Bayside Historical Society

October 2026 Newsletter

Preserving a Piece of Bayside History

Tucked away in a wooded area near 216th Street and 42nd Avenue in Bayside, NY, **the Lawrence Cemetery** is a quiet reminder of the community's past. The site was once a favorite picnic ground of the Lawrence family, which included a NYC Mayor, the wife of another NYC Mayor, and a President of the NY Stock Exchange, to name a few.

Today, the cemetery is the final resting place of 48 members of the Lawrence family and two of their employees. A variety of interesting and historic headstones mark the graves.

Preserving this small but significant cemetery started with BHS founder, Joseph Brown, in 1964 when he gathered community minded volunteers to clean up the abandoned site, leading to **its landmark designation** in 1967.

BHS conservation efforts continued throughout the years with a multitude of cleanings and landscaping. Most recently, in May 2026 BHS conducted a gravestone cleaning workshop, run by conservationist, John Griffin. The stones' appearance changed dramatically as years of soot and mold were gently scrubbed away. Next up, BHS will work with Griffin Gravestone



GRAVESTONE CLEANING WORKSHOP



BEFORE CLEANING

Conservation to repair and reset the gravestones in need of restoration.

If you have an interest in this project, consider a donation to help care for this historic cemetery. And do come to the Lawrence Cemetery Tour on October 17, 2026 to check it out.

Donate Now



AFTER CLEANING

Happening This October

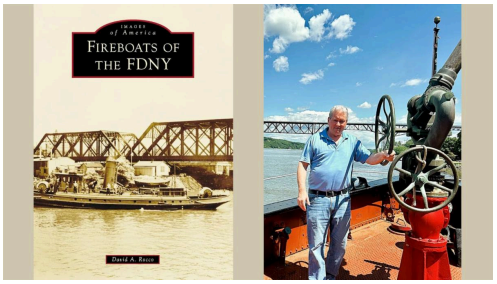


Brazilian Forró Dancing — Demonstration and Intro Class

Sun, Oct 4th | 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Experience the infectious rhythms of Brazilian Forró with a lively musical performance by dance instructors Raquel Rubio and Brian Dumaual of Art2BeHuman. Then, get on your feet with a beginner-friendly introduction to this joyful partner dance. No experience or partner needed — just come ready to enjoy the music and have fun!

Get Tickets



Author Talk with David Rocco: Fireboats of the FDNY

Thurs, Oct 8th | 7:30 PM-9 PM
BHS Castle

Join BHS for a fascinating look at the evolution of New York City's fireboats, which have protected the city's 500+ miles of shoreline for nearly 150 years. Author and photographer David Rocco will share historic images tracing their transformation from wooden-hull tugboats to today's specialized vessels.

Learn More



Guided Tour of the Historic Lawrence Cemetery

Sat, Oct 17th | 11 AM-12 PM
Lawrence Cemetery

BHS is conducting a free guided tour of the historic Lawrence Cemetery, the burial ground of one of Bayside's founding families. History will come alive as our tour guide recounts the stories of different members of the Lawrence family and the notable individuals who are interred here.

Learn More



Open House New York 2026

Sun, Oct 18th | 12 PM-4 PM
BHS Castle

BHS will participate in this year's Open House New York Weekend by offering free guided tours of the landmarked Castle at Fort Totten Park. Along with exploring our beautiful building, guests will also have the opportunity to view our current exhibition, *Home Front and Front Lines: 250 Years of American Service*, before it closes in November.

Learn More



BHS Vintage Car Show 2026

Sun, Oct 18th | 9 AM-1 PM
BHS Castle

Ride back in time with BHS's annual classic car show! A variety of vintage and antique automobiles will be showcased on the lawn of The Castle. Engage with enthusiastic car owners and restorers about the challenges and triumphs of restoring classic cars, while admiring the beauty and craftsmanship of vintage automobiles.

Learn More



Celebrate 25 Years of the Totten Trot!

Sunday, Oct 25th | 9:00 AM-12 PM
Check-in 7:30 AM; Race Start 9:00 AM

Join the Bayside Historical Society for the **Silver Anniversary of the Totten Trot 5K Foot Race & Kids' Fun Run**! This Halloween-themed event features a USATF-certified waterfront course through historic Fort Totten Park along Little Neck Bay. What began as a small neighborhood race has grown into a beloved Halloween tradition in our community and beyond.

Since its modest start with fewer than 20 runners in 2002, the Totten Trot has grown to welcome more than 300 participants. After the race, prizes and awards will be presented during our outdoor breakfast.

Whether you're running, walking, or cheering from the sidelines, join us on October 25th for our favorite Halloween treat!

Runners can register by October 10th & save over 20% on race-day entry fees!

Learn More

Coming Up in November





Civil War Living History at Fort Totten

Sun, Nov 1st| 9 AM-2 PM
BHS Castle Grounds

BHS welcomes back the Civil War re-enactors of the 67th New York Infantry, First Long Island Volunteers, for a fascinating day of Living History on the grounds of The Castle.

Learn More

Author Talk with Joan Furey RN, MA: My Vietnam

Thurs, Nov 19th | 7:30-9 PM
BHS Castle

This November, BHS honors our veterans by welcoming Joan Furey, RN, MA, to The Castle for a special presentation about her experiences in Vietnam and beyond.

Learn More



Take a Look Back...

October 31, 1939 — Flushing Meadows-Corona Park in Queens, NY: On the closing day of the 1939 season of the New York World's Fair, which fell on Halloween, the Perisphere was illuminated and transformed to look like a giant jack-o'-lantern. (*Photo by Keystone-France\Gamma-Rapho via Getty Images*)



Happy Halloween from BHS!

Bayside Historical Society | 208 Totten Avenue - Fort Totten | Bayside, NY 11359 US

Unsubscribe | Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Constant Contact

Try email marketing for free today!