



**BROOKLYN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**
150 YEARS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY (BHS) ANNOUNCES SPRING AND SUMMER CALENDAR
OF PUBLIC PROGRAMS FOR 2016**

BHS welcomes Judah Friedlander and Baratunde Thurston for a conversation on white privilege, Amy Goodman on 20 years of Democracy Now!, pizza historian Scott Weiner on the Brooklyn slice – and many more – to its robust line-up of public programming

April 5, 2016 Brooklyn, NY— Brooklyn Historical Society is pleased to announce its spring and summer calendar of public programs which features book talks, panel discussion and free film screenings with esteemed experts in topics that range from Brooklyn's refugee communities, to the history and future of Crown Heights, to ice cream. Through a variety of voices, these topics of discussion will bring to life BHS's mission to make the vibrant history of Brooklyn tangible, relevant and meaningful to the borough's diverse communities. Tickets and registration for all events can be found at on BHS's website, <http://brooklynhistory.org/>.

Many public programs will be held in connection with exhibitions currently on view at the museum: *Hidden in Plain Sight: Portraits of Hunger in NYC* (through Nov 13, 2016); *Brooklyn Abolitionists/In Pursuit of Freedom* (through winter 2018); *The Emancipation Proclamation* (through winter 2018).

MAY

Book Talk: Andrew Solomon

Wed, May 4, 6:30 pm

\$5/Free for BHS and Green-Wood Cemetery (G-W) Members

Join National Book Award-winner **Andrew Solomon**, author of *Far From the Tree: Parents, Children, and the Search for Identity* and *The Noonday Demon: An Atlas of Depression*, as he muses on his latest work, a collection of essays about places in dramatic transition, titled *Far and Away, Places on the Brink of Change: Seven Continents, Twenty-Five Years*.

Refugee Brooklyn: Stories from Brooklyn's Refugee Communities

Wed, May 11, 6:30 pm

\$5/Free for BHS and G-W Members

Many of those who live in Brooklyn today came escaping persecution in their native countries. But what are their experiences once here? Against the backdrop of the Syrian refugee crisis, join **Jarrett Murphy**, Executive Publisher of *City Limits*, as he moderates a discussion with a panel of engaged experts, including **Eileen Reilly**, Director for Refugee Services and Workforce Development at CAMBA, **Zeinab Eyega**, Founder and Executive Director of Sauti Yetu, an advocacy organization for African women and families in NYC, and representatives from the Russian Jewish and Albanian communities. *Offered in partnership with "Celebrating the City: Jane Jacobs at 100."*

If These Walls Could Talk: A House Research Primer

Sun, May 15, 2 pm

\$50/\$35 for BHS and G-W Members

Elizabeth Call returns to BHS for her immensely popular introduction to Brooklyn house research. In this intensive workshop, you'll gain hands-on experience using archival images, records, and documents to uncover the secret history of your Brooklyn home.

Use of Force in Prisons

Mon, May 23, 6:30 pm

\$5/Free for BHS and G-W Members

How do we find a balance between a correction officer's safety and a prisoner's right? Join a panel of leading thinkers for a look at this complex issue. Moderated by **Ted Conover**, author of *Newjack*, panelists include **Brian Fischer**, former Commissioner, NYS Department of Corrections, **Tom Robbins** who has written about this issue for *The New York Times* and The Marshall Project, and **Mary Lynne Werlwas**, from The Legal Aid Society's Prisoner's Rights Project.

Book Talk: *Democracy Now! Twenty Years Covering the Movements Changing America*

Tue, May 24, 6:30 pm

\$5/Free for BHS and G-W Members

Since 1996, **Amy Goodman** has shined a light on important issues that are overlooked by mainstream news coverage on her independent radio (and now television and internet) show, *Democracy Now!* Join us when she and journalist and co-author **David Goodman** look back on twenty years of giving voice to those speaking truth to power.

Race and History: An Evening with Khalil Gibran Muhammad

Thu, May 26, 6:30 pm

\$10/Free for BHS and G-W Members

Director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and recently named Professor of History, Race and Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School, **Khalil Gibran Muhammad**, discusses the intersection of race relations and social justice in America.

JUNE

Hungry, Not Homeless

Tue, June 7, 6:30 pm

\$5/Free for BHS and G-W Members

Since 1996, the number of families in the United States living on \$2 a day more than doubled. **Kathryn Edin**, Bloomberg Distinguished Professor at Johns Hopkins University and co-author of the book *\$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America*, discusses poverty and hunger with **Barbara J. Turk**, Director of Food Policy for New York City. *Offered in connection with the exhibition, "Hidden in Plain Sight: Portraits of Hunger in NYC."*

Call and Response: Black Power 50 Years Later

Tue, Jun 14, 6:30 pm

\$5/Free for BHS and G-W Members

In June 1966, the call for Black Power in America was declared by Stokely Carmichael and Willie Ricks after the shooting of James Meredith in Mississippi. This call was heard across the nation and sparked a movement whose legacy continues fifty years later. Professor **Robyn Spencer** leads a conversation with activists from across generations. Panelists, including **Rev. Dr. Herbert Daughtry**, **Basir Mchawi**, and **Farah Tanis**, reflect on the evolution from Black Power to Black Lives Matter in Brooklyn.

The Surviving Artist in a Changing New York

Wed, Jun 15, 6:30 pm

Free

New York has long been known as the creative capital of the world, but what exactly has contributed to the city's magnetism, and are those elements now in flux? Three NYFA and Whiting Award winners—**Dael Orlandersmith**, **Jose Rivera**, and **Saïd Sayrefiezadeh**—talk about the effect of New York's convulsive cultural, financial, and political changes on writers. Moderated by *The New Yorker's* **Cressida Leyshon**. *A partner program with The Whiting Foundation in celebration of three decades of NYFA and Whiting award-winning writers.*

Race and History: An Evening with Lonnie Bunch

Thu, June 16, 6:30 pm

\$10/Free for BHS and G-W Members

Founding Director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, which is slated to open in 2016, **Lonnie G. Bunch III** shares his personal perspective on leading this formidable project.

Talking White Privilege: A Conversation between Baratunde Thurston and Judah Friedlander

Mon, Jun 20, 8 pm

\$10/\$5 for BHS and G-W Members

In these times of accelerated debate about race, where does the term “white privilege” fit in? Join **Baratunde Thurston**, Supervising Producer at *The Daily Show with Trevor Noah* and author of the best-selling book *How to Be Black*, and **Judah Friedlander**, actor and comedian of *30 Rock* fame, for a discussion about what white privilege means in today's racially and politically-charged climate.

Redefined and Redesigned: Defying Gender Norms in Fashion

Thu, Jun 23, 6:30 pm

\$10/\$5 for BHS and G-W Members

The fashion world has always been a place to push conventional boundaries, and finally gender is part of the mainstream conversation. This Pride Month, **Anita Dolce Vita**, Owner, Creative Director, and Editor-in-Chief of queer style website *DapperQ*, leads a panel of pioneering designers, models, and bloggers to explore the intersection of gender, identity, and fashion. Panelists include **Rae Tutera** of Brooklyn-based bespoke men and womenswear company Bindle & Keep, **Zahyr Lauren** of queer collective Bklyn Boihood, **Peche Di**, model and founder of Trans Models, one of the only transgender modeling agencies in the world, and fashion designer **Andre Landeros Michel** of LANDEROS NEW YORK.

Screening and Book Signing: *Famous Nathan*

Mon, Jun 27, 6:30 pm

Free

What's more Brooklyn than eating a Nathan's Famous hotdog on the Coney Island boardwalk? How about the story of an immigrant who arrived in NYC from Poland in 1912 with nothing to his name (and no English skills), and went on to start a food empire that remains a household name a century later? Join **Lloyd Handwerker**, grandson of Nathan himself, as he screens his documentary and discusses his new book about his grandfather's legacy.

Screening & Discussion: *Taboo...Yardies*

Wed, Jun 29, 6:30 pm

Free

In honor of Pride Month and Caribbean Heritage Month, join us for a screening of *Taboo... Yardies*, a 2011 documentary by filmmaker Selena Blake examining the socioeconomic and sociopolitical environment in Jamaica that cultivates violence against gays, lesbians, and transgender people. *Presented in partnership with CaribBEING, an organization that works to build community through the lens of Caribbean cinema, culture, and art.*

JULY

Righting Wrongful Convictions: A Discussion with Barry Scheck and Ken Thompson

Wed, July 6, 6:30 pm

\$10/ Free for BHS and G-W Members

Join two champions of justice, **Barry Scheck**, co-founder and co-director of the Innocence Project which applies DNA testing to exonerate wrongful convictions, and Brooklyn District Attorney **Ken Thompson**, whose Conviction Review Unit, perhaps the largest in the country, is a national model. False confessions, eyewitness misidentification, improper forensics; these two men bring insight into the disturbing fissures in our criminal justice system.

Brownstone Brooklyn: Pioneers in the Gentrification Movement

Thu, Jul 7, 6:30 pm

\$5/Free for BHS and G-W Members

From Bay Ridge to Bushwick, today neighborhoods on the cusp of gentrification display obvious signs of transformation and tension, but what about areas that were the first to make up the "new" Brooklyn, like Park Slope, Carroll Gardens, and Prospect Heights? What is their narrative and what challenges do they face today? Join **Jarrett Murphy**, Executive Publisher of *City Limits*, as he moderates a discussion with thought leaders including historian/author **Suleiman Osman** and *New York Times* columnist **Ginia Bellafante**. *Offered in partnership with "Celebrating the City: Jane Jacobs at 100."*

Reel Food Screenings & Discussions: *King Corn*

Mon, Jul 11, 6:30 pm

Free

In conjunction with BHS's exhibition *Hidden in Plain Sight: Portraits of Hunger in NYC*, we are proud to present a series of films focused on issues of food justice and equity. We begin the series with *King Corn*, which looks at how government subsidies and industrialization in corn growth have affected farming (and eating) in the United States.

American, Female, and Muslim

Tue, Jul 12, 6:30 pm

\$10/\$5 for BHS and G-W Members

Debbie Almontaser leads a panel of pioneering Muslim American women who look at their multilayered identities through comedy, literature, fashion, and Twitter. Panelists include the creator of #YesAllWomen and #NotYourStockMuslim, the author of *How to Make White People Laugh*, and the founders of ComingofFaith.com and muslimgirl.net.

Reel Food Screenings & Discussions: *Food, Inc.*

Mon, Jul 18, 6:30 pm

Free

We continue our series of film screenings focused on issues of food justice and equity with the Academy Award-nominated documentary *Food, Inc.*, which takes a critical look at corporate farming in the United States. Introduction and post-screening discussion led by **Saara Nafici**, Executive Director of Added Value Farms, a Brooklyn-based, youth-led urban farming and compost operation. *Presented in conjunction with BHS's exhibition "Hidden in Plain Sight: Portraits of Hunger in NYC."*

Book Talk: Manisha Sinha on *The Slave's Cause: A History of Abolition*

Wed, July 20, 6:30 pm

\$5/Free for BHS and G-W Members

Manisha Sinha's groundbreaking new book recasts abolition as a radical social movement of men and women, black and white, free and enslaved. Hear how Sinha used newly discovered materials to piece together this comprehensive history. *Offered in connection with the exhibition "Brooklyn Abolitionists: In Pursuit of Freedom."*

Reel Food Screenings & Discussions: *Fed Up*

Mon, Jul 25, 6:30 pm

Free

We conclude our series of films focused on issues of food justice and equity with the eye-opening documentary *Fed Up*, which examines the food industry's role in our country's obesity epidemic. Introduction and follow-up discussion led by restaurateurs and food activists **George Weld** and **Evan Hanczor** of Egg in Williamsburg. *Presented in conjunction with BHS's exhibition "Hidden in Plain Sight: Portraits of Hunger in NYC."*

Brooklyn Screams for Ice Cream!

Thu, Jul 28, 7 pm

\$12/\$8 for BHS and G-W Members

Ice cream is having a "Brooklyn moment." Join some of the borough's top ice cream makers for a look at the history, mechanics, and future of ice cream cones, sundaes, and sandwiches in Brooklyn. Moderated by historic gastronomist **Sarah Lohman**. *Presented in partnership with Brooklyn Brainery.*

AUGUST

Brooklyn on Screen: *Do the Right Thing*

Mon, Aug 1, 7 pm

Free

From the Coney Island boardwalk to the brownstones of Bed-Stuy, the County of Kings has served as the set for numerous iconic films throughout the years. We're teaming up with **Brooklyn Based** to give our favorite borough a starring role in this summer film series, kicking off with Spike Lee's seminal *Do the Right Thing*,

which finds racial and ethnic tensions rising in Bed-Stuy on the hottest day of the year. *Slate's* **Kristen Meinzer** and *Newsday's* **Rafer Guzman** introduce and lead a post-screening discussion.

Tales from the Vault: The Skeletons in Our Closets

Wed, Aug 3, 6:30 pm

\$5/Free for BHS and G-W Members

BHS Reference Librarian **Joanna Lamaida** and Exhibition Coordinator & Registrar **Anna Schwartz** dust off some of BHS's best kept collections secrets (skeletons included) and uncover treasures from the former Long Island Historical Society's cabinet of curiosities. And what about those tales of meteors, amulets, and runaway librarians? Lamaida and Schwartz debunk or corroborate some of the library's most notorious myths.

Brooklyn Pizza: The Search for Authenticity

Thu, Aug 4, 7 pm

\$12/\$8 for BHS and G-W Members

Who makes the most authentic pizza in New York City? Explore the debate with pizza historian **Scott Wiener** and a panel of Brooklyn's top pizza makers, including a classic old-school slice shop, a historic coal-fired pizza parlor, a traditional Neapolitan pizzeria, and a new-school pie innovator. Slice into issues of tradition, authenticity, and perception in the contemporary food landscape! *Presented in partnership with Brooklyn Brainery.*

Brooklyn on Screen: Moonstruck

Mon, Aug 8, 7 pm

Free

BHS's own neighborhood, Brooklyn Heights, is the stage for Cher's Academy Award-winning performance in Norman Jewison's classic 1987 romantic comedy. Grab a Brooklyn Brewery beer, then sit back and enjoy the magic and larger-than-life romance that blossoms in the streets of *Moonstruck's* Brooklyn! *Slate's* **Kristen Meinzer** and *Newsday's* **Rafer Guzman** introduce and lead a post-screening discussion. *Presented in partnership with Brooklyn Based.*

Crown Heights Encounters: Listening Back, Moving Forward

Wed, Aug 10, 6:30 pm

Free

Twenty-five years after the August 1991 Crown Heights riot, BHS, in partnership with Weeksville Heritage Center and Brooklyn Movement Center, gathers for an evening to reflect on the history and future of Crown Heights. Featuring a performance, oral history presentation, and a panel discussion moderated by *Inside City Hall* host and CNN contributor **Errol Louis**, the three-part program will explore the multi-storied past of the neighborhood, including issues of ethnic relations, racial justice, and urban renewal that continue to shape the lives of its residents today.

Brooklyn on Screen: The Warriors

Mon, Aug 15, 7 pm

Free

The last in our series of films starring Brooklyn takes us to Coney Island, home turf of the rough and tumble gang that is the namesake of this fantasy thriller. Shot almost completely on location in the streets and subways of NYC during the summer of 1978, this cult classic will give you a glimpse into a Brooklyn of the past. *Slate's* **Kristen Meinzer** and *Newsday's* **Rafer Guzman** introduce and lead a post-screening discussion. *Presented in partnership with Brooklyn Based.*

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.

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