

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



Dancing at Poe Park, 1964

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 Leslie or Sue at the following website address: <http://bronx.xadar.com/contactus.php>. You can also check out our website to get any information about the Club and the upcoming events: <http://bronx.xadar.com>

In addition, I am also the Newsletter Editor. If you have any articles or pictures about The Bronx that you would like to share in the Newsletter, please forward them to me at the following address: cochair.bronxclub@xadar.com

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 RSVP response," or just click on the following link <http://bronx.xadar.com/respond.php>.

PLEASE NOTE

If you would be interested in keeping The Bronx Club of Vegas Valley going, please let us know. We need hosts for May through November of 2012. Please respond to cochair.bronxclub@xadar.com.

Sue and I only can do so much; everyone needs do his or her part. All you need to do is contact a restaurant and find someone or something that you would enjoy sharing with the group. If you need help, Sue or I will be happy to help you. Just call or email either of us.

Upcoming Events

March 18, 2012 – Your hosts for the evening are Larry and Leslie Schoenberg. The event will be at 6:00 pm. You will receive individual checks. Our guests will be one of Metro's finest K-9 team. We will have a handler and his two K-9 partners come to the meeting to show you how the handlers train their partners.

It is very interesting and something I have been involved with since 2000. The event will be held at New York Pizza and Pasta, 2400 S. Jones at the corner of Sahara, 871-1159, following is their menu. [Online Menu](#)

I want to make you aware that if the team is called to an assignment they will not be able to be with us. This is a working team and when duty calls, they have to go. So far, in the last 13 years, only one team has not made it to an event. Please RSVP: marhost.bronxclub@xadar.com, or "Send an RSVP response," just click on the following link <http://bronx.xadar.com/respond.php>, no later then March 13, 2012.

April 22, 2011 Note this is the 4th Sunday of the month. The 3rd Sunday is to close to Passover. Phyllis and David Selman host this event. We will have a private room at Buca di Beppo, 7690 W. Lake Mead Blvd., 363-6524, www.bucadibeppo.com and as always, we will have separate checks. To respond to our hosts, by the deadline of April 18, please go to the website aprhost.bronxclub@xadar.com, or "Send an RSVP response," just click on the following link <http://bronx.xadar.com/respond.php>. Our guest speaker is Dr. Daliah Wachs. Following is some information about Dr. Wachs.

Putting her toy microphone in her mouth instead of a pacifier, Dr. Daliah Wachs was ready to entertain since she was in diapers. She knew at the age of three she wanted to be a doctor and an entertainer. She had no idea she would be blending the two later in life.

At college age, Dr. Daliah had been offered the opportunity to take on a career in singing and comedy or accept an academic scholarship to UNLV and embark on a medical career. Wanting the torture of more schooling, she chose the latter, earned an Honors Degree at UNLV, and graduated Cum Laude. She went to medical school at the University of Nevada School of Medicine in Reno, trained, and completed her 4th year at UCLA. She returned to Reno to graduate and then began a three-year Family Medicine Residency in Las Vegas, which she completed in 2000 as Chief Resident. During her residency, she worked as an Emergency Room Physician in Lake Havasu, Arizona and as an Urgent Care Physician in Bullhead City, AZ. She then became Board Certified in Family Medicine and immediately opened her practice in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Dr. Daliah Wachs has owned and operated Integrative Family Medicine for many years. She has taken care of, while entertaining, thousands of patients. She teaches and performs lectures to students at Touro University, the University of Nevada School of Medicine and UNLV. Dr. Daliah was nominated Woman of the Year by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society is a board member for FAST4Kids as well as many other achievements.

Rules and Expectations - March 2012

Introduction

Welcome to the Bronx Club of Vegas Valley (also known as "BCVV," the Bronx Club, or Club). First, we will provide a short history of the Club, then an overview of how we work, and finally a list of FAQ's (frequently asked questions).

Club History

The Club began at a formative meeting in late 2009 at a founder's home. Attendees were initially invited from an old membership list of a previous Bronx Club that had ceased to function. Two people at the meeting volunteered to become "co-chairs" of the Club.

Four crucial decisions came out of that formative meeting:

- (1) Meetings (events) will be monthly (if possible),***
- (2) Members are to take turns hosting events,***
- (3) There are no dues, and***
- (4) Email is to be the primary method for communicating with the membership. Phone is a secondary method. (No dues means no funds for postage and printing).***

We held our first official meeting at the Rampart Resort in Summerlin in FEBRUARY 2010. After a membership surge immediately after formation, the Club's growth slowed to a more sustainable pace. One founding co-chair has since left and has been replaced by an original founder who had stepped down. The Club's roster now includes about 70 members and is expected to grow.

How We Work - an Overview

We usually meet once a month, which is a demanding pace. We have been able to sustain this pace thanks to our host volunteers who chair these events.

There is an informal BCVV Ladies Luncheon Club, led by member, Susan Blonder, which functions semi-independently.

Our co-chairs are dedicated volunteers who administer the Club's activities. They do most of the detailed event planning, including helping out monthly volunteers with their chosen activity. This keeps the Club going. As we grow, it is conceivable that we will evolve into a formal structure that will include by-laws and elected officers instead of the two co-chairs we have now.

Among other behind the scenes Club responsibilities is a Club newsletter, written and published by a co-chair (a popular extra), maintenance of the Club's website (a newer extra), creation of invitation fliers, emailing event invitations, phoning members without email to notify them of events, and handling membership issues. There are now two co-chairs: Leslie Schoenberg (newsletter editor) and Susan Braun (founding member who also helps maintain the Club's website).

There are no Club dues. Sometimes the co-chairs need to pay some expenses from their own pockets.

Able members are called upon to volunteer to host an event once every two years. We need your help, so get involved!

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

1 - Membership

Who can join?

Any adult who has lived in "The Bronx" and now lives in Southern Nevada (the "Las Vegas Valley"), and that person's spouse or significant other, may join this Club. If you qualify, [contact a co-chair](#).

When does my membership expire?

It normally does not unless you notify us that you resign. Co-chairs regulate membership. Continuing membership is conditioned upon good demeanor, acceptable social behavior, adherence to our rules, and ongoing participation in Club activities.

How does the Club use my contact information?

The Club sends you event notices, fliers, and newsletters, responds to your comments or questions, and sends information of general interest to members. Your information is personal and private. It is never sold. Only co-chairs have access to the membership list.

How do I get Club information?

We use both email and our website. Sometimes we will phone you, for example, if there is a last minute change of plans. If your response is needed, we will tell you how to respond.

How do we identify members at events?

We use name badges. When you join, a permanent BCCV name badge is created for you. You pick up your badge when you arrive at an event, wear it prominently during the event, and return it to the host when you leave.

2- Hosting

What does an event host do?

Event hosts plan and execute events. Co-chairs approve event plans, add them to the Club schedule and send invitations to the membership. At events, hosts welcome members (oversee sign-in and badging), collect event fees, supervise seating, solve venue service or quality problems, escort and introduce invited entertainers or speakers, and collect each member's badge upon leaving.

Why should I host?

Events do not just happen. Someone needs to plan and execute them. We have no paid staff to do this every month. We need volunteers. That is why we ask you to host an event every other year, or more frequently if you can.

How do I become a host?

Contact a [co-chair](#) to find out what months are available and discuss plans.

When are events held?

Usually the third Sunday of the month, late in the afternoon or early evening. It is not written in stone. Co-chairs coordinate events and need to OK plans. Sometimes we meet other times because of holidays or venue availability.

Can I host an event jointly with other members?

Yes. In fact, we encourage you to co-host by teaming up with friends so that the work can be shared. For example, two couples can work together.

How do members contact me about attending my event?

A host must provide a point-of-contact email address and phone number for RSVP replies and questions. The email address will be masked by a "stealth" link that is actually published in the invitation fliers. A co-chair will phone members who do not have email access to invite them to the event. Those members are given the host's phone number to use for responding.

I'm busy and can't host. Will I get kicked out?

If you have special issues that make it a hardship for you to host, please let a co-chair know about your situation. Otherwise, we expect you to host or co-host an event every other year. We believe this is a reasonable request. You attend events hosted by others who do their part, so it is not fair to others if you do not do your part. You can co-host as part of a team if you do not have enough time. A co-chair can help you find teams that would like to have your help. If you continue to ignore opportunities to host, you may stop getting event invitations at the discretion of the co-chairs. Please do your part to keep our Club successful by becoming an event host.

What about guest speakers and entertainers?

A guest speaker or entertainer adds a lot of value to an event.

The venue needs a reasonably private area where Club activities and other venue patrons will not impose on each other. Some things are not permitted. Your guest should not sell products or services at an event, or proselytize members for religious or political purposes. As a host, you are personally responsible for any financial agreements, if any, between you and your guest. It is customary to pay for an invited guest's meal. At times, the guest may bring a companion along, and you need to agree in advance, who pays for the companion's meal. You can collect a fee per head at the door to defray expenses if the charges are clearly stated in your invitation. The Club is not responsible if you do not collect enough to cover your expenses. If you come out ahead, any extra funds goes into the Club treasury to defray operating expenses. It will be added to a small "piggy bank" that helps fund special events (e.g., goodies for the Holiday Party) and operating costs.

The venue wants a deposit and a guaranteed minimum attendance. They won't do separate checks. What can I do?

Find another venue that will work with you. If you are not comfortable with the arrangements, walk away. Under no circumstances is any host authorized to act for the Club or bind the Club to any contract. Any arrangements you make with the venue management or guest speaker/entertainer is a private arrangement between you and them.

3 - Events

If I don't want to attend an event do I still need to RSVP?

Yes! Always RSVP by the deadline WHETHER OR NOT you plan to attend! If you say you will go, try to do so. Sometimes unexpected things happen and you cannot come after all. You are expected to email or call the host to cancel ASAP. On the other hand, if you come to an event without responding, your name will not be on the invitation list, and there may not be any available seats left for you after all the members who have RSVP'd have been seated. What happens is left entirely to the discretion of the event host.

Can I bring personal guests?

To be fair to all members, events are for members only. However, with the host's consent you may bring certain non-members. These include adults visiting you from out of the Southern Nevada area, houseguests, or a caregiver. Please do not bring friends or family who live in the Southern Nevada area, or young children (under age six). A prospective member (someone with a Bronx connection) can attend an event with permission of a co-chair. You must escort your guests at all times, and you are fully responsible for them.

How do I respond if the event host doesn't have email?

You will be given instructions about how to RSVP by phone in the invitation. Please be aware that there are members who have a house phone, but no cell phone. You may not be able to contact them on the day of an event. Plan accordingly.

My friend is a member, but has no computer or Internet connection. How can she get Club information?

We regret that we have no budget for printing and mailing documents. We will attempt to phone them with information about the next event. Regrettably, they will not receive the multi-page Newsletter. If you are willing to help, print out hard copies of invitations and the Newsletter for them. If you are such a person, link up with someone in the Club who can keep you informed about Club activities and is willing to print out invitations and the Newsletter for you.

Sue Braun, Co-chair

Leslie Schoenberg, Co-chair

The following members are celebrating birthdays in March.

Stan Madris March 11

Rita Ort March 12

Barbara Abbott March 27

Harriet Stein March 29

***On March 23rd Ron and Sandy Scher will celebrate their
33rd Anniversary.***

***THIS IS REALLY AMAZING
CHECK OUT YOUR OLD NEIGHBORHOOD***

See a picture of where you grew up

When you enter an address, you will see a picture of that place. There is a little map with a little man on it – you can move the little man up and down the block if you need to.

I just looked at my childhood home!

Nice website!

<http://www.vpike.com/>



THE BRONX CLUB OF VEGAS VALLEY LADIES CLUB INVITATION

WHERE: ***Martini's, 1205 South Ft Apache, 227-8464***
Martini's is located in the shopping center behind Mimi's Café.
You can find the lunch special at the following address. Themartinilv.com

WHEN: ***Thursday, March 1st 11:30 AM***

HOST: ***Susan Blonder***

RSVP: ***395-6878***

NOTES: ***Please note this event is on a Thursday.***
Make sure you respond to Susan so she will know many seats to reserve.

Continued from the last issue. Parks in The Bronx

Playground 174

174th Street Playground

Located in the West Farms neighborhood of the Bronx, the 174th Street Playground is named after the adjacent 174th Street. This section of 174th St was originally known as Beacon Avenue. The section from the Concourse to Webster Avenue was once called Spring Street, while the section in Morrisania was once called 12th Street. This playground was built as a part of the Bronx River Houses housing project. The land for both was acquired by the city in 1948 by condemnation; the playground opened on September 14, 1950, and the housing complex was completed soon after on February 28, 1951.

The only freshwater river in New York City, the 23-mile Bronx River winds its way down from the heights of Westchester County through the borough of the Bronx, forming a green corridor that has been central to life in the Bronx from its earliest inhabitants to the present day. Called Aquehung or "River of High Bluffs" by the Mohegan Indians who fished and hunted along its banks, the Bronx River derives its current name from Jonas Bronck (1600-1643), a Swedish sea captain who settled on the mainland in 1639. Bronck was one of the earliest Europeans to settle in the area. The Bronx steadily developed as an agricultural center throughout the 1600s and 1700s until the Revolutionary War, when the British seized control of The Bronx, destroying the property of several residents. American troops regained control of the area in 1783.

After the war, activity along the Bronx River evolved with the economy. Factories sprang up along its shores, using the river's current to power their manufacturing. At one point, at least 12 mills stood on the banks of the river from North Castle to West Farms. The factories brought prosperity to the area, but with prosperity came pollution, as local farms and factories dumped their refuse into the river. The situation grew worse when the New York Central Railroad built its Harlem Line alongside the river. The resulting noise and pollution made the area undesirable, and the land between the railroad and the river came to be dominated by slums and dumping grounds. In 1896, a report by the state legislature stated that the Bronx River had become an "open sewer."

The state appointed a commission to remedy the problem. After several months of intensive study, the commission recommended that the City of New York purchase land alongside the river and use it to build a parkway. This allowed the city to control activity next to the river as well as provide motorists with a pleasant place to drive. The Bronx River Parkway Reservation Commission acted on the proposal and built the Bronx River Parkway. The Bronx River is currently the subject of a major Parks initiative, begun in 1997, that extends these efforts to protect the river. The program will clean the river and restore wetlands systems, as well as establish a continuous greenway of parks alongside its banks.

In January of 1999, the 174th Street Playground underwent a \$89,715 renovation that was funded by Council Member Lucy Cruz. The park contains London Plane trees, a comfort station, colorful play equipment, basketball and handball courts, and benches. For summer fun, the playground also has a spray shower and a mini-pool.

Abigail Playground

Abigail Playground

Abigail Adams (1744-1818), for whom this playground is named, was the wife of the second United States President, John Adams. Abigail Adams was born in Weymouth, Massachusetts, the daughter of Elizabeth Smith and Congregational minister William Smith. The Smiths descended from a wealthy family of Puritan leaders and prominent merchants. While growing up, she read extensively from the family library and was given a substantial education by her grandmother and her family's learned friends. Young Abigail developed a deep Congregational faith and a habit of letter writing, both characteristics she retained for the rest of her life. In 1764, Abigail married John Adams, an aspiring lawyer, following a five-year courtship. During their first decade of marriage, the couple produced four children and maintained houses in both Braintree and Boston, MA.

In 1774, John Adams became involved in politics and moved to Philadelphia for the First Continental Congress. Throughout the next ten years, Abigail lived and raised her children without her husband; she also survived the Revolutionary War and managed the family farm.

She stayed in contact with her husband and many others, including Thomas Jefferson, through letters. These letters, in which she referred to herself as Portia, indicate a growing interest in politics. In March 1776, she wrote a famous letter to John Adams that implores the political leader to dissolve slavery and create a new American government with equal rights for women.

In 1784, one year after the Revolution, Abigail traveled to Paris to join her husband who was serving a diplomatic post. While in Europe, Abigail directed the activities of the family farm through correspondence. Her letters from this period indicate a certain amount of unease; it seems that some of the practices of Parisian society offended her deep religious convictions.

The following year, the Confederate States of America assigned John Adams minister to Britain. Again, Abigail's letters from Britain indicate displeasure with court society. In 1788, the Adams family returned to the United States. In 1789, John began his eight years of service as Vice President under George Washington. During her husband's presidential term, which began in 1797, Abigail assumed a vocal Federalist stance that was decried by the anti-Federalist press. Abigail concentrated the remainder of her life on the family farm in Braintree. Her son, John Quincy Adams, went on to be the sixth President of the United States. In 1840, her grandson, Charles Francis Adams, published her letters.

Abigail Playground lies adjacent to the John Adams Houses on East 156th Street and Tinton Avenue. The City of New York acquired the property through condemnation on April 1, 1959. The Housing Authority completed the John Adams Houses in 1964. On October 8, 1964, Parks assumed jurisdiction over the property and opened Abigail Playground. Parks operates and maintains the facility in service of the housing complex and the local Melrose community. In September 1996, the playground received a \$31,000 requirements contract upgrade sponsored by Mayor Giuliani.

Allerton Ball fields

These ball fields honor Daniel Allerton (1818-1877) an early Bronx settler who purchased and farmed this area with his wife Hustace. Allerton was a descendent of Isaac Allerton (1586-1659), the fifth signer of the Mayflower Compact. Isaac Allerton arrived in America on the Mayflower

in 1620 but his travels began in 1608 when he moved from London, England to Leiden, Holland and found work as a tailor. He soon joined John Robinson's Separatist congregation, a group of religious dissenters who arrived from England in 1609, and married congregation member Mary Norris two years later. Shortly after his marriage, Allerton began planning and equipping the Separatist expedition to the "New World." He, his wife, and three of their four children departed on the Speedwell but transferred to the Mayflower when the former ship proved unseaworthy. In 1620, the Virginia-bound Separatists landed in Plymouth, Massachusetts due to rough seas that had pushed them off course.

The Mayflower Compact ensured the establishment of a civil government, the rule of law, and that governance would be carried out by mutual consent in the newly founded colony. Allerton served as assistant Governor between 1621 and 1624, negotiated with the local Wampanoag Native Americans, secured the Plymouth Colony's charter from England, and discussed common problems with representatives of the nearby Massachusetts Bay Colony. Mr. Allerton imported tobacco from Virginia. He stored goods in a building on the site of the current Quincy Market in Boston, Massachusetts.

Presidents Zachary Taylor (1784-1850) and Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882-1945) are descendents of Isaac Allerton and there is an Allerton family plot in the Woodlawn Cemetery.

The Allerton Ball fields are located near the New York Botanical Garden along Dr. Theodore Kazimiroff Boulevard, which becomes Allerton Avenue west of Bronx Park East. In 1914, the City of New York constructed Allerton Avenue on what was previously the Hammersley family estate, a property mapped in 1856. Allerton Avenue between Lurting and Tenbroeck Avenues was originally known as Thomas Haddon's Saw Mill Lane after a 1720 mill used to cut trees into lumber. The stretch of Allerton Avenue between Bronx Park and Crugar Avenue was previously known as Bleecker Street. Allerton Ball fields feature a comfort station and three ball fields with backstops and dugouts.

Admiral Farragut Playground

Admiral Farragut Playground

***"Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!"
-Admiral David Glasgow Farragut (1801-1870)***

Admiral David Glasgow Farragut was one of the great figures of the Civil War. His courageous naval victories during the bloody war established him as a national hero, and he eventually became America's first admiral. Farragut was born on July 5, 1801, near Knoxville, Tennessee, and legend has it he entered the U.S. Navy as a midshipman at the age of nine. He was captured by the British during the War of 1812, but was released and later served in the Mediterranean Sea.

Farragut demonstrated a clear talent for naval affairs. He advanced rapidly through the ladder of command, attaining the rank of commander by 1840. He participated in the blockade of the Gulf of Mexico during the Mexican War (1846-48), and was promoted to captain after establishing the Mare Island Navy Yard at San Francisco in 1854.

Despite being born in the South, Farragut declared his loyalty to the Union when the Civil War broke out. In January 1862, he received command of the West Gulf Blockading Squadron, and was ordered to capture New Orleans. On April 18, 1862, the squadron began bombarding Confederate forts along the mouth of the Mississippi River, but after six days, he had achieved little success. Impatient with the squadron's lack of progress, Farragut led the fleet up the river, chugging along past the raking gunfire from the forts. Farther upriver, he defeated a Confederate flotilla, and on April 25, 1862, New Orleans surrendered. This was a crippling loss for the Confederacy, as it allowed the Union to blockade the Mississippi River, which served as the key shipping artery for the South.

Farragut was victorious in several other naval battles during the war, most notably at the Battle of Mobile Bay, Alabama, which some consider the definitive naval battle of the Civil War. Mobile Bay was a favorite port and hiding place for Confederate ships seeking to elude the Union's naval

blockade. At about 6 a.m. on August 5, 1864, Farragut ordered his fleet into the passage at the bay, where they came under fire from the two forts on guard. When told about torpedoes in the water, Farragut roared back, "Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!" His fleet broke through, sank several Confederate ships, and bombarded the forts into submission. Thanks to this decisive victory, the Union was able to defeat the Confederacy, reaching peace in April 1865. In recognition of Farragut's talents, Congress created for him the ranks of vice-admiral (1864) and admiral (1866).

Farragut spent much of his later life in New York City and New England. He died on August 14, 1870, in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Unlike most military heroes, Farragut was not buried in the national cemetery at Arlington, Virginia. Instead, his wife requested that he be buried in a place that he loved: New York City.

Admiral Farragut was laid to rest in the Bronx's famous Woodlawn Cemetery. The president, vice-president, and the entire cabinet attended his funeral and trailed the procession to the grave. In 1880, sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens (1848-1907) and architect Stanford White (1853-1906) collaborated to create the Farragut Monument located on the north end of Madison Square, near 26th Street, in Manhattan.

The City acquired this property in conjunction with the construction of the Cross-Bronx Expressway, and Admiral Farragut Playground was built in 1950.

Crotona Park

Bathgate Playground

For more than a hundred years, Crotona Park has been one of the most important public parks in the Bronx, a sanctuary of rolling grass, lofty trees, baseball diamonds, a pool, and a peaceful lake. It is the largest park in the South Bronx and the sixth largest in the borough. Bathgate Playground is located at the intersection of Fulton Avenue and East 173rd Street. It bears the name of the Bathgate family, who once owned this property.

The City of New York acquired the property from Andrew Bathgate as part of the consolidation of the Bronx park system in 1888. The great Bathgate Farm was one of the larger farms lying within the Bronx in the 19th century.

The Bathgate's had once been the managers of the Morris estate, and their farm was originally part of that estate. Known at the time as Bathgate Woods, the area was already famous for its views, trees, and pond. From high points in the present park, one can see the Palisades of New Jersey to the west, and the towers of Brooklyn Bridge to the south.

The Bathgate family had permitted members of the public to come and picnic on their land at a spot near what is now known as Indian Lake. Although the city planned to name the park for the Bathgate's, a dispute with the family led a Parks engineer to name it Crotona, after Croton, an ancient Greek colony in southern Italy famed for its Olympic athletes. Croton is also the name of the old New York City aqueduct, the Westchester County River that feeds it, and the reservoir that once stood on the site of the New York Public Library at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street.

As ice-skating grew popular in the Bronx around the turn of the century, Parks paved the perimeter of Indian Pond and installed a warming hut and concession stand for skaters. In the 1930s, Works Progress Administration (WPA) employees built the boathouse on the east side of the pond and entirely rebuilt the area around the lake.

Other projects in Crotona Park completed during the tenure of Parks Commissioner Robert Moses (1888-1981) included the construction or renovation of five baseball diamonds, twenty tennis courts, twenty-six handball courts, nine playgrounds, four comfort stations, and picnic and sitting areas. The most spectacular addition was the enormous swimming pool and bathhouse complex, designed by lead consultant architect Aymar Embury II, which Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia and Commissioner Moses opened on July 24, 1936. A major restoration of the pool and bathhouse was completed in 1984.

Bathgate Playground, adjacent to the Moses-era bathhouse, is the second largest playground within the park. Among its most striking features are Art Deco-style shower sprinklers modeled on pelicans, which echo a similar motif featured on the bathhouse exterior. The sprinklers were added as part of \$1 million renovation, funded by Mayor Giuliani, and completed in 1996. Other enhancements include new swings, state-of-the-art play equipment, safety surfacing, steel-rail fencing, an asphalt path, a handicap accessible ramp, landscaping, and new drainage. A flagpole with a yardarm proudly flies the flags of Parks, the City of New York, and the United States.

The playground also has chess and checker tables. The children of nearby C.E.S. 4 use the playground, and the neighborhood enjoys the annual "Puppets in the Park" show that is presented at the facility.

Bronx residents treasure Crotona Park and Bathgate Playground for their natural beauty and outstanding recreational facilities. Crotona Park is home to some of the most majestic and varied trees in the city. Around Indian Lake stand native tulip (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), hickory (*Carya glabra*), sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), and sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) trees, and twenty-three other species, including specimens more than a century old. The 3.3-acre lake provides a home to ducks, turtles, and numerous species of fish. In the southwest corner of the park, generations of gardeners have tended plants and flowers. The old "Farm Garden" was established in the 1930s to teach children about plant science, conservation, nutrition, and hygiene. Crotona Park and Bathgate Playground host many special programs throughout the year. Since 1984, the Bronx Urban Park Rangers have organized walks and tours that use Indian Lake and the trees and fields around it as an outdoor laboratory. Visitors explore pond ecology, bird watching, Bronx history, and plant and animal life. The park's 20 tennis courts are the site of the annual Bronx Pro Tennis Classic.

Continued in April edition.

As previously mentioned, Larry and I were in Illinois for most of January. Our daughter Randy gave birth to our 3rd grandchild, a boy named Evan Daniel Piazza on January 9th, 2:25 in the afternoon, weighing in at 7.8 pounds and 19 ½" long. Below is our new grandson.



10 days old with Poppop.



Evan with his older brother, Robert. Evan also has an older sister Shannon.

We are very excited about this addition to our family.

On Sunday, February 19, the Club held its monthly event at Mimi's Café. The hosts for the event were Sue and Les Braun. Their guest speaker was Corey Levitan from the David Magazine.



New members, Seymour and Arlene Cohen in the rear, David and Phyllis Selman in front who are the hosts of our April event.



Our hosts Susan and Les Braun, with their guests the Levitan family.



Members front Sandy and Ron Scher, back Edith and Dave Einhorn.



Members Ken and Michele Stern in front and Ed and Rita Ort.



Members front to back Idele Kaplan, Doris Bluth, and Jane Niedelman.



Members front to back Harvey Kaplan, David Bluth and Joel Niedelman.