



Bayside Historical Society

April 2026 Newsletter

Celebrating Our Nation's Founding

This March, BHS started celebrating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence with several special events. The festivities began with the American Revolution Experience Traveling Exhibit, which BHS co-hosted with the Increase Carpenter Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in partnership with the American Battlefield Trust. More than 300 visitors to The Castle enjoyed viewing the innovative pop-up exhibition, along with special accompanying items from the BHS archives that helped to connect to local history.



Next up was a historical presentation by Steve Eftimiades of the Queens County Farm Museum, who demonstrated a reproduction of General George Washington's Revolutionary War campaign cookbox to a captivated audience. Finally, two author talks — Bill Bleyer's "George Washington's Long Island Spy Ring" and Dr. Joanne Grasso's "The American Revolution on Long Island" — brought history to life as attendees learned how the American Revolution affected life on Long Island.



BHS would like to thank our special friends, Jason Antos from the Queens Historical Society, Sgt. Joseph Czeisel, from the NYC Parks Fort Totten Visitor Center, and Steve Eftimiades for loaning us such interesting archival items and historical replicas. Many of those items are still on view at the Castle to continue the celebration — more on that to come!



Happening This April



Spring Garden Cleanup Sat, Apr 11th | 10 AM - 12 PM BHS Castle

Community volunteers are invited to assist with clearing out weeds and old plants from the previous season and preparing the garden beds for new flowers and greenery. No prior gardening experience is required, and all necessary supplies will be provided.

[Learn More](#)



Open Sew at The Castle Sun, Apr 12th | 1-3 PM BHS Castle

Do you sew, quilt, or enjoy handwork like embroidery or knitting? Join fellow sewing enthusiasts for an afternoon of creativity and conversation. Bring a project you're currently working on and enjoy a relaxed, creative environment with others who share your interest.

[Learn More](#)



Second Sunday Castle Tour Sun, Apr 12th | 1 PM & 2 PM BHS Castle

Reserve your spot for the April guided tour of The Castle and its exhibitions, conducted by the Bayside Historical Society staff and volunteers. There will be two tours offered; each tour lasts 45 minutes, with the first starting at 1pm and the second at 2pm. Cost is free; reservations are required.

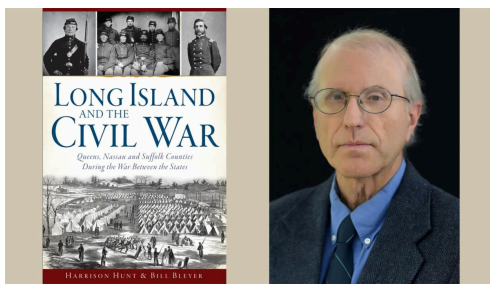
[Learn More](#)



Comedy Night at The Castle Sat, Apr 18th | 7-10 PM BHS Castle

Join BHS for an evening of stand-up comedy featuring the hilarious Wilshire Comedy Group. Enjoy delicious social small plates, sweet treats, and a chance to win in our raffle drawing. It's a night of laughs, food, and fun you won't want to miss!

[Learn More](#)



**Author Talk with Bill Bleyer:
Long Island and the Civil War**
Thurs, Apr 23rd | 7:30-9 PM
BHS Castle

BHS welcomes back author, historian, and Long Island native Bill Bleyer for a presentation on his insightful book, which explores how the American Civil War reshaped Long Island in surprising and profound ways.

[Learn More](#)

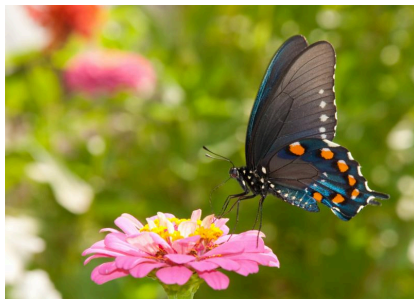


**Persian Traditional and Folk
Music**
Sun, Apr 26th | 3-4:30 PM
BHS Castle

Experience the sound of Persian music through live songs, instrumental improvisations, and traditional instruments. The musicians will also share insights into the history and structure of this rich musical tradition.

[Learn More](#)

Coming Up in May 2026



**Family Workshop: Springtime
Butterflies and Pollinators**
Sat, May 30, 2026 | 2-4 PM
BHS Castle Gardens

Join Wing (Ms. Butterfly), nature educator and creator, as we explore the amazing species that call our area home, gaining a deeper understanding of their shapes, patterns, and life cycles. The event will include a children's craft to take home.

[Save the Date! More Details Coming Soon!](#)

Take a Look Back...

The Bayside Woman's Club was founded in 1916 by eight women as a sewing circle making donations for Flushing Hospital. They elected their first president, Mrs. Bramwell Davis, and set goals focused on community improvement, personal development, and aiding worthy causes. In 1917, they helped mobilize the local Red Cross and provided home nursing courses during the 1918 influenza outbreak. The club originally met at the Ahles Building on 41st Street and Bell Boulevard.

Committees were established in 1924, later expanding into departments such as garden, literary, music, drama, welfare, and civics. A Junior Woman's Club was formed in 1961. The organization supported various causes, including regular donations to the Bayside Ambulance Corps, before dissolving in 2002.



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