



Bayside Historical Society

## March 2025 Newsletter



### Honoring Women's History Month

BHS remembers some of the women who have made their mark on the Bayside community throughout history:

**Annie Lawrence Bell** (1847-1937) was born into one of Bayside's most prominent families. Bell was instrumental in developing the Bayside community donating land and funds to form the Bayside Woman's Club and the public meetinghouse known as Literary Hall.

**Elizabeth Boyce Lawrence** (1835-1894) was instrumental in establishing All Saints Episcopal Church. She is buried in the landmarked Lawrence family cemetery, which is located on 216th Street and 42nd Avenue in Bayside.

Actress **May Robson** (1858-1942) was known as the "Dowager Queen of American Stage and Screen" for her acting work in dozens of films in the 1930s and as a playwright. She was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actress for "Lady for a Day" in 1933, and appeared in the first film version of "A Star is Born" in 1937.

Three-time Olympic athlete, **Mae Faggs Starr** (1932-2000), attended her first Olympic Games in 1948 while still a student at Bayside High School. She won

two medals at the Olympic Games of 1952 (Gold) and 1956 (Bronze) along with teammates in the 4x100-meter relay. She later taught physical education and coached girls' track for 31 years, mentoring and inspiring countless young women along the way.

Acclaimed ballerina **Maria Calegari** (pictured above), who was born in Bayside in 1957, was chosen by George Balanchine to join the New York City Ballet in 1974 at the age of 17. She became its principal dancer in 1983 and performed over forty soloist roles in Balanchine's ballets. She retired in 1994 to teach ballet.

**Ellen Louise Shulman Baker**, daughter of former Borough President Claire Shulman, graduated from Bayside High School in 1970. Baker became a physician and went to work for NASA as a medical officer in 1981. She was selected as an astronaut in 1984 and has logged over 686 hours in space.

## March 2025 Upcoming Events

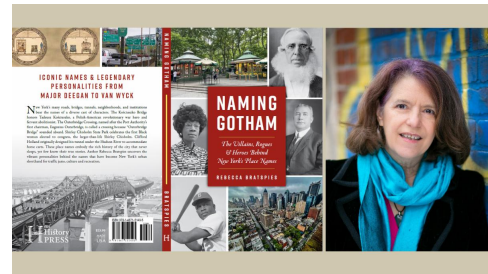


### Second Sunday Castle Tours

Sunday, March 9th | 1pm & 2pm  
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. Come in and find out more about this architectural treasure in Bayside, Queens.

[Learn More](#)



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

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

BHS is excited to have author Rebecca Bratspies return for an ongoing presentation about more of the intriguing individuals behind the names of New York City's most famous roads, bridges, neighborhoods, and institutions. Join Rebecca once again as she reveals the dynamic personalities behind the names that have become New York's urban shorthand for traffic jams, culture, and recreation.

[Learn More](#)



## Bayside Historical Society Annual Membership Meeting

Wed., March 19th | 7:30pm  
BHS Castle

Join us in celebrating Irish cultural heritage at BHS's Annual Membership Meeting, as we hold the Installation Ceremony of Bayside Historical Society Officers and Trustees. Enjoy Irish specialties, music, and dance performances.

[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 Bayside Women's Club was founded in 1916 by a group of eight women seeking to assist the Red Cross during World War I. By 1920 the club had greatly expanded its membership and was given land by Frederic Storm on Bell Avenue for the site of its new home (he did this in honor of his wife, the former Annie Lawrence Bell, who was an active member of that organization). The meetinghouse was built for a total cost of \$3,410.64. In 1925 the club purchased the adjoining lots and saw its roster swell to over 100 members. The Bayside Women's club headquarters remained on the Boulevard for over 80 years.

**[Try some vintage baking recipes from the 1920 Bayside Woman's Club Cookbook](#)**



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