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## 2022 BPHS NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I am writing this as we work our way through the third year of the Covid pandemic. Future historians will undoubtedly view this time period as an era during which the world had to constantly adjust to an ongoing biological threat with consequences for society that were entirely unanticipated by the general public. History, as they say, has changed. Some protective restrictions that have evolved since early 2020 have continued in a more relaxed manner as the carnage of that time has receded, but we are still adjusting to a global threat that harkens back a century to a prior catastrophic pandemic.

Meanwhile, in our little corner of the world we adjusted by building a website and finding alternative ways to continue our mission. We had a successful 2021 summer public program with significant attendance notwithstanding the pandemic. Although we had to cancel our Hall of Fame Dinner two years in a row out of concerns for the health and safety of our members and guests, the events components have been put in place by Paul Balukas and Jeri Lalor, which may ease the planning for the next one. We managed to conduct our presentations in the Point Breeze Clubhouse and our walking tours incorporating protections recommended by the CDC and as required by state and local law.

Our Trustees have continued to organize the growing collection of photos, historical documents and artifacts that defined the growth of our community over the past century. Our Cataloguing Committee, chaired by Barbara Johnson (who is also responsible for our website), is digging into an accumulating backlog to devise a system by which present and future generations can access valuable information that will give insights into community and even family histories.

We conducted our organizational meeting in January which saw the election of Trustees, and a modest restructuring of the organization to better accomplish our goals as we move into the back half of our first decade of existence. With regard to 2022, we will hold our Annual Membership meeting on June 29, coupled with an historical presentation; presentations in the Point Breeze Clubhouse spaced throughout the summer; walking tours; and, we fervently hope, our Hall of Fame Dinner. Our sale of the 2021 Christmas Tree ornament was, again, very successful. We are looking to market other items that expand our brand, provide residents with interesting mementos drawn from our historical archives, and simultaneously generate revenue to fund our purchases of important technological tools to facilitate our preservation and educational missions.

Finances are the lifeblood of any organization and our Treasurer, Artie Lighthall, has kept our finances on track notwithstanding the loss of two years of revenue and the need to satisfy routine expenses as well as make necessary purchases. Leslie Barnett, as Secretary, keeps a running record of our Board discussions. Cathy Murfitt has ensured the continued operations of our office and regularly shares our historical photos on social media. I'd also like to commend all of our Trustees and the volunteers whose help is so valuable for devoting the time and imagination necessary to keep the Breezy Point Historical Society not only functioning but also enlarging our mission during these historically challenging times.

Breezy Point Historical Society President, Kevin A. Reilly

**ANNUAL MEETING**-----The Breezy Point Historical Society's Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with a "Then and Now Revisited" presentation on Wednesday June 29th at 7pm at the Point Breeze Clubhouse.

**HALL OF FAME-----** Is scheduled for Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, at the Colony Theater from 6:00-9:00, attendance at which will be strictly limited and reservations are an absolute must. The 2021 Hall of Fame honorees, Colonel Ted Feimer, Sr., the Friberg/Schaffner Families, and Thom McCarthy will be recognized and we will be inducting Mary Ellen Barnes and 50 years of the Teen Show.



Highland Place circa 1915.



The "Shore Dinners" building in 1915 and one to the right on the photo were on the bayside beachfront north of bayside walk. **SOMETHING NEW-----**Try it you'll like it.....our website can be found at [breezypointhistory.org](http://breezypointhistory.org). And those familiar with YouTube can find our site at Breezy Point Historical Society or via a link from our website.

**WHAT ELSE????**-----The Breezy Point Historical Society has scheduled a series of community presentations and events for this Summer. This listing is still dependent any new COVID restrictions, but all presentations, except those in Roxbury, will be held in the Point Breeze Clubhouse with start time of 7:00pm.

**June 29<sup>th</sup>:** Annual Membership Meeting with Community Presentation- Then and Now Revisited

**July 13<sup>th</sup>:** Community Presentation- TEORA-Rockaway Point East

**July 27<sup>th</sup>:** Community Presentation- SANDY 10 Years Later

**August 10<sup>th</sup>:** Community Presentation-guest historian on the abandoned Jamaica Bay Port Concept

**August 28<sup>th</sup>:** Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at the Colony Theater



We are also planning walking tours on **July 23<sup>rd</sup>** in Roxbury, on **August 6<sup>th</sup>** in Rockaway Point and on **August 20<sup>th</sup>** in Breezy Point with time and location to be announced. Please look for updates or any changes of the dates in the RP News.

Of note as well, will be the upcoming sale of the sixth limited edition Historical Society Christmas ornament, which as in past years may be purchased at the Ridgewood Savings Bank, at our office on Wednesday afternoons, or at any of our gatherings.

**First aerial photo taken of the community.....can you find the RP dock and Kennedy's????**

**LIKE US**----our Facebook Page has in excess of 1,400 followers. It is regularly updated with the organization's information and fascinating photos from our collection as well as articles of interest. Why not join our group and get a glimpse back to the days of old.



**Before the Jetty.....look for the Rockaway Point Baths aka Long Shore Beach Club, the beginning of construction of the wedge, East Market Street, old Oceanside and Seabreeze Walk.**



1948—RPF D’s first Ambulance was formerly a U.S. Army vehicle and also served as a laundry truck and it was purchased for \$475. RP Volunteer Ambulance Corps is the second oldest volunteer ambulance corps operating in NYC.

**HELP US---**a 2022 membership application is included with this newsletter. Your \$25.00 tax deductible annual membership allows us to continue exploring and saving our community’s history. Please return by mail or drop off the application with your check at our office which is on the east side of the medical building. The office is open every Wednesday afternoon. Thank you in advance for your support.

**BREEZY POINT HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF TRUSTEES----**Paul Balukas, Leslie Barnett, Barbara Johnson, MaryJane Feimer, Arthur Lighthall, Cathy Murfitt, Ursula Odierna, Kevin Reilly, Arthur Smith, Lillian Tanguay, Kathy Willis, Joan Wilmarth.

