

The Chronicle

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Spring/Summer 2017

Commemorating Bronxville's President: John F. Kennedy

by Marilyn Hill

Bronxville celebrated the centennial birthday of its own hometown president, John F. Kennedy, on Memorial Day Monday, May 29, with the dedication of a bronze plaque on the lawn of Village Hall. The unveiling occurred on Kennedy's actual birthday in the anniversary year designated by the U.S. Congressional JFK Centennial Commission for celebrations across the country. The village dedication was the first official recognition that Bronxville had been home to President Kennedy's family from 1929 to 1941 – more than a quarter of JFK's life.

A year ago, the Bronxville Historical Conservancy and Mayor Marvin began discussing the idea of the Conservancy and the village trustees working together to honor Kennedy with a plaque to coincide with the national celebration. Furthermore, Bronxville was the only Kennedy permanent or vacation residence that did not have some official public recognition. Even his room at Harvard has a plaque! Part of the reason for this omission has been that historic markers are most often found at historic homes; the Kennedy Pondfield Road homestead was demolished and the six-acre estate subdivided in the 1950s –

before village residents could have assumed what the historic value might be.

With oversight by the Conservancy's projects committee, chaired by

Peter Hicks, who appointed Marilyn Hill to spearhead the Kennedy commemoration, a joint committee was formed that included Hicks, Hill, Anderson Kenny, and Jayne Warman from the Conservancy, with Mayor Marvin and Village Administrator Jim Palmer representing the village government

and trustees. The committee consulted the Archivist of the United States, David Ferriero, a member of the Congressional Commission who also oversees all presidential libraries, as well as Steven Rothstein, executive director of the Kennedy Library Foundation and chair of the Centennial Commission. Both Ferriero and Rothstein were delighted to learn that the local and national recognition missing from the roster of Kennedy homes would be rectified by the creation of a Bronxville historic marker.

The Franklin Bronze Foundry in Pennsylvania was selected to create a large plaque, with extensive text by

(Continued on page 6)

Large crowd enjoys history of Kennedy years in Bronxville

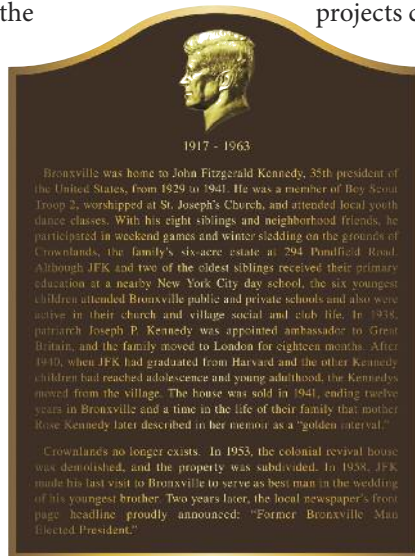
by Eloise Morgan



The 100th anniversary of the birthdate of Bronxville's most famous resident—President John F. Kennedy—was honored Saturday, May 6, by a talk at the Bronxville Library about the Kennedy family's life in Bronxville. More than 60 people gathered to hear Anthony J. Czarnecki, a Westchester County Historical Society Trustee, detail highlights of the family's Bronxville years, 1929-1941, in an afternoon event sponsored by the Bronxville Historical Conservancy.

In 1929 when the family bought an estate at 294 Pondfield Road, they went in a few years from middle class Brookline, Mass. to "Bronxville's opulence," the speaker said. His article, "When the Kennedy Family Lived in Westchester County," fills the current issue of "The Westchester Historian." He spent two years researching the topic, combing published and unpublished sources for references to Bronxville and weaving them into the larger historical context of the years of their Village

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Pulitzer Prize-Winning Supreme Court Expert Linda Greenhouse and CBS Correspondent Mo Rocca

Mo Rocca and Linda Greenhouse

speak to a capacity crowd for

Nineteenth Annual Brendan Gill Lecture

Pulitzer Prize-Winning Supreme Court Expert Linda Greenhouse and CBS Correspondent Mo Rocca took center stage at the Bronxville Historical Conservancy's 19th Annual Brendan Gill Lecture on April 21 at Concordia College, in a wide-ranging conversation on the Supreme Court, past and present.

Greenhouse is the Knight Distinguished Journalist in Residence and Joseph Goldstein Lecturer in Law at Yale Law School and President of the American Philosophical Society, the country's oldest learned society. She retired from *The New York Times* after a 40-year career, 30 of them covering

the U.S. Supreme Court. She continues to write as a blogger for the *Times* Opinionator section and has been a regular guest on the PBS program "Washington Week." In her introductory remarks, Marilyn Hill, co-founder of the Conservancy, noted that Greenhouse's writing is said to be "so good that even the Supreme Court Justices wait to see what Linda Greenhouse thinks before they write their opinions."

Maurice Alberto Rocca, better known as Mo, is best known as a correspondent for *CBS Sunday Morning* and a panelist on the popular PBS quiz show, "Wait Wait...Don't

NINETEENTH ANNUAL BRENDAN GILL LECTURE

photo credit: David Snyder



(l-r) Marcia Lee, Liz Folberth, Linda Greenhouse, Ruth Shearer, Kathy Gray, Cheryne McBride and Irena Choi Stern.



Marilynn Hill, co-founder of the Conservancy, Mo Rocca and Mayor Mary Marvin.

photo credit: David Snyder

Tell Me!” Rocca served as President of Harvard’s Hasty Pudding Theatricals. After graduation, he moved to Japan to study Kabuki and supported himself by teaching English. In 2011, he won an Emmy as a writer for the 64th annual Tony Awards. He is the author of *All the Presidents’ Pets*, a historical novel about White House pets and their role in presidential decision-making.

Greenhouse quickly turned the tables on interviewer Rocca by asking him the first question. Referring to Rocca’s book, *All the Presidents’ Pets*, she inquired, “Mo, what pet would you suggest for our current president?” Rocca pondered a few suggestions before determining “some people should not have pets,” drawing laughter from the audience. Rocca asked Greenhouse about a dinner they attended prior to the evening’s program. Greenhouse confided she had both fallen in love and was disillusioned at the dinner. “I met Bronxville’s Mayor tonight. I love Mary Marvin,” she proclaimed, to audience applause. “We learned at dinner we share a connection to Nelson Rockefeller.” Recalling a meeting with Rockefeller at his Pocantico Hills home, Greenhouse told Marvin how impressed and flattered she had been when Rockefeller greeted her at the door, mentioning specific details of their first meeting in Brooklyn. “That is until Mayor Marvin reminded me at dinner tonight, Rockefeller had aides preparing him for meetings like mine, and Mayor Marvin was the aide who had prepped him about me.”

Rocca revealed that he and recently appointed Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch shared mutual friends:

“These are people who went to high school with him, served on student council with him, and all say he is thoughtful, nice, smart, and has visited kindnesses on people,” Rocca said. He then asked Greenhouse, “Does that matter?” Greenhouse allowed personality does play a role, but that each justice must follow the law to make a persuasive argument. She lamented the most recent confirmation process puts Gorsuch in a tough position. Pointing to politicians using the Supreme Court appointment as a prize for winning the election, she said the confirmation process today is broken.

Their discussion also included the debate about term limits for justices as opposed to the current constitutionally protected life term. Not fixed in her own mind on the topic, Greenhouse is interested in the debate around this subject. Rocca inquired as to each Justice’s path to a seat on the Supreme Court, and Greenhouse acknowledged both ambition and serendipity factor into appointments to the bench. From which Justice asked the fewest questions to which Judge received the most laughs, Greenhouse, over the course of their conversation, revealed the depth and breadth of knowledge that has fueled her Pulitzer Prize-winning journalism and scholarship.

The speakers allowed time for questions before joining the audience for a champagne reception. The Annual Brendan Gill Lecture is sponsored by the Bronxville Historical Conservancy and presented each year as a gift to the community. The program was recorded and can be viewed on channel 74 on the Village Cable station.

BRONXVILLE NATIVE

Ann Caracristi:

Breaking codes and glass ceilings

by Eloise Morgan

On November 2, 1982 President Reagan awarded Bronxville native Ann Caracristi with the National Security Medal, the highest honor for a civilian in the intelligence field.

At a time when overlooked accomplishments of women in science are being hailed – the book and film “Hidden Figures” recently spotlighted women’s contributions to the space program – it’s exciting to find a Bronxville connection: the role of a native daughter in cracking World War II Japanese codes.

Ann Z. Caracristi, acclaimed for her wartime cryptanalysis and her later stellar career in U.S. intelligence, was a K-12 product of the Bronxville School. She is the subject of both a recently opened National Security Agency (NSA) exhibition and an article by David J. Sherman, *NSA Strategy, Plans and Policy*, soon to be published by the NSA Center for Cryptologic History. Her historic role came to light when NSA researchers visited the Bronxville History Center last fall.

Born in Bronxville to well-to-do, socially prominent parents, Ann grew up at 3 Beechwood Road, a house her parents built in 1923. In 1938, she graduated from Bronxville High where her interests, according to the yearbook, were journalism, public speaking, sports and smoking. Her journalism class toured [The Bronxville Review-Press](#) offices, and one of her favorite teachers was the flamboyant Ignatius Taubendick who taught public speaking.

She continued her focus on journalism and demonstrated a talent for leadership at Russell Sage, a women’s college in Troy, N.Y. There, Ann was editor of the student newspaper, the literary magazine and her senior yearbook, elected president of her dorm, and became “life secretary” of her 1942 graduating class. Ann’s B.A. in English and plans to pursue journalism gave no hint of any codebreaking talent. But after Pearl Harbor, the U.S. War Department rushed to increase its decoding capacity by hiring top students nominated by liberal arts colleges. Russell Sage recommended Ann for “secret orders,” and soon she and many other bright young women fresh out of college swelled the ranks of the

clandestine Army Signal Intelligence Service (SIS).

A blue-eyed, curly-haired blonde, Miss Caracristi began work in Washington, D.C. in June 1942. The new recruits were forbidden to tell anyone—even their closest family—anything about their work. The secrecy was reflected in Bronxville newspaper social notes that went from regular reports of Ann’s visits home from college to almost complete silence after her graduation.

With minimal training in cryptanalysis, Ann and others were rushed into the enormous task of trying to break encoded Japanese cables. While she knew no Japanese, she was armed with codebreaking basics: counting numbers or letters and trying to find patterns. Ann “found the work exhilarating . . . It was like doing crossword puzzles every day and getting most of the answers.”

It was a chaotic time with, as Ann delicately put it later, “opportunity for ineptness.” The rushed, improvised conditions and lack of bureaucracy at SIS, however, had advantages as “whoever had a smart idea was able to revolutionize the process.” Her then supervisor would recount: “Ann was an English major, but when she sat down and started to work, it was just obvious that she had an engineer’s mind . . . It was the most fascinating thing.” Perhaps these qualities were inherited from her father, Virginius Caracristi, a mechanical engineer and inventor. He died prematurely when she was a high school junior, and by the time she graduated from college her widowed mother had relocated to Bronxville’s Rivermere apartments.

During Ann’s three years as a wartime codebreaker, the number of encrypted Japanese cables intercepted by the U.S. grew exponentially. Ann’s section expanded from 25 to over 1,500 employees, and she became head of her research unit. She and her partner were first to decipher a three-step Japanese encryption method. Their April 1943 breakthrough was among those that allowed American forces to hamstring the Japanese supply fleet. Ann recalled, “The product we were



photo credit: Ronald Reagan Presidential Library.

putting out . . . was allowing . . . the decryption of the merchant marine traffic . . . allowing the Navy to know the location of merchant marine ships and to send out submarines and aircraft to dispose of them. And it made a big difference in the winning of the war in the Pacific.”

A senior SIS cryptanalyst was once asked if he were stranded on a desert island with a coded message containing escape instructions, which codebreaker he would rely on to break it. The immediate answer: Ann Caracristi.

After the war the codebreaking unit was quickly demobilized, and Ann returned to Bronxville in 1946. Her job at the Daily News, however, paled in comparison to her government work. When a forerunner of the NSA offered to rehire her, she jumped at the chance, launching a 36-year cryptologic career, most of it devoted to cracking Soviet Union codes and to advanced research and development activities. Much of her work remains classified.

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Miss Caracristi rose rapidly through NSA’s management ranks. In 1965, as the Bronxville newspaper reported, she received the Federal Woman’s Award for pioneering the application of computers to cryptology and for her “development and professional management of multi-million dollar research programs which have produced intelligence data of vital importance to the United States.” In 1980, she was promoted to NSA Deputy Director, the highest civilian position in the agency—the first woman to hold the job. Upon her 1982 retirement, President Ronald Reagan awarded her the National Security Medal, the highest honor for a civilian in intelligence. Between retirement and her January 2106 death at age 94, she received numerous other awards and served on many blue-ribbon panels in the intelligence community, including President Clinton’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. Fittingly, a particular focus of her post-NSA work was the elimination of bias and discrimination against women in intelligence and public service generally.

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post-NSA work was the elimination of bias and discrimination against women in intelligence and public service generally.

Houlihan Lawrence Receives 2016 Preservation Award

by Erin Saluti

Houlihan Lawrence was honored with the Bronxville Historical Conservancy’s 2016 Preservation Award for the exterior restoration of 4 Valley Road, the company’s historic headquarters. Conservancy Co-chair Erin Saluti presented the award to Stephen Meyers, CEO of Houlihan Lawrence, at the BHC annual meeting and holiday celebration in December at Siwanoy Country Club.

“Although each of the projects submitted were deserving of an award, the exterior of the Prescott Farm Gate Lodge stood out to us as a demonstration of excellence in terms of fidelity, sensitivity, and compatibility with the original design of the structure,” Saluti said.

Built around 1850 by James Prescott, the structure originally served as the gate house to Prescott Farm. During the planning of Lawrence Park, it naturally evolved into a sales office for the developer, William Van Duzer Lawrence. Lawrence commissioned architect William Bates to renovate the building into a shingle style cottage. By 1912, the cottage had become the official headquarters of Lawrence’s real estate endeavors. Over one hundred years later, it maintains its connection to the Lawrence’s, and Bronxville’s earliest history, by serving as home to Houlihan Lawrence.

The Preservation Award honors individuals,



(l-r): Peter Kieltyka, Stephen Meyers, Dean Davis, Jack Bierwirth and Erin Saluti.

photo credit: E.J. Kelly of Houlihan Lawrence.

organizations, and businesses that have strengthened the historic fabric of the Bronxville community through an exceptional commitment to preserving an understanding of its rich past and unique character. Projects that demonstrate excellence in preservation, restoration, and conservation in the Village of Bronxville are recognized for this award, and the categories include: Architectural Restoration; Conservation of Architectural Elements; Renovations and Additions; Garden and Landscape Design; Craftsmanship and Fine Art; Preservation of the Historic Record; and Stewardship and Advocacy. The inaugural Preservation Award was given in 2015 to The People’s Bank for its restoration of the street clock in front of the building.

Each winner of the preservation award receives a beautiful bronze plaque, designed by architect and board member Anderson Kenny.

The BHC is inviting submissions for the 2017 preservation award through Nov. 1. For details, go to: <http://bronxvillehistoricalconservancy.org/preservation-award/>

Leading Bronxville architect's desk returns home

by Eloise Morgan

An antique mahogany secretary desk recently given to the Village is now adorned with a mini-collection of memorabilia reflecting the man who once owned it, Bronxville's premiere early architect William Augustus Bates. The estate of his niece Frances Bates Wells donated the desk on long-term loan in January. The memorabilia collection duplicates items from the Bronxville History Center, including a photographic portrait of Bates, picture postcards of Bronxville buildings he designed, and books from his personal library.

Mrs. Wells, who grew up in Bronxville and graduated with the High School Class of 1938, was the daughter of William Bates' younger brother Col. Charles Francis Bates. The architect designed dozens of private homes, apartments, civic buildings and other structures in Bronxville between 1890 and 1922. It is believed that he used the desk in the village from at least the late 1910s and that it was among the furniture in his Hotel Gramatan rooms at his 1922 death.

Although the family took the desk to Texas when they moved there around 1950, Mrs. Wells' four daughters, Katherine Wells Power, Marianne Wells, Nancy Wells Warder, and Sarah Wells Macias, believed that their mother and her Uncle Will would have wanted the desk to be returned to Bronxville. "It fits in the mayor's office like it was always there," said Mrs. Power, who traveled to the village to oversee the desk's delivery.

The Bates family ties to Bronxville go back to the beginning of Lawrence Park. William A. Bates was from William Lawrence's hometown, Monroe, MI, and around



photo credit: Eloise Morgan

Bronxville Mayor Mary Marvin admires the antique secretary desk, once owned by early Bronxville architect William A. Bates, that was recently donated to the village by his heirs. A small collection of Bates memorabilia is visible through the glass doors.

1890 Lawrence engaged him to design the first houses in Lawrence Park. He was joined in Lawrence Park by his younger brother Charles, a law student at Columbia University, and their aunt Miss Frances Austin, who had raised the two boys after their mother died when they were children. Miss Austin managed the Prescott Manor House (now 8 Prescott Avenue) as an inn and social center during the new park's earliest years.

Much of his architectural legacy is centered in Bronxville, but Bates also designed in other parts of the country, including a resort hotel complex in New Hampshire's White Mountains, much of which survives in the Jackson Falls Historic District.

The Bronxville Review marked his passing: "Much of the beauty which Bronxville boasts will remain as a monument to the genius of Mr. Bates as the architect of many of our most important buildings, but his friends will remember more the unfailing gentleness, patience and courtesy to all which were so characteristic of this American gentlemen of the finest type."

COMMEMORATING *(Continued from page one)*

historian Hill, that would tell the story of JFK and the family's involvement in the village during their twelve years' residency, a time in the life of their family that mother Rose Kennedy had described in her memoir as a "golden interval." The iconic JFK profile minted on the 1964 post-assassination commemorative half dollar was added to the design.

The committee favored a stone mounting, and when Mayor Marvin contacted Tuckahoe's Mayor Steve Ecklund to research where his village had acquired their commemorative stones, he generously offered her the opportunity to choose from a reserve of Tuckahoe marble saved by Tuckahoe village when the historic quarries were closed in the early part of the last century. These stones had special meaning for and connections to Bronxville's history,

since the nineteenth-century quarries were owned and operated by two of its founding families – those of Alexander Masterton and Abijah Morgan. Pleased to be a part of the project and working with Bronxville, Tuckahoe's Superintendent of Public Works Frank DiMarco invited the committee to select a suitable stone. After three trips to the quarry yard with DiMarco and two of his co-workers, a marble stone was selected for the Kennedy plaque and prepared by Tuckahoe's stone mason.

U.S. Archivist Ferriero offered his congratulations to the Bronxville committee "for successfully bringing public recognition to the full JFK life story." He gave each committee member an official Kennedy centennial pin, a metal replica of the U.S. Postal Service's commemorative stamp that was released in February 2017.

LARGE CROWD *(Continued from page one)*

residency—from the eve of the Great Depression to a few days after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

“JFK spent a quarter of his life in Bronxville,” Czarnecki pointed out. “He lived, played, worshipped and learned here.” During their 12 years in the Village, the children transitioned from childhood to adulthood, and Rose Kennedy would remember it as a golden interval in their lives. One of the lessons that she worked to instill in her children during that time was based on the Biblical teaching: To whom much is given, much is required. She urged the children to give back to society and to embrace a cause larger than themselves. This was a core lesson that was nurtured in Bronxville, Czarnecki said, noting that JFK’s famous inaugural phrase: “Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country,” was grounded in this teaching.



Eloise Morgan and Anthony Czarnecki

photo credit: Irena Choi Stern

In 1953 the Kennedy house was demolished and the estate sub-divided into lots for 16 single family homes, which Czarnecki reported are today assessed collectively at \$32 million.

POETRY READING

Honors JFK’s Support for the Arts

The Bronxville Historical Conservancy’s celebration of the JFK Centennial included a Poetry Reading at the Bronxville Public Library on April 23. In his introductory remarks, Charles O’Neill pointed to Kennedy’s support for the arts as evidenced by his invitation to Robert Frost to read at his inauguration. Members from the Conservancy and Friends of the Library boards read poems from *Poetry and Power: Poems Occasioned by the Presidency*

and by the Death of John F. Kennedy, as well as Kennedy family favorites. Selections included poems by Frost, Byron, Tennyson, Brooks, among others. The program was organized by Chris Goff and Ellen de Saint Phalle and readers included Charles O’Neill, Marilynn Hill, Scott McGuirk, Mary Marvin, Nick Stephens, Judy Unis, Justin O’Neill, Alice Campbell-Romano, Viji George, and John Barr.



photo credit: Irena Choi Stern

Let there be light

by Peter Hicks

During the spring of 2016, the Bronxville Historical Conservancy was contacted by the President of the Anna Lawrence Bisland 1928 House, home of the Bronxville Women’s Club, to consider a funding proposal for the restoration of the building’s front door lighting fixture. The Clubhouse is recognized in the Westchester County Inventory of Historic Places as well as the National List of Historic Sites and is a familiar architectural landmark for Bronxville residents and motorists.



photo credit: Joyce Balint

The BHC approved the funding of the front door lighting fixture. The project involved the removal and installation of temporary lighting as well as the rewiring and structural restoration of the fixture. As pictured above, this successful lighting restoration was accomplished to conform to the original building design of Penrose Stout, a prominent Bronxville architect.

Introducing: New Village Historian Ray Geselbracht



At its July meeting, the Bronxville Board of Trustees will appoint Ray Geselbracht to succeed Eloise Morgan as Village Historian. Geselbracht, who has volunteered at the History Center for two years, served for 40 years as an archivist with the National Archives and Records Administration.

His career included assignments at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, the Richard M. Nixon Presidential Materials Project, and—his last and longest assignment—the Harry S. Truman Library, where he served as supervisory archivist and special assistant to the director. He edited and

contributed to *The Civil Rights Legacy of Harry S. Truman* (2006) and *Foreign Aid and the Legacy of Harry S. Truman* (2015), and he co-edited, with David Acheson, *Affection and Trust: The Personal Correspondence of Harry S. Truman and Dean Acheson* (2010).

He has published many articles about Harry Truman, the Truman Library, and other archival and historical subjects. He worked closely for several years with former Truman Library director Mike Devine and Truman Little White House director Bob Wolz to organize annual Truman Legacy conferences held in Key West.

Three new trustees join conservancy board



MARC GARBARINI, a native of Brooklyn, moved to Bronxville 17 years ago on the advice of his mother-in-law. As a graduate of the High School of Art & Design in NYC, as well as the Fine Arts curriculum at Syracuse University, Marc takes great pleasure in noticing the beauty and details of this

amazing community. Along with his wife Stephanie, sons Griffin and Hayden, he enjoys supporting the Breakfast Run as members of the Reformed Church as well as sharpening his paddle game at Siwanoy. In his spare time, he enjoys the culinary arts, the written word, meditation, and his role of Editor-In-Chief of Content at IBM.

in many leadership roles in his profession, both locally and nationally. He is the Deputy Chief Forensic Dentist for the City of New York, established the La Romana Oral Health Initiative and founded World of Smiles Inc., which works to address the health needs of the underserved in the Dominican Republic and beyond.



SUZANNE PRATT DAVIS is an award-winning journalist with three decades of experience covering financial news for television and print. For 20 years, Suzanne worked for PBS-TV's "Nightly Business Report." Her positions at NBR included director of New York news operations, co-anchor, senior correspondent and

field producer. Currently, she is a freelance producer/reporter. She has also been a correspondent for China's Central Television (CCTV). Since 2013, Suzanne has been actively involved with the Bronxville School PTA as a member of its Board of Directors, co-chairing the Memorial Day fundraiser and auction and working with the Bronxville Chamber of Commerce to spearhead a campaign encouraging the community to "shop local." Suzanne is a graduate of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and Tulane University. She and her husband, Jonathan Davis, reside in Bronxville, NY, with their three sons.



JIM HUDSON is a lifelong resident of the Bronxville community and graduated from Bronxville High School in 1974. He has been involved locally in service to the community, most notably as a member of the Board of Education. He was elected to two terms and served as its President for two years. Aside

from his practice of dentistry in Manhattan, he has served

ELOISE MORGAN:

Making Her Own Mark on History

by Nancy Vittorini

As Village Historian for the last 18 years, Eloise Morgan has responded to endless requests for information, documents and photographs; organized local history archives; indexed an impressive collection of materials; ensured survival of the collection through archival materials and a climate-controlled system; and introduced digitization technology for global access to vintage local newspapers. During her tenure, Morgan was instrumental in the renovation and expansion of the Bronxville Public Library, including the transformation of the cramped history room into a first-class History Center.

After more than four decades in the community, Eloise and Bob Morgan will be moving to Washington state on July 1.

“There’s so much to rave about in Bronxville,” Eloise said. “I like the physical community, the pedestrian scale, the beautiful houses...the way people throw themselves into volunteer activity to make the community better.”

And that’s exactly what she did. The Harvard Law School graduate turned in her law partnership at Winthrop, Stimson, Putnam and Roberts to become one of Bronxville’s most active citizens. Though the list is long, the work she would like to be remembered for most include the books she helped write, edit and publish, most recently, “Out of the Wilderness: The Emergence of Eastchester, Tuckahoe & Bronxville, NY 1664-2014,” a project of Eastchester’s 350th anniversary. In a similar vein, she was editor-in-chief for “Building a Suburban Village: Bronxville, New York, 1898-1998,” a book published in conjunction with the Village of Bronxville’s Centennial

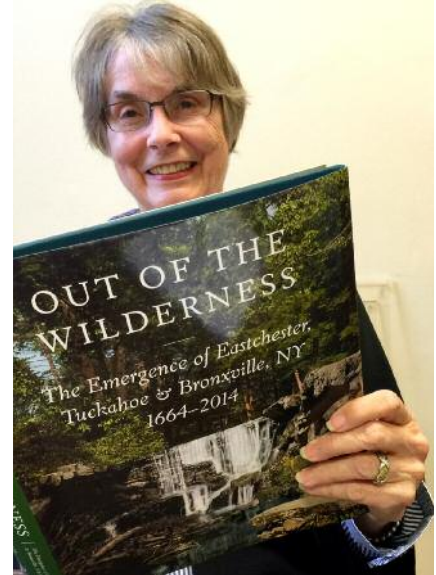
celebration. These two volumes were impressive in their depth and focus, their primary research, collection of photographs and sources of information. “It’s these books, along with the newly digitized newspapers, that make basic details of Bronxville’s history readily available for the future,” she said.

Eloise also authored a book on the history center’s collection of postcards and helped to research and distribute a book on “Lawrence Park, Bronxville’s Turn-of-the-Century Art Colony.” A trove of articles for magazines, newspapers, journals, newsletters and websites bear Eloise’s name.

Her love of history isn’t limited, though, to research and writing; as special assistant to the president of Concordia College, she oversaw a library project similar to her work at the Bronxville Public Library. In both cases, she helped bring much-needed community space to the original structures. Just recently, Eloise was instrumental in working with People’s Bank to preserve the beloved antique street clock.

The consensus of those who have worked with Eloise on any number of village projects is clear on one thing: she is incredibly smart. “I rely on Eloise for her rigorous, uncompromising and intellectual approach to issues,” noted Madeline Oden, who worked with her on the Village Cable Committee. “She’s insightful, intelligent and industrious,” said Irena Choi Stern, who has worked with Eloise for several years, from participation in the Bronxville School, to the Hilltop Association to fellow board member on the Bronxville Historical Conservancy.

Both as Village Historian and a founding board member of the



Conservancy, Eloise has been an active participant since its origination in 1998. Through that commitment, she has welcomed the Conservancy as a generous partner and contributor to the History Center. Computer, scanner, copier, books, support for interns, photography and much more have been funded by the Conservancy in its mission of preserving and protecting Bronxville’s rich legacy. A legacy that now includes Eloise Morgan’s own mark on our history. Thank you, Eloise! We will miss you.

ELOISE MORGAN FUND for the Bronxville History Center



In honor of longtime Bronxville resident and Village Historian, Eloise Morgan, a fund is being established to support the History Center and further the work of future Village Historians in preserving our community’s history.

Please make checks payable to *Village of Bronxville* (and in the memo line include “Eloise Morgan History Fund”) and return to: Bronxville Historical Conservancy, c/o Irena Choi Stern, 56 Valley Road, Bronxville, NY 10708.

All donations are 100% tax-deductible.

“The village’s most famous twins”

by Ray Geselbracht

On December 18, 1905, twin girls—Caroline and Margaret—were born to Leon O. Bailey, a prominent New York lawyer, and Gertrude Stein Bailey, a well-known classical singer, very likely at the family home on Elm Rock Road, “Crossways,” which the Baileys had purchased the year before.

The twins from a very early age passed their lives in public view. When they turned two years old, the local paper, *The Bronxville Review*, covered their birthday party, at which “they were the proud possessors of a birthday cake apiece, with two candles each.” Another story relates how during an outing the twins’ pony threw their nurse out of the cart and took the twins on a wild ride, all the way back home. When Mr. Bailey ran out, he found his two little girls staring up at him from their cart, without their nurse. “Fell,” one of the twins said to explain the nurse’s disappearance.

When they began school—Brantwood Hall for ten years, then finishing up at Bronxville High School—the newspaper covered, it seems in retrospect, almost everything they did. They acted in plays and holiday pageants, they played on the basketball and volleyball teams, they were founding members of a Girl Scout club, and Margaret won a scout knot-tying contest. Margaret also received honors awards at school and passed achievement tests, and both twins helped with Belgian relief work and subscribed to a Liberty Loan drive during World War I. All these things, and quite a few more, were recorded in the newspaper.

Two autobiographical papers the twins wrote during their first year at Bronxville High School preserve some childhood memories. Margaret’s paper tells how the twins would wear different colored dresses while attending Brantwood Hall—Caroline always in pink, Margaret in blue—so the teachers and students could tell them apart. But some days they would switch colors and spend the day in disguise as the wrong twin. Caroline’s autobiography tells a story revealing of the anti-German hysteria that affected many Americans during World War I. The twins had a German governess who had taught them to speak German. Sometime after the United States entered the war in 1917, Caroline decided she wouldn’t speak German any longer, telling her parents, “I shan’t speak German because everybody hates the Germans since the war started and so do I.” The German lessons stopped and the governess was dismissed.



(photo credit: Caroline Reed Parsons/Bronxville History Center)

After high school, Margaret went to college, Caroline got married, and, after finishing college, Margaret did too, and then both twins had children (Caroline three, Margaret one). All of this was reported in the newspaper. There were about 200 articles and notices about the Bailey twins in the local newspapers between 1907 and 1975, telling of their many appearances in local plays, often at the Bronxville Women’s Club; the many tennis tournaments they played in at the Field Club; the parties they hosted and attended; and their travels, illnesses, and charitable activities. There was a second marriage to report for each twin, their movements away from and back to Bronxville were reported from time to time, and in

1972, an article noted that the twins were both living in the Brooklands apartments in Yonkers. On March 6, 1975, an article reported that Margaret had died, and Caroline is lost to public view after this. Maybe she moved away to live with one of her children.

One of the *Bronxville Review*’s stories about Caroline and Margaret Bailey, published in 1934 when they were 28 years old, called them “the Village’s most famous twins.” This was right—they were famous. They weren’t extraordinarily gifted, or brilliant, or beautiful, but they were famous. This was so because they had a stage—Bronxville itself—and a public interested in the details of their lives—the people of Bronxville, the members of the Women’s Club and the Field Club, the people who went to school and to parties with them, the people who acted with them or saw them in plays and community pageants, the people who read about them in the newspaper. It was the particular character of Bronxville, its people and its institutions, that made the Bailey twins famous.

Today, many years after the passing of Caroline and Margaret Bailey, they’re still famous—because the Village of Bronxville, which cares about its history, is preserving the twins’ story in the newspapers, manuscripts, and photographs housed in the Bronxville History Center.

Now, as a result of a digitization project undertaken by the Bronxville History Center, with funding from Eastchester 350th Anniversary, Inc. and the Bronxville Historical Conservancy, people all around the world can read about the Bailey twins in Bronxville’s historic newspapers, available online at news.hrvh.org.

Remembering the Ambassador's Daughter: Barbara McDonald Stewart

by Nancy Schaefer

I had just spoken with Barbara before she left on a family trip to the Galapagos in December 2015, so I reeled when a close mutual friend called, saying, "Sorry to be the bearer of bad tidings." Bobby, as she was known to me, had died on the last day of the vacation, on the last day of 2015. She was my friend from The Masters School in Dobbs Ferry, and her parents lived in Bronxville at Alden Place. She went on to earn a Ph.D. from Columbia, but the defining moment of her life was when she was called upon to accompany her father, James G. McDonald, when he was appointed the first U.S. Ambassador to Israel in 1948. Barely two months after graduating from Northwestern University, Stewart stepped in for her mother, who was unable to go because Bobby's sister was expecting a baby, and she was en route to Haifa, Israel to serve as her father's hostess and manage the household.

An excerpt from James G. McDonald's book, "My Mission in Israel," describes Bobby's role: "The question of security complicated the life of my daughter, who had just been graduated from a liberal arts course in which housekeeping as a subject would have been unthinkable. As soon as we moved into our residence, the owner having halved the rent to prevent its becoming an anti-aircraft installation, she found herself mistress of an establishment,



Ambassador James Grover McDonald and his daughter Barbara examine a building plan in a religious settlement in Israel. (photo courtesy of United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Photo Archives)

ordering food for eight persons plus guests up to 20 in number, and managing four servants with whom she conversed in English, German, French and gestures."

Her father had previously served as League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from Germany and, in 1933, was one of the first Americans to meet Adolf Hitler. Bobby co-edited four volumes of his diaries for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. I went to her father's funeral in 1964, held at the Reformed Church, which was filled with friends and dignitaries paying their respects, and there sat my childhood friend Bobby, retaining the infallibly delicate appearance of her girlhood, along with a commensurate strength of spirit.



Bronxville Ghosts *return to haunt children*

by Erin Saluti

This October, the popular "Ghosts of Bronxville" walking tour will return for its third spooky year. Geared toward children in grades 1 through 7, the evening event will allow them to experience "living history by lighted candle" as they encounter five important figures from Bronxville's late 19th century past, many of them in their original dwelling. Actors in costume combined with dramatic sets and authentic props create a delightfully eerie and haunting tour. "Ghosts of Bronxville" was created in 2013 by the Bronxville Historical Conservancy to introduce Bronxville children to the incredible history that surrounds them every day.

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The Bronxville Historical Conservancy was founded in 1998 to further the understanding and appreciation of the history and current life of the Village of Bronxville, N.Y. The Conservancy furthers its mission through the presentation of programs, publications, lectures and special events that foster an awareness of the village's architectural, artistic and cultural heritage and lends its support for projects designed to strengthen and preserve those legacies. If you would like to become a member, visit our website www.bronxvillehistoricalconservancy.org or mail a check for \$50 or more to P.O. Box 989, Bronxville, N.Y. 10708.

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Historic Brick Roads Restoration continues

by Bill Dowling

Beginning this spring, Bronxville's Department of Public Works will continue the repair of the village's historic brick roads, this time using both reclaimed bricks from a section of Park Avenue, as well as new bricks purchased by the Bronxville Historical Conservancy.

Last May, the village rebuilt a stretch of Park Avenue by using reproduction bricks produced by the Colonial Brick Co. of Cayuga, IN. The project was made possible by a significant contribution from the Conservancy.

A few months after the project was completed, the Colonial Brick Co. announced it was closing the plant and Jim Palmer, Village Administrator, contacted the owner and arranged to purchase the remaining 8,925 bricks.



Damaged section of a yellow brick road.

photo credit: Bill Dowling

Stay charming, Bronxville — but share your ideas!

By Jack Bierwirth

Since 1998, the Bronxville Historical Conservancy has worked to further the understanding and appreciation of the history and current life of the village. But to better serve village residents, the Board wants to hear from you. We'd like to explore new activities and initiatives that

dovetail with community interests, and hear from you about how you learn about the village—in other words, what are the best vehicles for communication?

We look forward to hearing from you!

Contact us at chair@b-h-c.org