

***THE BRONX CLUB OF  
VEGAS VALLEY  
NEWSLETTER  
AUGUST 2011***



***Lorillard Snuff Mill dates from 1792 to 1870.  
The Mill is bordered by the Bronx River.***

***If you require any information concerning the Club, know of anyone interested in joining, or have ideas for upcoming events you would like to host, please contact me Leslie Schoenberg, ls1166@aol.com, 838-3560, or Sue Braun, suefromtustin@yahoo.com cell 510-7788. In addition, I am also the Newsletter Editor. If you have, any articles about The Bronx that you would like to have put in the Newsletter, please forward them to me at the above email address.***

**PLEASE NOTE:**

***There will be no September Newsletter.***

***I will be out of the country from August 5 to September 2. All urgent correspondence or membership requests that require immediate attention send to Sue Braun, suefromtustin@yahoo.com, cell 510-7788. If it can wait, please send it to me and I will answer it upon my return.***

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

***August 20, this evening's event will be hosted The Blonder's. We will be attending Spring Mountain Ranch Theatre's production of "Fiddler on the Roof." Tickets and a chair is \$13.00 per person. Since by the time you receive this Newsletter, the time to order them with the group has passed. Please know the tickets can be ordered on the Internet or by calling UNLV. Even though you did not order them with the Club, if you call Susan 395-6878 for all information, including dinner, arrival time etc, she will save room for you so you can eat and sit with the rest of the members. Tickets are available at the door for a higher price. There is no charge for parking. Bring a jacket; it gets cold there at night.***

***September 18, Leslie Schoenberg will host this event. The event will be at 6:00 pm and held at Cathay House, www.cathayhouselv.com, 5300 Spring Mountain Rd., #107, 876-3838. The last day to respond is September 13. As always, we will have separate checks and there will be a \$2.00 cover charge for our guest's expense.***

***Our guest speaker this month will be Michael Green, PhD., Professor of the History of Las Vegas at Community College of Southern NV. He will tell us about "early" Vegas, the Jewish influence in Vegas, what Vegas has grown to today. He is bringing his Father with him since his Dad grew up in The Bronx.***

**October 16 –The Braun’s will be hosting this month’s event at IHOP,9651 Trailwood Drive, 6:00 pm, Sue also worked out where he will give us a 20% discount on our meals. Their speaker Mr. Terry Revella is a first responder. A retired Captain of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Police, and 9/11 World Trade Center Disaster survivor, Mr. Revella was last assigned to the New York State Office of Homeland Security, serving in New York City. During 9/11, he served as the New York State Health and Safety Officer as Governor Pataki's liaison for the entire duration of the Ground Zero clean-up operation.**

**He is also a Marine Corps, Vietnam Veteran; accumulating over 30 years of incident command experience in field, on scene and as Incident Commander.**

**Mr. Revella was instrumental in the development of numerous anti-terrorism programs, which have been implemented throughout the world. His presentation on Public Building Security has been utilized in Australia and England by various law enforcement agencies. Mr. Revella served as a police commander for over 15 years. He was the Governor's liaison to the New York City's Office of Emergency Management for all major incidents, which included: ferry accidents, New Year's Eve in Times Square, parades, building collapses, building explosions, and an outbreak of the West Nile Virus, where he worked closely with Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. He is also a HAZMAT Specialist and performed dignitary Protection for the Republican National Convention, foreign dignitaries, as well as, the President of the United States.**

**His achievements include NY State’s highest heroism award, the Samuel S. Taylor Award, the NY State Medal of Valor, NY’s highest achievement award, and two Meritorious Service Awards. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from Kaplan College with a B.S. in criminal Justice and is a member of the National Scholars Honor Society.**

**November 13, 6:00, The Memphis BBQ, 1401 S. Rainbow Ave., 254-0520; diverse new menu selections available ranging from \$10.- \$13. Please note that this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month not the 3<sup>rd</sup> as usual. This is because of Thanksgiving. Ken and Rochelle Goodman and Denise and Steve Needleman will host this month’s event, which is a Trivial Pursuit Challenge. There will be three teams and great prizes given out. As always, separate checks will be given.**

**Please RSVP no later than Thursday November 10 to Rochelle at 462-9930, kendg@msn.com or Denise at 396-8887, dfneedleman@gmail.com. As usual, \$2.00 will be collected at the door. Please RSVP so that we can guarantee you a slot for the games.**

**December 18 – We are having a holiday party similar to the one we had last year. It will again be at the home of The Braun’s. The event will be co-hosted by The Schoenberg’s. I will forward additional information in future Newsletters.**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**We need hosts for February to December 2012. Please contact me if you would like to participate in the growth of The Bronx Club by hosting an event.**

**Congratulations to the following members celebrating their birthdays in August.**

<b>Doris Berns</b>	<b>August 8</b>	<b>Gene Berns</b>	<b>August 8</b>
<b>Allen Blonder</b>	<b>August 10</b>	<b>Rob Stein</b>	<b>August 10</b>
<b>Bernadine Zaben</b>	<b>August 11</b>	<b>Ken Stern</b>	<b>August 29</b>

**Congratulations to the following members celebrating their anniversaries in August.**

**Margie and Gary Abelson, August 15, their 46<sup>th</sup>.**

**Edith and Dave Einhorn, August 18, their 55<sup>th</sup>.**

## ***Very Important – Please note***

***You must respond if you plan to attend the monthly meeting, even if it is the same day. We reserve and set up for as many responses as we have. In July, we reserved seats for 31 people and 46 showed up. It was difficult to make room for the additional people. We would not like to be forced into a position where we have to turn people away. Please remember to respond.***

## ***The Ladies Club of Vegas Valley***

***Next meeting will be Thursday October 6, 11:30 am, at The Cheesecake Factory in Boca Park. Please remember to respond to Susan Blonder, 395-6878.***

## ***Contributions from members.***

***Greg Abbott has contributed the following:***

***<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ntLLZlwjGs>***

***Bernardine Zaben, another member, contributed the following pictures and article.***

***<http://www.screanews.us/NewYork/Bronx3040.html>***

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***The following was contributed by Gail Stivale***

***I am a New Yorker  
I do not live in the five boroughs or on the Island or Upstate  
I may live hundreds or thousands of miles away  
Or I may live just over the GW Bridge  
But I am a New Yorker***

***I am a New Yorker***

***Whatever took me out of New York:***

***Business, family or hating the cold did not take New York out of me.***

***My accent may have faded and my pace may have slowed***

***But I am a New Yorker.***

***I am a New Yorker***

***I was raised on Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and Rockefeller Plaza,  
The Yankees or the Mets (Giants or Dodgers)***

***Jones Beach, Rye Beach, Orchard Beach or one of the beaches on the  
sound***

***I know that 'THE END' means Montauk.***

***Because I am a New Yorker***

***I am a New Yorker***

***When I go on vacation, I never look up***

***Skyscrapers are something I take for granted***

***The Empire State Building and the Statue of Liberty are part of me***

***Taxis and noise and subways and 'get outta heah' don't rattle me***

***Because I am a New Yorker***

***I am a New Yorker***

***I was raised on cultural diversity before it was politically correct***

***I eat Greek food and Italian food,***

***Jewish and Middle Eastern food and Chinese food***

***Because they are all American food to me.***

***I don't get mad when people speak other languages in my presence***

***Because my relatives got to this country via Ellis Island and chose to  
stay.***

***They were New Yorkers***

***People who have never been to New York have misunderstood me.***

***My friends and family work in the industries, professions and businesses  
that benefit all Americans.***

***My firefighters died trying to save New Yorkers and non-New Yorkers.***

***They died trying to save Americans and non-Americans.***

***Because they were New Yorkers.***

***I am a New Yorker.  
I feel the pain of my fellow New Yorkers.  
I mourn the loss of my beautiful city.  
I feel and dread that New York will never be the same but then I  
remember:  
I am a New Yorker.***

***And New Yorkers have:  
Tenacity, strength and courage way above the norm  
Compassion and caring for our fellow citizens  
Love and pride in our city, in our state, in our country  
Intelligence, experience and education par excellence  
Ability, dedication and energy above and beyond  
Faith--no matter what religion we practice  
Terrorists hit America in its heart  
But America's heart still beats strong  
Demolish the steel in our buildings,  
& gt; but it doesn't touch the steel in our souls  
Hit us in the pocketbook;  
but we'll parlay what we have left into a fortune  
End innocent lives leaving widows and orphans,  
but we'll take care of them  
Because they are New Yorkers***

***Wherever we live, whatever we do, whoever we are  
There are New Yorkers in every state and every city of this nation  
We will not abandon our city  
We will not abandon our brothers and sisters  
We will not abandon the beauty,  
creativity and diversity that New York represents  
Because we Yorkers  
And we are proud to be New Yorkers.***

***REMEMBER THE WTC  
Author - Vincent Pasquale, Maspeth, NY  
Thank you Vincent for allowing us to share this with  
our fellow New Yorkers all around the world.***

***Only those that grew up or lived in NYC can understand the meaning of this:***

***THERE IS NO NORTH AND SOUTH. IT'S 'UPTOWN' OR 'DOWNTOWN.' IF YOU ARE REALLY FROM NEW YORK,***

***YOU HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO CONCEPT OF WHERE NORTH AND SOUTH ARE AND EAST OR WEST***

***IS 'CROSS-TOWN.'***

***YOU KNOW HOW TO MAKE AN EGG CREAM.***

***YOU RIDE IN A SUBWAY CAR WITH NO AIR CONDITIONING JUST BECAUSE THERE ARE SEATS AVAILABLE.***

***YOU KNOW WHAT A 'REGULAR' COFFEE IS.***

***YOU MOVE 3,000 MILES AWAY, SPEND 10 YEARS LEARNING THE LOCAL LANGUAGE AND PEOPLE STILL***

***KNOW YOU'RE FROM BROOKLYN, LONG ISLAND, STATEN ISLAND (the other "Island)" OR "THE BRONX",***

***THE MINUTE YOU OPEN YOUR MOUTH.***

***YOU RETURN AFTER 10 YEARS AND THE FIRST FOODS YOU WANT ARE A 'REAL' PIZZA AND A 'REAL' BAGEL.***

***A 500 SQUARE FOOT APARTMENT IS LARGE.***

***YOU WOULD NOT BOTHER ORDERING PIZZA IN ANY OTHER CITY.***

***YOU ARE NOT THE LEAST BIT INTERESTED IN GOING TO TIMES SQUARE ON NEW YEAR'S EVE.***

***YOUR INTERNAL CLOCK IS PERMANENTLY SET TO KNOW WHEN ALTERNATE SIDE OF***

***THE STREET PARKING REGULATIONS IS IN EFFECT.***

***YOU KNOW WHAT A BODEGA IS.***

***SOMEONE BUMPS INTO YOU AND YOU CHECK FOR YOUR WALLET.***

***YOU DON'T EVEN NOTICE THE LADY WALKING DOWN THE STREET  
HAVING A PERFECTLY NORMAL***

***CONVERSATION WITH HERSELF.***

***YOU PAY 'ONLY' \$230 A MONTH TO PARK YOUR CAR.***

***YOU CRINGE AT HEARING PEOPLE PRONOUNCE HOUSTON ST. LIKE THE  
CITY IN TEXAS.***

***THE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT IS A MAJOR TRAFFIC JAM, NOT AN HONOR.***

***THAT IS NEW YORK, BABY! YA GOTTA LOVE IT!!***

***I thank all of them for adding to the content of the Newsletter.  
Remember to highlight, copy and paste.***

**Our July meeting was held at Mimi's Café on Ft. Apache. The meeting hosted by Ron and Sandy Scher and had 46 in attendance. Following are some of the pictures from the meeting.**



**The first picture, our hosts for the evening, the Scher's and their guests Leon and Evelyn Goldstein.**



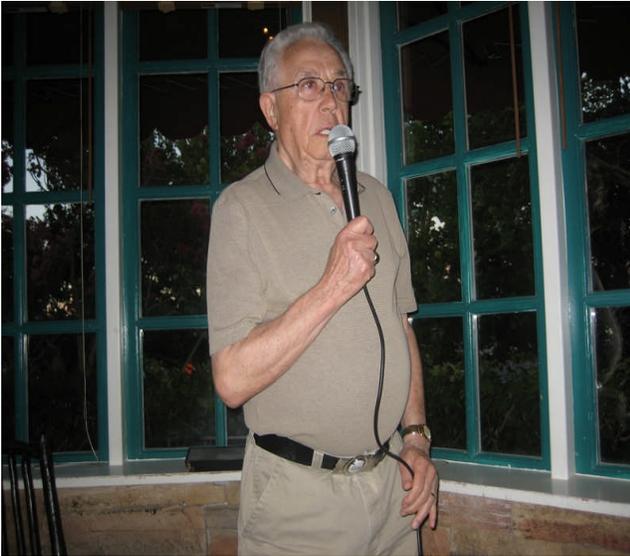
**The other side of the table, guests Larry Schoenberg, Greg Abbott and Robert Joyce.**



**Harvey and Idele Kaplan, and David Bluth**



**The other side of the table, Carol and Stan Madris, Doris Bluth and Nan Birnbaum.**



***Our guest Leon Goldstein***



***Member guests- The Goodmans, The Seskins, and new members Phil and Shirley Siedman.***



***Left to right – The Einhorn's, Bernardine Zaben, The Steins and the Blonder's.***

***Sorry we could not include pictures of everyone but there is limited space.***

## **Continuing last month's Historic Homes in the Bronx**

**For those of you who did not have a chance to read the history of The Bronx in previous editions of the Newsletter, I am including a portion of it with this section of historic homes and places in The Bronx.**

### **The Dutch**

**European contact with the Bronx first occurred almost 400 years ago. In 1609, Henry Hudson, probably the first European to see the shoreline, sought cover from a storm for his vessel the Halve Maen, Half Moon, in Spuyten Duyvil Creek. Thirty years later in 1639, the mainland was settled by Jonas Bronck, a Swedish sea captain from the Netherlands who eventually built a farmstead at what became 132nd Street and Lincoln Avenue; a small group of Dutch, German, and Danish servants settled with him.**

**Thomas Pell of Connecticut, who invited sixteen families to form the village of Westchester near what is now Westchester Square, bought most of the eastern half of the area now known as The Bronx in 1654. Westchester between 1683 and 1714 was the seat of Westchester County (which included The Bronx until the second half of the nineteenth century) and as a chartered borough was the only town in the colony with an elected mayor. In addition, it was the first town without a property qualification for suffrage: settlers chose a representative to the provincial assembly and had their own municipal court. Horses, cattle, sheep and wheat were the main agricultural products and a cottage industry in cloth making thrived.**

### **English Rule**

**During English rule most inhabitants were English, of English descent, or Dutch. Anglicanism was the religion sanctioned by colonial law, but Presbyterians, Quakers, and members of the Dutch Reformed church were in the majority. The first blacks, slaves from the West Indies, soon made up 10 to 15 percent of the population. Indians left the area soon after 1700. At this time, the Bronx was composed of two towns and all or part of four huge manors. The town of Westchester; the town of Eastchester; the manor of Pelham, owned by the Pell family; the manor of the Morris family, Morrisania; the manor of Fordham, settled in 1671 by John Archer; and the manor of Philipsburgh, owned by the Philipse family.**

***The area saw constant conflict during the American Revolution. Fortifications erected by General George Washington to protect the Harlem River valley proved ineffective on October 12, 1776 when British troops outflanked the Continental army landing at Throggs Neck. During the Battle of Pell's Point on October 18 about 750 men led by Colonel John Glover of Marblehead, Massachusetts, stayed the march of four thousand British and Hessians, enabling Washington to evacuate his army to White Plains in Westchester. For much of the rest of the war the Bronx remained in British hands and was subjected to raids by rebels that caused widespread destruction. In November 1783, Washington and Governor George Clinton began a push from Van Cortlandt Mansion (now in Van Cortlandt Park) to take possession of New York City from the departing English.***

***During the early nineteenth century, the chief occupations of lower Westchester County were growing wheat and raising livestock; between 1800 and 1830, the population rose from 1755 to 3023. Severe famine in Ireland and the growth of industry and commerce in the city drew thousands of Irish to the Bronx as laborers. Many Irish immigrants were employed in the construction of the High Bridge over the Harlem River, the New York and Harlem Railroad, and the Croton Aqueduct. Much of the area consisted of fertile lands that yielded fruits, vegetables, and dairy products for sale in the city. The first railroad tracks were laid over these lands, and rural stations eventually became the centers of new villages such as Melrose, Tremont, and Riverdale. As the railroad was extended, the center of population shifted west from the area east of the Bronx River, and the towns of West Farms (1846) and Morrisania (1855) were established.***

***Economic opportunity in the United States and a failed revolution in Germany in 1848 led thousands of Germans to move to the Bronx. Many settled in Melrose and Morrisania and became shopkeepers, brewers, and saloon owners. In 1863 the Janes and Beebe ironworks at 149th Street and Brook Avenue produced the dome for the Capitol in Washington, D.C.***

***By the late 1860s, it was generally assumed that the towns on the mainland would be annexed by New York City as it expanded northward. In 1868, Morrisania numbered its streets to make them conform to those of the city, and in the following year the municipal parks department was given control of the bridges over the Harlem River and the streets leading to them.***

***In 1874, the towns of Morrisania, West Farms, and Kingsbridge were annexed to the city; known as the Annexed District, they were placed under the jurisdiction of the parks department and became the city's twenty-third and twenty-fourth ward. Later, in 1888, the 3rd Avenue elevated line was extended to 132nd Street, precipitating the most rapid growth the Bronx had ever seen. By the late 1890s there was strong support in parts of Eastchester, Pelham, and the village of Wakefield for consolidating with New York City the area east of the Bronx River, along with Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island. Most people assumed that high real estate values in Manhattan would cover the public debt already incurred by the towns and pay for further public improvements being planned.***

***After consolidation in 1898, the twenty-third and twenty-fourth wards became the borough of the Bronx, which with Manhattan remained part of New York County (the other boroughs were already separate counties). However, the journey from the Bronx to the courts in southern Manhattan was so long that inhabitants of the Bronx soon petitioned for county designation. It was not until 1912, however, that the state legislature established the County of the Bronx as the sixty-second county in the state, effective January 1, 1914.***

***In 1904, the first subway connecting the Bronx to Manhattan was built under 149th Street, providing cheap rapid transit that with the 3rd Avenue elevated line persuaded hundreds of thousands during the first third of the twentieth century to leave tenements in Manhattan for spacious new apartments in the Bronx. Yugoslavians, Armenians, and Italians were among those who made the move, but the largest group was Jews from central and Eastern Europe.***

***With the influx of population in the first third of the century, the economy of the Bronx grew rapidly. The 3rd Avenue elevated line was gradually extended northward and in the process trolley lines were connected to it, forming a rapid transit line that provided access from lower Manhattan to expanses of undeveloped land. Many apartment buildings and commercial buildings were soon erected along the corridor of the elevated line, which reached its northern terminus at Gun Hill Road in 1920. In 1923, Yankee Stadium was opened at 161st Street and River Avenue as the home of the New York Yankees, who became known as the "Bronx Bombers" because of the large number of home runs hit in the following decades by such players as Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle, Roger Maris, and Reggie Jackson.***

***The onset of the Depression ended the period of tremendous growth that had begun in 1888, but privately financed apartment buildings continued to be constructed. This was especially true of the area of the Grand Concourse, which became a symbol of social and economic success and had many apartment buildings of five or six stories with wide entrance courtyards. About 49 percent of the inhabitants in 1930 were Jews, most of who worked in Manhattan. By 1934, the housing in the borough had many more amenities than that of the other boroughs: almost 99 percent of residences had private bathrooms, about 95 percent central heating, more than 97 percent hot water, and more than 48 percent mechanical refrigeration. The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company undertook the largest housing development of the time, Parkchester. Completed in 1942, it housed forty thousand residents and had parks, playgrounds, sculptures, convenience stores, and movie theaters. Edward J. Flynn, the Democratic leader of Bronx County and an early supporter of the New Deal, secured public funds to repair streets and build the county jail and the central post office, as well as neighborhood parks.***

## ***The Post War Years***

***After the Second World War, new housing was built and the makeup of the population changed. Construction ranged from luxury apartment buildings in Riverdale to public housing in the southern Bronx. Long-time residents and former service members moved from older housing in the southern neighborhoods of Hunts Point, Morrisania, and Mott Haven into privately built housing in the northern Bronx, to the other boroughs, and to the suburbs. About 170,000 persons displaced by slum clearing in Manhattan, mostly black and Puerto Rican, moved to Hunts Point and Morrisania, as well as to Melrose, Tremont, and Highbridge. In 1950, social workers reported enduring poverty in a section of the southern Bronx. Systematic rent control was introduced during the Second World War to prevent rents from skyrocketing as empty apartments became scarce; it soon prevented conscientious proprietors from paying for repairs to their aging buildings. Buildings were often set afire, at some times by unscrupulous landlords hoping to collect insurance, and at others by unscrupulous tenants taking advantage of the city's policy that burned-out tenants should be given priority for public housing and receive money for new furnishings. A period of rampant arson in the late 1960s and early 1970s ended only after this policy was changed and a limit was imposed on insurance payments for reconstructing burned-out apartment buildings.***

***From that time one-family houses and row houses were built, hundreds of apartment buildings restored, and several apartments converted to cooperatives and condominium units, permitting more residents of the southern Bronx to own their homes.***

## ***Continuing Historic Homes and Places in The Bronx.***

### ***The Yankee Stadium***



***Built in 1923, Yankee Stadium was baseball's first triple-decked structure with an advertised seating capacity of 70,000 and the first to be labeled a "stadium." The new stadium's inaugural game was on Opening Day, April 18, 1923 vs. the Boston Red Sox. Yankee's slugger Babe Ruth was the most famous person in baseball and it was his drawing power that made the new stadium possible. Yankee Stadium became known as "The House that Ruth Built." The stadium was also the ground for numerous World Series titles – totaling 26 – and it is known as "The Home of Champions." Now owned by the city, the building has undergone many renovations and modernization. The renovation in 1976 when the city destroyed the original building included an exact replica of the façade into the new design as well as adding three towers atop the entrances to give the stadium a more majestic look. A new stadium was completed for the 2010 season.***

## ***The Bronx River***



***The Mohegan Indians who first lived and fished along the Bronx River called it Aquehung, or "River of High Bluffs." Swedish settlers in the 1600s began establishing hydraulic mills manufacturing paper, flour, pottery, tapestries, barrels and snuff. In 1915, the completion of the Kensico Dam diverted the upper part of the River and reduced the Bronx River's water supply by one-quarter. The rise of industrialism, specifically the construction of the New York Central Railroad turned the valley into an industrial corridor and the Bronx River degenerated into an "open sewer" for human and industrial waste. During the reign of city planner, Robert Moses, the Bronx River and its communities were divided by the construction of new highways. The City of New York Parks and Recreation has collaborated with numerous community organizations to help clean up the river. Today, it is home to hundreds of species of native plants and animals and one can find bikers, fishers, and sunbathers along its banks.***

## **Wave Hill**



***The Greek revival style, Wave Hill house was built in 1843 as a country home for attorney William Lewis Morris. In the 19th century, Charles Darwin, Theodore Roosevelt's family, and Mark Twain leased the home because of its terrific views of the Hudson River and the New Jersey Palisades. In 1903, George W. Perkins, a partner of J.P. Morgan, purchased Wave Hill House and began building gardens, greenhouses, terraces, a swimming pool, and a recreational facility. "The land was graded and contoured, rare trees and shrubs were planted on the broad lawns, and the gardens were created to blend harmoniously with the natural beauty of the Hudson River highlands." Wave Hill was deeded to the City of New York in 1960. Today it is maintained as a non-profit corporation that offers programs in horticulture, environmental education, woodland management, and the visual and performing arts.***

## ***City Island***



***City Island was first established as an English settlement in 1865 as a supply stop between Manhattan and northern ports. It continued to be an important shipping and yachting center throughout the 18th and 19 centuries. Since World War II, City Island has been home to yacht clubs, boat makers, sail makers, sailing schools, marinas, fishing boats, and marine supply and repair shops. Today it continues to be a nautical community, but also serves as an oasis of seafood cuisine and historic buildings in Eastchester Bay.***