



BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES WINTER & SPRING 2018 CALENDAR OF PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Rebecca Traister, Cheryl Wills, Steve Coll, Hari Kondabolu and many more join BHS for conversations that connect Brooklyn's past and present.

December 11, 2017 Brooklyn, NY— Brooklyn Historical Society (BHS) is pleased to announce its 2018 winter and spring calendar of public programs. The robust schedule includes conversations about the future of feminism, freedom of expression, the rise of Antifa, activism in sports, and many additional topics shaping local and national conversations about this moment in history.

Tickets and registration for all events are now available on BHS's website, brooklynhistory.org.

Through a variety of voices, these topics consider multiple points of view and represent the people, events, and activities that have shaped and continue to shape our borough, city, and nation.

All programs take place at 128 Pierrepont Street.

45 Years after *Roe v Wade*

Tue, Jan 16, 6:30 pm

\$10 / \$5 for Members

[Reserve Tickets>>](#)

On January 22, 1973 women in the United States won the right to seek a legal abortion, yet equal access remains elusive. **Ilyse Hogue**, President of NARAL Pro-Choice America, **Rebecca Traister**, writer-at-large for *New York* magazine, and **Katha Pollitt**, author of *Pro: Reclaiming Abortion Rights*, discuss the legacy and future of this landmark case on the occasion of its forty-fifth anniversary.

Book Talk: *Greater Than Ever: New York's Big Comeback*

Mon, Jan 22, 7:00 pm

\$10 / \$5 for Members

[Reserve Tickets>>](#)

After the terrorist attacks of 9/11 New York City's economy was almost as damaged as its morale. As deputy mayor during the Bloomberg administration, **Daniel L. Doctoroff** helped spearhead a period of economic

development that advanced the city through job creation, housing initiatives, sustainability plans, and much more. Join him as he recounts the triumphs and pitfalls of one of New York's defining eras.

Current / Bodies: Art and Action on the Waterfront

Tue, Jan 23, 6:30 pm

\$5 / Free for Members

[Reserve Tickets>>](#)

Brooklyn Historical Society and Underwater New York present six New York artists and writers whose works address the history and future of our waterways. Join photographer **Chester Higgins**, visual artists **Barry Rosenthal**, **Nancy Nowacek**, and **Francis Estrada**, and poets **Cynthia Manick** and **Wo Chan** as they consider New York's waterfront as a site of continuity and a threshold for political, social, and environmental change. *Offered in connection with the new exhibition "Waterfront" at BHS DUMBO.*

Book Talk: Happiness Is a Choice You Make: Lessons from a Year Among the Oldest Old

Thu, Jan 25, 6:30 pm

\$5 / Free for Members

[Reserve Tickets>>](#)

At a crossroads in his own life, *New York Times* journalist **John Leland** found himself connecting with some of New York City's oldest residents in order to understand the experience of aging during the "twilight years." What he learned was a joyful surprise, lending credence to why this stage of life is often called the "golden years." Leland shares the wisdom, insights, and resilience of elders that inspired his latest book in a conversation with fellow journalist **Julie Scelfo**.

February

Book Talk: How Democracies Die

Thu, Feb 1, 6:30 pm

\$5 / Free for Members

[Reserve Tickets>>](#)

"That could never happen here" is a saying all too familiar in countries that have seen their democratic systems undermined by the insidious influence of authoritarianism and totalitarianism. Harvard professor **Daniel Ziblatt** has spent years researching this subtle erosion as it occurs throughout history in countries around the world, including our own. He presents this latest co-authored work and explains some of the signs that warn of the deterioration of democratic institutions, and how it can be stopped. Moderated by *New York Times* contributing op-ed writer **Thomas Edsall**.

Urban Health, Urban Parks: The Salve of the City

Mon, Feb 5, 6:30 pm

\$5 / Free for Members

[Reserve Tickets>>](#)

Studies from across the world point to the positive impact of city parks on the health of urban dwellers. Join Prospect Park Alliance President **Sue Donoghue**, *New York Times* health columnist **Jane Brody**, and *The Nature Fix* author **Florence Williams** for a metaphoric walk in the woods as they explore the science behind nature's restorative powers. Moderated by Atlas Obscura's **Jessica Leigh Hester**. *Offered in connection with the exhibition "The Means of a Ready Escape: Brooklyn's Prospect Park" at BHS Pierrepont.*

Cheryl Wills: A Family Story of Slavery and Freedom

Mon, Feb 12, 6:30 pm

\$10 / \$5 for Members

[Reserve Tickets>>](#)

In her book, *Die Free: A Heroic Family Tale*, award-winning news anchor **Cheryl Wills** traces the powerful story of her enslaved great-great-great-grandfather, who ran away from a Tennessee plantation to join the fight for freedom. From the Civil War and Jim Crow to the Great Migration, Wills's story is as sweeping as it is personal. Join us for this talk and book signing.

The Long Arc of Justice: Revisiting the Civil Rights Movement

Thu, Feb 15, 6:30 pm

\$5 / Free for Members

[Reserve Tickets>>](#)

Award-winning historian **Jeanne Theoharis** debunks contemporary imaginings of the civil rights movement in her forthcoming book, *A More Beautiful and Terrible History*. By showing how the movement was unpopular, disruptive, and courageously persevering in its time, Theoharis challenges exceptionalist narratives of American democracy and calls attention to the crucial work that remains to be done.

Black Writers in a Post-Obama America

Tue, Feb 27, 6:30 pm

\$5 / Free for Members

[Reserve Tickets>>](#)

Does literature by black writers demand a response to the country's racism? Especially today, is there an onus on writers of color to shine a spotlight on racial injustice? Hear from authors **Kaitlyn Greenidge**, **Bernice McFadden**, **Garnette Cadogan**, and **Quincy Troupe** in a panel discussion moderated by novelist and Distinguished Professor at Hunter College, **Elizabeth Nunez**.

March

Book Talk: Directorate S: The C.I.A. and America's Secret Wars in Afghanistan and Pakistan, 2001-2016

Thu, Mar 1, 6:30 pm

\$5 / Free for Members

[Reserve Tickets>>](#)

From Pulitzer-winning author of the bestselling *Ghost Wars* comes a tale of invisible warfare. Against the backdrop of the war in Afghanistan, a shadowy conflict between the United States military and a subgroup of Pakistan's intelligence agency known as "Directorate S" threatened to further destabilize an already protracted and complex conflict. Author **Steve Coll** sheds light on this struggle in the shadows, and how it has fueled a seemingly endless war overseas.

The Future of Feminism

Tue, Mar 6, 6:30 pm

\$5 / Free for Members

[Reserve Tickets>>](#)

What does feminism mean in twenty-first century America? *Lenny Letter* editor **Jessica Grose**, *Jezebel* editor-in-chief **Koa Beck**, and writer **Ashley C. Ford** come together to discuss the intersection of contemporary feminism with other social justice movements involving racial equality, transgender rights, and immigrant protection.

The World Only Spins Forward: The Story & Legacy of *Angels in America*

Thu, Mar 8, 6:30 pm

\$10/\$5 for Members

[Reserve Tickets>>](#)

Angels in America, the Broadway phenomenon that won the Pulitzer Prize, earned multiple Tony Awards, and gave voice to gay culture during the height of the AIDS crisis, celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary this year. To mark the occasion, writers **Isaac Butler** and **Dan Kois** have compiled an enthralling narrative of the play's beginnings and legacy, featuring interviews with playwright Tony Kushner, actors (such as Meryl Streep and Al Pacino from the HBO adaptation), directors, producers, and others. The authors are joined by actors from the original Broadway run **Stephen Spinella**, **Kathleen Chalfant**, and **Ellen McLaughlin** for a discussion of the book, as well as a spirited reading of related interviews featuring an all-star cast of actors and writers.

Book Talk: *The Women's Hour: The Last Furious Fight to Win the Vote*

\$5 / Free for Members

[Reserve Tickets>>](#)

Author **Elaine Weiss** discusses her new book, which tells the nail-biting tale of one of the greatest political battles in American history: the ratification of the constitutional amendment that granted women the right to vote.

A Socialist Revival?

Tue, Mar 20, 6:30 pm

\$5 / Free for Members

[Reserve Tickets>>](#)

For the first time in a generation, socialism looks like a political ideology with a future in the United States. *Jacobin* editor **Bhaskar Sunkara** and *The Nation* senior editor **Sarah Leonard** join *Politically Re-Active* host **Hari Kondabolu** to discuss socialism's resurgent appeal in an age of rising inequality and its prospects for becoming a viable force in American politics.

Freedom of Expression: The Never-Ending Fight

Wed, Mar 21, 6:30 pm

\$10 / \$5 for Members

[Reserve Tickets>>](#)

As U.S. Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Cardozo wrote, "Freedom of expression is...the indispensable condition of nearly every other form of freedom." Two titans in this fight, **Ira Glasser**, head of the American Civil Liberties Union from 1978 to 2001, and **Norman Siegel**, director of the New York Civil Liberties Union from 1985 to 2000, reflect on the history and ongoing struggle, and reminisce about their shared Brooklyn roots. Moderated by **Jarrett Murphy**, executive editor and publisher of *City Limits*. Presented in partnership with the *Brooklyn Jewish Historical Initiative*.

Screening and Talkback: *Against All Odds: The Fight for a Black Middle Class* with Bob Herbert

Thu, Mar 22, 6:30 pm

Free

[Reserve Your Spot>>](#)

Bob Herbert has written extensively about racism and politics for *The New York Times* and other media. Join him for a screening of this documentary where in both poignant and personal terms, he describes the uphill struggle of black families reaching for economic equality in the face of redlining, employment discrimination and other historical inequalities. Talkback follows.

The Rise of Antifa

Mon, Mar 26, 6:30 pm

\$5 / Free for Members

[Reserve Tickets>>](#)

Is political violence ever justified? Antifa (short for “anti-fascist”), a loose affiliation of groups united in their opposition to authoritarianism, rampant capitalism, and white supremacy, has come under fire for its counter-protest methods in the past year. **Mark Bray**, author of *Antifa: The Anti-Fascist Handbook*, discusses the controversial movement and its rising prominence in Trump-era America.

April

Taking a Knee: Sports and Activism

Tue, Apr 10, 7:00 pm

\$10 / \$5 for Members

[Reserve Tickets>>](#)

When Colin Kaepernick made a stand during the national anthem he joined a long line of sports figures that have protested racism through their gestures and actions. Join *Bleacher Report* contributor **Rembert Browne** and *The Nation's* **Dave Zirin** for a conversation about the platform these athletes have, and the swirling debate around their actions. *Offered in connection with the exhibition “Until Everyone Has It Made: Jackie Robinson’s Legacy” at BHS Pierrepont.*

Book Talk: Abraham & Straus: It’s Worth a Trip from Anywhere

Mon, Apr 16, 6:30 pm

\$5 / Free for Members

[Reserve Tickets>>](#)

The shrinking Macy’s on Fulton Street was once home to an icon of Brooklyn’s Gilded Age prosperity: the Abraham & Straus department store. Author **Michael Lisicky’s** latest book brings this emporium’s history to life, from its 1865 founding through its postwar demise. Revel in historical trivia about secret jail cells and cheesecake contests, and hear how the company impacted its home borough with support for the Prospect Park Children’s Zoo, translation services for immigrant customers and more. *Offered in connection with a new exhibition about the history of business in Brooklyn at BHS Pierrepont.*

Invisible Water, Invisible Watersheds: The Gowanus Canal as a Case Study

Wed, Apr 18, 6:30 pm

\$5 / Free for Members

[Reserve Tickets>>](#)

As city dwellers walk paved streets, below their feet run streams and water. While invisible, this water is hardly benign. Join us as we use the Gowanus Canal as a case study for a discussion of urban ecology, stressed city ecosystems, and innovative design solutions. **Eric Sanderson**, senior conservation ecologist at the Wildlife Conservation Society and director of the Manahatta Project; **Kate Orff**, MacArthur Award-winning landscape architect whose firm, SCAPE, has designed a visionary plan for the Gowanus Canal; and **Andrea Parker**, executive director of the Gowanus Canal Conservancy are moderated by **Jarrett Murphy** of *City Limits*. *Offered in connection with the exhibition “Waterfront” at BHS DUMBO.*

Roasted: The History of Coffee in NYC

Mon, Apr 30, 6:30 pm

\$10 / \$5 for Members

[Reserve Tickets>>](#)

From Arbuckle Coffee to Brooklyn Roasting Company, coffee has been at the center of Brooklyn life for well over a century. Join historian **Steven Jaffe**; coffee impresario and owner of Gillies Coffee Company (which

was founded in 1840) **Donald Schoenholt**; Brooklyn Roasting Company's **Jim Munson**; and **Erin Meister**, author of *New York City Coffee: A Caffeinated History*, for a conversation about the love affair that wakes us up every morning. *Offered in connection with the exhibition "Waterfront" at BHS DUMBO.*

About Brooklyn Historical Society

Founded in 1863, Brooklyn Historical Society is a nationally recognized urban history center dedicated to preserving and encouraging the study of Brooklyn's extraordinary 400-year history. Located in Brooklyn Heights and housed in a magnificent landmark building designed by George Post and opened in 1881, today's BHS is a cultural hub for civic dialogue, thoughtful engagement and community outreach. In May 2017 BHS opened a second site in DUMBO's Brooklyn Bridge Park.

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