



BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY LAUNCHES SPRING/SUMMER 2019 CALENDAR OF PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Michael Twitty, Greg Grandin, Builder Levy, Mark Kurlansky and more join BHS to discuss the culture surrounding soul food, the end of American exceptionalism, documenting politically charged moments through art, and oysters!

[April 16, 2019] Brooklyn, NY— Brooklyn Historical Society (BHS) is pleased to announce its Spring/Summer 2019 calendar of public programs. This spring slate of programming features a conversation about the El Chapo trial with Alan Feuer, the *New York Times* reporter who covered it closely, talks about the culinary connections to income and culture, and offers a curator-led tour of BHS' trailblazing exhibition *On the (Queer) Waterfront*.

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

Ticket registration for all events are currently available on BHS' newly updated website at brooklynhistory.org/publicprograms.

All programs take place at 128 Pierrepont Street, except the Walt Whitman walking tour of DUMBO. The complete schedule is as follows:

May

[Photography Through a Civic Lens: Builder Levy and Brian Palmer in Conversation with Bonnie Yochelson](#)

Thurs, May 2, 6:30pm
\$10 / \$5 for Members

Brooklyn-bred photographer **Builder Levy**, whose work is the focus of the forthcoming exhibition *The Photographs of Builder Levy: Humanity in the Streets*, and visual journalist **Brian Palmer**, who works in photography and documentary film, come together to reflect on the common thread in their art: documenting politically charged moments in the midst of daily life, in the city, nation and world. Their conversation is moderated by **Bonnie Yochelson**, photo-historian, independent curator, and author of numerous books, including *Berenice Abbott: Changing New York* and *Rediscovering Jacob Riis*.

Presented in connection with the exhibition *The Photographs of Builder Levy: Humanity in the Streets*.

[Like Founding Father, Like Son: The Precedents of Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams](#)

Mon, May 6, 6:30pm

\$10 / \$5 for Members

Nancy Isenberg and **Andrew Burstein** take on the task of providing a groundbreaking dual-biography of John Adams, the 2nd President of the United States, and his son John Quincy Adams, the 6th President. In *The Problem of Democracy: The Presidents Adams Confront the Cult of Personality*, the authors reveal weaknesses in our democracy that have existed since its beginnings and explore the pitfalls of merging politics and celebrity.

[Book Talk: The End of the Myth: From the Frontier to the Border Wall in the Mind of America](#)

Tue, May 7, 6:30 pm

\$10 / \$5 for Members

In a conversation led by Columbia Law School professor **Jedediah Purdy**, historian **Greg Grandin** argues that the nation's headstrong approach to growth since the American Revolution has contributed to our democracy's undoing by catalyzing unwinnable foreign wars, staggering economic inequality, flaring racism, a polarized electorate, and an allegorical tombstone marking the end of American exceptionalism: The Wall.

[PEN America World Voices Festival](#)

[Surveillance Capitalism, Human Autonomy, and You](#)

Wed, May 8, 6:30 pm

\$15 / \$12 for Members (with discount code)

Every time we search on a browser, buy something online, or post to our friends on social media, we are leveraging free resources to save time and money. But our clicks and keystrokes also fuel a massive, algorithm-powered industry that exploits our online experiences for profit. **Shoshana Zuboff**, author of *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism*, joins **Douglas Rushkoff**, author of *Team Human* for an illuminating discussion that challenges our preconceptions about privacy, security, and the very idea of human autonomy and free will in the digital age.

To purchase tickets visit worldvoices.pen.org. Members may use their discount code.

[PEN America World Voices Festival](#)

[Virtual Reality: Sheila Heti, Elif Batuman, and the Autobiographical Novel](#)

Fri, May 10, 6:30 pm

\$15 / \$12 for Members (with discount code)

Spend an evening with two masterful practitioners of the autobiographical novel, a compelling literary format that tantalizingly blurs the line between memoir and fiction. **Sheila Heti** uses the conventions of both novels and diaries in *Motherhood*, her meditative and revelatory account about deciding whether to have children. **Elif Bauman's** semi-autobiographical *The Idiot* delights in probing the gaps between reality and the stories we impose on it. Join these acclaimed writers as they examine the dynamics of the autobiographical novel and the humor, truth, and self-discovery that sometimes only fiction can allow.

To purchase tickets visit worldvoices.pen.org. Members may use their discount code.

[Historicizing Journalism's Role in American Democracy](#)

Wed, May 15, 7 pm

\$10 / \$5 for Members

Alternative facts and fake news have complicated our trust in the Fourth Estate, but has our media ever been truly objective and democratic? Race, gender, and power have always played an essential role defining the news we serve to the public. We'll look at the people who have benefited from this - and those who have been harmed - with SiriusSM host and former *New York Daily News* columnist **Karen Hunter**, **Kim Gallon**, founder and director of the Black Press Research Collective and assistant professor of history at Purdue University, and **Andie Tucher**, director of Columbia Journalism School's PhD program who is currently working on a book about the history of fake news. Moderated by **Kathryn Cramer Brownell**, associate professor at Purdue whose work focuses on how the media and popular culture influence American political institutions. Offered as part of BHS's ongoing programming collaboration with the Media and Democracy program of the Social Science Research Council.

[The Pseudoscience of Xenophobia: Eugenics and Immigration in America](#)

Tue, May 21, 6:30pm

\$10 / \$5 for Members

Join **Daniel Okrent**, the first public editor at *The New York Times*, as he shares his new book, *The Guarded Gate*. A project five years in the making, the book traces the evolution of eugenics, the belief in a biological hierarchy of humanity, and shows how it became the backbone of restrictive immigration policies and social attitudes in America for over two centuries.

June

[Curator Tour: On the \(Queer\) Waterfront](#)

Sun, June 2, 11 am

\$15 / \$10 for Members

Join curator **Hugh Ryan** for a private tour of the first exhibition ever to focus explicitly on the LGBTQ history of Brooklyn. Ryan, who is also the author of the recently released book, *When Brooklyn Was Queer*, will share the many extraordinary stories he unearthed, and describe his multi-year quest to bring this history into the light.

[Food for the Soul](#)

Tue, Jun 4 6:30pm

\$10 / \$5 for Members

Food fuels more than our physical bodies; it feeds our identities and is an essential ingredient in cultivating community. Join us for an exploration of black culinary culture as **Michael Twitty**, author of *The Cooking Gene: A Journey through African-American Culinary History in the Old South*, and **Chef Therese Nelson** of *Black Culinary History* examine and pay homage to the collective legacy of African, African American, and African Diasporic food.

[Covering El Chapo](#)

Wed, June 5, 6:30 pm
\$10 / \$5 for Members

During the eleven week trial of Joaquín Guzmán Loera, the Mexican drug kingpin better known as El Chapo, Brooklyn, NYC, and the world were glued to a daily, real-life drama that surpassed television's most outrageous reality fare. Go behind-the-scenes with the *New York Times* reporter **Alan Feuer**, for a glimpse of what it was like to cover this fast-breaking story. Alan will be in conversation with journalist **Dan Slater**, author of the book *Wolf Boys: Two American Teenagers and Mexico's Most Dangerous Drug Cartel*.

[Eatin' Good in the 'Hood: The Link Between Socioeconomics and Access to Nutrition](#)

Thu, Jun 6 6:30pm
\$10 / \$5 for Members

Healthy eating can be next to impossible when you live in a food desert – but who says it has to be? **Erick Castro** of the Instagram account *How to Be Vegan in the Hood* and **Iyeshima Harris** of East New York Farms, dig in to the realities of food inequality and trying to sustain a nutritious diet in an urban environment. Moderated by **Esther Crain** Deputy Digital Editor of *Health*.

Presented in conjunction with the new exhibition "Taking Care of Brooklyn: Stories of Sickness and Health."

[Muslims in New York City: Lessons from the Past, Visions for the Future](#)

Mon, Jun 10, 6:30 pm
\$10 / \$5 for Members

Muslims have lived, worked, and prayed in NYC for well over a century, establishing it as a major center of Muslim American life and culture. BHS Oral Historian and *Muslims in Brooklyn* Project Director **Zaheer Ali**, author of *Being Muslim: A Cultural History of Women of Color in American Islam* **Sylvia Chan-Malik**, and Principal Investigator for the Institute of Social Policy and Understanding's Muslims for American Progress (MAP)-NYC project **Elisabeth Becker** share their research on this rich heritage, and consider the ways contemporary Muslim American experiences reflect and refract that history.

Presented in partnership with the Institute of Social Policy and Understanding's Muslims for American Progress (MAP)-NYC project, and in connection with BHS's "Muslims in Brooklyn" project.

[Live Oak, With Moss: Uncovering Walt Whitman's Queer Private Life](#)

Tue, Jun 11, 6:30 pm
\$10 / \$5 for Members

As he was turning forty, Whitman privately wrote a series of poems entitled "Live Oak, with Moss," portraying his most ardent explorations of same-sex love. Join illustrator **Brian Selznick**, who visualizes the poet's passions on the book's pages, and Whitman scholar **Karen Karbiener** as they discuss this revolutionary collection that Whitman never published and which has remained largely unknown—until now.

[Crossing Brooklyn Ferry: A Walt Whitman Walking Tour of DUMBO](#)

Sat, June 15, 11 am
\$20 / \$15 for Members

On the heels of the bard of Brooklyn's 200th birthday, trace Whitman's steps along the Brooklyn waterfront as portrayed in his landmark entry from *Leaves of Grass*, "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry." We begin with a vocal incantation of the poem at Fulton Ferry Landing, followed by a tour led by **Stefan Killen**, bringing to life the physical spaces of DUMBO through the literary themes of water, time, and the interconnected nature of modern democratic life in America. The tour concludes at BHS DUMBO, located in the Empire Stores, for a visit to the current exhibition, *Waterfront*.

Also offered on Mon, July 15 at 6 pm. Presented in partnership with The Walt Whitman Project.

[Not Always Black and White: A History of Race During Reconstruction](#)

Thu, June 20, 6:30pm

\$10 / \$5 for Members

In the Antebellum South, communities of free mixed-race Americans were not uncommon. Neither "black" nor "white" by modern conceptions of race, these communities suffered when Reconstruction solidified racial divides, and ideas like the "one drop" rule and Jim Crow laws began to take root. Author **Daniel Brook** explores these communities in his book, *The Accident of Color*, and dives into how a more complex idea of ethnic identity can challenge the oppression of racial absolutism that continues to exist today.

[The Tea on Preserving Brooklyn's Prismatic LGBTQ Nightlife](#)

Mon, Jun 24, 6:30 pm

\$10 / \$5 for Members

From glitter to grit, Brooklyn has served as a locus for nocturnal LGBTQ gatherings for decades, creating safe spaces and afterhours playgrounds for myriad marginalized communities. Activist dance scenes bubble up from the underground, sometimes subculture upstarts explode into national media phenomena, and all have a story to tell. Join us for clips from *We Came to Sweat*, the documentary on the storied Starlite Lounge that served as a black queer hub in Crown Heights, and a panel featuring **Mohammed Fayaz** of the queer POC dance party collective Papi Juice, **Ryann Holmes** of the collective Bklyn Boihood, and others

Presented in connection with the exhibition, "On the (Queer) Waterfront."

[Getting the History of HIV/AIDS Right](#)

Wed, Jun 26, 6:30 pm

\$10 / \$5 Free for Members

Join us for an evening debunking historical myths about HIV/AIDS in America as we shine a bright light on what we think we know; what we don't know that we should; and how to explain this disconnect. University of Illinois at Chicago professor **Jennifer Brier**, author of *Infectious Ideas: U.S. Political Response to the AIDS Crisis*, and Northwestern University professor and journalist **Steven Thrasher**, whose writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Guardian* and *Esquire*, engage in a conversation that touches on gender, race, sexuality, political and social history, and the tension between complacency and urgency today.

Presented in connection with the exhibition, "Taking Care of Brooklyn: Stories of Sickness and Health."

July

[Islam and the Soul of Hip Hop](#)

Tue, Jul 9, 6:30 pm

\$5 / Free for Members

Since its inception, hip hop has drawn inspiration from Muslim communities throughout NYC, including the Nation of Islam, Nation of Gods and Earths (“Five Percenters”), Ansaaru Allah Community, and Sunni Muslims. Brooklyn Hip Hop Festival Director **Wes Jackson** sits down with author of *Muslim Cool: Race, Religion, and Hip Hop in the United States* **Su’ad Abdul Khabeer**, and former Editor-in-Chief of *The Source Magazine* **Fahiym Abdul-Wasi** to explore the history and contemporary resonance of Islam in hip hop.

Presented as part of the 15th Annual Brooklyn Hip Hop Festival, and in connection with BHS’s Muslims in Brooklyn project.

[Telling the Art Deco Story of Brooklyn Heights and Downtown Brooklyn](#)

Wed, Jul 10, 6:30 pm

Free

[Register here for Part 1](#) or [register here for Part 2](#)

Discover the legacy of Art Deco in Brooklyn Heights and Downtown Brooklyn with architectural historian **Matt Postal**. Postal’s BHS lecture is followed by a walking tour through the richly ornamented streets of the 1930s and 40s.

Presented in partnership with Art Deco Society of New York. Limited space available for walking tour.

[If These Walls Could Talk](#)

Sat, Jul 13, 10 am

\$45 / \$20 for Members

Uncover the secret history of your Brooklyn home or block! Join us for a rare visit to our landmarked Othmer Library during closed hours for a special intensive morning workshop. BHS Reference Librarian **Cecily Dyer** reveals insider methods for conducting house research, followed by a hands-on deep dive into the library’s collections of archival images, records, and documents. Following a lunch break, attendees are invited back to the library to continue their exploration.

[Crossing Brooklyn Ferry: A Walt Whitman Walking Tour of DUMBO](#)

Mon, Jul 15, 6 pm

\$20 / \$15 for Members

See Sat, Jun 15 for program description.

[Fermented Foods: A Bubbly History and Funky Future](#)

Thu, Jul 18, 6:30 pm

\$10 / \$5 for Members

Whether in service to preservation, nutrition, or flavor, fermentation has been a key component of many culinary traditions throughout time. We explore the process of fermentation, its history, and recent innovations, with local makers **Kheedim Oh** of Mama Oh’s Premium Kimchi, **Alex Ingalls** of Pilot Kombucha, and **The Gefilteria**. Contraband Ferments’s **Cheryl Paswater** moderates this effervescent conversation.

[Oysters 101: The Secrets NYC's Bivalves Harbor](#)

Tue, Jul 25, 6:30 pm

\$10 / \$5 for Members

From feeding happy hour hordes and filtering New Yorkers' sewage, to protecting the shore from intensifying storms and educating nascent scientists, oysters shell out countless benefits to Gotham. Join us as we examine the bivalves' pivotal place in the story of New York. BHS Vice President of Collections and Curatorial Affairs **Julie Golia** leads a conversation with Billion Oyster Project Director of Education **Ann Fraioli**, chef and oyster farmer **Kerry Heffernan**, and **Mark Kurlansky**, author of *The Big Oyster: History on the Half Shell*.

Presented in connection with the exhibition, "Waterfront."

[Book Talk: Underground: A Human History of the Worlds Beneath Our Feet](#)

Tue, Jul 30, 6:30 pm

\$10 / \$5 for Members

Author **Will Hunt** brings us to the world's derelict subway stations, sacred caves, nuclear bunkers, and subterranean cities in his book that gets to the core of how the human condition is irrevocably tethered to the underground. Join Hunt in a conversation moderated by **Michelle Young**, founder of *Untapped Cities*.

August

[These Films Cannot Be Trusted, Part One](#)

[The President's Analyst](#)

Wed, Aug 7, 6:30pm

\$5 / Free for Members

Join us for a film series exploring themes of surveillance, media manipulation, conspiracy, and more! Part One kicks off with *The President's Analyst*, a mind-bending political satire steeped in paranoia, superspies, and communications surveillance that mirrors our own social media-addled world. **Rafer Guzman**, film critic for *Newsday* and WNYC's *The Takeaway*, introduces the film with history and trivia.

[Nappy Roots: A History of Black Hair](#)

Thu, Aug 8 6:30pm

\$10 / \$5 for Members

Brush up on the relationship between hair and African American culture as **Lori L. Tharps** and **Ayana Bird**, co-authors of *Hair Story: Untangling the Roots of Black Hair in America*, weave the tousled history, politics, and culture of Black hair in America. Joining the conversation is **Noliwe Rooks**, author of *Hair Raising: Beauty, Culture and African American Women*. **Dana Oliver**, Beauty Editor at *Yahoo Lifestyle* leads the discussion.

[These Films Cannot Be Trusted, Part Two](#)

[Three Days of the Condor](#)

Wed, Aug 14, 6:30pm

\$5 / Free for Members

Robert Redford portrays a bookish CIA analyst who finds himself caught up in a deep state factional conflict, pitting spy versus spy as agencies, assassins, and allegiances collide. What happens when our acronym-savvy intel organizations entrusted to keep us safe cannot even trust themselves? With an introduction, trivia, and more from film critic **Rafer Guzman**.

[Screening & Talkback: *Watched: Coming of Age Under Surveillance*](#)

Thu, Aug 15, 6:30 pm

Free

In the years following 2001, the NYPD increased the intensity and scope of its surveillance of Muslim communities in NYC. In 2017, documentarian Katie Mitchell examined the impact of surveillance on a group of young women at Brooklyn College who discovered they were the target of an NYPD undercover officer. Join us for a screening, and conversation with former Brooklyn College student **Rabia Ahsin**, Distinguished Professor of Political Science at Brooklyn College **Jeanne Theoharis**, journalist **Aviva Stahl**, and BHS Oral Historian and *Muslims in Brooklyn* Project Director **Zaheer Ali**.

Presented in connection with BHS's "Muslims in Brooklyn" project.

[These Films Cannot Be Trusted, Part Three](#)

[They Live!](#)

Wed, Aug 21, 6:30pm

\$5 / Free for Members

Our film series concludes with a conspiratorial cult classic. When pro wrestling legend "Rowdy" Roddy Piper stumbles upon a set of special sunglasses, he begins to see subliminal messages controlling people to OBEY, CONSUME, and CONFORM. With an introduction, trivia, and more from film critic **Rafer Guzman**.

[A Founding Martyr: Dr. Joseph Warren and the Early American Revolution](#)

Tue, Aug 27, 6:30pm

\$10 / \$5 for Members

As we mark the anniversary of the Battle of Brooklyn, revisit the early days of the American Revolution with the story of Joseph Warren, a physician and Son of Liberty who fomented the early rebellion alongside Samuel Adams. Historian **Christian Di Spagna** shares Warren's largely overlooked story.

[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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