

The Banner Newsletter

The Official Newsletter of THE BANNERMAN CASTLE TRUST, INC.

Volume #43

4th Quarter 2017



THANKS TO YOU, OUR PROGRESS CONTINUES

The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. would like to thank you for your support in helping to preserve Bannerman's Island and to further the BCT's mission to bring unique and award – winning programming to the historic island. Great progress was made on the island in 2017. Your support has made so many wonderful things a reality this year! There have been incredible structural renovations and increased cultural and performing arts events throughout the season. We're also very happy to report that the Bannerman Castle Trust was awarded *Hudson Valley Magazine's Best of the Hudson Valley's Preservers of History* award!

In addition to clearing safer hiking trails throughout the island, a beautiful new footbridge connecting the original Bannerman Residence with a magnificent summit on the Western end of the island was also designed and built by an engineering class of West Point Cadets. The new bridge and trails have opened up some spectacular new views! We're also happy to announce, that after a massive undertaking by a team of masterful artisans—the original Bannerman Residence is now open to the public! The entire first floor has been renovated and re-purposed as a Museum and Visitor Center. The new center is clean and welcoming and now well-preserved with special attention given to the structures unique historic details.

Thanks to your friendship and support, our mission of bringing cultural and performing arts events to the island has also increased with a full schedule of concerts, theatrical shows, culinary events and even a new film series - all running from May through October! Additional tours have also been added and have become more accessible with boarding from both the Beacon and Newburgh docks.

As 2017 comes to a close, we hope you will renew your BCT membership, or consider making an end of the year donation to help the BCT continue to preserve Bannerman's Island. While this year brought great strides in preservation, we still need to continue emergency stabilization of the castle's main walls and magnificent details. Your contributions will help ensure our continued success in 2018!

On page 3 of this newsletter, you will find both a Membership Renewal form and an End of the year Appeal form. We welcome any ideas you may have for future programming and we thank you in advance for any help you can bestow on the Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. this holiday season!

On behalf of the Bannerman Board of Directors, I thank you for your generous support of Historic Bannerman Island. We wish you a joyous holiday season and the very best for a prosperous new year! Please feel free to contact me with any questions or ideas concerning Bannerman's Island and our future goals, I can be reached at 845-831-6346. As always, we hope you will also visit our web-site at bannermancastle.org for exciting updates on Bannerman's Island and upcoming programs!

Sincerely,
Neil Caplan, BCT Executive Director

WITH YOUR HELP, WE'VE OPENED NEW DOORS IN 2017!



RESTORED THE PAST...



AND CONTINUE TO SECURE THE FUTURE!...



Photos:

Top left: The Bannerman Residence looking down the North Trail showing walkway and the entrance to the new bridge, by Kelly Marsh.

Top right: Historic photo taken from the same view point as above. Courtesy of The Churchill Family Collection.

Bottom Left: The Bannerman residence with restored stairs porch and left knee wall, by Linda T. Hubbard

Bottom Right: The foyer of the residence with historic displays. by Neil Caplan



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MISSION

The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. is a not-for-profit "Friends" organization of volunteers working with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Trust is dedicated to bringing together resources and funding to stabilize the buildings on Pollepel Island. The Trust aims to raise awareness and educate the public and government organizations on the value and history of the island. The Trust aims to raise funds for repairing the island, creating a master plan and eventually stabilizing the structures. The Trust is working to make the island safe for volunteers and for the public to enjoy the island as an educational, cultural, historical and recreational facility promoting heritage tourism in the Hudson Valley.

Become a "FRIEND" or a Volunteer

Call: Neil Caplan, President (845)-831-6346
www.bannermancastle.org

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The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc.
P.O.B. 843, Glenham, NY 12527-0843



VISITOR CENTER OPENING DAY RIBBON CUTTING: Left to right: Eleanor Owen Seeland, Dr. Lucy Waletsky, BCT Executive Director, Neil Caplan, Senator Sue Serino Representative, Tom Watt and Board Member John Lanc

2018 PROJECTS THAT NEED YOUR HELP!

The concrete terrace at the residence and concrete roof on the gardener's cottage must be replaced.

Estimated Cost \$45,000

The #3 warehouse (part of the main castle structure) needs steel bracing installed on the interior of the structure in order to strengthen the walls. Pointing is also needed for the interior of both the Tower and #3 warehouse.

Estimated Cost \$300,000

Two Towers on the Residence Roof need to be pointed and secured for safety.

Estimated Cost \$5,000

Replace concrete bench's on the residence terrace.

Estimated Cost \$5,000

Your tax deductible donations are imperative to preserve the structures on Bannerman Island.

PLEASE DONATE AND HELP US CONTINUE OUR MISSION TO PRESERVE BANNERMAN ISLAND!

The Bannerman Castle Trust is working on our **2018 THEATRICAL SEASON**

We will be announcing the entire season on January 5th. We will keep you updated!

Coming JULY 14 & 15 2018!

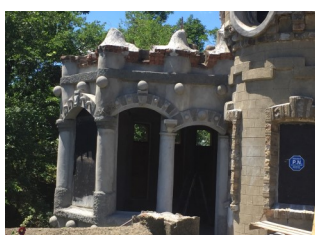


This show reunites Broadway veterans, **CRAIG SCHULMAN** and **KELLY ELLENWOOD**
For advance tickets go to:
www.BannermanCastle.org

2017 COMPLETED PROJECTS — In 2017 The Bannerman Castle Trust completed several major projects, that could not have been completed without the support of our friends. We spent over \$186,000 on building the new Bannerman Island West Point Bridge, restoration of North Trail and renovating and preserving the Bannerman Residence as a Visitor Education Center.



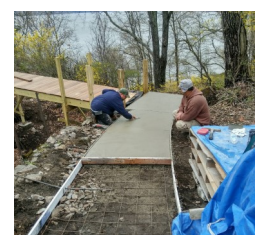
Residence restored sun porch



Restored exterior of sun porch



Grand Opening of the West Point Bridge



Mason, Arik Morgan restores trail walkway



*The Dining Room in the Bannerman residence after preservation.
The Bannerman Residence Visitor Center. Circa 2017*



The Dining Room— Circa 1950's

FREE SCHOOL TOURS OF BANNERMAN ISLAND FUNDED BY THE MALCOLM GORDON CHARITABLE FUND FOR 2018 SEASON

The Bannerman Castle Trust has just received a \$6000 grant from the Malcolm Gordon Charitable Fund, to give free tours to 10 Hudson Valley schools in 2018. The program will allow schools that do not have enough funds for field trips, the rare opportunity to bring a class out to Bannerman Island and learn it's rich history and to discover the grounds and gardens.

In 2018, free tours will be offered to the Beacon and Newburgh School Districts, with an emphasis on bringing underprivileged students to Bannerman Island. The program will allow a class of 38 students and 4 chaperones per tour. Other Mid-Hudson Valley schools may also apply. Tours are offered on a first come first serve basis and must be booked in advance.

***The Bannerman Castle Trust would like to thank the Malcolm Gordon Charitable Fund
for their generosity and their support for this program.***

**For Information about the Free Bannerman Tours School
Program, please contact Neil Caplan at 845-831-6346.**

CONSTELLATION by MELISSA MCGILL completes a three year run on Bannerman Island!

The Bannerman Castle Trust would like to thank Melissa McGill for all her work to make Constellation, an art installation on Bannerman Island a great success! For three years art lovers boarded the Bannerman Castle Trust's motor vessel, the Estuary Steward to view the spectacular Constellation. We wish Melissa and all of the people who worked so hard on Constellation, much success for future projects.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Dr. Lucy R. Waletzky, MD.

**The Mark E. Bryant Charitable Trust
and Robert Slater Trustee**

John and Melanie Lanc

Malcolm Gordon Charitable Fund

The Easter Foundation

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BECOME a BCT "FRIEND OF THE CASTLE" or a BCT SPONSOR!

Please Join The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. You will also receive a subscription to the BCT newsletter, *THE BANNER*, along with a friendship card.
 YOU CAN DONATE ONLINE AT www.bannermancastle.org

I WOULD LIKE TO BE PART OF "THE BANNERMAN SUPPORT SYSTEM" and make a tax-deductible donation to the Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc.

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*Please provide your email,
as the newsletter and updates are delivered by email.*

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Please make your tax-deductible donation check payable to:

**THE BANNERMAN CASTLE TRUST, INC.,
P.O.B. 843, Glenham, NY 12527-0843**

You can charge your donation to your credit card!

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P.O.B. 843

Glenham, NY 12527-0843

(845) 831-6346 www.bannermancastle.org

STAMP



Former Dining Room - Bannerman Visitor Center

PLEASE DONATE: www.BannermanCastle.org

Happy Holidays & Happy New Year!

Thank you for helping The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc.
Make 2017 season the best yet! We look forward to the upcoming
2018 Season. Upcoming programs and events include:

- Bannerman Island Tours
- Movie Nights on Bannerman Island
- Theatre on Bannerman Island
- Third Sunday Music and Self Guided Tours
- Spring Bannerman Island Dinner Benefit
- Fall Bannerman Island Chef's Farm Fresh Dinner Benefit
- Bannerman Gallery Art Shows and Paint Out
- Hudson River Painters Lecture by Robert Doyle and Picnic
- Educational Lectures at The Bannerman Visitor Center

BECOME A "FRIEND" OF THE BANNERMAN CASTLE TRUST, INC.

Please Join Today and Help Preserve a Hudson River Icon!

Please Note: The Bannerman Castle Trust Inc. has acquired a special activity permit from NYSOPRHP for all BCT on-island events.

The island is otherwise closed to the public for safety reasons, and landing is prohibited. A copy of our latest annual financial report may be obtained by writing to The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. or to the Attorney General's Office, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, NY 10271.



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**