



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **STATEN ISLAND'S RICH HISTORY IS FOCUS OF REMARKS BY MIKE WALLACE**

Pulitzer-Prize winning author and historian Mike Wallace will address this month's Staten Island Economic Development Conference and will speak about the stored past of the city's least-known borough. The talk will kickoff a series of special MAS tours of Staten Island that will continue through the fall.

Wallace's remarks, *Staten Island Over the Centuries*, will begin at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 24, at the Hilton Garden Inn, 1100 South Avenue, Staten Island. It is free of charge and open to the public and news media. Transit: 9:30 a.m. Staten Island Ferry to St. George; S46 bus from St. George Ferry Terminal to Hilton Garden Inn. Livery cabs are available at the ferry terminal.

"Most New Yorkers see Staten Island from the deck of a ferry, or from a car speeding towards the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge," said Kent L. Barwick, president of the MAS. "We now present several opportunities for the public to learn more."

Wallace is co-author of the Pulitzer-Prize winning *Gotham: A History of New York City to 1898*. Since 1971, he has taught history at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY. His most recent book, *A New Deal for New York*, examines the future of the post-9/11 city in the light of its past. He was born and raised in the city and its environs, and earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees at Columbia University.

The upcoming tour series, *Staten Island: Beyond the Boat and the Bridge*, will allow all New Yorkers to experience a borough they didn't know existed. Tours will visit Greek Revival-style temples that once housed aged sailors, and the sites of the unsuccessful peace conference that took place on September 11, 1776, and the island's 9/11 Memorial. They will feature spectacular views of the harbor from above Battery Weed, and explore the nooks and crannies of one of America's great forts. Tour takers will see stained glass by Tiffany and Maitland Armstrong, outstanding examples of 18th-

century stone carvings, and the farmhouse where Frederick Law Olmsted began his career.

The Richmond County Savings Foundation awarded the MAS a \$25,000 grant to develop and conduct the tour series and inaugural lecture. In 1958, Staten Island was the destination of the first MAS bus tour. MAS has been back not only on tours, but as co-sponsor of the international design competition, *Fresh Kills: Landfill to Landscape*.

Tour itineraries vary widely. They will take place by boat, bus or on foot — or a combination of modes. Tours will cost \$40 for MAS members and \$50 for non-members. Box lunches and all admissions charges are included. Reservations and pre-payment is required. RSVP to 212-935-2075. More details and tour guide biographies can be found on the MAS website, [www.mas.org](http://www.mas.org).

**HISTORIC! ROMANTIC! SEDUCTIVE! STATEN ISLAND! – SOLD OUT**  
Sunday, April 29, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Bus and walking tour with Justin Ferate, urban historian. An overview bus and walking tour of the North Shore and Mid-Island with stops at National Historic Landmarks and exclusive tours of notable historic houses and other exceptionally private sites.

**SAILORS' SNUG HARBOR: THEN AND NOW**  
Sunday, May 20. Water taxi, walking and bus tour with Francis Morrone and Barnett Shepherd, architectural historians. Arrive at the Snug Harbor dock by water taxi from Manhattan and tour one of the most significant preservation sites in the country, including behind-the-scenes visits and seldom-seen artifacts.

**FT. WADSWORTH ON THE NARROWS**  
Sunday, June 10. Ferry, bus and walking tour with Jack Eichenbaum, urban geographer, and Phil Melfi, supervisory park ranger. Explore the fascinating nooks and crannies of one of the great coastal defense forts of the United States, sited in the shadow of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge.

**NORTH SHORE SACRED SPACES**  
Sunday, July 22. Bus and walking tour with Francis Morrone, architectural historian. Tour sacred spaces of historical, architectural and artistic significance including the borough's oldest Reformed and Roman Catholic churches, Temple Emanu-El, and Christ Episcopal Church with its five Tiffany windows.

**THE SURPRISING SOUTH SHORE**  
Sunday, September 16. Bus and walking tour with Justin Ferate, urban historian. Tour unexpected sites, from Tottenville's historic streets and charming houses to the Seguire Mansion on Princes Bay as well as open spaces and quiet shorelines that have survived South Shore development.

## MORE THAN PIZZA: STATEN ISLAND'S ITALIAN HERITAGE

Sunday, October 21. Bus and walking tour with Jerome Krase, visual sociologist. Tour neighborhoods with buildings, shrines, streets and plantings that reflect their connection to southern Italy, plus sites associated with Garibaldi, one of Italy's liberators, and Meucci, considered by many the true inventor of the telephone.

The Municipal Art Society of New York is a private, non-profit membership organization whose mission is to promote a more livable city. Since 1893, the MAS has worked to enrich the culture, neighborhoods and physical design of New York City. It advocates for excellence in urban design and planning, contemporary architecture, historic preservation and public art.

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