



# BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES WINTER AND SPRING 2020 CALENDAR OF PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

*Mark Morris, Linda Sarsour, Michael Sorkin, and many more join BHS in wide-ranging discussions about the built environment, the Dodgers, George Washington, cannabis, and sociopolitical issues that affect us on both micro and macro levels.*

**[December 20, 2019]** Brooklyn, NY— Brooklyn Historical Society (BHS) is pleased to announce its Winter and Spring 2020 calendar of public programs. This season a special series, *Unpacking the Census*, brings context to Census2020 with conversations about the history, impact, and ramifications of being counted. Programs delve into how census information is used, how historians today look through the data to decipher the past, and how the census has played a role in the social construction of race.

Our robust schedule includes conversations about immigration and racialized discrimination in America, how gender affects the public and private spheres of our lives, how some of the most important Civil Rights cases went unsolved for forty years until one brave reporter came along, and Jewish food!

Tickets and registration for all events are currently available on BHS's website, <https://www.brooklynhistory.org/public-programs/>.

Through a roster of distinguished speakers who have multitude of perspectives, BHS brings to life a diverse array of viewpoints representing 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 follows:

### **January**

**Gentrification 2.0; The Good, the Bad, and the Blurry**

**Wed, Jan 15, 6:30 pm**  
**\$15 / \$10 for Members**  
[Reservations](#)

From Sunset Park to East New York, barely a neighborhood in Brooklyn isn't ensconced in its own version of the gentrification debate. Beyond the posturing and the rhetoric is a nuanced history and present day reality that's neither all good, nor all bad. Join **Matthew Schuerman**, author of *Newcomers: Gentrification and Its Discontents*, **Kay Hymowitz**, Fellow at the Manhattan Institute and author of *The New Brooklyn: What It Takes to Bring a City Back*, and **James Rodriguez**, professor of history at Guttman and contributor to the *Racial Inequality in New York City Since 1965*, for a balanced examination of a heated topic. Moderated by **Jarrett Murphy**, executive editor of *City Limits*.

**An Urban Amble: Exploring NYC's Streetscape with Michael Sorkin and Stanley Greenberg**  
**Thu, Jan 23, 6:30 pm**  
**\$15 / \$10 for Members**  
[Reservations](#)

For his book, *Codex New York: Typologies of the City*, photographer **Stanley Greenberg** walked every block of Manhattan capturing images of the overlooked, underseen elements that we take for granted every day: alleys, skybridges, buttresses, parking sheds. Architect **Michael Sorkin**, one of the great urbanists of our time, captures the essence of cities in his design, criticism, and teaching practices, and in his many books including *Twenty Minutes in Manhattan*, a chronicle of the musings prompted by his daily walk from home to work. These two city observers reflect on the humble city spaces that most of us look past, look through, but rarely look at, in a conversation moderated by **Karrie Jacobs**, founding editor-in-chief of *Dwell* and a professional observer of the manmade environment herself.

**If These Walls Could Talk**  
**Sat, Jan 25, 10:00 am**  
**\$45 / \$20 for Members**  
[Reservations](#)

Uncover the secret history of your Brooklyn home or block! Join us in our landmarked Othmer Library during closed hours for this 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.

**Threats from Within: The Rise of the Immigration Police State**  
**Wed, Jan 29, 6:30 pm**  
**\$10 / \$5 for Members**  
[Reservations](#)

With White Nationalism on the rise, increased militarization of the border, and inhumane practices justified by “America First,” our land of opportunity is now the land of nightmares for immigrants seeking a better life. **Elizabeth F. Cohen**, professor of political science at Syracuse University, confronts this new normal in her book *Illegal: How America’s Lawless Immigration Regime Threatens Us All* and shows how the rising tide of nationalism and unfettered policing of immigrants threaten citizen and non-citizen alike.

### **Rediscovering New York: Revealing Forgotten Landscapes**

**Thu, Jan 30, 6:30 pm**

**\$15 / \$10 for Members**

[Reservations](#)

Explore three haunting corners of our city as we reveal the hidden secrets and unknown histories of Hart Island, the Fort Totten Water Battery, and the NY State Pavilion. Join **Aaron Asis**, creator of Unforgotten Films and moderator **Michelle Young**, founder of Untapped New York, for an evening of film and conversation. Experts and advocates **Moses Gates** of the Regional Planning Association, **Justin Rivers** of Untapped New York, **Salmaan Khan** of People for the Pavilion, and artist **Freya Powell** help to unlock these forgotten gems.

*Presented in partnership with Unforgotten Films and Untapped Cities.*

### **February**

#### **Toxic City: Lead Poisoning and Its Silent Attack on the Vulnerable**

**Tue, Feb 11, 6:30**

**\$10 / \$5 for Members**

[Reservations](#)

Hidden in decaying walls and aging infrastructure, lead is an insidious threat to the health of Brooklynites and citizens throughout New York City, especially children and communities that have been historically marginalized by structural inequalities. **Dr. David Rosner**, Co-Director of Columbia’s Center for the History & Ethics of Public Health, shares this tainted history and joins a conversation with staff lawyer at North Manhattan Improvement Corporation **Matthew Chachere** and Director of Lead Poisoning Prevention and Treatment at Montefiore Children’s Hospital **Dr. Morri Markowitz**, about the efforts being made to treat illnesses caused by lead, to hold industrial interests accountable, and to secure the future of healthy communities in our city.

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

#### **Welcome to America, Your Cell Is Right This Way: Our Long History and Deep-Seated Habit of Criminalizing Migrants**

**Thu, Feb 13, 6:30 pm**

**\$10 / \$5 for Members**

[Reservations](#)

In his new book, *Migrating to Prison: America's Obsession with Locking Up Immigrants*, scholar and legal expert **César Cuauhtémoc García Hernández** lays out a passionate and unvarnished view of the US immigrant detention industry, the politics that created it, and the circumstances that keep it thriving. Hear García Hernández's analysis first-hand as he contextualizes the crisis at our southern border. Moderated by **Lee Wang**, director of the New York Immigrant Freedom Fund of the Brooklyn Community Bail Fund.

*Presented as part of our on-going series of author talks with the nonprofit public-interest book publisher, The New Press.*

### **A Modern Day Lynching? Screening of *Always in Season***

**Tue, Feb 18, 6:30**

**\$10 / \$5 for Members**

[Reservations](#)

In 2014, African American teen Lennon Lacy was found hanging from a swingset in Bladenboro, North Carolina. Weaving together the story of his mother Claudia Lacy's fight for a federal investigation into Lennon's death, the grassroots effort for justice and reconciliation in other communities facing lynching, and expert interviews, this harrowing film explores the impact of the racial terrorism of the past that still remains today.

### **Annual Martha Rubin Conversation on Racial Equity**

#### **Putting the Klan Behind Bars: An Evening with Jerry Mitchell**

**Wed, Feb 19, 6:30 pm**

**\$15 / \$10 for Members**

[Reservations](#)

Investigative journalist **Jerry Mitchell**, author of the new book *Race Against Time: A Reporter Reopens the Unsolved Murder Cases of the Civil Rights Era*, comes to BHS to discuss four of the biggest cases he's ever cracked including the 1963 assassination of NAACP leader Medgar Evers, the 1963 bombing of the Birmingham Sixteenth Street Baptist church, the 1966 firebombing of Vernon Dahmer, and the "Mississippi Burning" case.

### **Take Your Feet Off Our Necks: Implicit Bias in the Workplace**

**Wed, Feb 26, 6:30 pm**

**\$15 / \$10 for Members**

[Reservations](#)

Professional accomplishments notwithstanding, women and people of color all too often face microaggression, diminution, and exclusion in a workforce that equates white collar with white male. Unpack race-based and gender-based workplace discrimination with **Tsedale Melaku**, author of *You Don't Look Like a Lawyer*, **Vincent Southerland**, Executive Director of NYU's Center on Race, Inequality, and the Law, and **Jamia Wilson**, publisher of the Feminist Press. Moderated by **Erica Chito Childs**, Chairman of Sociology at Hunter College.

**March**

### **Making Herstory with Amy Richards**

**Mon, Mar 2, 6:30 pm**

**\$15 / \$10 for Members**

[Reservations](#)

From Marie Curie and Ada Lovelace, to Anita Hill and Chloe Kim, lawmaking, troublemaking and changemaking female trailblazers have carried the feminist movement's flame and inspired legions of women. Third Wave Feminist and author **Amy Richards** is among those bringing the struggle to a new generation. Join her as she celebrates remarkable women past, present and future in her new young adult compendium, *We Are Makers: Real Women and Girls Shaping Our World*.

### **When Pregnancy is a Death Sentence: Race and Reproductive Healthcare**

**Mon, Mar 9, 6:30 pm**

**\$10/ \$5 for Members**

[Reservations](#)

Studies in 2000 showed black women are two to six times more likely to die from complications of pregnancy than white women. Twenty years later, nothing has changed. Join author of *Reproductive Injustice: Racism, Pregnancy, and Premature Birth* **Dana Davis** as she moderates a panel with **Chanel Porchia-Albert** of Ancient Song Doula Services, historian **Deirdre Cooper Owens**, and Assistant Commissioner of NYC's Health Department Bureau of Maternal, Infant and Reproductive Health **Deborah Kaplan** about racial inequality in maternal healthcare.

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

### **Girls Behind Bars: A Historic Wrong and the Fight to End It**

**Tue, 3/10, 6:30 pm**

**\$15 / \$10 for Members**

[Reservations](#)

The history of incarcerating girls is fraught with race and gender bias. Labeled "delinquent," "incorrigible," and "immoral," early juvenile courts criminalized girls for disobedience and resistance to strict gender norms. This legacy lives on today, especially for girls of color. With organizations like the Vera Institute of Justice in the lead however, the possibility of ending girls' incarceration in ten years is tangible. Join us for a conversation with **Lindsay Rosenthal**, Project Director of Vera's Initiative to End Girls' Incarceration, **Dr. Sydney McKinney**, Executive Director of National Black Women's Justice Institute, and others, to unpack the history of gender policing, and the movement for reform.

*Presented in partnership with the Vera Institute of Justice.*

### **Book Talk: You Never Forget Your First: A Biography of George Washington**

**Wed, Mar 18, 6:30 pm**

**\$10 / \$5 for Members**

[Reservations](#)

George Washington: first President of the United States, war hero, Founding Father, et cetera. We know the story, but do we know the *whole* story? Historian **Alexis Coe** suggests this towering figure was far more complicated than the one-dimensional portrait carried in the minds of most Americans and immortalized on the dollar bill. Join her for a frank, lively, and edgy exploration of the life of an American legend.

**Don't Tell Me to Smile: Combatting Street Harassment**

**Thu, Mar 19, 6:30 pm**

**\$10 / \$5 for Members**

[Reservations](#)

Post-Me Too workplace and school environments are increasingly regulated for sexual misconduct, but our streets and public spaces remain ripe as the last frontier for catcalls, ogling, and harassment. Now activists are pushing back and taking the fight to the streets! Join *Glamour Magazine's* Culture Director **Mattie Kahn** as she moderates a discussion with street artist and activist **Tatyana Fazlalizadeh** and *Catcalls of NYC's* founder **Sophie Sandberg**.

**Getting Schmaltzy About Jewish Food**

**Mon, March 23, 6:30 pm**

**\$15 / \$10 for Members**

[Reservations](#)

From bagels to baba ghanoush and hamentaschen to hummus, explore the breadth of Jewish foodways. Discuss the diversity of communities that have contributed and the multitude of traditions that together make up this messy and delicious cuisine in a conversation with **Jeffrey Yoskowitz** of *The Gefilteria* and recipe preservationist and cookbook author **Jennifer Abadi**. James Beard Award-nominated food writer and editor of *The 100 Most Jewish Foods* **Gabriella Gershenson** moderates this discussion of flavors and the patterns of migration and exchange that influence them.

**UNPACKING THE CENSUS**

**Melissa Nobles and Why Being Counted Counts**

**Thu, Mar 26, 6:30 pm**

**\$15 / \$10 for Members**

[Reservations](#)

Starting in 1790, the US government has collected racial and ethnic data on every person in every household once every ten years. A fundamentally political exercise, the census shapes the changing meaning of citizenship and determines where resources go and don't go. Join **Melissa Nobles**, MIT Professor of Political Science, Dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, and author of the book *Shades of Citizenship: Race and the Census in Modern Politics*, and FiveThirtyEight census reporter **Amelia Thomson-DeVeaux**, for a conversation about what being counted means, how census information is used, and the ramifications of not participating.

## **UNPACKING THE CENSUS**

**Adventures of a Census-Detective, or Learning to Love Data for the Secret Stories that It Holds**

**Tue, Mar 31, 6:30**

**\$10 / \$5 for Members**

[Reservations](#)

Join historian **Julie Golia**, curator of BHS's exhibitions *Waterfront* and *Taking Care of Brooklyn*; **Dan Bouk** creator of the website, *Census Stories, USA* and associate professor of history at Colgate University; and **Kubi Ackerman**, curator of Museum of the City of New York's exhibit *Who We Are: Visualizing NYC by the Numbers*, for a look at how historians and artists sleuth through census data to paint pictures of the past and present day. Hear stories of how these deceptively dry records unlock dramatic tales of individuals and communities.

## **April**

## **UNPACKING THE CENSUS**

**The Unscientific Science of Categorizing Race**

**Mon, Apr 6, 6:30 pm**

**\$15 / \$10 for Members**

[Reservations](#)

As long as there has been a census, its racial categories have been fluid. A person classified in 1900 as black, could be mulatto in 1910, and white in 1920. This history tells the story of our country's evolving self-understanding, particularly in its social construction of race. Join **Paul Schor**, professor at the Université Paris Diderot and author of the ground-breaking book, *Counting Americans: How the US Census Classified the Nation*, for a fascinating examination of the slippery business of racial labeling, and what the census' wildly changing racial categories reveal.

**For Want of a Stadium: A Story of Development, Displacement, and the Dodgers**

**Tue, Apr 7, 6:30 pm**

**\$15 / \$10 for Members**

[Reservations](#)

We all know the story: After their 1955 World Series win, Dodgers owner Walter O'Malley uprooted Brooklyn's beloved team, moving "Dem Bums" to the sun and palm trees in LA. But what was the impact on their adopted city? In the new book *Stealing Home: Los Angeles, the Dodgers, and the Lives Caught In Between*, former sports editor for *VICE* **Eric Nussbaum** delves into the story of building Dodgers Stadium. From the Mexican-American communities it displaced, to the upheaval it caused to the city's urban flow, Nussbaum drives home an untold tale of lofty ambitions and heavy costs.

**The Making of an Activist: A Book Talk with Linda Sarsour**

**Tue, Apr 14, 6:30 pm**

**\$15 / 10 for Members**

[Reservations](#)

In her new book, *We Are Not Here to Be Bystanders: A Memoir of Love and Resistance*, Palestinian, Muslim-American, and feminist **Linda Sarsour** takes us inside the defining moments of her life as she develops her community organizing muscles and becomes one of the world's most recognized activists.

**Higher Ed: Cannabis in the Empire State**

**Wed, Apr 15, 6:30 pm**

**\$15 / \$10 for Members**

[Reservations](#)

With CBD in every product imaginable and cannabis consumption reaching an all-time high, it is easy to forget that recreational use of marijuana in New York State, as of now, remains illegal. After Washington and Colorado led the way to legalization, many New Yorkers wonder “Are we next?” Join Women Grow president **Gia Moron**, Drug Policy Alliance’s Deputy Director of Research & Academic Engagement **Sheila Vakharia**, and others for a look at how penalties around pot buying, selling, and possession may change, the potential impact on those with past marijuana convictions, and possible opportunities for entrepreneurs, especially those of color. Moderated by journalist **Michelle Lhoq**, author of *Weed*.

**Navigating the Noise: Election Coverage in the Digital Age**

**Wed, Apr 22, 6:30 pm**

**\$10 / \$5 for Members**

[Reservations](#)

In 2020, voters will make choices about candidates based on information gleaned from a fragmented and polarized news ecosystem that includes a shrinking core of professional journalists competing for attention with a growing periphery of partisan opinionators and hostile foreign interlopers. Join BHS and the Social Science Research Council for a discussion about fundamental changes to the news industry that are reshaping where and how citizens get information about candidates for public office. Panelists include **Julia Azari**, associate professor of political science at Marquette University, author of *Delivering the People’s Message: The Changing Politics of the Presidential Mandate* and regular contributor to political science blog *The Mischiefs of Faction*; **Johanna Dunaway**, associate professor of communications at Texas A&M University; and **Michael Wagner**, professor of journalism and mass communications at the University of Wisconsin.

*Presented in partnership with the Media and Democracy Program of the Social Science Research Council.*

**Houses & History: Ballroom Culture in NYC**

**Mon, Apr 27, 6:30 pm**

**\$15 / \$10 for Members**

[Reservations](#)

Maybe you've binge-watched *POSE* on Netflix or seen cult classic film *Paris is Burning*, but have you ever wondered how this LGBT subculture started? Historian **Marlon Bailey**, iconic ballroom performers **Brenda Continental Milan and Monet Ebony**, and others sit down with journalist and ballroom expert **Sydney Baloue** to talk about the beauty and pain behind ballroom, and how it is evolving in mainstream media.

**No Holds Barred: An Evening with Mark Morris**

**Tue, Apr 28, 6:30**

**\$15 / \$10 for Members**

[Reservations](#)

In his book, *Out Loud*, choreographer **Mark Morris** says it like he sees it, bringing the wickedly refreshing and deeply felt style that embodies his dance to a new medium – the page. Join Morris for an evening reminiscing and opining, as he toasts the highs and lows of his extraordinary life journey with humor, candor and chutzpah. Moderated by nine-time Emmy award-winning television journalist **Paula Zahn**.

*Brooklyn Historical Society programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.*

### [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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