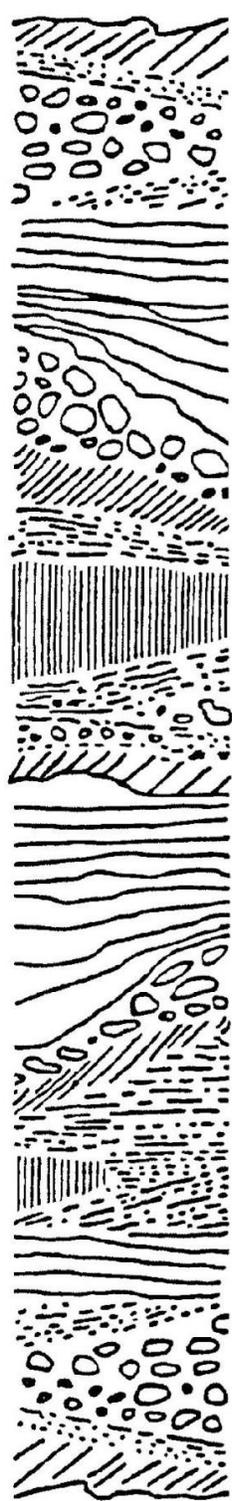
Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

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

In addition, please email a copy of your information and notice of submission of payment to PANYC Secretary Lizzie Martin at lizziepmartin@gmail.com.



PANYC

INFORMATION FOR NEW MEMBERS

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:
info@panycarchaeology.org

To obtain information on how to become a member of PANYC, please fill out the form below and check your desired membership level. Membership is contingent upon submission of the application to the PANYC board and acceptance of the application by a majority of PANYC members during a vote taken at a general membership meeting. Non-members may apply to receive the newsletter as indicated below.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE: _____

ZIP (+ FOUR): _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

I wish to apply for membership to PANYC (includes newsletter)
and would like to receive the application form
(\$25, **due upon approval for membership**): _____

I wish to subscribe to the PANYC Newsletter
without applying to be a member (\$10): _____

I wish to make an additional donation to PANYC for the following amount: \$ _____

How do you wish to receive the PANYC Newsletter?

In digital format by e-mail _____

In printed (mailed) form _____

The PANYC membership package can be found at: www.panycarchaeology.org
If you have any questions please email: info@panycarchaeology.org