

Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

PANYC

NEWSLETTER

No. 134

May 2008

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Next Meeting:

September 24, 2008
Neighborhood Preservation Center
232 East 11th Street
New York, NY
6:30pm

Newsletter Editor:

Christopher Ricciardi
4110 Quentin Road
Brooklyn, New York 11234-4322
Phone/Fax: (718) 645-3962
Email: Ricciardi@att.net

PANYC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

January 23, 2008, 6:00 P.M.

Neighborhood Preservation Center (NPC)

232 E.11th Street

Notice of upcoming meeting, March 19th, 6 pm.

Neighborhood Preservation Center, 232 E. 11th St, NYC

Present: Dallal, Geismar, Linn, Pickman, Rakos, Rothschild, Stone

Treasurer's Report: Spritzer phoned in balance: \$3162.02. She also mentioned receiving a membership dues check from a non-member.

President's Report:

The newsletter will go out this weekend.

Rakos and Geismar attended the 11/28/07 SHPO State Plan meeting. It was generally not a well-attended event and had little to do with archaeology although the presence of archaeologists was appreciated by the SHPO staff. Rakos reported the focus was more on preservation planning needs for communities. They wanted to know what was important to preservation and the community. Rakos will have a summary in the upcoming newsletter. Geismar reports that Ruth Pierpont was receptive to the idea of providing state incentives for archaeology like historic preservation, and that the meeting was interesting because it brought up ideas and problems from other parts of the state.

Rakos and Geismar met with Kate Daly (new Exec. Dir. of LPC) on 1/14/08 to introduce PANYC and archaeology. Amanda Sutphin of LPC was also in attendance. Rakos reported Daly seemed caring and encouraging. LPC is working towards a future repository but cannot presently release any information to the public. Daniel Pagano of LPC is reportedly now working on with GIS and initial project reviews.

Rakos sent two letters since the last meeting. A letter was sent to the Discovery Channel condemning their program "Cash for Treasure".

With Stone's help, Rakos wrote to assembly member Steve Englebright about PANYC's support for the Unmarked Burial Site Protection Act.

Committee Reports:

Awards: call for nominations sent out in newsletter

Events: see Newsletter

Landmarks: see President's Report

Membership: see Treasurer's Report

Met Chapter: none

Municipal Arts Society: TBA, Geismar will follow up

Newsletter: will be distributed soon

NYAC: PANYC drafted a letter about the burial bill based on information from NYAC that previous comments had been lost during the transition to a new legislative aide for Assemblyman Englebright. It can be seen in the newsletter

Outreach: MacLean has generated a list of colleges and universities in the NYC area to have as a mailing list. Stone requests she send them to her to prepare for the upcoming public program.

Parks: Geismar reported about current excavations in Washington Square Park in preparation for a new water holding tank for the fountain, which was to be placed 13 feet below ground surface. There is a major issue in the western 2/3rds of the park, which had been a potter's field. The NW corner was tested with nothing but clean fill. Excavators came across remains of intact burials as well as scattered bones. Burials were 5.2 to 7.2 feet below ground surface. They were left in situ and documented. Loose bones will be collected and analyzed by Thomas Amorosi. The planned water tank will be redesigned.

Public program: Stone confirmed the public program will be held on May 18th at the Museum of the City of NY. The topic will be the recent South Ferry excavations.

A committee for the public programs was generated and will consist of Dallal, Freeman, Rakos, Stone, and Pickman.

Research and Planning: none

Repository: see President's Report

Website: It is unclear whether or not the PANYC website still exists, and anyone who would be willing to take on the construction of a site would be welcomed.

Old Business: EIS review and how zoning sensitivity is determined by Landmarks (specifically in relation to the Manhattanville project). Rakos and Stone will meet with LPC to discuss further.

New Business: MacLean has received a letter from the registrar at the South Street Seaport Museum, Molly Nora, regarding workshops, which will be held on February 19th and 20th to gather feedback to develop a new strategic plan for the museum. The museum is specifically soliciting feedback from other museum professionals. The workshops will be run by Lord Cultural Resources Museum Planning Firm, and feedback will be anonymous. MacLean plans to attend and encourage greater attention to archaeology.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted by M. Linn for L. Martin, PANYC Secretary.



City of New York
Parks & Recreation

Adrian Benepe
Commissioner

The Arsenal
Central Park
New York, New York 10021

Capital Projects

Olmsted Center
Flushing Meadows-Corona Park
Flushing, New York 11368

Amy L. Freitag, Deputy Commissioner
(718) 760-6602 / amy.freitag@parks.nyc.gov

Ms. Lynn Rakos
President- PANYC
230 6th Avenue, Apt. 4
Brooklyn, NY 11215

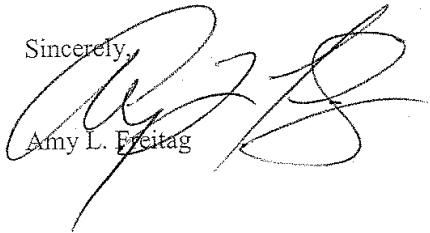
April 8, 2008

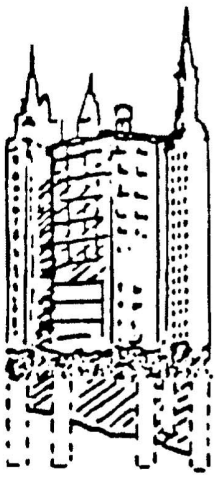
Dear Ms. Rakos:

Thank you for your concern regarding Parks' specifications for archaeology.

We are in the process of reviewing your inquiry and will have a more detailed response to you within the next couple of weeks.

Sincerely,


Amy L. Freitag



PANYC

Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

May 12, 2008

Honorable Robert B. Tierney, Chair
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
One Centre Street, 9th Floor North
New York, New York 10007

Re: Riverside Buildings at 20-34 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn Heights Historic District

Dear Mr. Tierney,

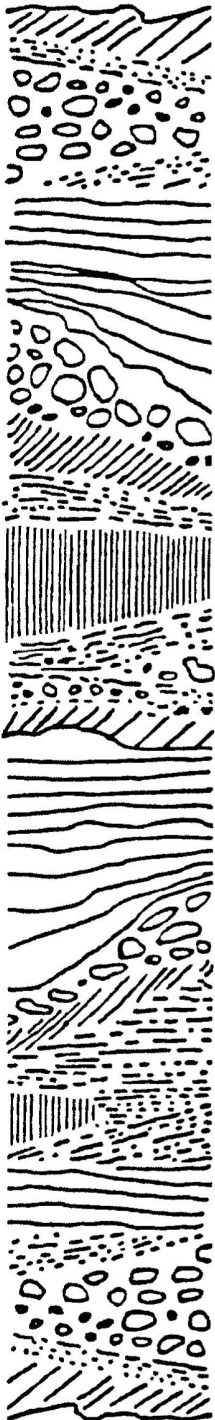
I am writing on behalf of Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC) regarding the proposal to build a parking garage in the courtyard of the Riverside Buildings located in the Brooklyn Heights Historic District (Block 258, lot 17 - 20-34 Joralemon Street). We are sure the Commission is aware that the property warrants consideration of its archaeological potential as the internal courtyard of the extant Riverside Buildings is relatively undisturbed and could contain archaeological evidence of the site's long industrial history. In addition, because of the property's location along the former East River shoreline, there is not only the potential to encounter landfill features, but also Native American archaeological resources which, in a densely developed city such as New York, is truly unique.

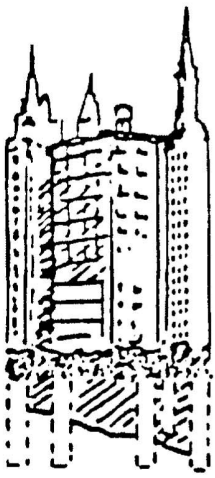
We applaud your diligent efforts in regard to Landmarked properties and appreciate the consideration of archaeological concerns when appropriate.

Sincerely,

Linda Stone
PANYC President
249 East 48th Street, #12B
New York, New York 10017

cc: M. Bloomberg, Mayor
P. Harris, Deputy Mayor
A. Bankoff, LPC
A. Sutphin, LPC
K. Barwick, MAS
L. Kersavagem, MAS
C. Neville, BHA
O. Pearsall, BHA
J. Stanton, BHA
T. van den Bout, BHA





PANYC

Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

May 12, 2008

Honorable Amanda M. Burden, Chair
City Planning Commission
New York City Department of City Planning
22 Reade Street
New York, New York 10007

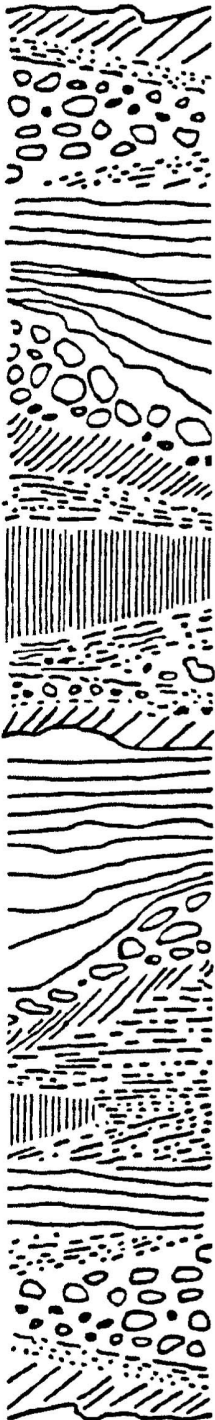
Dear Ms. Burden,

I am writing on behalf of Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc. (PANYC) regarding two issues related to rezoning projects. We recently met with Amanda Sutphin, Director of Archaeology at the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC), to discuss how LPC selects sites within rezoning projects for archaeological studies. Ms. Sutphin explained that selection is made by the Department of City Planning (DCP) based on “soft sites,” those sites slated for development within the next ten years. She said she understood that DCP uses a formula to select soft sites, but was not clear on what that formula is. Our concern is that the formula excludes potentially significant archaeological resources from evaluation. An example is the recent Manhattanville rezoning that eliminated evaluation of the road beds and sidewalks where archaeological potential to encounter elements of the power system for the former 3rd Avenue Railway Company exists. Clearly, it would be helpful to understand the formula and its rationale. As it stands, the process appears to us to be an arbitrary dismissal of potentially significant archaeological resources and, therefore, of our City’s history.

A second concern is City Planning’s interpretation of the CEQR regulations in regard to the “No Action condition.” In the case of the NYU Downtown Hospital Parking Lot Development (CEQR # 04HPD015M), the definition of the “No Action” and the “Action” conditions is all smoke and mirrors. As stated in the Environmental Assessment Statement:

Although there is potential for the recovery of archaeological remains on the project site, as the site would be developed with the No Action condition and Action conditions, any archeological remains on th (sic) site would be disturbed in the No Action condition, as well as the Action condition. Therefore, from a CEQR perspective, the impacts are not considered significant.

From our perspective, the No Action alternative would be the condition of the parcel at the time of the environmental review. Parking lots, such as at the NYU Downtown Hospital Parking Lot Development site, have informed us about the history of New York City through archeological excavation. However, because of the Department of City Planning’s interpretation of environmental laws, only a very small portion of the project area was subjected to environmental review. The deleterious affect of this interpretation



Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

Page 2

on established environmental laws is very troubling. Although archaeology is our specific concern, the potentially negative implications of this interpretation affect all aspects of environmental review.

Might it be possible to meet with you to discuss these issues? If this is not possible, perhaps we could meet with a member of your staff?

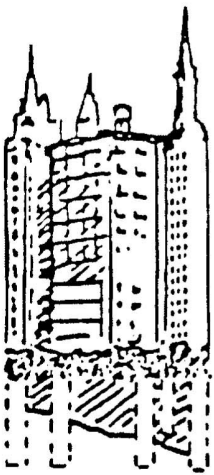
Sincerely,



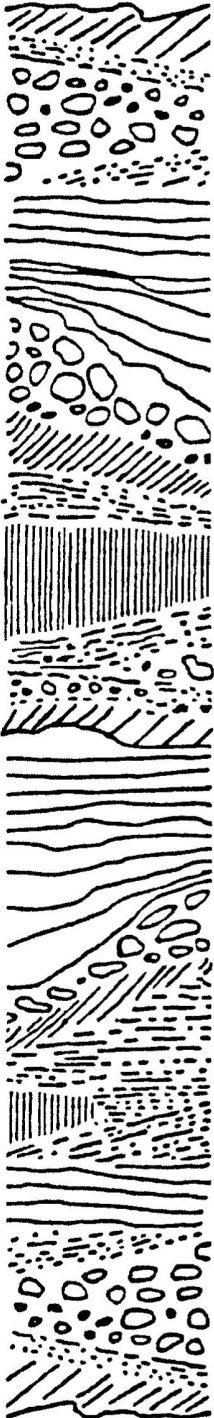
Linda Stone

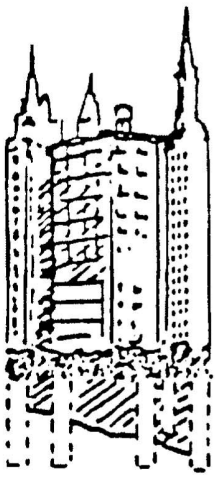
Linda Stone
PANYC President
249 East 48th Street, #12B
New York, New York 10017
212-888-3130
PANYC2006@yahoo.com

cc: M. Bloomberg, NYC
P. Harris, NYC
R. Tierney, LPC
A. Sutphin, LPC
K. Barwick, MAS
R. Dobruskin, DCP
L. Rakos, RCSIA
N. Versaggi, NYAC

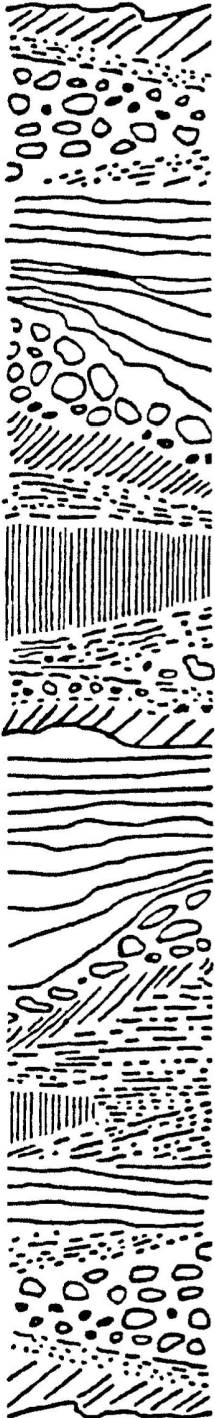


PANYC





PANYC



Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

STATEMENT PREPARED FOR THE NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION
COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING – 20 MAY 2008
By Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc. (PANYC)

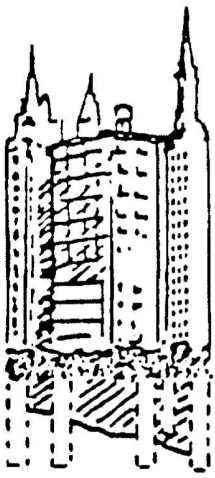
CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS
BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN
08-6905 - Block 258, lot 17-
20-34 Joralemon Street – Brooklyn Heights Historic District
Application is to construct a garage and park space within the courtyard.

Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC) is aware of the application to build a garage in the courtyard of the Riverside Buildings located in the Brooklyn Heights Historic District. We wish to ensure the archaeological potential of this property is taken into consideration before the Commission makes any decisions. The current information indicates the internal courtyard of the extant Riverside Buildings, the site of the proposed garage, is relatively undisturbed and therefore may possess significant archaeological resources from the site's long industrial past. In addition, because of the property's location along the former East River shoreline, there is not only the potential to encounter landfill features, but also Native American archaeological resources which, in a densely developed city such as New York, is truly unique.

We urge the Landmarks Preservation Commission to consider and address the archaeological potential of this site when making its decision on the application.

Thank you for your continuing support of New York City's archaeological heritage.

Linda Stone
PANYC President
249 East 48th Street, #12B
New York, New York 10017
PANYC2006@yahoo.com



Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

May 13, 2008

Honorable Robert B. Tierney, Chair
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
One Centre Street, 9th Floor North
New York, New York 10007

Re: 109 Waverly Place – Greenwich Village Historic District

PANYC

Dear Mr. Tierney,

I am writing on behalf of Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc. (PANYC) to applaud the recent decision by the Commission to consider the archaeological potential of 109 Waverly Place in the Greenwich Village Historic District. We are pleased to see that not only is the Commission requiring archaeological field work, but also ensuring that analysis and reporting will take place.

The Commission further notes that the proposed work has the potential to impact mid-19th century archaeological resources adjacent to the original rear façade. Therefore, archaeological monitoring shall be completed as part of the excavation of this area which means that an archaeologist is present for this portion of work and can stop the construction excavation in the area to determine if any archaeological resources are present...

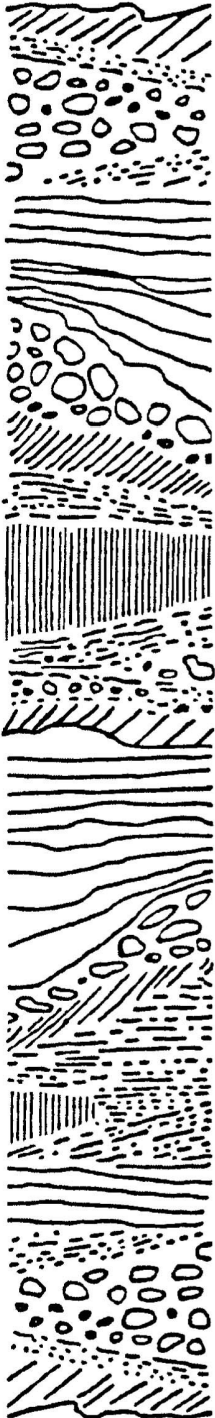
This decision is a wonderful example of pre-emptive action on the part of the Commission and we look forward to similar actions in the future. In the spirit of the future being a more perfect world, we offer one minor recommendation regarding upcoming similar decisions; that archaeological "testing" be completed in advance of construction, rather than monitoring during construction, as appropriate. We know you are familiar with the range of possibilities for field methods used in archaeology and that monitoring is not always a cost saving method for developers. When potentially significant archaeological resources are found, a project schedule can be dramatically affected, thereby costing more than pre-construction field testing. In the case of 109 Waverly Place, this may not be an issue since the project involves only one lot.

Once again, thank you and the entire Commission for your anticipatory action. We look forward to hearing about future similar efforts.

Sincerely,

Linda Stone
PANYC President
249 East 48th Street, #12B
New York, New York 10017

cc: M. Bloomberg, Mayor
P. Harris, Deputy Mayor
C. Moore, LPC





Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

May 6, 2008

Ms. Kristin Leahy
NGB Cultural Resources Program Manager
Army National Guard, National Guard Bureau
Attn: NGB-ARE-C
111 S. George Mason Drive
Arlington, Virginia 22204-1382

Re: Admiral's Row, Brooklyn Navy Yard, Section 106 Meeting – April 15, 2008

Dear Ms. Leahy,

I am writing on behalf of Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc. (PANYC) regarding Admiral's Row in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. We want to thank you for including us at the recent Section 106 meeting for Admiral's Row. We were pleased to learn you are conducting an archaeological Phase 1A study and look forward to hearing the results at the next meeting.

We do, however, have a concern regarding the structure of the next meeting. We think Mr. Robert Patterson's remarks regarding the focus of the kick-off meeting, which was meant to be on the 106 process rather than on community issues, were well taken. Each is important, but they are separate issues. We feel that it is in the best interest of the project to concentrate future Section 106 meetings on the historic properties and to hold separate public meetings for other equally important community issues.

Thank you, once again.

Sincerely,



Linda Stone
PANYC President
249 East 48th Street, #12B
New York, New York 10017

cc: S. Eldridge, TetraTech
D. Mackey, SHPO
R. Pierrepont, SHPO
R. Tierney, LPC
N. Versaggi, NYAC

[Print - Close Window](#)

Subject: RE: Admiral's Row (UNCLASSIFIED)

Date: Thu, 8 May 2008 08:46:23 -0400

From: "Leahy, Kristin E Ms - NGB-ARE/EEI" <Kristin.Leahy@us.army.mil>

To: "Professional Archaeologists of New York City Professiona Archaeologists of New York City" <panyc2006@yahoo.com>

CC: Ruth.Pierpont@oprhp.state.ny.us, "Erickson, Beth A Ms NGB-ARNG" <beth.a.erickson@us.army.mil>, "Milord, Mike Lt Col NGB-PA" <Mike.milord1@us.army.mil>

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

Ms. Stone,

Thank you for your letter dated May 6. The NGB appreciates your comments and opinions about the project at Admirals Row and the Section 106 process associated with the site.

Information about the next meeting will be sent to all consulting parties in the near future. We look forward to your involvement in that and other future meetings.

Sincerely,

Kristin Leahy
Cultural Resources Program Manager,
Engineering and Environment, Inc.
National Guard Bureau
NGB-ARE-C
111 S. George Mason Dr.
Arlington VA 22204
703-607-7190

-----Original Message-----

From: Professional Archaeologists of New York City Professiona
Archaeologists
of New York City [mailto:panyc2006@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 06, 2008 12:19 PM
To: Leahy, Kristin E Ms - NGB-ARE/EEI
Subject: Admiral's Row

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<http://us.rd.yahoo.com/evt=51733/*http://mobile.yahoo.com/;_ylt=Ahu06i62sR8HDtDypao8Wcj9tAcJ>
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

[Print - Close Window](#)**Subject:** RE: NY Daily News story**Date:** Fri, 25 Apr 2008 15:51:45 -0400**From:** "Salamone, Gina" <gSalamone@nydailynews.com>**To:** "Professional Archaeologists of New York City Professiona Archaeologists of New York City" <panyc2006@yahoo.com>

Hi Linda,

Thanks for taking the time to get back to me. I completely understand. I'll let you know if we change the angle of this story.

Gina

-----Original Message-----

From: Professional Archaeologists of New York City Professiona Archaeologists of New York City
[mailto:panyc2006@yahoo.com]

Sent: Friday, April 25, 2008 3:29 PM

To: Salamone, Gina

Subject: Re: NY Daily News story

Gina,

On behalf of Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc. (PANYC), thank you for reaching out to the professional archaeological community here in New York City. As much fun as the Indiana Jones movies are to us and the lay public, they have no resemblance to the actual work we do. We don't have "expeditions." Most of our work is research and reporting, activities which are not very photogenic. Our projects are dictated by environmental review and historic preservation laws. They are almost always centered around properties that are part of public works projects and/or developments that require variances from zoning. Excavations are rare and happen only after detailed research and testing. Furthermore, the demographic is not what you want "young (20s, 30s, or 40s), and attractive." As professionals, we would hope to be interviewed for our experience and intellect, not for external qualities. If you are interested in contacting real archaeologists about real archaeology, please let us know. The contrast might prove very interesting to your readers. However, we have no Indiana Jones-type members I could refer you to for your piece.

Best of luck.

Sincerely,

Linda Stone

PANYC President

"Salamone, Gina" <gSalamone@nydailynews.com> wrote:

Good afternoon,

I'm working on a feature story for the New York Daily News pegged to the latest "Indiana Jones" movie, out in theaters soon. Since Harrison Ford is back as our favorite archaeologist, we thought it would be fun to do a feature on the real life Indiana Jones's of New York City. We would run about four or five photos of local archaeologists and some stats like their most exciting expedition, most interesting find, etc. Since we'll be comparing these archaeologists to the Indiana Jones character, the subjects that we use for this story would ideally be young (20s, 30s, or 40s), and attractive. I was wondering if you could recommend any archaeologists who live in one of the five boroughs, Long Island or New Jersey, who might be willing to participate in this story.

Ideally, they would have already gone on some fun expeditions that they can talk about.

Thank you so much for any time and help you can give.

Gina

Gina Salamone
Features Reporter

New York Daily News
450 West 33rd St.
New York, NY 10001

(212) 210-1623

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NYC's real-life Indiana Joneses have jobs anyone could dig

BY GINA SALAMONE

Monday, May 19th 2008, 10:53 AM

[Indiana Jones](#) covets a crystal skull in his latest adventure, but it's the attractive archeologist himself whom many fans desire.

Rugged good looks and a courageous character will have men and women alike lining up when "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" opens on Thursday.

Actor [Harrison Ford](#) returns as [Indiana](#), a daring professor who seems to spend more time away on quests than he does in the classroom.

"It just fits into every single fantasy we've ever had growing up as little girls," says psychologist [Cooper Lawrence](#). "You love reading all the stories of the princess getting rescued by the hero, and who's more of a hero than Indiana Jones?"

Indy always somehow succeeds at saving a lost relic from the enemy, and gets the girl in the process. It's no wonder he's also idolized by guys.

"What makes Indiana Jones enviable is that as kids, we couldn't fly like Superman or bust crimes like Batman, but we could search for hidden treasure," says Men's Health editor in chief [David Zinczenko](#). "So the adventurous life that he represents is one that could one day be within our grasp."

Indy also appeals to those of us looking for a little more excitement in our lives.

"Every one of us from time to time feels weighed down by the daily grind of our jobs and family responsibilities and we long to bust out and find adventure," says Zinczenko. "There's also a part of us that wants to feel like we're learning new things and doing good. And Indiana always seems to be doing that."

Some guys don't have to fantasize about being Indy. Local adventure-seeking studs have traveled the world, excavated in extreme conditions and uncovered artifacts. Here are [New York's](#) real Dr. Joneses.

QUESTIONS FOR ... NYC ARCHEOLOGISTS



Thomas Plummer

AGE: 46

JOB: Anthropology professor at Queens College

LIVES: Westchester

WHY ARCHEOLOGY? "I was always interested in prehistoric things and ancient history," Plummer says. "I never really outgrew the dinosaur phase as a kid. I liked thinking about the past and lost worlds, and I wanted to explore it." His focus: He's a paleoanthropologist. "So I do a combination of paleontology, which is studying fossils, and archeology, which is looking at the material remains that people or prehuman creatures that are related to us left behind."

WHERE HE DIGS He's been working at a site called Kanjera South in the Homa Peninsula of Kenya. Two million years old, it's one of the world's oldest archeological sites. "Pretty much anything you find is going to tell you something new, just because there's so little known about that time period," Plummer explains. "But it's a critical time period. It's probably got the oldest evidence for hunting."

WHAT HE'S FOUND THERE Stone tools. "They use rocks that hold an edge well for cutting, that stay sharp and that are easy to flake," says Plummer. "So even before there was language going on, they're appreciating things in their environments and treating objects differently based on their physical properties."

COOLEST CREATURES HE'S UNCOVERED Giant baboons, hippos and pigs. He also comes across enormous tusks. "Sometimes you think they're elephant tusks and it turns out they're giant pig tusks or saber tooth cats," says Plummer.

MOST DANGEROUS CONDITIONS "There's a high disease load where I am. I've had malaria. It's flu-like but with really, really bad, uncontrollable shaking, and it lasts for days. I got some heavy-duty drugs from the pharmacy and that wiped it out. For people who don't have access to the drugs, it could kill them."

THE [BROOKLYN](#) UNDERGROUND



[Marcus Watson](#)

AGE: 30

JOB: Teaches a summer archeology course at [Brooklyn College](#) to high-school and college students. In August, he's starting the Ph.D. program in archaeology at [CUNY](#)'s Graduate Center

LIVES: Brooklyn

HIS FOCUS He teaches Brooklyn's history through archeology and has done digs at the [Erasmus Hall](#) Educational Campus, where he teaches. "Erasmus has been there from 1787," Watson says. "We went over the history of Brooklyn and the history of Erasmus Hall and how long it's been here, and then high school and college kids excavated around the original academy building."

BEST BROOKLYN FIND "For me, the most significant find were slate pencils from the 18th century in the schoolyard of the building where I teach - Erasmus Hall - because it speaks of how what I help my students learn will far outlive me," says Watson. They also dug up a pre-1950s [Chanel](#) lipstick container.

OTHER DIGS "I've been to [Israel](#) with the Brooklyn College archeology program twice," Watson says. "Our excavation took place in [Beit Shemesh](#), which is in the [Jerusalem District](#). Our team excavated a structure which contained a basin- like feature, [whose] purpose is still unclear."

SURF AND NATIVE AMERICAN TURF



[Matthew Sanger](#)

AGE: 31

JOB: Assistant lab director at the [American Museum of Natural History](#)

LIVES: [Washington Heights](#)

HIS FOCUS Last week, [Sanger](#) returned home from a three-week dig on the Sea Islands off the coast of [Georgia](#). "We're working on a Native American site that's about 5,000 years old," he says. "It's called a shell ring - a buildup of a whole bunch of shellfish remains, oyster and clamshells. It's pretty enormous. You could put two or three basketball courts inside of it. It was probably a ceremonial area that they would have been doing large-scale feasting in."

MOST DANGEROUS DIG "We had a pretty eventful last couple of days in Georgia as a tornado hit the island the day before we left," Sanger says. "Thankfully, no one was hurt, but it did rip a path of downed trees and destruction through the island."

WHAT HE EXCAVATED THERE "We found a lot of arrowheads and some of the earliest ceramics in [North America](#)," Sanger says. "Also, food remains from fish and deer, and stone tools."

OTHER DIGS Sand Canyon Pueblo, the site of an ancient Pueblo Indian village in southwestern [Colorado](#) that was occupied in the 1200s. "I was working in what's called a great kiva, which is a large circular ceremonial underground structure that's found all over the Southwest," says Sanger. "It was a place where people would gather, and there were probably a lot of dances going on inside of it. It was mostly a house where the men in the village would gather together and do their clan rituals."

MYSTERIES OF THE MAYA



[Timothy Pugh](#)

AGE: 43

JOB: Anthropology professor at [Queens College](#)

LIVES: [Queens](#)

HIS FOCUS Pugh studies the ancient Maya in [Guatemala](#). "What I'm interested in is, what were the Maya doing right before the Spanish showed up and conquered the Americas?" he explains. "I want to know what their society was like, especially their religion. I go into temples and other buildings and try to reconstruct the behavior that happened there."

HOW REAL ARE THE MOVIES? "The difference between what we do and what [Indiana Jones](#) does is basically excavate really carefully and record exactly where we find things - sort of like a detective going to a crime scene," Pugh says.

COOLEST FIND "I found a circular altar about 10 years ago," Pugh says. "It was carved with Maya writing. It describes the life of a king, a Maya ruler. We don't know exactly what they used them for."

MOST DISTURBING DISCOVERY "A few years ago, we found a large pit full of dismembered people. Their bodies had been cut into pieces. There was no flesh left. It's just all bone, but we'd find an arm here, a leg there and the head somewhere else. There was evidence that it may have been sacrificial, but it was definitely some sort of a desecration rite."

DANGEROUS CONDITIONS HE'S WORKED IN In the heat and around poisonous snakes. "When I first worked in Guatemala, there was a revolution going on down there," says Pugh. "Now it's actually more dangerous, because of the gangs that are popping up in Guatemala."

IF HE COULD RECOVER ONE ITEM FROM HISTORY, IT WOULD BE "For me, the coolest thing to find would be an ancient Maya book," Pugh says. "When the Spanish showed up, they burned all the books. Only three or four survived, and it would be really cool to find another one."

VIKING ARTIFACTS FLOAT HIS BOAT



Konrad Smiarowski

AGE: 28

JOB: Ph.D. candidate in archeology at [CUNY Graduate School](#)

LIVES: [Brooklyn](#)

EARLIEST ADVENTURES "Growing up in a small town in [Poland](#), I was quite bored when I had to play inside," Smiarowski says. So he and his friends started exploring restricted areas like old buildings and World War II bunkers, which were plentiful in the forests near where he lived. "The bunkers were dark, deep, sometimes underground," says Smiarowski. "We deliberately looked for World War II leftover ammunition and artifacts, which we found, and it was lucky for us that no one got hurt."

HIS FOCUS He's pursuing a Ph.D. in Norse [Greenland](#) studies. "In the Viking Age [early Middle Ages], the [Scandinavian Vikings](#) went pillaging to the west of their homelands," Smiarowski explains. "My studies are concentrated with zooarcheological material, mainly animal bones from the Norse sites in Greenland."

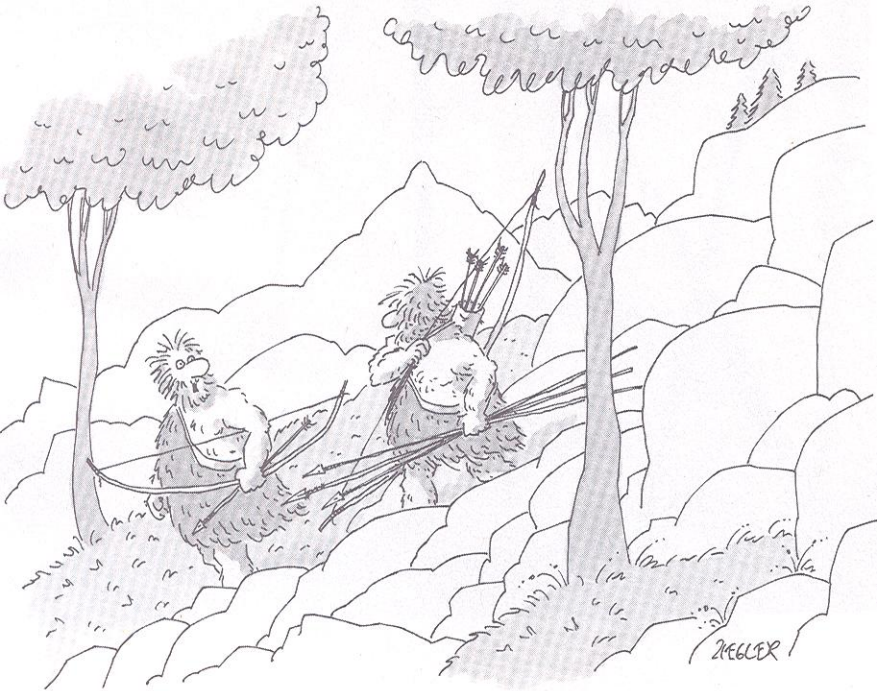
EXCITING EXPEDITIONS "I have worked for several seasons in [Iceland](#) in quite remote places, but the most exciting expeditions were the ones to Greenland," Smiarowski says. "In this remote country, there are no roads between settlements, and there are only about 50,000 people in a country larger than [Europe](#). The areas we want to investigate are often many miles away from any modern settlements. Getting to these places requires you to navigate in Zodiac boats through long, ice-filled narrow bays."

EXTREME CONDITIONS "We have encountered dangerous weather, such as storms at sea, and severe cold, tent-sweeping winds, and floods caused by snowmelt in arctic spring," Smiarowski says. "There's also the possible presence of polar bears."

BEST FIND A beautiful handle of a small tool, engraved with Viking art and made of walrus tooth. "According to my adviser, it is one of the coolest, if not the coolest artifact to ever come out of the Norse Greenland," Smiarowski says.



The 2008 "Special PANYC Award for Outstanding Contributions made by a Non-Archaeologist to New York City Archaeology" is presented by Anne-Marie Cantwell, PANYC Awards Committee Chair, at the PANYC Public Program on May 18. Our signature engraved Marshalltown trowel was presented to Cynthia Copeland for her tireless efforts promoting archaeology as an invaluable tool to use when telling the tale of New York City's past. Ms. Copeland has been deeply involved with research on Seneca Village, a former community of African American and Irish residents, in what is now Central Park. Ms. Copeland was nominated by Diana Wall and Nan Rothschild, who stand beside her as the award citation is read. Photo: L. Rakos.



*"Did you remember to scatter a few spear points and arrowheads
back there for future generations to ponder?"*

EVENTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST - Compiled for May 2008

EVENT	SPEAKER	TIME	DATE	LOCATION	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE
Exhibit: "Radiance from the Rain Forest: Featherwork in Ancient Peru"			Through 9/1/08	Metropolitan Museum	http://www.metmuseum.org/	Suggested donation
Talk: "Charles Darwin: the Power of Place"	Janet Browne, Harvard University	6-7:30 pm	5/21/08	The Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue, rm. 9206	www.gc.cuny.edu	free
Talk: "Black Is, Black Ain't/Eternal Ancestors: Curators Hamza Walker and Alisa La Gamma in conversation"	Hamza Walker and Alisa La Gamma	7pm	5/22/08	The Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue, rm. C201-202	www.gc.cuny.edu	free
Program: "Life with Lucy: What would it be like to live, work, and play with Lucy? Help Dr. Nebula's apprentice, Scooter, answer these questions." (Children's Program)		2-3pm	6/29/08	AMNH, Kaufman Theater, first floor.	www.amnh.org/	\$8 children, \$10 adults
Exhibit: "Wine, Worship and Sacrifice: the Golden Graves of Ancient Vani"			Through 6/1/08	Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, 15 E.84 th St.	(212) 992-7800 http://www.nyu.edu/isaw/events.htm	free
Exhibit: "Gowanus Transformation: A look at how the Gowanus Canal has supported nearby communities by encouraging a variety of businesses"			Through 8/24	Brooklyn Historical Society, 128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton St.	(718) 222-4111 http://brooklynhistory.org/default/index.html	\$6, \$4 students and seniors, children under 12 free

EVENT	SPEAKER	TIME	DATE	LOCATION	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE
Exhibit: "Plague in Gotham! Cholera in 19 th C. New York"			Through 7/25	New York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West at 77 th St.	(212) 873-3400 https://www.nyhistory.org/web/	\$10, \$7 seniors and teachers, \$6 students, children under 12 free Fri – 6-8pm free
Conference: TAG – Theoretical Archaeology Group			May 23-25, 2008	Columbia University	http://www.columbia.edu/cu/archaeology/conference/tag/index.htm	

In addition, a new permanent exhibit on human evolution has opened at the American Museum of Natural History; other permanent exhibits relevant to archaeology include those at the Metropolitan and Brooklyn Museums of Art on Egypt, at the AMNH's Hall of South American Peoples, and at the Metropolitan on Western Asia and the Far East; there are also permanent exhibits that might be of interest to archaeologists, including one on slavery at the New-York Historical Society and one on the history of Brooklyn at the Brooklyn Historical Society.

If anyone knows of archaeological events or exhibits which they would like listed, please contact Lizzie Martin at lizziepmartin@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP/NEWSLETTER/INFORMATION:

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