

**THE BRONX CLUB OF
VEGAS VALLEY
NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2012**



The Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum

***For more information about the Bronx Club
Of Vegas Valley, go to <http://bronx.xadar.com>***

If you require any information about the Club, know of anyone interested in joining, or have ideas for upcoming events you would like to host, please contact Leslie or Sue at the following website address <http://bronx.xadar.com/contactus.php>. You can also use our website to get any information about the Club and our upcoming events: <http://bronx.xadar.com>

I am also the Newsletter Editor. If you have, any articles or pictures about The Bronx that you would like to share and have put in the Newsletter, please forward them to me at the following address: cochair.bronxclub@xadar.com. There will be no July or August Newsletter. I will resume with the September Newsletter.

WEBSITE ADDITION:

There is a new link on our website. It is located right under the picture of The Bronx Zoo. It reads, "Send an EZ RSVP Response," or just click on the following link <http://bronx.xadar.com/respond.php>.

WEBMASTER'S ADDRESS:

Any questions about the website, please contact the webmaster at: webmaster.bronxclub@xadar.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 10, 2012 – Please note this is the second Sunday not the third Sunday as usual. The third Sunday is Father's Day. Your hosts are Sue Braun and Leslie Schoenberg. Our guest speakers will be Jerry Kinersly and his associate Barbara Ciocca from the Cleveland Clinic in Las Vegas. They will talk about all the various programs the clinic has to offer the public. To reserve a seat, please use the [EZ RSVP Response](#) form or send an email to junhost.bronxclub@xadar.com by June 5. The dinner will be at 6:00 pm at The Martini, 1205 South Ft. Apache, 89117, just behind Mimi's Café. Phone 227-8464. To view their menu and website, please go to www.themartinilv.com. We can choose from the lunch or dinner menu. As always, we will have separate checks.

There will be no meetings in July and August, which includes the Ladies Club. Sue and I want to wish everyone a healthy and happy summer. Our next meeting will be September 23, 2012. There will not be a Newsletter for the summer break.

September 23, 2012, our guest will be Doug Bradford, USO Director, at McCarran Airport. Las Vegas USO Director Doug Bradford was in the Navy for five years. His father was in the Navy for 31 years. Two brothers were in the Army and two in the Navy. "The service is a fellowship that never leaves you. Regardless of what branch you are in, there's a desire to take care of people in the military," he said. The restaurant will be announced in August and we will have separate checks. An article from the RJ about the USO is below.

<http://www.lvrj.com/living/united-service-organization-offers-service-members-place-of-sanctuary-151286085.html>

Some of the highlights from the article are below.

"I can't tell you how many times before the USO opened here, I'd be in McCarran Airport and see a soldier sleeping on his duffel bag. I would go over to him and ask how long he will be here. I heard sometimes that it would be 36 hours. I would call a hotel on the Strip and tell them about the soldier. The answer always was to send him to the hotel, where they would put the soldier up for free. "The speaker is entertainer Wayne Newton and he is talking about his involvement with the United Service Organization, popularly known as the USO, at McCarran International Airport.

The USO sponsors sanctuaries where members of the military, veterans and their families can rest and refresh while traveling. They are also well known for the entertainment they bring to service personnel in war zones.

The McCarran USO opened on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2010, in the former US Airways first class lounge near the A and B gates in Terminal 1. On a recent weekday, Air Force physician Chris Ledford was waiting for his flight back to Fort Belvoir in Virginia. "When I travel, I see the USO as the reminder in every environment - even thousands of miles from a war zone - that we have a military that's still hard at work," he said.

The Las Vegas community has been "very receptive to the USO," he added. Various organizations support their fundraising efforts - they must repay the \$500,000 it cost to refurbish the space so it could be used for the USO - so they can become self-sustaining.

Bradford and his assistant, Ms. Wojciechowicz stressed that volunteers are always welcome and, since the McCarran USO is open all the time, there can be a schedule to suit everyone. Anyone wishing to volunteer can call the USO at 702-261-6590.

October 21 we will have a special speaker in keeping with Halloween. Details will follow. Bob and Ellen Held, JoAnne Geller and Martin Fessler are hosting the event.

November 11 – We will have a speaker from LVMPD forensics department. Kim Taylor, Forensic Specialist, will be our speaker. We need a restaurant for the event. As soon as one is selected we will announce it. The event will be on the second Sunday of the month because of Thanksgiving.

Saturday, December 15 will be our third Annual Holiday Party at the home of the Brauns. It is on a Saturday so it does not conflict with football.

The following members are celebrating birthdays in June.

Carol Seskin June 2

Joel Niedelman June 3

Michael Sander June 6

Judy Auerbach June 6

Gene Alesevich June 12

Les Braun June 17

Myrna Wiedenfeld June 17

Idele Kaplan June 29

The following members are celebrating anniversaries in June.

David and Doris Bluth on June 17, 66 years.

Rob and Harriet Stein on June 24, 50 years.

Ken and Michele Stern on June 27, 41 years.

Ed and Rita Ort on June 30, 38 years.

The following members are celebrating birthdays in July.

Harvey Kaplan July 1

Bob Held July 2

Ellen Held July 15

The following members are celebrating anniversaries in July.

Gene and Doris Burns on July 3, 66 years.

Norm and Margie Karp July 6, 43 years.

Gene and Sue Alesevich on July 19, 44 years.

Joel and Jane Niedelman on July 19, 20 years.

Bob and Ellen Held on July 29, 40 years.

Stan and Carol Madris on July 30, 51 years.

The following members are celebrating birthdays in August.

Doris Berns August 8 Gene Burns August 8

Allen Blonder August 10 Rob Stein August 10

Bernadine Zaben August 11 Maxine Cooper August 15

Michael Sander August 25 Ken Stern August 29

The following members are celebrating anniversaries in August.

David and Edith Einhorn on August 18, 56 years.

The Grand Concourse

The Concourse is filled along its length with once - and currently magnificent apartment buildings. Note the touches like vertical stripes and wraparound windows on this one, inspired by Art Moderne.



The WPA Guide to New York City, first published in 1939, notes The Grand Concourse is the Park Avenue of middle class Bronx residents, and a lease to an apartment is one of its many large buildings is considered evidence of at least moderate business success.

Opera chanteuse Roberta Peters, Eydie Gorme of Steve and Eydie fame, Milton Berle, Babe Ruth, Charlie Keller (who succeeded Babe in the Yankee outfield) and novelist E. L. Doctorow, among many other luminaries, have called the Concourse home at one time or another.

Plazas on East 161st Street and the Concourse recall two of the greatest Yankees of all time, the Sultan of Swat (Lou Gehrig) and the Iron Horse (Babe Ruth).



Eleven lanes wide from 161st Street north to Mosholu, the GB&C (Grand Boulevard & Concourse, shortened to Grand Concourse for the benefit of sign makers and cabbies) was conceived by engineer Louis Risse in 1870 and was built, from 161st Street north, in 1909. In 1927, it

absorbed Mott Avenue, which ran from 138th north to 161st, and the older street was widened. The Grand Concourse became the Bronx's showpiece as the Bronx Borough Hall, Yankee Stadium, and an array of elegant apartment buildings were constructed along its length.



930 Grand Concourse, at East 162nd, has the wraparound cantilever windows many Concourse apartment buildings are known for. It opened in 1948.

The Grand Concourse is known as "The Champs Elysees" of the west. We'll travel from the Major Deegan Expressway north to the Mosholu Parkway and point out some of the highlights, and in true tradition, some of the wild cards as well, on the grandest Bronx street ever conceived!

On the overpass itself (which also takes the Concourse over the bridge to the Concourse, such as one of four tablets commemorating the Cross Bronx Expressway and Morris Avenue), you will find structures unique to the builders.



Breaking up the apartment buildings is the Pilgrim United Church of Christ, with its classical pillars and dome, built in 1910 soon after the Concourse was finished.



SOURCE OF THE 'COURSE'

The Grand Concourse begins rather ignominiously, where East 138th Street meets a 'major' expressway just east of Harlem. Weedy lots and concrete stanchions stop wayward traffic from smashing into the railroad tracks that lead north from Grand Central Terminal.

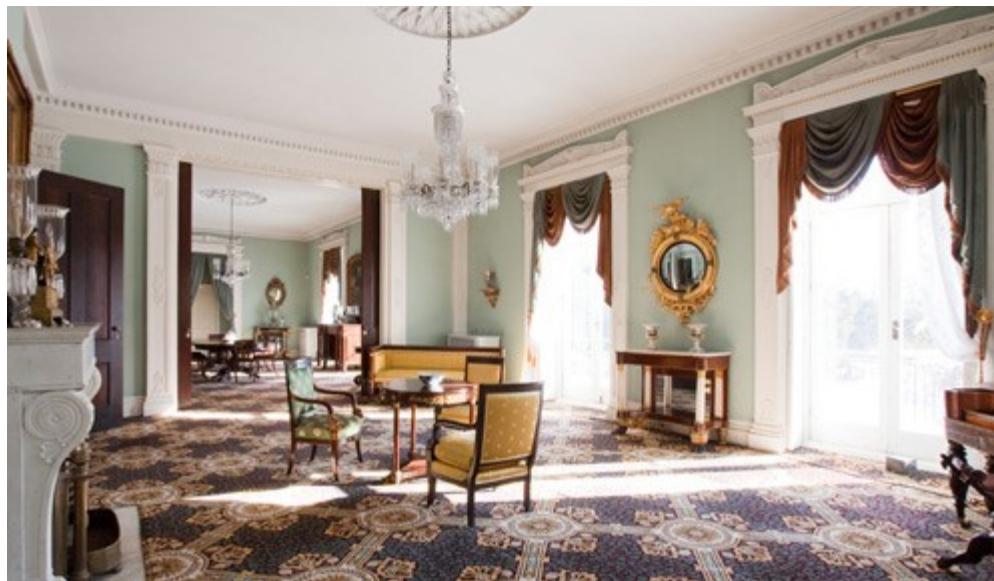


As the Concourse changed, so did the churches. The First Union Baptist Church was once a synagogue (note the Star of David on the pediment).

Veering off the Concourse and onto Burnside Avenue briefly to preview a page on the old Croton Aqueduct. Remnants and relics of the aqueduct can be found in the western Bronx and as far south as Harlem.



A National Landmark, Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, is home to one of the cities most beautifully situated historic houses in the city. The Museum welcomes thousands of visitors each year for guided and group tours, education programs for children, garden strolls and trail hikes and a variety of special events.



A New York City and a National Landmark, Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum is home to one of the most beautifully situated historic houses in the city. The Museum welcomes thousands of visitors each year for guided and group tours, education programs for children, garden strolls and trail hikes, in addition to several special events.



The Grand Concourse became the Bronx's showpiece as the Bronx County Courthouse, Yankee Stadium, and an array of elegant apartment buildings were constructed along its length. The Concourse and surrounding streets are a wonder world of magnificent apartment architecture. Most of the grand apartments were built from 1925-1940. The dominant style is Art Moderne, a streamlined style off shoot from Art Deco.

In that era most of the Concourse residents were Eastern European and Jewish, but in the late 1960s and early 1970s demographics changed as Co-Op City near the Westchester County line was built, and the overall rush to suburbia spurred a move out of the city. Today the Concourse is home to a Latino and Caribbean-American population, and the architecture is seemingly eternal.

The Concourse occupies a lengthy ridge in the southwest Bronx, which gave engineer Risso an opportunity to innovate. Major east-west roads that were already established, like Tremont Avenue and Burnside Avenue, were placed in underpasses under the Concourse, while in other cases, the Concourse itself moves under the cross road, as it does at Fordham Road. Goods were much more easily transported without the logjams and traffic tie-ups that such divisions made possible (in the Concourse's early days, at least). Major schools relocated their campuses nearer the great road. Yankee Stadium was built a block away in 1923 and great hotels accompanied it — visiting clubs, as well as a few Yankees, stayed at the Concourse Plaza Hotel.

Risso (1850-1925) first envisioned the Concourse in the 1870s, when he was in his twenties. He lived to see a scaled-down version of the road become a reality. In the 1870s, the auto was still science fiction, and Risso's vision encompassed horse drawn carriages pleasantly clomping up and down tree-lined, shady express route (much like Olmsted and Vaux' original plans for Ocean and Eastern Parkways in Brooklyn). Detailed plans were drawn up in 1892 with the aid of Louis J. Heintz, who died at age 31 and did not see the plans realized, and Louis F. Haffen, who after succeeding Heintz as Commissioner of Street Improvements, oversaw the Concourse's construction from 1902 to 1909 as Borough President. At the same time, the IRT subway, then under private ownership, was beginning to tunnel lines and stretch els from the heart of Manhattan to the Bronx and Brooklyn. It was the beginning of a grand era of road building that would continue through most of the 20th Century under the guidance, some say dictatorship, of NYC road czar Robert Moses, who rose to prominence in the LaGuardia era. It was also the beginning of an amazing era of public transportation construction. We can only marvel at the pace on which these great public works were constructed one century ago.

Our May event was quite successful. We had Tim Szymanski, Las Vegas Fire and Rescue information officer as our speaker. We all learned quite a bit of precautions to take so we do not have a fire in our homes.



Pictures from the event, left to right: New members Michael and Ronnie Sander, Marty Gold, Ron and Sandy Scher and Gregg Abbott.



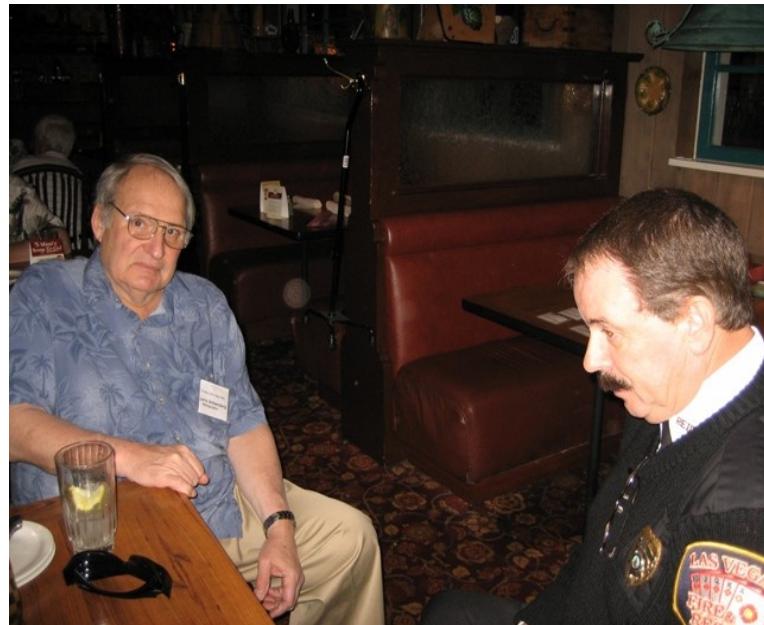
**Members David and Phyllis Selman,
And Edith and David Einhorn.**



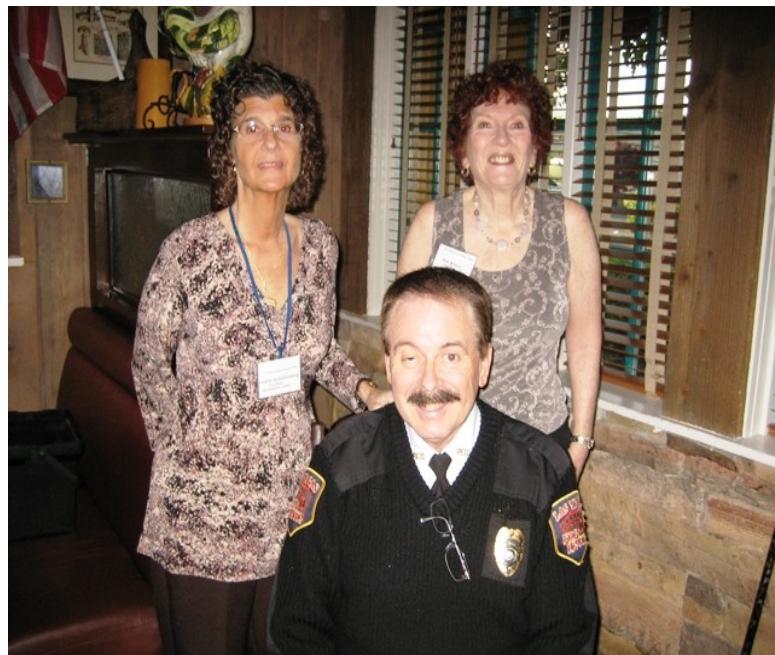
**Members front to back: JoAnn Geller, Ellen Held
and Ken Stern**



**On the other side of the table, front to back
Martin Fessler, Bob Held and Michele Stern**



Club Photographer Larry Schoenberg chatting with our guest, Tim.



***Club co-chairs left to right; Leslie Schoenberg
And Sue Braun with our guest speaker, Tim Szymanski***



Our speaker; Tim Szymanski

***We look forward to seeing everyone at our June meeting.
Please remember to respond. If you are not able to
attend then, we hope to see you on September 23rd.
You will receive a notice in August giving complete
details about our September event.***