



**Bayside Historical Society**

## February 2025 Newsletter

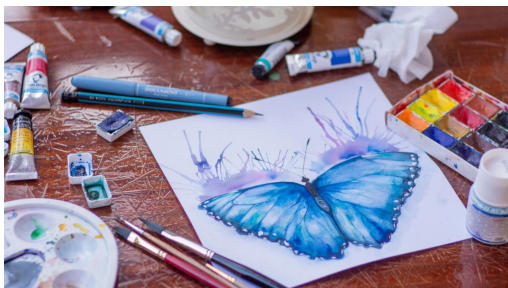
### Honoring Black History Month

Aeriwentha Mae Faggs Starr (1932-2000), a three-time Olympic athlete, grew up in Bayside and developed her sprinting skills at the Police Athletic League in Flushing. At just 16 years old, she competed in the 1948 Olympics in London while still a student at Bayside High School. Four years later, at the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki, she and her teammates won the gold medal in the 4x100-meter relay. In 1956, Faggs earned a bronze medal in the same event at the Melbourne Olympic Games.

Faggs attended Tennessee State University and later earned a master's degree from the University of Cincinnati. She spent 31 years teaching physical education and coaching girls' track in the Cincinnati area, mentoring and inspiring countless young women along the way.



## February 2025 Upcoming Events



### 24th Annual Winter Art Show

Opens Wed Feb. 5th | 1pm  
Bay Terrace Shopping Center



### Second Sunday Castle Tours

Sunday, Feb. 9th | 1pm & 2pm

## and Online Gallery

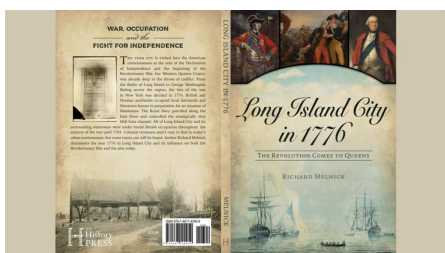
Bayside Historical Society's annual Winter Art Show, showcasing contemporary Queens-based artists working in a variety of styles and mediums, features a combination of online galleries on our website and a live exhibit in The Bay Terrace Shopping Center. **The show will run from Wednesday, February 5 to Sunday, March 2, 2025.**

[Learn More](#)

## BHS Castle

Reserve your spot for our guided tours of The Castle and its exhibitions every second Sunday of the month, conducted by the Bayside Historical Society staff and volunteers. Tours are approximately 45 minutes long; there will be two tours offered, the first beginning at 1pm and the second at 2pm. The cost is free, but reservations are required.

[Learn More](#)



### Author Talk with Richard Melnick: Long Island City in 1776

Thursday, Feb. 13th | 7:30pm  
BHS Castle

In 1775, Boston was at the center of attention, but after April 1776, the Revolutionary War shifted its focus to New York City and Long Island, stretching from Brooklyn's terminal moraine high ground to Queens's Hell Gate.

Join author Richard Melnick at The Castle as he explores the military, political, and cultural history of 1776 in Long Island City.

[Learn More](#)



### Latin Jazz Brunch: A Valentine Passport Concert

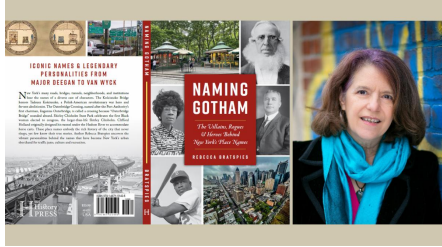
Sunday, Feb. 16th | 12pm  
BHS Castle

Bayside Historical Society continues to celebrate Valentine's Day at The Castle as we turn up the heat with our Latin Jazz Brunch! The elegant, sophisticated, and danceable music of NYC-based Tres Gatos will provide the romantic soundtrack to our delicious Valentine's Day buffet.

**Reservations are required. Please RSVP by February 7, 2025.** No tickets will be sold at the door — advance ticket sales only.

[Learn More](#)

Coming Up in March 2025



## Author Talk with Rebecca Bratspies: Naming Gotham, Part II

Thursday, March 13th | 7:30pm  
BHS Castle

Bayside Historical Society welcomes back author Rebecca Bratspies for an ongoing presentation about more of the intriguing individuals behind the names of New York City's iconic landmarks.

[Learn More](#)



## Indian Dance Celebration with the Ajna Dance Company

Sunday, March 23rd | 3pm  
BHS Castle

Immerse yourself in the vibrant world of Indian dance, movement, and culture by exploring Classical, Folk, and Bollywood styles through interactive demonstrations and live performances by Ajna Dance.

[Learn More](#)

## Take a Look Back...

The hilly terrain of Crocheron Park has always served as the choice spot in Bayside for sledding as seen in this photograph from 1967. Before the construction of the Cross Island Parkway in the late 1930s, some fearless sledders would begin their journey at the uppermost point of the park by Crocheron (35th Avenue) and Third (216th Street) and continue down over the Gold Fish Pond onto the frozen water of Little Neck Bay.



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