



BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES WINTER AND SPRING 2019 CALENDAR OF PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Ophira Eisenberg, Paula Giddings and many more join BHS to discuss the lives and legacies of Joan Rivers and Ida B. Wells

[January 15, 2019] Brooklyn, NY— Brooklyn Historical Society (BHS) is pleased to announce its Winter and Spring 2019 calendar of public programs. The robust schedule includes conversations about race and gender in American politics, how our massive misdemeanor system makes America more unequal and the little known story of the violent act against a WWII vet which helped spark the civil rights movement.

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

Through a variety of voices, these topics of discussion will bring to life BHS's 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.

All programs take place at 128 Pierrepont Street. The complete schedule is as follows:

January

Race and Gender in American Politics

Wed, Jan 16, 6:30 pm

\$5 / Free for Members

As a new Congress convenes in Washington, BHS and the Social Science Research Council gather a panel of experts to discuss the role that race and gender continue to play in American politics. **Christina Greer**, Associate Professor of Political Science at Fordham University and author of the book, *Black Ethnicities: Race, Immigration, and the Pursuit of the American Dream*, and **Tsedale M. Melaku** of the Institute for Research on the African Diaspora in the Americas and the Caribbean, **Jamila Michener**, author of *Fragmented Democracy*, will reflect on the implications of the midterm elections, given the successes (and setbacks) of women and people of color as candidates, and the evolving nature of participation and representation in American politics. Moderated by **Alexis Grenell**, co-founder of Pythia Public and regular contributor to the *New York Daily News*.

Part of BHS's ongoing programming collaboration with the Social Science Research Council.

Bank of America presents History Makers:
Journalist, Activist and Anti-Lynching Crusader, Ida B. Wells

Wed, Jan 23, 6:30 pm

\$5 / Free for Members

Ida B. Wells, born into slavery in 1862 and freed by the Emancipation Proclamation, devoted her life to the fight against racism, sexism and anti-black violence. Hear her story as told by **Paula J. Giddings**, Smith College professor and author of the award-winning biography, *Ida, A Sword Among Lions: Ida B. Wells and the Campaign Against Lynching*.

Leading While Muslim: School Principals as a Case Study

Thu, Jan 24, 6:30 pm

Free

How have the events of September 11th impacted American Muslim leaders? What effects do today's media coverage of Muslims and political discourse have? Join us for an exploration of post-9/11 Islamophobia and its impact on American Muslim leaders, as seen through the lens of Muslim public school principals. **Dr. Debbie Almontaser**, author of *Leading While Muslim: The Experiences of American Muslim Principals After 9/11*, and *HuffPost's* **Rowaida Abdelaziz** are moderated by BHS Oral Historian, **Zaheer Ali**.

This conversation takes place in celebration of the release of the book, *Leading While Muslim: The Experiences of American Muslim Principals After 9/11*.

Petty Crimes and Petty Laws: A Hard Look at the Broken Misdemeanor System

Mon, Jan 28, 6:30 pm

\$5 / Free for Members

When misdemeanors carry disproportionate punishments, and bail is unreasonably sought, the upshot is a tragically *unjust* justice system. Join **Alexandra Natapoff**, author of the new book *Punishment Without Crime: How Our Massive Misdemeanor System Traps the Innocent and Makes America More Unequal*, **Alexandra Natapoff**, along with Executive Director of the Brooklyn Community Bail Fund, **Peter Goldberg**, and **Darryl Herring**, Community Leader with VOCAL-NY, as they dismantle the predatory nature of our inflated misdemeanor and bail systems, which too often target the low-income and communities of color. Moderated by *New York Times* Metro reporter, Ali Winston.

Presented in partnership with the Brooklyn Community Bail Fund.

Annual Martha Rubin Conversation on Racial Equity
The Blinding of a Soldier and the Dawn of the Civil Rights Movement

Wed, Jan 30, 6:30 pm

\$10 / \$5 for Members

In February 1946, black WWII veteran Sergeant Isaac Woodard was forced off the bus he rode home from the War, arrested, beaten, and blinded in the sheriff's custody. This act of violence propelled Judge J. Waties Waring, who presided over the criminal case brought against the sheriff, to take on landmark civil rights cases, including some that laid the groundwork for the legal milestone *Brown v. Board of Education*. Revisit this history with **Judge Richard Gergel**, who recounts this story in his book *Unexampled Courage: The Blinding of Sgt. Isaac Woodard and the Igniting of the Civil Rights Movement*. Gergel is joined in a conversation by Woodard's nephew and caretaker, **Robert Young**, and President of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, **Sherrilyn Ifill**. Moderated by legal scholar **Leon Friedman**.

This annual program honors Trustee Emerita (in memoriam) Martha Rubin's commitment to social justice.

February

[If These Walls Could Talk](#)

Sat, Feb 2, 10 am

\$20 / \$10 for Members

Uncover the secret history of your Brooklyn home or block! In this intensive workshop you'll gain hands-on experience conducting house research in our library, using archival images, records, and documents. Led by BHS Reference Librarian **Cecily Dyer**.

[Grassy Grassroots: Citizens Creating Parks](#)

Mon, Feb 4, 6:30 pm

\$5 / Free for Members

In a time of accelerating real estate development and a pressing need for equitable access to green space, how can everyday citizens organize to bring vacant land and unrealized landscapes into the public realm? Join The Trust for Public Land Senior Vice President and Director of City Park Development **Adrian Benepe** in a conversation with Bronx River Alliance Outreach Manager **Joseph Sanchez**, The Tanks at Bushwick Inlet Park Co-Founder and Executive Director **Stacey Anderson**, NYCH2O Founder and Executive Director and Ridgewood Reservoir project leader **Matthew Malina**, moderated by urban planner and MacArthur Fellow **Damon Rich**. Welcoming remarks from Prospect Park Alliance President Sue Donoghue.

Presented in connection with the final weeks of the exhibition "The Means of a Ready Escape: Brooklyn's Prospect Park."

[The Swindler of Brooklyn Heights: The Family History of the Greatest Con Man of the Gilded Age](#)

Thu, Feb 7, 6:30 pm

\$5 / Free for Members

There is a bad apple on the family tree of Emmy Award-winning writer and historian **Geoffrey C. Ward**: his great grandfather was Ferdinand Ward, whose meteoric rise to become "the Young Napoleon of Wall Street" and sudden, shocking fall he chronicles in his book *A Disposition to be Rich*. Join Ward as he shares his nefarious ancestor's story from his small town boyhood, to his brief heyday in Brooklyn's most exclusive neighborhood, to the crash that ruined

[Black-Owned Businesses: A History of Enterprise and Community in Brooklyn](#)

Mon, Feb 11, 6:30 pm

\$5 / Free for Members

Explore the rich history and social impact of businesses owned by and serving black communities in Brooklyn. Historian **Jason Bartlett** is joined by **Cynthia Gordy Giwa** of the online publication *Black-Owned Brooklyn* and **Jyll Hubbard-Salk**, founder of Crown Heights yoga studio Urban Asanas, to discuss the challenges and triumphs of the network of black business owners then and now, and how growing economic empowerment has tied directly to the struggle for equality. Moderated by Digital Editor at *Black Enterprise* and host of *What's Eating Harlem?*, **Selena Hill**.

[Book Talk: Separate: The Story of Plessy v. Ferguson, and America's Journey from Slavery to Segregation](#)

Tue, Feb 19, 6:30 pm

\$5 / Free for Members

Plessy v. Ferguson, the infamous legal case that upheld the racist notion of "separate but equal," codified segregation and launched one of our country's most depraved chapters. Former senior editor at *The Washington Post*, **Steve Luxenberg**,

examines the social upheaval that gave rise to *Plessy*, and looks at those who supported the ruling and championed its dissent.

[Beauty, Media, Money, and More: A Conversation with Tressie McMillan Cottom](#)

Mon, Feb 25

\$10 / \$5 for Members

In her new book *Thick and Other Essays*, **Tressie McMillan Cottom**—award-winning professor and acclaimed author of *Lower Ed*—embraces her venerated role as a purveyor of wit, wisdom, and Black Twitter snark about all that is right and much that is wrong with this thing we call society. She is joined in conversation by Harlem-based writer, **Morgan Jerkins**, author of the *NYT* bestseller *This Will Be My Undoing*.

[Book Talk: Force & Freedom: Black Abolitionists and the Politics of Violence](#)

Tue, February 26, 6:30pm

\$5 / Free for Members

Kellie Jackson, assistant professor of Africana Studies at Wellesley College, examines the political and social tensions preceding the American Civil War and the conditions that led some black abolitionists to believe that slavery might only be abolished by violence.

Presented in connection with the final weeks of the exhibition “Brooklyn Abolitionists/In Pursuit of Freedom.”

[The Halls of Hope: Voices from Obama's West Wing](#)

Thu, Feb 28, 6:30 pm

\$5 / Free for Members

Revisit a hopeful moment in recent history as BHS welcomes some of the trailblazing staffers from the administration of former president Barack Obama. Join Obama’s intelligence officer and Special Assistant **Ned Price**, White House Social Secretary **Deesha Dyer**, and Special Assistant and Principal Deputy Director of Public Engagement **Stephanie Valencia** as they share their experiences working to achieve a historic agenda. **Gautam Raghavan**, former Associate Director of Public Engagement and editor of the book *West Wingers: Stories from the Dream Chasers, Change Makers, and Hope Creators Inside the Obama White House*, leads the discussion.

March

[Book Talk: Capital City: Gentrification and the Real Estate State](#)

Mon, Mar 4, 6:30 pm

\$5 / Free for Members

Author and Hunter College urban studies professor **Samuel Stein** untangles the 217 trillion-dollar global real estate industry, pointing to the practitioners of city planning as the unseen interlocutors between finance, government, and housing. In a conversation with *The Nation* contributing editor **Liza Featherstone** and economic analyst **Doug Henwood**, Stein makes the case for citizens adopting tactics of urban planners to reclaim the right to their city.

**[The Feature is Female: Chisholm '72: Unbought and Unbossed](#)
[Introduced by New York City Council Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo](#)**

Thu, Mar 7, 6:30 pm

Free

In the first of four documentaries about inspiring women presented in honor of Women's History Month, follow Shirley Chisholm's pioneering 1972 presidential bid. Introduced with an appreciation by City Council Majority Leader **Laurie Cumbo**.

The Feature is Female: RBG

Introduced by former New York State Attorney General Barbara Underwood

Tues, March 12, 6:30pm

Free

In the second of four documentaries about inspiring women celebrate Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's personal voyage as she rises to the nation's highest court and becomes an unexpected pop culture icon. Introduced with an appreciation by former New York State Attorney General **Barbara Underwood**.

Talking Menstrual Equity. Period.

Mon, Mar 18, 6:30 pm

\$5 / Free for Members

Safe, affordable, accessible menstrual products, is that so much to ask for? In her book *Periods Gone Public: Taking a Stand for Menstrual Equity*, **Jennifer Weiss-Wolf** tackles a taboo subject head-on: the tampon tax and other menstrual inequalities. Join her, along with *Feministing* editorial director **Maya Dusenberry**, award-winning journalist **Kimberly Seals Allers**, and **Sophie Houser** who co-created the video game *Tampon Run* at the age of 17, for the kind of discussion that would have made your great-grandmother blush.

The Feature is Female: Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work

Introduced by Comedian Ophira Eisenberg

Tues, Mar 19, 6:30pm

Free

In the third of four documentaries about inspiring women, travel alongside comedian **Joan Rivers** for a candid look at her struggles, sacrifices and joys. of this groundbreaking female performer. Writer, Comedian, and host of NPR's *Ask Me Another*, **Ophira Eisenberg** provides an introductory appreciation.

Digital Archiving 101: Your Personal Workshop

Wed, Mar 20, 6:30 pm

\$150 / \$105 for Members

Interested in scanning your photos? Want to learn how to preserve and back up your digital memories? Join archivist **Maggie Schreiner** for a personal digital archiving workshop. MasterParticipants will learn the basics of digitizing and caring for their collections of documents, photos, and audiovisual materials. Come ILearn about file formats and storage, straightforward tools and techniques, and common risks and dangers (and how to avoid them!).

The Feature is Female: Citizen Jane: Battle for the City

Introduced by Municipal Art Society President Elizabeth Goldstein

Tues, March 26, 6:30pm

Free

In the final documentary about inspiring women retrace urban activist Jane Jacobs' fight to save historic NYC during the redevelopment era of Robert Moses's reign. Opening remarks by President of the Municipal Art Society's **Elizabeth Goldstein**.

April

[The Queer Creative Impulse: Artistic Expression and Gender Identity](#)

Mon, April 1, 6:30 pm

\$5 / Free for Members

Join us for a discussion on the intersection of LGBTQ identity and creativity. **Hugh Ryan**, curator of the exhibition *On the (Queer) Waterfront*, and author of the new book *When Brooklyn Was Queer*, is joined by historian **Daniel Hurewitz**, whose work focuses on the development of gendered and sexual identities, and **Sherill Tippins**, author of the book *February House* about the salon/house described by the queer platform, *them*, as “the Queer Commune in WWII Brooklyn that became a cultural epicenter.” Moderated by the senior managing producer of the Slate Podcast Network, **June Thomas**, founder of Outward, *Slate*’s LGBTQ section. How artists helped to inspire queer activism is just one of the many topics that will be explored!

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

[Bank of America presents History Makers](#)

[Taylor Branch on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)

Wed, Apr 3, 6:30 pm

\$15 / \$5 for Members

For thirty years, in three extraordinary volumes, a film, and an anthology, **Taylor Branch** has presented an unparalleled epic story of the Civil Rights Movement and our democratic experiment. Join him for this special and intimate evening as he discusses his life’s work and the legacy of MLK.

[Artists Resisting Gentrification](#)

Mon, Apr 8, 6:30 pm

\$5 / Free for Members

Artists are often deemed harbingers of gentrification or pawns in neighborhood rebranding. Yet they can also take charge of their communities’ future by bringing attention to economic pressures and pushing for protections for long-term residents. Join us for a conversation on artists taking action with Arts East NY Founder and Executive Director **Catherine Green**, author of *How to Kill a City: Gentrification, Inequality, and the Fight for the Neighborhood* **Peter Moskowitz**, and artist **William Powhida**.

[Heating up History: An Exploration of Spice, Hot Sauce, and Immigrant Foods](#)

Thu, Apr 11, 6:30 pm

\$10 / \$5 for Members

Join BHS as we tackle some burning questions about spicy food! How did spiciness find its way into America’s food lexicon? How are hot sauce makers looking to turn up the heat on adventurous eaters? Why do we do this to ourselves? Historic gastronomist **Sarah Lohman**, hot sauce creator **Erica Diehl** of Brooklyn’s own Queen Majesty Hot Sauce, and “Smokin” **Ed Currie**, owner of Puckerbutt Farms and cultivator of the world’s hottest peppers, discuss in a conversation moderated by **Steve Seabury** of High River Sauces and the NYC Hot Sauce Expo.

[George Chauncey on Gay Male Culture in Post-War NYC](#)

Mon, April 15, 6:30 pm

\$10 / \$5 for Members

George Chauncey’s trailblazing book *Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940*, shattered the myth that before the 1960s gay life existed only in the closet. In this presentation, Chauncey,

Director of the Columbia Research Initiative on the Global History of Sexualities, picks up where he left off, examining NYC's post-war gay culture and politics.

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

[Chroniclers of the Climate Apocalypse](#)

Mon, Apr 22, 6:30 pm

\$5 / Free for Members

The journalists who report on climate change, have stories of their own. Tasked with remaining objective as they make a daunting, politicized topic tangible, they embed in smoldering landscapes and inundated shores. Hear front line stories from Pulitzer Prize-winning *NYT* correspondent **Sheri Fink**, *The Guardian* environmental reporter **Oliver Milman**, and author of *The End of Ice: Bearing Witness and Finding Meaning in the Path of Climate Disruption* **Dahr Jamail**.

Moderated by National Geographic Society Strategic Adviser for Environmental and Science Journalism **Andrew Revkin**.

Presented 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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