



## Join us for.. RiverFest Talks

**RiverFest Talks is a first-ever discussion and lecture series produced by the Kingsbridge Riverdale Van Cortlandt Development Corp. featuring local environmental activists, experts and historians.**

**Sunday, June 11th at RiverFest, on the beautiful campus of the College of Mount Saint Vincent**

**2:00 to 2:30pm**

### A River Runs Through It

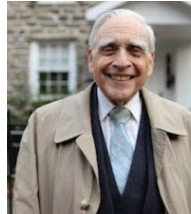


**Michelle Luebke**, Ecology Director at the Bronx River Alliance, will talk about the Bronx River and the Bronx River Alliance. Michelle will focus on “Citizen Science” including the research and achievements of the Bronx River Alliance and how to get involved as a volunteer.

Michelle Luebke, Ecology Director, Bronx River Alliance has over ten years of experience leading adults and school groups through creeks and natural areas, managing ecological monitoring programs, and teaching about environmental science and sustainability. She holds advanced degrees from the University of Georgia in Geography (emphasis in fluvial geomorphology) and Conservation Ecology & Sustainable Development and from New York University in Environmental Conservation Education.

**2:30 to 3:30pm**

### A River In Time

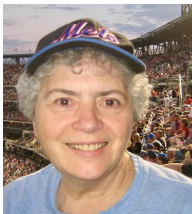


Bronx borough historian **Lloyd Ultan** will tell the fascinating story of the relationship between the Hudson River and the residents of Riverdale from the time of the American Indians to today’s effort to establish a Greenway along its shores.

Lloyd Ultan is a historian, author and professor. A native of the Bronx, he has been the borough’s historian since 1996. He is a professor of history at Fairleigh Dickinson University and Lehman College. He has written several books including *The Beautiful Bronx (1920-1950)*, *The Bronx in the Innocent Years: 1890-1925*, and *Bronx Accent*. Ultan is renowned for his walking tours.

### 3:30 to 4:30pm Let’s Make Our Rivers Great Again

Local activists **Karen Argenti** and **Robert Fanuzzi** review waterfront access plans throughout the Bronx and discuss the environmental impacts that are changing their designs and purposes.



**Karen Argenti** has a background in administration, municipal governance, politics and community action. She has a Masters of Public Administration, and worked for New York City Council President, New York City Council, the New York State Senate, the Bronx Democratic County Committee, and as a consultant for the Gaia Institute. A former

Chairperson of Bronx Community Board 7, she is on the not-for-profit Board of Directors of the Bronx Council for Environmental Quality. As a leader in saving Jerome Park Reservoir from being used as the site for the Croton Water Treatment Plant, she organized upstate watershed stakeholders to cause the New York City Department of Environmental Protection to look at alternatives. In the drinking water watershed she advocated for extra protection as a member of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SPPP) Advisory Committee set up as an negotiated agreement in the NYS DOT Route 120 EIS creating a state of the art stormwater practice protecting the Kensico Reservoir. Currently, she is a policy and community consultant. As a volunteer, she is on the Harlem River Working Group, and spearheaded the BCEQ Brownfields Opportunity Area Project and the Popup Wetland at Pier 5 along the Harlem River. She is also a community member on the CB8 Environment and Sanitation Committee.



**Robert Fanuzzi** is a Bronx civic activist and community leader, serving as Chair of Community Board 8 from 2011-2014 and Chair of the Croton Facility Monitoring Committee, fighting for the restoration of Jerome Park Reservoir and Van Cortlandt. As past Chair of Community Board 8 Economic Development committee, he

introduced urban farmstands to underserved neighborhoods and worked closely with KRVC to create arts-related economic development programs and merchant-sponsored block festivals. As past chair of the Environment and Sanitation Committee, he fought for increased green infrastructure and community gardens in the area and continues as Community Board member to support the daylighting of Tibbetts Brook, extending the Putnam Trail, and the preservation of the Special Natural Area District, among other environmental issues. He has been honored for his contributions to the Hudson River Greenway by KRVC at its 2014 Greenway Gala. Now Vice Chair of the Bronx Council for Environmental Quality and Chair of its Bronx Greenway Committee, he also serves as Treasurer of the Bronx Arts Ensemble. When not in the Bronx, Fanuzzi is Associate Provost and Director of Civic Engagement for St. John’s University’s Staten Island campus.