



**PANYC**



# Professional Archaeologists of New York City – Newsletter

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### **I. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

As PANYC enters the beginning of a new fiscal year, we usher in our new officers and board members and extend thanks to those who served this past year.

It's practically just yesterday that we had our annual Public Program at the Museum of the City of New York. It was a huge success with almost 100 in attendance. There is a photo recap of the event inside the newsletter.

One of the most exciting recent archaeological happenings is the establishment of an archaeological artifact repository for New York City collections. It is made possible with a donation of space from the Durst Organization, who PANYC bestowed our Special Award for a Non-Archaeologist to at the Program. The Landmarks Preservation Commission will be administering the space. PANYC has long been trying to facilitate such a home for City artifacts and is grateful to member, Nan Rothschild, and all others involved, for making this a reality.

We are also so close to seeing the new bylaws draft. Among the proposed changes are a new format for membership meetings and separating them from board meetings, as well as changes to our election process.

Finally, after almost a decade, our Newsletter Editor is stepping down. We need to find a replacement and are looking for a volunteer. Please email us at [info@panycarchaeology.org](mailto:info@panycarchaeology.org) with any questions or recommendations or to volunteer yourself.

The next regularly scheduled PANYC meeting is upon us. It will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 6:30pm at The Neighborhood Preservation Center. We look forward to seeing you there!

## II. MEETING MINUTES

### PANYC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

March 20, 2014

Neighborhood Preservation Center

232 East 11th Street

New York, NY

6:30 PM

Present: Cantwell, Geismar, George, Loorya, Maghrak, Martin, Rakos, Ricciardi, Spritzer, Wall; we were joined by one non-member, Cara Frizel.

#### President's Report:

Loorya stated that the new repository is moving forward although there has been some delay due to the fact there is no Commissioner at LPC. LPC will manage the repository and access to the collections will be arranged through them. The Durst Organization is providing the space for 10 years with an option to renew. The repository will house collections from NYC sites that currently have no repository as well as future collections. The materials previously moved to the NY State Museum will remain there. The Museum of the City of NY has a grant to inventory the “homeless” collections and develop guidelines for the submission of future collections.

Treasurer's Report: As this was the Annual Meeting for PANYC, Spritzer presented the report for 2013 (see attached). We have 36 members.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the January meeting were accepted.

Committees: (only those with reports appear below)

Solecki Volume update: Diana Wall, chair of the committee working on creating a volume of Solecki's work about NYC, reported that they are moving along with preparation of the volume. Joan Geismar interviewed Solecki. Those who heard the interview or read its transcription report that it is wonderful and full of personality and interest. Geismar was thanked for conducting the interview, Spritzer was thanked for transcribing it and Loorya was thanked for editing it. Solecki sent a note saying he approved the interview for release. The committee is looking for old issues of the Suffolk County Archeological Association Newsletter containing Solecki's work. If any members have such back issues please contact Diana Wall. The Suffolk County Archeological Association has many but not all back issues and Wall will scan those that are relevant. The committee is also preparing a bibliography of all Solecki's work to be included in the volume but his work related to NYC will be highlighted.

The committee has asked the NY Public Library acquire Solecki's work “Native Forts in Long Island Sound”, ed. By Gaynell Stone. They also ask that individuals request, through the NYPL website, that NYPL obtain the volume. Loorya will email the details to members.

Wall brought up the fact that Rose Solecki, Ralph's wife, had her own interesting career as an archaeologist at a very different time for women in the field. She suggested an interview be conducted with Rose. All were in favor of asking Rose if she would allow an interview. This then led to a discussion of interviewing other NYC archaeologists. PANYC could serve as a repository of those interviews. All were in favor of pursuing this idea further.

**Awards:** The nominations for awards (Student paper and Non-Archaeologist) will be sent promptly. **Please consider submitting a nomination!**

**By-Laws update:** Linda Stone, Chair of the committee was not present but provided the following report via email:

The committee is drafting bylaws language and will have it ready for the board to review before the May meeting. The biggest issue we've discussed is the changes to the election process. The most significant news on that is we are eliminating the requirement for a member to receive 5 nominations to get on the ballot, potentially getting more nominees, as the board requested. The other major change to the election process is we are trying to make it more flexible so we don't have to change bylaws again if we want to change the way do certain things. For example, if we develop a way to conduct an electronic secret ballot, or if we want to change the nominations form. Part of that is to separate the "means and methods" (standard operating procedures) from the "rules and regulations" (bylaws). The committee is very optimistic the board will be pleased with the outcome. Committee members have been revising assigned sections and I'll be combining them shortly after my return. Once our committee has had a chance to review the bylaws as a whole, we'll forward it to the board. Once the board is satisfied, we would like to send it the Columbia Law Clinic to make sure what we've decided is legal. If so, then we can send to the entire membership for a vote. I would like to believe the vote and adoption of the new bylaws could happen at the September meeting.

**Election:** The board for 2014-2015 is as follows:

President:	Linda Stone
VP:	Joan Geismar
Secretary:	Meredith Linn
Treasurer:	Shelly Spritzer
Board:	
	Anne-Marie Cantwell
	Camille Czerkowicz
	Diane George
	Elizabeth Martin
	Chris Ricciardi

*Ex-officio*  
(Past President) Alyssa Loorya

It was noted that just 9 votes were received. It was also noted that the election was uncontested which limited the motivation of members to vote.

Loorya thanked the out-going board for their service to PANYC. Loorya was in turn thanked for her year as President. The in-coming President, Linda Stone, could not attend the meeting but sent the following message for Loorya to extend to the meeting: Please extend my gratitude to the 2013-2014 Board for their service. Also- please thank Lynn [Rakos] for 18 years of Board Service and Chris [Ricciardi] for 10 years as Newsletter Editor.

Events: The PANYC Public Program is on May 4<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 3 at the Museum of the City of New York (MCNY) and is inspired by and dedicated to Ralph Solecki. Details are on the MCNY and PANYC websites.

Historic House Trust: HHT is looking for interns.

Membership: The board approved the applications of Ted Roberts and Julie Labate to be provide to the membership for a vote however the applications were not available for review by the membership at the meeting. The members present conditionally approved acceptance of both applicants. Loorya will forward the applications to the members present for their final vote.

Met Chapter: Rich Veit is giving a talk on March 26. Bill Parry will do a tour of Inwood Park on April 27.

Newsletter: Chris Ricciardi, after a decade as newsletter editor, is stepping down. He was thanked for his many years of service and for his revamping of the document and pushing it into the digital age. He agreed to do the May newsletter but hopes we find a replacement by September. **PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING!!!**

Old Business: Diane George investigated the proposed changes to CEQR (those regarding actions when Parks can exclude environmental review; which PANYC previously provided comment on to the City). Under these changes archaeology will be required for areas not previously excavated and considered archaeologically sensitive. It is not clear how the determination of sensitivity will be made. George will draft a letter to LPC, Parks and the Mayor’s Office of Environmental Coordination (who administer CEQR) requesting that that this be clarified.

New Business:

The National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Gowanus Canal Historic District has been postponed for a vote by the NY State Review Board. There is now a door-to-door campaign in the neighborhood to oppose the listing. This effort includes spreading erroneous information that NRHP listing will mean property owners will have onerous restrictions placed on them. PANYC will write a letter to Mayor DiBlasio in support of NRHP listing for the Gowanus Canal HD. All members of PANYC are encouraged to send individual support through a website that Loorya is to provide.

Loorya reported that the property on 9<sup>th</sup> St between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenues in Brooklyn, which some, but not all, consider the likely location of the Maryland 400 burials, and has been moving towards becoming a park which will commemorate the Maryland 400 and the Battle of Brooklyn - now seems slated for development.

Loorya was informed that CNEHA had been invited by an organization called Gas and Preservation.org to send representatives to a meeting in Pittsburgh on 3/21. It appears that this group is affiliated with the gas industry and looking to include preservation issues in the work associated with fracking.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Rakos, for Meredith Linn, PANYC Secretary.

Next Meeting: Tuesday May 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30, at address above.

### III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

2014-2015 Scheduled Meeting Dates

To Be Determined

#### **Current Board Members (2014-2015):**

President: Linda Stone

Vice President: Joan Geimar

Secretary: Meredith Linn

Treasurer: Shelly Spritzer

Board Members: Anne-Marie Cantwell  
Camille Czerkowicz  
Diane George  
Elizabeth Martin  
Christopher Ricciardi

Past President: Alyssa Loorya

To Contact any Officer or Board Member please email: [info@panyarchaeology.com](mailto:info@panyarchaeology.com)

## IV. Media Coverage

DNAinfo New York

# Bottles From 19th Century German Beer Garden Found at Bowery Hotel Site



By [Irene Plagianos](#) on May 1, 2014 6:06am @IrenePlagianos



Centuries-Old Artifacts Unearthed at 50 Bowery

CHINATOWN — Turns out the Bowery has always been a place to party.

Beneath a construction site for a glassy, 22-story hotel at 50 Bowery, archaeologists have unearthed a centuries-old history of drinking, eating and lodging — dating all the way back to George Washington.

Hundreds of 19th-century liquor bottles, plates and mugs — many of which are largely intact — were recently uncovered at a site that was once home to Atlantic Garden, a German beer garden that opened around 1860, according to [Chrysalis Archaeology](#) which is overseeing the excavation.

Archaeologists also discovered a few pieces of a stone wall that link 50 Bowery to an even older watering hole: the Colonial-era Bull's Head Tavern, a spot where George Washington and his troops were said to have stopped in 1783.

“The Atlantic Garden was actually a tourist destination in its day — it was known for its German food and beer, and as a place for music and parties,” said Alyssa Loorya, president of Chrysalis.

"It was built over the Bull’s Head Tavern, a place where travelers, many selling their cattle, stopped in for food, drink, to socialize or spend the night.”

Items found at the site include a jug-like bottle labeled Bürgerspital Wurzburg — from what's now one of the oldest and largest German vineyards, [Bürgerspital Wurzburg wine estate](#). Several smaller German and American "medicinal" bottles were also found.

"They contained all sorts of elixirs that were meant to be cure-alls and promoters of long-life," Loorya said.

Plates and drinking or pouring mugs were also unearthed.

“It’s a pretty wonderful thread of historical continuity, linking past and present,” Loorya said.

“The Bowery was once the only road in and out of Manhattan, so it makes sense that these places popped up along such a major route and now you continue to see similar types of places.”

The location’s rich history, however, caused an uproar last year when the property’s owner, Alex Chu, began tearing down the 19th-century building, which had not been landmarked.

Some preservationists feared that the history would be lost in the demolition.

Loorya, however, said she and her team of archaeologists, [who are regularly enlisted by the city to oversee excavation projects](#), have undergone the same process they would at any site.

“The developer did not by law have to have us there for the demolition or excavation, but he wants to preserve that history,” she said. “It’s part of the character of the space.”

The land where the hotel now sits, across from the Manhattan Bridge, was once part of a large swath of farmland on what was the outskirts of an early New York City. It was also in the midst of a butcher’s district, and the site of the city’s first slaughterhouse.

The Bull’s Head was opened in the 1740s by the city’s most prominent butcher, Nicholas Bayard, Loorya said.

The tavern was a place for those traveling in and out of New York selling livestock, as well as local butchers, to eat, drink and fraternize, Loorya said.

During the British control of New York, it was also a recruiting center for men willing to sign up for the King’s Army — and receive \$25 in exchange for enlisting.

Later, the tavern was bought by another wealthy butcher who went on to create a prominent New York lineage — Henry Astor.

Sometime around 1825 it’s believed the tavern was razed to make way for a theater and hotel built on the site, which later closed and turned into a dealership for stoves.

German immigrant Wilhelm Kramer purchased 50 Bowery from the stove shop owners in 1858, and opened Atlantic Garden.

Along with its beer, the Atlantic Garden became known as a “fashionable” spot to listen to music, eat authentic German food, watch plays and generally party, Loorya said. It was also a place for soldiers to gather during the Civil War.

The gardens even had an “orchestration” — a massive type of mechanical organ that imitated an entire orchestra. According to Loorya, *The New York Times* reported back then that it was the largest "orchestration" in the world.

Revelers could also bowl and play billiards — but the environment was kept “respectable” and “family friendly,” according to a history of the site compiled by Loorya and her team.

But the Atlantic Garden also had its share of run-ins with police. The beer hall was raided several times after breaking city laws that forbade selling alcohol on Sundays.

The owner tried to find creative ways to get around the liquor issue, Loorya said, first arguing that the lager they sold was not explicitly mentioned in the laws. Later, when the law allowed for hotels that sold food to sell liquor on Sunday, the owner managed to procure a hotel license — even though it wasn't a hotel.

Eventually, as the neighborhood changed and became more rundown, and as the German population began to move away, the Atlantic Garden lost its luster. By 1916, it had closed.

Since then, the building was gutted several times and had various additions and changes made to its facade. The two-story building that remained, which was demolished last year to make way for the hotel, was home to a Duane Reade and a Chinese restaurant.

In a statement to DNAinfo New York, the developer's company, 50 Bowery Holdings LLC, said it had been working with Chrysalis since the start of the demolition to ensure "anything of historical relevance" was preserved.

The owners also said they were hoping to incorporate the artifacts in the hotel once it's complete in 2016.

"The artifacts will be documented and put into historical context, and then integrated into the development's public spaces," the company wrote in a statement.

"We want to provide an opportunity for visitors to participate in the history of 50 Bowery, connecting its past to the present, and discover the different people and cultures that have contributed to making this city one of the greatest in the world."



Nineteenth Century bottle and plates recovered from potential Beer Garden



<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/27/nyregion/red-brick-remnant-of-yorkvilles-brewing-past-is-unearthed-only-to-vanish.html? r=0>

*The New York Times: NY/Region*

*Red-Brick Remnant of Manhattan's Brewing Past Is Unearthed, Only to Vanish*

## Jacob Ruppert's Knickerbocker Brewery Resurfaces in Yorkville

March 25, 2014

Like a beer drinker's Brigadoon, a red-brick vestige of the enormous Jacob Ruppert & Company brewery in Yorkville emerged for a few hours this week before disappearing, this time forever.

The brewery, which produced the best-selling beer in America in the early 20th century, closed in 1965. Within five years, its 35 buildings between 90th and 94th Streets and Second and Third Avenues had been leveled. Apartment buildings, one called Ruppert Towers, now occupy much of the site.

But not all of it. A swath of land where the brewery's power house once stood, at 205 East 92nd Street, had been maintained until 2011 as the [Ruppert Playground](#).

"Parks and parking lots are archaeologists' dreams," said [Joan H. Geismar](#), an urban archaeologist who specializes in New York City history.

As excavators tore ever deeper into the playground site this week, in preparation for the construction of a 35-story apartment building developed by the Related Companies, they unearthed what looked almost like a natural mesa, save for the presence on its south face of two precisely framed openings topped by shallow brick arches.

Suddenly, Yorkville had a newly visible — if modest — link to its German heritage, and an era in which the neighborhood abounded in breweries. And the city had a small reminder of the larger-than-life [Col. Jacob Ruppert](#), the founder's son, who was active in the business until shortly before his death in 1939.

"New York's brewing history is a rich and important layer of our industrial archaeology and history," said [Steve Hindy](#), a co-founder of the Brooklyn Brewery in Williamsburg. "The New York Yankees are another anchor of Col. Jacob Ruppert's legacy. He also built Yankee Stadium and brought Babe Ruth to town."

Even as the business teetered in the early 1960s, visitors could still take the 75-minute tour of the Yorkville complex. "Stops are made at the pungent hop room, the busy brewhouse, a couple of seventh-floor fermentation and aging 'cellars' containing vast tanks holding over 57,000 gallons apiece, and the bottling and canning plant with its elaborate conveying machines," the "Hart's Guide to New York City" declared in 1964.

“You can hear the hops whoosh down through the 50-foot chutes which connect the hoproom with the monstrous gleaming 23,000-gallon copper kettles,” the guide continued. Then: “No samples of the finished product are given to guests.”

[K. Jacob Ruppert](#), a great-grandnephew of the colonel living in New Orleans, said he was beside himself when he heard about the discovery this week. “The brewery closed in 1965, the year I was born, so I never had an opportunity to see, in real time, any part of the brewery,” he wrote in an email.

“To think that I can lay my hands on a brick from my family’s brewery!” Mr. Ruppert said.

When the structural remnant of the brewery came to light, Kathryn A. Jolowicz, the president of the [Yorkville/Kleindeutschland Historical Society](#), scrambled. She alerted Franny Eberhart, the president of the [Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts](#), who reached out to Dr. Geismar, vice president of the [Professional Archaeologists of New York City](#), which is known as Panyc for a reason.

Dr. Geismar and Ms. Eberhart met Monday afternoon at the excavation site, but could not get any closer to the arches than the far side of the construction fence.

“This is the nightmare, with the feature right there and the bulldozer next to it,” Dr. Geismar told me, after I hurried to join them on East 92nd Street.

The development of the [Ruppert Playground](#) site has already been controversial, as [neighbors and elected officials criticized the process](#) under which the Related Companies was allowed to build the 230-unit tower.

But Dr. Geismar said she did not want to stop the development project nor even save the brick outcropping. She hoped simply to photograph it in detail, measure it and collect any nearby artifacts, especially bricks stamped with the brickmaker’s name.

The arched openings looked to me as if they might be the mouths of furnaces — the furnaces, perhaps, that helped power a brewery that made 1.5 million barrels of beer annually before Prohibition.

Dr. Geismar, however, consulted an 1896 insurance map that identified the building at 205 East 92nd Street as a refrigerating house, before it was a power house. “I’m all at sea,” she confessed, saying that the openings “may be related to cooling.”

The Related Companies allowed Dr. Geismar and Ms. Eberhart into the excavation site at noon on Tuesday. By then, demolition crews had all but destroyed the feature that Dr. Geismar had hoped to document, though she did take pictures and measurements of what was left.

And she salvaged a brick for Mr. Ruppert, so he could finally lay hands on his family’s brewery.



Excavation on East 92nd Street, between Third and Second Avenues, unearthed two arched openings below street level that were used for power or refrigeration by the Ruppert Brewery. Credit David W. Dunlap/The New York Times



Ruppert Playground in 2009. Credit Yana Paskova for The New York Times

## V. Public Program Wrap-Up

### PANYC Public Program – May 4, 2014 New York City Archaeology Then and Now: Continuing Stories from the Underground Dedicated to Ralph S. Solecki



Speakers Eugene Boesch, Joan Geismar, Alyssa Loorya and Allan Gilbert with Ralph S. Solecki in the center



Anita Durst (right) accepted the Special PANYC Award for Outstanding Contributions Made by a Non-Archaeologist to New York City Archaeology on behalf of the Durst Organization with her cousin and PANYC member Nan Rothschild (left)



Joseph Schuldenrein, Diana Wall and Alyssa Loorya presenting the Bert Salwen Student Paper Award to Lisa Geiger



Packed house

Note: In the next issue of the Newsletter we will publish the student paper by Ms. Geiger.

## VI. UPCOMING EVENTS

Event	Location	Date	Contact
Brooklyn Abolitionists: In Pursuit of Freedom	Brooklyn Historical Society	Ongoing through 2018	<a href="http://brooklynhistory.org/exhibitions/currency.html">http://brooklynhistory.org/exhibitions/currency.html</a>
Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology – Annual Conference	Long Branch, NJ	November 7-10, 2014	<a href="http://www.cneha.org/conference.html">http://www.cneha.org/conference.html</a>
American Anthropological Association – Annual Conference	Washington, DC	December 3-7, 2014	<a href="http://www.aaanet.org/meetings/futureaaameetings.cfm">http://www.aaanet.org/meetings/futureaaameetings.cfm</a>
Society for Historical Archaeology – Annual Conference	Seattle, WA	January 6-11, 2015	<a href="http://www.sha.org/index.php/view/page/annual_meetings">http://www.sha.org/index.php/view/page/annual_meetings</a>
Society for American Archaeology – Annual Conference	San Francisco, CA	April 15-19, 2015	<a href="http://www.saa.org/aboutthesociety/annualmeeting/tabid/138/default.aspx">http://www.saa.org/aboutthesociety/annualmeeting/tabid/138/default.aspx</a>

NOTE: to view the web page please move your mouse over the highlights blue web address, hold down the “Ctrl” (i.e Control) key and click on your mouse at the same time. Your web browser will automatically open to the web page.

## VII. MEMBERSHIP

### MEMBERSHIP/NEWSLETTER/INFORMATION:

If you are interested in joining PANYC or if you would like to subscribe to the PANYC Newsletter, please complete the form below and return it to:

Meredith Linn,  
PANYC Secretary  
Email: [mbl2002@columbia.edu](mailto:mbl2002@columbia.edu)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP (+ FOUR): \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate preferred mailing address and check below as appropriate.

I wish to apply for membership to PANYC, which includes subscription to the Newsletter, and would like to receive the application form (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to subscribe to the PANYC Newsletter only (\$10) \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to make an additional donation to PANYC \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to receive the PANYC Newsletter in digital (e-format) \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to receive the PANYC Newsletter in printed (mailed) form \_\_\_\_\_

The PANYC Membership package can be found at: [www.panycarchaeology.org](http://www.panycarchaeology.org)

If you have any questions please email: [info@panycarchaeology.org](mailto:info@panycarchaeology.org)