

# DISTRICT LINES

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL WINTER 2009 VOL. XXII NO. 3

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION INTERSECT AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ANYONE WHO HAS LAUNCHED a community-based campaign knows that political support is a vital component for its success. Efforts opposed by elected officials face an uphill battle that, while not impossible to overcome, can be quite difficult to maneuver. To ensure the victory of their cause, advocates must facilitate working relationships with their elected representatives and local municipal agencies, as well as develop a comprehensive knowledge of the laws and regulations that will affect their efforts.

Each spring the Historic Districts Council hosts its annual preservation conference, the only preservation event of its kind in New York City. Now in its 15th year, the 2009 Conference, March 6-8, "Communities & Cornices: Preservation in a Political World," will address the intersection of civic engagement and neighborhood preservation.

The 2009 conference will highlight the important confluence of public and governmental interests, framing it within the context of the approaching municipal elections this November. When effectively crafted and publicized, these partnerships help foster a political will that is essential to moving a campaign forward from distant hope to achievable reality.

An anticipated 500 concerned citizens from neighborhoods across the five boroughs will attend this year's Conference events, which will include a keynote address, panel discussions, an opening night reception and a selection of walking tours.

To ensure that the presentations featured this year are both applicable and beneficial to the widest possible range of neighborhood advocates, HDC has gathered a diverse roster of



CHRIS KREUSSLING (FLATBUSH GARDENER)

*Attendees of HDC's 2007 Conference on a walking tour of Red Hook, Brooklyn.*

professionals that includes, preservationists, planners, historians, public policy and legal experts, representatives from government agencies, and elected officials who will help guide attendees on how better to engage in the political process. Through this exchange of information and ideas, the 2009 HDC Preservation Conference will encourage proactive civic involvement and help to provide attendees with tools for community organizing.

So not only will the advocates in attendance benefit by developing and expanding their organizing tools and tactics; they will also be able to make connections with other like-minded community organizations throughout the city. This will provide the opportunity to see that issues often perceived as parochial neighborhood threats are frequently citywide concerns. By

broadening the conversation, backyard boundaries disappear and preservation gains a greater voice.

The 2009 "Communities & Cornices" Conference is just one of the Historic Districts Council's many efforts to increase the preservation community's involvement in civic affairs—from facilitating meetings between HDC's Neighborhood Partners and their local representatives, to launching full-scale, City Council District-wide educational campaigns through the League of Preservation Voters initiative (see pages 6-7). 🐾

CONFERENCE  
SCHEDULE AND REGISTRATION  
ON PAGE 9.

## COMMISSIONER FRED BLAND: NEW VOICE ON THE LANDMARKS PANEL

THE NEWEST APPOINTEE to the Landmarks Preservation Commission, Brooklyn-resident Fred Bland, is a man of many parts. Best known to preservationists as the managing partner of the architectural firm Beyer Blinder Belle, Mr. Bland is a former president of the American Institute of Architects Foundation (where he was instrumental in creating the Center for Architecture); a member of the vestry of Manhattan's oldest house of worship, Trinity Church (which boasts a large number of real-estate holdings); chairman of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (currently undergoing extensive capital reinvestment); and serves on the board of the James Marston Fitch Charitable Foundation. Commissioner Bland has taught architecture at New York University since 1990.

Born in Galveston, Texas, and brought up in Houston, Mr. Bland came east to Yale and received a bachelor's in the History of Art in 1968 and his master's in Architecture in 1972. Following that, he joined Beyer Blinder Belle and

moved to Brooklyn Heights, where he lives with his wife, Morley, and daughter, Chloe. He has served as president of the Brooklyn Heights Association, which is the oldest civic association in New York City.



CLAIRE HOLT

*Landmarks Commissioner Fred Bland*

Among a long list of interests and accomplishments, one that is probably

dearest to the Commissioner's heart is that of "hobby horticulturist." With a roof garden at his city house and a larger garden at his country place, in Stony Creek, Connecticut, he is a plant collector whose gardens boast 1,600 species of flowers, shrubs and trees and whose main caretaker is himself.

Mr. Bland is excited about his appointment to the Commission, where he hopes, he says, "to safeguard the landmarks we have and to create new landmark buildings and districts. As a resident of Brooklyn Heights, I know well the benefits of the Landmarks Law, and the key word is 'appropriate.'

He acknowledges the challenges ahead as the make-up of the LPC changes, but he remains firmly convinced there is room for imagination and innovation. As ideas about preservation change, too, he said says he believes that the Commission should "be a voice of reason as this vital city grows and changes over time." His term on the Landmarks Preservation Commission ends in 2010. 🏠



*2008 Landmarks Lion: Walter B. Melvin*

HDC honored architect Walter B. Melvin as its 20th Landmarks Lion on Wednesday, October 29, 2008. The festivities took place at Bridgewaters in the South Street Seaport Historic District. More than 200 people came out to support the work of Mr. Melvin and the Historic Districts Council. Many thanks to all who helped make the 20th anniversary of the Landmarks Lion Awards a success! Shown with Mr. Melvin, above, are HDC's Simeon Bankoff and Susan Tunick.





## MORE PROTECTION SOUGHT FOR FOUR SMALL HISTORIC DISTRICTS IN THE SOUTH BRONX



HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL  
*Clay Avenue Historic District, The Bronx*

SINCE THE SUMMER OF 2008 the Historic Districts Council has been engaged in a survey funded by the Trust for Architectural Easements to reconcile the boundaries of New York City historic districts with those listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. When neighborhoods and buildings are dually designated, they have greater protections and access to assistance. Although at one time the Landmarks Preservation Commission submitted locally designated districts to the State Historic Preservation Office for inclusion on the Registers, the practice stopped

in the mid-1980s because of cuts in federal funding.

Last fall HDC took a more in-depth look at four small historic districts in the South Bronx that are not on the National Register: Mott Haven East, Clay Avenue, and Bertine Block, all municipally designated in 1994, and Morris Avenue, designated in 1986.

The development of the South Bronx is reflected in the similar history shared by these four districts. Speculative developers built one- and two-family row houses when railroad lines started to connect the area with Manhattan in the mid-1880s. By the end of the 19th century, as transportation improved and the population increased, larger tenement buildings started to be erected.

The designated portion of Morris Avenue, one block between East 179th Street and East Tremont Avenue, was built by a single developer, August Jacob, using one architect, John Hauser. Completed by 1910, the two- and three-story neo-Renaissance brick row houses have full-height angled and rounded bays that create a distinctive rhythm down the street.

Designated 25 years after the Mott Haven Historic District and just a block to its east, Mott Haven East is composed of parts of East 139th and East 140th Streets. It includes later 19th-century row houses similar to those in the Mott Haven district, but also tenement buildings of the late 1890s by architects George Pelham and Neville & Bagge, among others.

Clay Avenue, between East 165th and East 166th Streets, features 28 semidetached two-family houses designed by Bronx architect Warren C. Dickerson for developer Ernest Wenigman in 1901. These brick residences with limestone trim enliven the street with a mixture of peaked and scrolled front-facing gables and angled and rounded turrets. Five years later hardware merchant Francis Keil hired Charles S. Clark to design his single-family house on

*continued on page 5*

## THE SILVER LINING: TAX INCENTIVES FOR HISTORIC PROPERTIES

LOCAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION *PLUS* listing on the National Register of Historic Places create the ideal combination of physical protection and financial assistance that owners need to preserve and maintain their historic property.

In The Bronx, the Historic Districts Council has identified four such areas — the Bertine Block, Clay Avenue, Morris Avenue, and Mott Haven East Historic Districts.

When districts are listed or become eligible for listing on the National Register, owners can qualify for a number of financial incentives. What this means in plain English for owners of locally designated and National Register-listed properties is that preservation is not simply about government encroaching on property owners' rights, but rather becoming the economic engine for enhancing the properties themselves. Some of these incentives include:

### Federal Investment Tax Credit Program for Income Producing Properties

Owners of income producing properties can receive a 20 percent federal income tax credit for the cost of substantial approved rehabilitation and restoration work.

### New York State Historic Tax Credit Program for Income Producing Properties

Once approved to receive the federal credit, owners become eligible for a state tax credit equal to 30 percent of the value of the federal credit.

### New York State Historic Homeownership Rehabilitation Tax Credit

Rehabilitators of owner-occupied buildings located in a "distressed" census tract, defined as a target area under Section 143 (J) of the Internal Revenue Code, can receive a tax credit equal to 20 percent of the cost of repair work.

### Preservation Easement Tax Incentives

By donating a preservation easement on the exterior of the property to a qualified organization, owners can claim a federal tax deduction for the appraised value of the easement.

# UPPER EAST SIDERS SEEK EXPANSION OF DESIGNATED AREAS

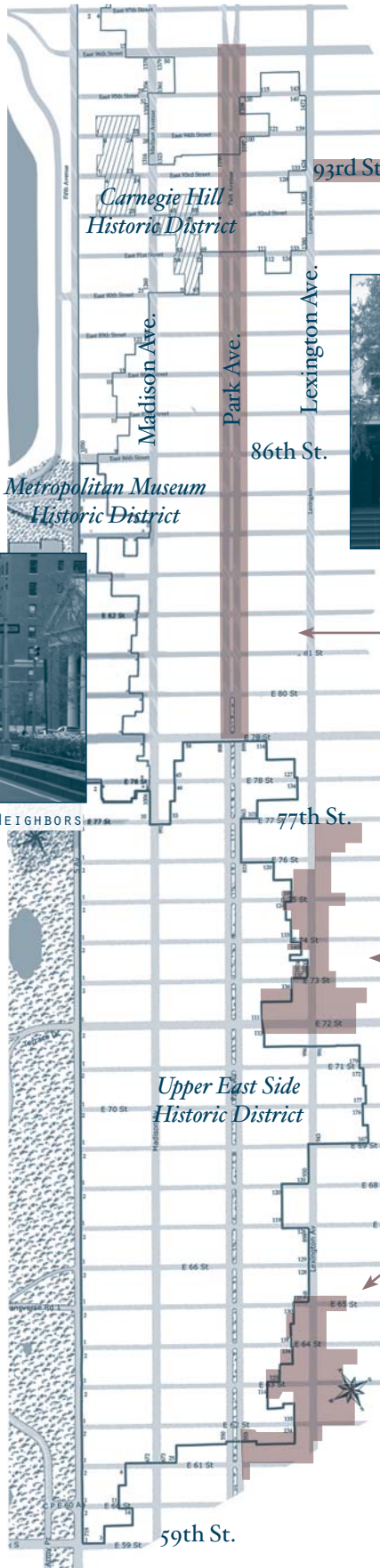
ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT SEEM as if most of the Upper East Side of Manhattan is protected by the Landmarks Preservation Commission, in reality the designated historic district(s) there have a very ragged eastern edge, ending in some places as far west as Madison Avenue. This lack of landmark protection has resulted in the eastern areas of the Upper East Side, including portions of Carnegie Hill and Yorkville, being particularly vulnerable to pressure from new development unsuited to the neighborhood's traditional character. Some of New York City's biggest residential and commercial developments in recent years have been built in this area, such as the Lucida on East 85th Street.

Historically, the eastern edge of the neighborhood was defined by the elevated rail lines that ran along Second Avenue until 1942 and Third Avenue until 1955. When these lines were demolished, development patterns east of Third Avenue changed from predominately low-rise tenements and row houses to large blocky apartment buildings, often made of light-colored brick. Although not every block was greatly changed, these mid-century apartment buildings were one of the reasons the Upper East Side Historic District, designated in 1980, stayed along the western edge of the area, and later designations mostly kept to this pattern.

Spurred by the recent development activity and inspired by the demonstrable success of the landmarked areas, local advocates are now requesting re-examinations of the areas shown here that were overlooked in previous designations:



CARNEGIE HILL NEIGHBORS



## EAST 93RD STREET

Originally envisioned as part of the Carnegie Hill Historic District, this block of row houses and apartment buildings between Lexington and Third Avenues contains some of the oldest structures in Carnegie Hill, including the boyhood home of the Marx Brothers.



HDC

## PARK AVENUE

The avenue is the home of some of New York's most stately neo-Renaissance and Classical Revival apartment buildings. Above East 79th Street most of these large handsome buildings are presently unprotected against unsympathetic alterations and additions.

## LEXINGTON AVENUE EXTENSIONS



HDC

An important artery for the Upper East Side, the Lexington Avenue corridor is characterized by late-19th- and early-20th-century row houses with first- and sometimes second-floor commercial storefronts. Away from the avenue, the streets are lined with elegant row houses. 🏡



## HDC's MONDAY MORNING COFFEE TALKS

*First Monday of each month.*

*Upcoming sessions:*

March 2: "Beyond the Lemonade Stand": Fundraising for Neighborhood Groups

April 6: Seth Pinsky, president, New York City Economic Development Corporation

May 4: Ellen Ryan, director of governmental affairs, New York City Department of City Planning



8:30-10:00am

Neighborhood Preservation Center  
232 East 11th Street  
between Second & Third Avenues  
Manhattan

To RSVP email [lbelfer@hdc.org](mailto:lbelfer@hdc.org) or call 212-614-9107.

*The Historic Districts Council Neighborhood Partners Program is sponsored in part by Deutsche Bank, The New York Community Trust, Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Assembly Members Deborah J. Glick & Richard N. Gottfried, and State Senators Thomas K. Duane, Liz Krueger, Andrew J. Lanza & Diane J. Savino.*

### SOUTH BRONX

*continued from page 3*

one end of the block. The other three corners feature Neville & Bagge apartment buildings built in 1909 and 1910 for Wenigman.

The Bertine Block Historic District—East 136th Street between Willis Avenue and Brown Place—is named for the developer of most of the buildings on the block, Edward D. Bertine. Bertine hired George Keister, the Manhattan architect of such individual landmarks as the Belasco Theater and the Hotel Gerard in Times Square and the famous Apollo Theater in Harlem, to design a row of houses in tawny brick with brownstone trim. Built in 1891, the buildings bring a theatrical touch to the block with a lively variety of ornament and gabled and mansard roofs punctuated by tall chimneys. The following year Bertine hired John Hauser to design another row of houses across the street in the Romanesque Revival style and commissioned Adolf Balshun Jr. to create yet another group. Bertine lived at 416 East 136th Street. Presently, the house is a sad anomaly on the block, uninhabited and in poor condition.

A later development in the district not owned by Bertine includes a row

of eight tenements built between 1897 and 1899 by Bronx architect Harry T. Howell. On a recent visit to the district, HDC was pleased to see this group of buildings newly restored by the New York City Housing Development Corporation.

An important element in the 1994 designations, and other designations in the borough, was the intervention of The Bronx Landmarks Task Force. Created by then-Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer around the time of the 350th anniversary of Jonas Bronck's settlement, the task force raised awareness of landmark designation and promoted it all across the borough through the book, "Landmarks of The Bronx," published in 1989 and revised in 2000. It features sites landmarked by the LPC and those deserving of similar designation.

While each district in the survey has at least one abandoned or dilapidated building, in general the houses are well kept and the residents are fittingly proud of their special historic blocks. The districts exemplify the stability landmark designation can provide a neighborhood, as has been noted in other Bronx districts like Mott Haven and Longwood. As New York City landmarks, they deserve their place on

the State and National Registers along with the recognition and benefits such listings would confer. 🏠

## DISTRICT LINES

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE  
HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL

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NO PART OF THIS PERIODICAL MAY BE  
REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE CONSENT  
OF THE HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL.

THE HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL WORKS  
TO ENSURE THE PRESERVATION OF  
SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS,  
BUILDINGS AND PUBLIC SPACES IN  
NEW YORK CITY, UPHOLD THE INTEGRITY OF  
THE NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS LAW AND  
FURTHER THE PRESERVATION ETHIC.

## THE LEAGUE OF PRESERVATION VOTERS: CONNECTING POLITICS AND PRESERVATION



ALTHOUGH THE SPECTACLE of November's elections and the pageantry of January's inauguration are yesterday's news, the Historic Districts Council diligently continues its effort to establish a strong connection between preservation and politics with its League of Preservation Voters initiative.

As New York City nears its municipal elections in 2009, the league has focused on educating both voters and candidates for political office about legislative issues specific to preservation and their impact on communities. On Tuesday, February 24, new City Councilmembers will be chosen in special elections in three Council districts throughout the city: Districts 21 and 32

in Queens, and District 49 on Staten Island. There are no primaries per the nonpartisan rules of the New York City Charter and upwards of one dozen candidates often vie for a given seat.

Until the day these special elections are held, HDC will work with neighborhood groups and community stakeholders within each of these Council Districts to discuss and identify what local concerns are most pressing. Together, the resulting district-specific coalitions will compile and circulate voter guides comprised of the candidates' responses.

Public forums will be held in the week or so preceding each election, giving constituents the opportunity to address the candidates directly. As always, these nonpartisan coalitions will not endorse specific candidates, though

individual participants or community groups may do so if they choose.

In January 2009 former City Councilmembers Monserrate and Addabbo—from Queens Districts 21 and 32, respectively—were sworn in as State Legislators. Staten Island's former District 49 Councilmember, Michael McMahon, was sworn in as a Congressman, also in January.

At our press time, the official roster of declared candidates had not been confirmed. For up-to-date information on all three races, visit HDC's Web site at [www.hdc.org/preservationvoters.htm](http://www.hdc.org/preservationvoters.htm).



\*The proposed historic districts and proposed individual landmarks mentioned in this article were selected based on HDC's records of Requests for Evaluation submitted to the Landmarks Preservation Commission in the past. If you are aware of other unrecognized historic resources in any of these three City Council Districts, please call 212-614-9107 to alert HDC to any additional at-risk historic sites.

### DISTRICT 49:



HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL

*Alice Austen House Museum, Staten Island*

- Councilmember Vacating Seat: Michael E. McMahon, elected to the United States Congress, representing New York's 13th Congressional District. He has served in the City Council since January 2002.

- Neighborhoods: Rosebank, Westerleigh, New Brighton, West Brighton, Mariners Harbor, Stapleton, St. George, Park Hill, Port Richmond, Clifton, Arlington, Grymes Hill and Dongan Hills.

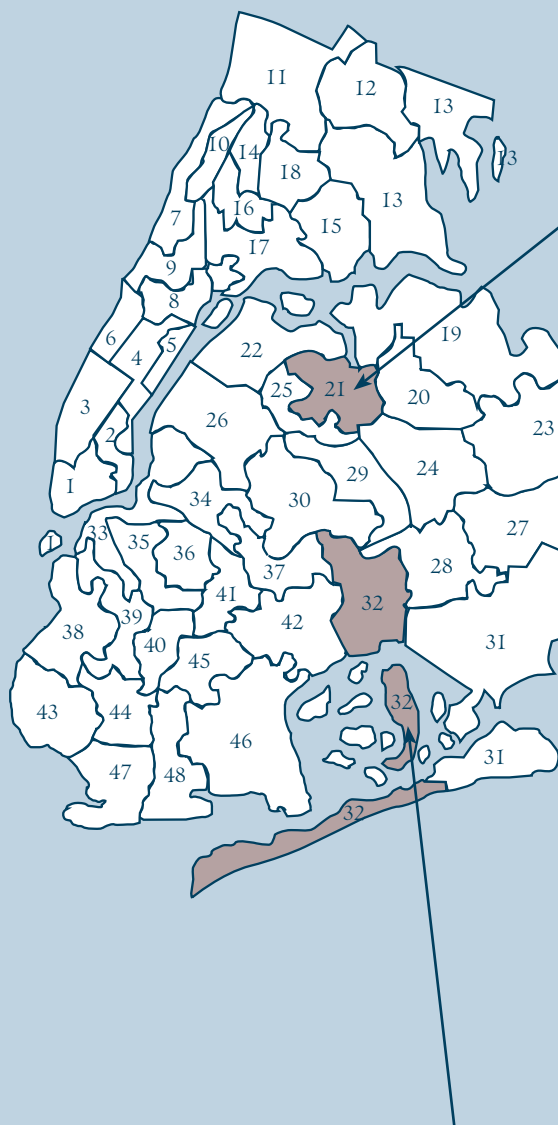
- Local Partners: St. George Civic Association, Mud Lane Society for the Renaissance of Stapleton, West Brighton Restoration and North Shore Waterfront Greenbelt, Preservation League of Staten Island, Decker Avenue Civic Association, Van Duzer Street Civic Association, Preserve and Protect.

- Historic Districts, Designated: St. George/New Brighton Historic District; St. Paul's Avenue – Stapleton Heights Historic District.

- Historic Districts, Non-Designated: Proposed Harrison Street/Stapleton Nook Historic District; proposed Snug Harbor East Historic District; proposed Westerleigh Historic District.

- Selected Individual Landmarks: Alice Austen House Museum (Rosebank); 1 Pendleton Place (New Brighton); Sailor's Snug Harbor (Snug Harbor); New York Public Library, Port Richmond Branch (Port Richmond).

- Primary Issues: Significant new development along waterfront; teardowns of older houses sited on large lots; contextual zoning throughout district.



JEFFREY KROESSLER  
1964-65 World's Fair Unisphere, Queens

## DISTRICT 21:

- Councilmember Vacating Seat: Hiram Monserrate, elected to the New York State Senate, 13th District. He has served in the City Council since January 2002.

- Neighborhoods: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, East Elmhurst, Jackson Heights, LaGuardia Airport, Flushing Meadows /Corona Park.

- Local Partners: Jackson Heights Beautification Association, Jackson Heights Garden City Society, East Elmhurst Corona Civic Association, Flushing Meadows Corona Park Conservancy.

- Historic Districts, Designated: The 21st District encompasses the portion of the Jackson Heights Historic District from 79th to 88th Streets between 37th and Roosevelt Avenues.

- Historic Districts, Non-Designated: Portions of the proposed extension to the Jackson Heights Historic District are located within the 21st District, including many of the undesignated properties that lie between Roosevelt Avenue and 37th Avenue and as far up as 35th Avenue between 88th and 90th Streets.

- Selected Individual Landmarks: Louis Armstrong House (Corona); 1964-65 World's Fair Unisphere & Surrounding Reflecting Pool (Flushing Meadows-Corona Park); Fire Engine Company 289 & Ladder Company 138 (Corona); Congregation Tifereth Israel (Corona).

- Primary Issues: Balancing the preservation of neighborhood character with high demand for additional housing units; monitoring new development results from recent Willets Point rezoning; unprotected historic resources along Ditmars Avenue in East Elmhurst.

## DISTRICT 32:

- Councilmember Vacating Seat: Joseph P. Addabbo Jr., elected to the New York State Senate, 15th District. He has served in the City Council since January 2002.

- Neighborhoods: Howard Beach, Ozone Park, South Ozone Park, Hamiliton Beach, Lindenwood, South Richmond Hill, Woodhaven, Richmond Hill, Broad Channel, Rockaway Beach, Rockaway Park, Neponsit, Belle Harbor, Roxbury, Breezy Point.

- Local Partners: Broad Channel Civic Association, Woodhaven Residents Block Association.

- Historic Districts, Designated: There are no designated historic districts within the 32nd Council District.

- Historic Districts, Non-Designated: The Fort Tilden Historic District and Riis Park Historic District are both listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places, though they remain unprotected by New York City designation. There are also unprotected historic resources in Woodhaven.

- Selected Individual Landmarks: There are no designated individual landmarks within the 32nd Council District.

- Non-Designated, Proposed Landmarks: Magistrate's & Municipal Courthouse at Beach Channel Drive and Beach 90th Street.

- Primary Issues: Complete lack of recognition for historic resources;

need for contextual rezoning for district mainland and for portions of the Rockaway Peninsula; protection of the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge and the disappearing hammocks/small islands; coastal erosion.



NINA RAPPAPORT

Magistrate's & Municipal Courthouse, Queens



## IN THE PANTHEON OF PRESERVATION, SOME HEROES FOR THE AGES

THE PAST YEAR saw the death of some preservation pioneers of the mid-20th century whose contributions continued to inspire until the end. Gone from us are Margot Gayle, at 100; Jan Hird Pokorny, 93; Norman Marcus, 75; Dorothy Marie Miner, 71; Paul Byard, 68; and Roger Lang, 65.

Looking at their careers collectively, we are reminded of how daunting the challenges were for their generation of preservationists, how far we have come, and what remains to be accomplished.

No image is more telling than the snapshot taken by Margot Gayle of Mayor Robert F. Wagner signing the New York City Landmarks Law in 1965. What is significant is



*Signing of the Landmarks Law photographed by Margot Gayle, and Ms. Gayle with the Jefferson Market Courthouse bell.*

what was missing. There was no press in attendance, no advocates celebrating, and, for that matter, no opponents picketing either. (We'd hear plenty from them later.) Only Margot, recognizing the importance of the moment, was prepared to whip out her little Minox and record the historic scene.

It was a relatively weak law, with key provisions not strengthened until 1971. It was born into a culture in which a nascent preservation ethic was dominated by the philosophies and realities of suburbanization, on the one hand, and urban renewal/removal on the other. In this inhospitable climate, these vigorous individuals forged their distinctive careers with no blueprints or maps to guide them, bringing along eventual armies of new soldiers called preservationists.

In the early 1960s, for example, Margot saved what seemed then the most unlikely of buildings, the ungainly Jefferson Market Courthouse. In 1963, Norman



*Norman Marcus*

joined the City Planning Commission, where his innate preservation instincts led to such critically important and innovative policies as special air-rights-transfer districts around Grand Central Terminal and the Broadway theaters. Jan became one of the first faculty members in the very first American department of historic preservation, at Columbia University in 1967, bringing his

European sensibilities and experience to a new generation and a newly defined discipline.

Dorothy was famously the counsel to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for 19 years, defending the law and the agency's policies in the nation's two most critical preservation cases, Penn Central and St. Bartholomew's Church. Paul, who was a lawyer first and then an architect, is credited with crafting the first preservation revolving loan fund in New York City for the Landmarks Conservancy. And, Roger started as a young architect working on Faneuil Hall in Boston when the phrase "adaptive reuse" probably hadn't been coined, and continued through his career to champion impossibly difficult buildings, including those on the south side of Ellis Island.



*Dorothy Miner*

Among the things this group had in common was a commitment to modernism. The architects in the group made the contemporary aesthetic part of their practice, and all of them championed the preservation of modernist landmarks. Just picture Margot, seated in her wheelchair, on the picket lines in front of the endangered and undesigned 2 Columbus Circle!

With this level of commitment, it was possible to clash with other preservation leaders, as with Jan, a year ago, the only LPC commissioner to vote in favor of the glass tower by Sir Norman Foster that was proposed as an addition to the former Parke-Bernet building on Madison Avenue.

His position, thoughtfully defended with examples from the history of architecture, highlights another common characteristic of the group. All of them relished debate, perhaps most especially with their preservation peers. Nothing could be more fun, and better for strengthening the movement, than a good argument, well reasoned, without rancor, among friends.

Perhaps that is why they were all teachers. They all taught by example, of course, and through writings, but also in schools across the region. In the classroom the philosophies and practices they had first imagined, invented, debated, and fought for became inspirational course material for new preservation leadership.

Because of these preservation pioneers, and others we have lost recently such as our own HDC board member



*Jan Hird Pokorny*





Nancy Cataldi

Nancy Cataldi, 55, we now have a preservation infrastructure that is substantially more vigorous, complex, and certainly more populated than it was in their day. We have scores of preservation schools, graduate and undergraduate. We have firms that specialize in preservation trades, from architecture to

the conservation of historic building materials. And we have vigorous networks of non-profit organizations and community groups whose hard work advances our cause and stimulates a preservation ethic across the city.



Roger Lang

As the second and third generations now in the 21st century, we must recapture the energy of these pioneers. We must be eager to take on the seemingly impossible, and continue to seek new ways to solve what may seem like old problems with ingenuity, solidarity, and the certainty born of now long experience that preservation in its broadest sense is essential to our lives on this planet. 🏡



Paul Byard

Photo credits: *Signing of the Landmarks Law*, Margot Gayle; *Margot Gayle*, Metropolitan Chapter of the Victorian Society in America; *Dorothy Miner*, Historic Districts Council; *Paul Byard*, Historic Districts Council; *Jan Hird Pokorny*, Jan Hird Pokorny Associates; *Nancy Cataldi*, Historic Districts Council; *Roger Lang*, Franny Eberhart; *Norman Marcus*, Maria Marcus

*The Historic Districts Council invites you to attend the*

**15TH ANNUAL PRESERVATION CONFERENCE  
COMMUNITIES & CORNICES: PRESERVATION IN A POLITICAL WORLD**

Friday, March 6, 2009  
**OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION**  
6:00pm-8:00pm

The Puffin Room  
435 Broome Street, between Broadway and Crosby  
Manhattan

*For this year's Opening Night Reception HDC welcomes guests to the Puffin Room, an independent art gallery located within the SoHo-Cast Iron Historic District. In addition to refreshments and good preservation-minded conversation, this festive kick-off event will also feature presentations on proposed historic districts across the city. Come meet fellow neighborhood advocates and learn about their preservation efforts.*

Saturday, March 7, 2009  
**15TH ANNUAL PRESERVATION CONFERENCE**  
8:30am-6:15pm

Museum of the City of New York  
Fifth Avenue at East 103th Street  
Manhattan

*Inspired by the upcoming municipal elections and the power of civic engagement to effect real change on a neighborhood level, the 2009 Preservation Conference will examine the partnership between community-based civic organizations and elected officials to highlight the benefits and strategies of working together. Panels will include a Keynote by Dick Dadey, executive director of Citizens Union; "Partnerships & Preservation: Working with Elected Officials"; and "Preservation Tools: The Importance of Legislation and Regulations."*

Sunday, March 8, 2009  
**WALKING TOURS**

Meeting times and places will be provided upon registration.

*HDC is pleased to offer Walking Tours in each of the five boroughs, highlighting the neighborhoods of Brooklyn Heights, Brooklyn; The Hall of Fame For Great Americans, The Bronx; Historic Richmond Town, Staten Island; Kew Gardens, Queens; and Manhattan's Civic Center and the South Village.*

**To register for any of the above events, please visit [www.hdc.org/conference2009.htm](http://www.hdc.org/conference2009.htm).  
E-mail [hdc@hdc.org](mailto:hdc@hdc.org) or call 212-614-9107 for more information.**

The 15th Annual Preservation Conference is co-sponsored by the Museum of the City of New York and is supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York State Council on the Arts, a State agency. HDC also wishes to thank New York City Councilmembers Vincent Gentile, Jessica Lappin, and Rosie Mendez and the Manhattan Delegation for their support of this event.

## RECENT GIFTS AND GRANTS

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS by government, foundations, organizations, companies and Friends of the Historic Districts Council are very much appreciated. All efforts have been made to list contributions properly. Many thanks to those who gave in the period from August 2008 through November 2008:

**Government:** New York State Assemblymember Richard N. Gottfried, New York State Council on the Arts

**Foundations:** Gramercy Park Foundation, James A. Macdonald Foundation, New York Community Trust/Windie Knowe Fund

**Organizations:** Addisleigh Park Civic Organization, Alice Austen House Museum, Brooklyn Heights Association, Central Queens Historical Association, DUMBO Neighborhood Association, Douglaston/Little Neck Historical Society, Fort Greene Association, Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts, Four Borough Neighborhood Preservation Alliance, General Theological Seminary, Gramercy Neighborhood Associates, The Green-Wood Cemetery, Municipal Art Society, The New York Landmarks Conservancy, Pace University\*, Preservation League of New York State, St. Mark's Historic Landmark Fund

**Companies:** Ahearn-Holzman, AKRF, Alliance Contracting Group of NY, AM&G Waterproofing, Bollinger NY, Brisk Waterproofing, Buchbinder & Warren, Cutsogeorge Tooman & Allen, Davis Tung Dieye, Deluc, DNA Contracting, Empire Scaffolding Systems, Essex Works, The Estée Lauder Companies, EverGreene Studios, Façade Maintenance Design, Ferguson & Shamamian Architects, Flag Waterproofing & Restoration, Françoise Bollack Architects, Fredenburgh Architects, Helmsley Spear, I. P. Group Consulting Engineers, Jablonski Building Conservation, James Macdonald Ltd., Jan Hird Pokorny Architects, Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel, Landmark Facilities Group, Laura Heim Architect, Lichten-Craig Architects, Marcus Rosenberg & Diamond, Marks Paneth & Shron, Murphy Burnham & Buttrick Architects, Nancy Owens Studio, Nova Restoration of NY, Outdoor Installations/Spring Scaffolding, PRESERV, RESTORE, Robert Silman Associates, Romano Paving & Contracting, SAM Fundraising Solutions, Silverstein Interiors, Skyline Restoration, Standard Waterproofing, Studio for Civil Architecture, Tower Building Services, Traditional Line Ltd., Walter B. Melvin Architects, West New York Restoration of CT, Westerman Construction, Winter Hill Associates, Yates Restoration Group

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\* Given in memory of Dorothy Miner



## WORKING ON LANDMARKED BUILDINGS IN NEW YORK CITY: RENOVATION, RESTORATION AND REUSE



ON DECEMBER 2, 2008 HDC hosted the first session of its professional continuing education series. The series was created to address, to educate, and to initiate a dialogue with those professionals who work on historic structures in New York City.

The first program included six presentations that dealt with the nuts and bolts of working with the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) and working on landmarked properties. Speakers focused on such crucial information as necessary presentation materials, appropriateness in historic districts, researching historic photographs and other documents, and balancing the

needs of a client with the regulations of the LPC.

The more than 25 professionals in attendance heard advice first hand from William Neeley Jr., deputy director of preservation at the LPC; and from Daniel J. Allen, Stephen Gottlieb, Francoise Bollack, Page Cowley, and Kevin Wolfe, all architects with extensive experience restoring and renovating landmark properties.

The continuing education series will resume in spring 2009 with a program on conservation techniques for historic buildings. To be added to HDC's Professional Partner mailing list please email [ftolbert@hdc.org](mailto:ftolbert@hdc.org).

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HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL

*January Coffee Talk: "Working with Elected Officials"*

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NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE

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