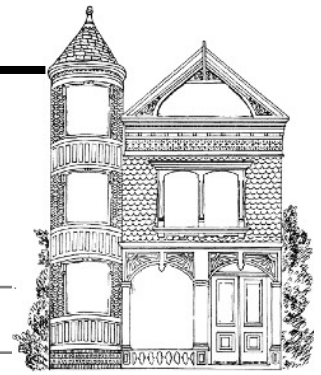


WEST MIDWOOD NEWS



Volume 34

Number 1

March 2020



Marilyn Cuff and WMCA President Eric Goldberg thank all the people who made the progressive dinner a delicious reality.

West Midwood Celebrates the Leap Year with Annual Progressive Dinner

Nearly one hundred West Midwoodians celebrated Leap Year and welcomed Spring at the 2020 WMCA Progressive Dinner. Coordinated by Melissa Scott, with a last minute assist from former coordinator Marilyn Cuff, participants enjoyed appetizers hosted at the homes of David and Tori Rosen, Herb Rubenstein and Laurie Bassie, and Eileen and Tom Brennan. After eating their fill of sumptuous hors d'oeuvres, the guests at all three houses converged at the home of Ruth Shortt and Norman Mooney for desserts, coffee and more lively conversation. John and Nathan Silverberg coordinated the purchase and delivery of beverages, and Jeff Ewing handled the financial side of the dinner. See page 3 for photos of the event. How many of your neighbors do you recognize? (Photos by Anthony Finkel, Herb Rubenstein, Tori Rosen and Eileen Brennan).

Solarizing West Midwood

By Murray Lantner

There is a wonderful new feature on the block that is seen when you stroll up Argyle Road from Avenue H to Foster. Currently, there are four houses on the block that have invested in solar panels that convert the sun's rays into electrical energy. On our house, we had the solar panels installed back in the fall of 2018, and it was a surprisingly painless and quick, not to mention a highly subsidized, process—so much so, that a friend of mine who does home inspections, said it's a "no-brainer" and stupid not to install them. And so far, it's turning out to be quite true.

Our 10-panel, 3.5-kilowatt (KW) system generates about 80% of our annual electricity needs (no, we don't have central air conditioning). Last year our system generated 4,500 kilowatt hours (about \$900 worth of electricity). The system, including installation, cost about \$20,000 (before all of the subsidies). However, when you take into account the Federal Residential Energy Tax Credit of almost \$6,000 (which was 30% of cost, but going down to 26% in 2020), another almost \$5,000 from the New York State Solar Tax Credit, and nearly 5% per year for four years (about \$4,000 over four years) from the NYC Solar property tax abatement, this \$20,000 system suddenly became more like \$5-Or 6,000. This system will pay for itself in five or six years! Not a bad return on



Continued on page 5

The Stories Your House Could Tell — 659 Rugby Road

By Joe Enright

In July of 1903, Captain Frederick C. Dennington, a Spanish-American War veteran, fixed his compass and stretched his chains along Rugby Road. He was standing just south of what had once been a small rural lane that served for 240 years as the southern boundary of the old town of Flatbush, or what the original Dutch settlers called Midwout. Beyond that lane a thick grove of oaks teeming with birds, known as Lott's Woods, had beckoned generations of adventurous lads. But now the landscape was being rapidly transformed. The lane, Foster Avenue, had recently been enlarged to an 80-foot-wide thoroughfare and the trees and brush of the woodland had been leveled, with all the branches and stumps buried in the middle of rectangular blocks of empty land that right now needed the services of a City Surveyor.

Captain Dennington's view eastward from an empty Rugby Road would have encompassed two surface tracks of the Brighton Railroad and beyond that, a few wood frame homes going up near East 17th Street. The Germania Real Estate &



Continued on page 11

Suzanna Touzet

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Suzanna Touzet of Rugby Road. Suzanna passed away in early February after a six-month battle with a debilitating injury suffered while on vacation last summer in Italy. She is mourned by her husband, Sebastian Cwilich, and their two children, Lola and Nico, as well as the rest of the West Midwood community who will miss her enthusiastic, warm and friendly smile. Suzanna served on the West Midwood Board for a number of years and she and Sebastian hosted a Progressive Dinner only a year ago. A heart-broken Sebastian informed us that a memorial service is planned in May.



Mark Your Calendars
Neighborhood Events
West Midwood Yard Sale
April 26, 2020
Rain date: May 3, 2020

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President's Message Winter 2019

Eric Goldberg



Coronavirus—election—stock market—primaries. Which topic will dominate discussion at West Midwood's annual progressive dinner? By the time you read this, you may well know the answer. Here's my own preview of some one-liners we are sure to hear while munching the offerings in our hosts' homes:

"Where did they get this wine, Costco?"

"My thermostat is set to 65 degrees around the clock. These people must have money to burn."

"I just saw them, the ones that paid (\$\$\$) for that house. Can you believe what they paid?"

"I promise you, being on the WM Board is barely any work. Just a few meetings a year."

"I can't wait to sell all my junk at the yard sale. What are Barry Manilow records worth?"

"I called CB14, Bobby Carroll, the 70th precinct, and Mayor DeBlasio about my stolen package. I haven't heard back yet."

"He's been trying to sell for years, but who would ever buy with that paint?"

"She let everyone bring cheese platters. Why not tell someone to bring something else? Why is there never any meat at these things? Doesn't the WM Board have money for meat?"

"Yes our vacation was great—but we missed our wonderful neighbors."

"Oh don't worry about the spill, tomato sauce never sticks."

"I usually go to Key Food on Foster on my way home from work. But wait, no, I didn't get anything I brought here tonight from there—promise."

"We just had them over for dinner last week. They've never invited us once in all these years."

And finally: "The WM Board has done such a wonderful job. What do you guys actually do again?"

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2020 Leap Year Progressive Dinner "And a Good Time Was Had by All"



The Mad Gardener

From Winter to Spring

By Robert Brannon

What can an avid gardener do, when it's too cold to go outside? Here are three indoor answers:

(1) Browse through the seductive, beautiful plant catalogs that have been arriving. If you've ordered anything from mail-order plant catalogs in the past, the new 2020 versions will have been arriving already in your mailbox for a month or so. At a time when there is little or nothing to enjoy outdoors, the arriving plant catalogs are bursting with colorful blossoms, so perfect looking you can almost smell their sweet scents. It is time right now to order a few things for the coming season—but, be careful. One can run up quite a large bill, and the unfortunate truth is, when those same plants are growing in your Brooklyn yard, they will not look nearly as perfect and dazzling as they do in the catalogs. You probably don't have as much sun as they really need, or the rich, fertile, well-drained soil that would make them happy. But new garden plants do (sometimes) grow and flower very well, and our hopes will always spring eternal.

The *Select Seeds* catalog is especially colorful, big, and fun to browse. It offers hundreds of kinds of seeds, and also small plants ready to go right into the ground (for about \$6 or \$7 each). Another catalog that one looks forward to is from *White Flower Farm*. Their plants are slightly expensive, but high-quality, choice varieties. *Wayside Gardens* has a big, thick and enjoyable catalog, with pictures of everything. *Edmunds' Roses* has good photos and a great selection. *Bluestone Perennials* is another favorite each year, with hundreds of affordable plants. You can find all these on the web.

(2) Gardening **magazines** are more honest than the catalogs, and usually far more helpful. They have interesting articles by garden experts to read, with beautiful full-color photographs, and are often inspirational. They picture large groupings of coordinated, well-matched plants (known as "borders"). They also offer useful techniques, tips, and ideas on all aspects of gardening. Some favorite magazines are *Fine Gardening*, *Horticulture*, and *The American Gardener*. These are all produced here in the U.S., and have many good suggestions and garden ideas for our climate. For sumptuous beauty however, nothing from the U.S. quite compares with *The English Garden*. We in West Midwood can never have the majestic, spectacular gardens such as those in England, but it's nice to know that they exist, perhaps to visit some day. And we don't have to worry about Brexit.

(3) You will eventually throw away all the catalogs and magazines from years past. (For some illogical reason, I still keep catalogs from several nurseries that have gone out of business.) **Books** about plants and gardening, however, are often treasures that you will never want to part with. I by now have too many gardening books to even count. (I might need assistance from the Iowa Democratic caucus organizers.) And

while brand new books are all you will see in stores, much older books are often better and more helpful than the new ones. These are some favorites:

Hardy Bulbs by Louise B. Wilder dates from 1936, and is still better on this topic than any recent books. Vita Sackville-West was the most famous of all garden writers, and her popular articles are delightful and informative to read, in *V. Sackville-West's Garden Book* (1968). West Midwood has abundant shade, and the best book on gardening in shade is *The Complete Shade Gardener* (Schenk). The new concept of pruning perennials, so as to delay or extend their bloom, was perfected in *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden*, by Tracy DiSabato-Aust. A handsome coffee-table book, with dazzling photos of fabulous gardens, is *The Collector's Garden: Designing with Extraordinary Plants* (Druse). I enjoy (and sometimes go back and re-read) the articles in Henry Mitchell's *The Essential Earthman*, which are funny and educational.

Some excellent (and inexpensive) new books are *The Plant Lover's Guide* series from Timber Press, with individual books by various experts focusing on magnolias, clematis, *Epimedium*, ferns, sedum, salvia, asters, and geraniums. The books have good pictures of each variety, making it easy to choose those you like best.

The Charms of Early, Early Bloomers

I have an affection for the plants that bloom in chilly late winter, even before the arrival of spring. Each year, these early birds bloom in a regular and always predictable order. First of all to appear are the little white snowdrops. In some spots, they will solidly carpet the ground, a patch of fresh green foliage with dainty little hanging white bells, often with patches of snow all around them. Then the Asian witch hazels bloom, very often together with the last snowdrops. Witch hazel is a woody shrub, or small tree, with odd threadlike yellow flowers, and a sweet scent. These will both be finished for 2020 by the time you read this, but they will return next year. Another rare Asian tree, the Japanese autumn-flowering cherry (*Prunus subhirtella 'Autumnalis'*) is always the first sizeable tree to bloom. The pink flowers are tiny, but seem to almost cover the still-leafless tree, and are nicely fragrant.

Next, in early spring, a host of bright flowers will erupt from the ground. These are the bulbs that you planted this past fall or in previous years. Rock-garden tulips suddenly appear (large but rather low to the ground), along with grape hyacinths, Siberian squills, dwarf iris, glory-of-the-snow, anemone blanda, and miniature daffodils. Virginia bluebells and Christmas rose (*Helleborus*) are not bulbs, but the first perennials to bloom. These early flowers are variously bright red, yellow, orange, white, and even blue, the rarest of all colors among flowers.



One can see all of these little treasures when walking around West Midwood in early spring. The Gardening Committee on DeKoven Court planted over *two thousand* bulbs, in the sidewalk strips near Rugby Road, so those will make quite a nice show. The sidewalk strips are owned by N.Y. City's Parks Department, so those bulbs are now technically the city's property, but we will be the ones to enjoy them.

Crocuses are very often dug up and greedily eaten by squirrels. The new ones on DeKoven Court, however, were planted under wire screens, which will defeat the squirrels. They may still eat the crocus flowers, but cannot get to the bulbs a few inches down.

A Great New Indoor Plant: No Soil, No Water, No Planting, Just Big, Beautiful Blooms

You have probably seen amaryllis in bloom, indoors, usually around the Christmas holidays. The unusually large flowers are typically bright red, but white, pink, orange, and bi-colors are also available. A brand-new invention has just appeared in the last two years: *waxed* amaryllis. The large bulb has been mostly covered with wax. The great advantage of this treatment is that

it will bloom for a long period, with no soil, no planting, and no watering. You simply place it in a window sill, and watch it. It will rapidly send a shoot upward for several weeks, and then burst into bloom. They are easy to find and purchase on the web, but available only in the winter season.

Starting Plants from Seeds?

I started many trays of seeds indoors last spring, by a sunny window. What a mess! Never again! It is time-consuming, you end up with plenty of dirt on the floor, and the weak little seedlings do not always transplant well to outdoors. Instead, one can buy hundred of healthy seedling in convenient flats, at Shannon Nursery (3380 Fort Hamilton Parkway), or the Brooklyn Terminal Market, on Foster Avenue Extension, past Ralph, near Remsen. Just go early to get a good selection.

Quick Quiz

Which is the most beautiful of all flowers?
 (a) Peony (b) Iris (c) Rose (d) Dahlia (e) Milkweed
 (f) Passion Flower (g) All of the above

Solarizing West Midwood — *continued from page 1*

investment, especially for something that is reducing our carbon emissions.

Because it takes time to recoup the tax credits, my solar company lined up a one-year, no-interest loan for about \$11,000. Careful, though! It becomes a high-interest loan if not paid back after one year.

My process of getting the panels started by calling up a few different solar companies to get some quotes based upon a desktop analysis of my house. Sometimes you may hear back right away that your roof is not a good candidate for solar panels, based on roof direction, shade, age of roof, etc. If you and the company are satisfied with the proposal (payback period, electricity output, cost), they do an on-site visit to verify their desktop assessment. We were satisfied with the proposal, signed a bunch of documents, and a few months later we had a working solar system. All of the promised tax credits and loans materialized, and everything is working fine.

There are different types of purchase options, ranging from buying the system (with the help of tax credits) to a power purchase agreement in which there is no money down and you pay for the energy the system generates. In this case, the solar company would get the tax credits and be responsible for any maintenance. But make sure to do the math on your



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generate more power than you use, ConEd gives you a credit of kilowatt hours that you can use during months when you generate less than you use. Your roof needs to be in good condition.

Based on my own experience, as well as speaking with a neighbor, the four houses on Argyle either used Sunpower by Venture Solar or Trinity Solar, and both of these companies seemed to have been just fine. If you are thinking about going solar, I would recommend to start exploring them sooner rather than later, as the subsidies get lower over time.

I haven't until now brought up climate change and ocean acidification, which are massive problems that need to be reigned in using carbon-free energy. But even outside of the environmental benefits of renewable energy, the systems are a wise investment. Once you get all of your subsidies you earn about 15% return on investment each year until the system is paid off, and then you get free electricity for the next two decades or so.



The Little House that Toby Drew *by Laura Givner, with Toby Hempel*

Did you ever wonder about “the little house on the cover”? It’s the line drawing of a Victorian house that appears in the top right corner of page 1 of each issue of the *West Midwood News*.

The artist was Toby Hempel, who lived in West Midwood from 1979 to 1992 and was briefly the editor of the newsletter. I interviewed her in January to learn the history of the drawing. Her responses are a kind of history of West Midwood in the 1980s (when *The* was part of the newsletter title). Her comments will resonate with current homeowners, both young and old.

Here is the story behind the house that Toby drew.

Laura Givner: What first got you interested in serving on the West Midwood Board of Directors?

Toby Hempel: I was excited about living in West Midwood, I loved the community and the architecture and what the entire neighborhood had to offer, and I wanted to help in any way I could to preserve it and ensure that it would flourish and prosper in the future. I wanted to be involved and not just sit on the sidelines.

LG: In the 1980s, when you were a Board member, some highlights for West Midwood were the opening of the New Kent Twin movie theater, the paid security patrol (under John Levey), an interview in *The West Midwood News* with Helen Hegeman (West Midwood’s only charter resident at that time—since 1907), operation CAT (to deter auto theft), an active Special Events Committee (under Gloria Kaufman), and the Mobile Recycling Unit (a pilot program for West Midwood). In addition, West Midwood residents enjoyed the annual Halloween Parade and Block Party.

How did the regular and special events shape your feeling about living in West Midwood?

TH: I was so fortunate when I moved in—it was shortly before a Progressive Dinner was going to be held. My then husband and I participated and had a wonderful time meeting and getting to know our neighbors and seeing their houses. We met dozens of people over the course of the evening and went on to make great friends. It was the best possible introduction to living in West Midwood! Everyone was so warm and welcoming. Over the years, I always tried to attend the Progressive Dinners, and I always met new people as well as catching up with established friends. The various events that were held fostered a sense of unity and identity and connected us to each other. I remember the Kent Theater very fondly, both before and after, although especially after! The neighborhood was really excited and proud when Woody Allen used it as a location in his movie *The Purple Rose of Cairo*. Some residents got in touch with the management and arranged a special gala evening, West Midwood residents only, for a screening of the movie. It was super! We also had a neighborhood garage sale that was a great success; it was a great opportunity to de-clutter and make a little

money, while also affording the opportunity to stroll around and check in with neighbors and see what treasures they were de-accessioning! I loved being part of such an active, involved neighborhood that offered so many interesting and enjoyable events!

LG: The *West Midwood News* is more than 35 years old. A large line drawing of a Victorian house (showing your name and the date December 1982) fills the cover of the September–October 1985 issue (the oldest issue I have in my newsletter archives). What is the story behind that drawing?

TH: I love Victorian residential architecture—the more fanciful, the better. Queen Anne–style houses, with their ornamented gables, their towers and their turrets, their fretwork, and their bay and oriel windows and stained glass, have always appealed to me. I also love drawing, and art in general, so it was only natural that I would draw some Victorian houses to amuse myself and indulge my architectural fantasies. The house on the cover of the *West Midwood News* is actually the sort of house I would have most liked to have lived in. I loved 1212 Glenwood Road, but its facade was rather sedate. I would have loved for there to be a turret on one side! Actually, I’ve never been particularly good at drawing buildings, so I really sweated over that cover drawing, doing several versions by the time I finished.

LG: How did that line drawing come to grace the cover of *The West Midwood News* in 1985 (or before)?

TH: I’m not sure about dates, but I believe the first time the newsletter featured the house on its cover was way back when I was briefly the editor. I left

the windows and porch blank, without mullions or other detail, on purpose, so that they could contain the titles of articles within.

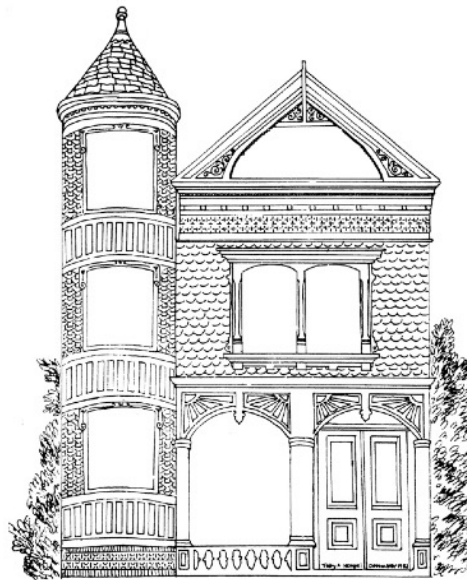
LG: Why was the large drawing on the cover for only about 3 years? (When I became editor, Howard restored it, photoreduced, in the upper right corner of page 1.)

TH: I really don’t know. Times change, editors change. . . . Possibly people thought that it was wasteful having a cover consisting almost solely of an illustration.

LG: In your opinion, how is that house thematic for West Midwood?

TH: To me, that house represents the charm, warmth, and coziness of West Midwood, as well as its old-fashioned virtues of neighborliness and welcome. West Midwood is not a cookie-cutter place; it has personality and quirks all of its own, like the Victorian houses that make up almost all of its housing stock. I might admire a Bauhaus residence for its clean design, but I’d much rather live in a house and a community with real character.

During her last few years in West Midwood, Toby completed, at the CUNY Graduate Center in Manhattan, a doctoral program in English with a specialty in medieval literature. When she moved to Princeton, N.J., she was offered an administrative



position at the university, so she never actually taught medieval literature. But oh, how she loved doing research in medieval studies in Princeton's Firestone library!

Toby made the decision to leave West Midwood—and the city—because of unfortunate personal incidents: attempts to grab her purse at the Newkirk Plaza subway station, muggings (both Toby and her visiting mother were victims), and being accosted and directly asked for money in subway cars and on the platform. Also, she had been thinking about leaving her job. So Toby moved to Princeton, where she had grown up. (Things started to change for the better in NYC not long after Toby moved.)

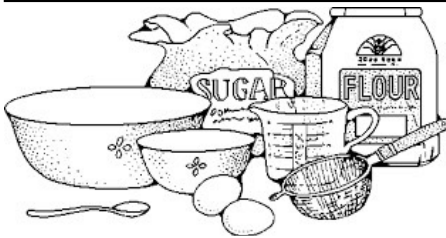
Toby has been very busy over the past 30 years or so. Some highlights: For many years she was the Administrator of the Center for Jewish Life at Princeton, and she did freelance writing for magazines and newspapers. She took lessons in ballroom dancing and became the manager of the ballroom studio but left that position when her parents' health "became fragile." Eventually, Toby took lessons in modern square

dancing and (about 8 years ago) got married to the president of the square dance club where she took lessons. Toby still does artwork and occasionally participates in a group show, and she belongs to a craft group.

My interview with Toby concluded with a question about the house she drew.

LG: If "the house that Toby drew" could talk, what would it say to you about ensuring a good quality of life in one's neighborhood?

TH: Well, first of all, I think it would encourage a welcoming, friendly attitude. It would emphasize the importance of community and having a sense of neighborhood, of looking out for one another and forming strong bonds of fellowship. And it would definitely be in favor of taking pride in one's home! It is a traditional house, so no doubt it would encourage the building and maintaining of neighborhood traditions—like the Progressive Dinner, the Halloween Parade, and the Block Party—and being involved and connected.



West Midwood Cooks (and Bakes!) by Allidah Muller

Editor's Note. *West Midwood is blessed to have quite a number of really excellent cooks and bakers. If you have a favorite recipe you'd like to contribute, contact Allidah at allidah.muller@gmail.com.*

No Egg Chocolate Cake

This recipe is shared by Jan Castro - "This is Grandma's no egg chocolate cake — easy to make and delicious. Try using olive or almond oil and good quality cocoa."

1 ½ cup flour
1 cup sugar
½ tsp salt
1 tsp baking soda
3 - 5 Tbsp cocoa
1 tsp vanilla
1 Tbsp cider vinegar
5 Tbsp salad oil
1 cup water

Put everything in bowl in order given and beat until mixed. Grease and flour 8" x 8" pan. Bake at 350° for 30 - 40 min.

Aunt Bertha's Meatballs

This recipe is shared by Harriet Rhine - "This dish has been my contribution for the "Progressive Dinner" for many years."

1½ lbs. chop meat
seasoned bread crumbs
1 egg
1 Tbsp ketchup
1 Tbsp water
Gently form the balls, about 1 inch in diameter
Sauce:
16 oz. can Ocean Spray WHOLE cranberries
16 oz. can tomato sauce

Cook meatballs in sauce for about 2 ½ hours on a very low flame.

Cool a bit and skim off any fat on top.

Kale Pesto with Whole Wheat Pasta

I discovered this recipe in *Bon Appetit's* January 2020 issue, and not only is it yummy, but it is a great way to sneak some extra greens and vitamins into a pasta night. The writers at Bon App recommend Jovial brown rice pasta if you're looking for a good gluten-free option. I've been making double batches and freezing half for a quick weeknight meal.

1 large bunch Tuscan kale, ribs and stems removed
Kosher salt
12 oz. farro pasta or whole wheat pasta
1/3 cup raw pistachios
1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
1 garlic clove
1 oz. Parmesan, finely grated, plus more for serving
2 Tbsp. unsalted butter
Freshly ground black pepper

Cook kale leaves in a large pot of boiling salted water until bright green and wilted, about 30 seconds. Transfer to a rimmed baking sheet with tongs; keep water boiling. Let kale cool slightly; wring out excess water with your hands.

Cook pasta in a pot of boiling water, stirring occasionally, until al dente.

Blend nuts, oil, garlic, and 1/3 cup water in a blender or food processor until very smooth. Add kale and 1 oz. Parmesan. Puree, adding water 1 Tbsp. at a time as needed, until smooth. Transfer pesto to a large bowl.

Using tongs, transfer pasta to a bowl with pesto; add butter and 1/2 cup pasta cooking liquid. Toss, adding more pasta cooking liquid by the tablespoonful if needed, until sauce coats pasta. Divide among bowls; top with more Parmesan and a few grinds of pepper.



Brooklyn Sports

By Argyle Art Rhine

Girls' Street Games

Close your eyes, girls and boys, as we Brooklyn Sports fans return to our yesteryear reverie regarding the games we yoosta play on these Midwood streets . . . Oh, perhaps you oughta open your peepers, unless you are one of the fortunate few who gets the West Midwood News delivered personally as a bedtime story.

Potsy

As far as I can tell, potsy is the same as hopscotch but the game was rarely called hopscotch in Brooklyn (Bensonhurst being one exception) and never called potsy anywhere but Brooklyn and the outer boroughs. Possibly, the game “grid” was bigger for older girls outside our beloved borough. The game grid, drawn in chalk on the sidewalk or in the gutter, consisted of eight boxes: two contiguous squares closest to the player, then one square centered, then two squares, then one, then two farthest from you, looking like a bad beginning to a game of Jenga. The boxes were numbered. Each player selected a token from the surrounding debris, usually a small stone, but could be a bottle cap or a barrette or really anything that could fit comfortably within the box. I have heard the token called the “potsy” in other neighborhoods but never in Midwood where it was called your “thing” or “rock” or whatever. Calling it a potsy would’ve have gotten you shot. Your thing had to be approved by the other players to avoid unfair advantages.



The first player up drops her token in the closest (#1) box. It must rest within the box; touching the line is out and your turn ends. Same for missing the box completely; you don’t want a token that rolls. Then the player must hop, step, or jump into the other seven boxes (skipping the box containing the token), on one foot in each row where there’s only one box (the other foot in the air), then two feet simultaneously in each row where there are two boxes. After successfully arriving with two feet in the top two boxes (# 7 and #8), the player must perform a 180-degree turn in the air and re-land within the top boxes. Then she must return to where her token rests, balance on one foot in the adjoining box, and—without touching the ground with her other hand—pick up the token. Finally, she must hop, step, or jump off the grid back at the beginning.

Successful completion of the circuit means you go again with Box #2 as your target. Obviously, it gets harder to land your token within the box as you get to rows farther away from the beginning. Stepping on a line or missing a box as you proceed, losing your balance as you reach for your token and/or accidentally stepping in the box containing your token, or dropping your token likewise ends your turn.

“A” My Name Is Alice

“A” My Name Is Alice was played with a Spaldeen—Brooklyn slang for a pink rubber ball made by Spalding—which had to be bounced on the beat of the predetermined storyline that had missing elements, which you made up as you went along. In

addition, you had to circle your leg (clockwise for a righty) over the bounced ball every time you reached a word beginning with the letter of the alphabet you were up to. Starting with the letter A, a typical story was: “A my name is Alice and my husband’s name is Alan; we come from Albany and we sell apples.” After a very brief pause for approval from other players came: “B my name is Barbara and my husband’s name is Barry; we come from Brooklyn and we sell balloons.” Your turn ended if you failed to catch the bounced ball, usually by kicking it away when turning your leg over, if you missed the beat, or if you flubbed your names or places or things to sell. This game was never played by adults and was never taught by adults.

Red Light, Green Light

Red Light, Green Light was played by children of both sexes. One person was “It” and stood facing a horde of other kids, maybe 15 yards away. The other kids could not move. Then the It Girl would turn around and count. In some neighborhoods, she would count “Red Light Green Light One Two Three” and then turn back facing the hordes while yelling “red light.” In Midwood, she would count, “1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 Red Light” and then turn back. When she was counting, the hordes could approach her, but they must “freeze” when she yelled “red light” and turned to face them. If she saw any movement, she would order the non-statue to return to the starting line. There was no appeal from her judgment and order. One great trick of the It Girl was to count, “1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 Green Light,” which would cause tumult as the other players tumbled over each other, some stopping, some continuing to advance.

With each successive turn, the hordes got closer. Finally, when the It was turned away and counting, somebody would touch her (not usually gently) and then she would have to chase the retreating horde back to the starting line. Whomever she touched became the new It.

The greatest (and only) innovation I ever saw was when Laura S. snuck out of line while the It’s back was turned, ran down an alleyway, ran through the back yards, and emerged behind the It while the It was facing the group and ordering each of the non-statues to go back to the beginning. While we all watched in amazement, Laura snuck up and tagged the It. Pandemonium ensued.

Mother May I?

Mother May I? was also a coeducational game, but rarely. One person was “It” and would face the crowd assembled at the starting line. She would pick one player who then requested permission to move toward the It. For example, “Mother may I take one giant step?” If granted permission, the player would advance one giant step. The requests were not limited to a single step, but multiple step requests were frequently denied. Other acceptable modes of transportation included: (a) baby steps, (b) hops, (c) skips, (d) jumps (i.e., standing broad jumps), (e) backward steps, and (f) the unique “umbrella step” which was carried out by placing one finger on the crown of your head and spinning around as you advanced toward the It.

Umbrella steps (plural) were the exception to the multiple step denial because drunken staggering never got old.

My memory cannot conjure how this game ended or when someone new became It. I guess the It would eventually let someone tag her.

Jacks

A jack was a silver-colored six-pointed three-dimensional metal (aluminum?) object perhaps half an inch across. The game consisted of picking up a collection of jacks in one hand, starting with one jack and increasing the number in each round, while bouncing and catching a ball. The ten jacks were tossed lightly by the player to form a sort of circle of jacks. Then, the player would toss a small red ball in the air, pick up a jack—without moving any other jack—while the ball bounced, and then catch the ball in the hand containing the jack. After this action was repeated successfully ten times, the player would start a new round, picking up two jacks at a time. The score was kept by the "-sies" numbering system: onesies, twosies, up to tensies (or picking up all the jacks all at once).



Difficulties encountered included: (a) two jacks touching when you had to pick up one and only one jack; (b) picking up multiple jacks when they were spread far apart; and (c) picking up all jacks in one fell swoop and then catching the ball in the same hand. Any failure to pick up the requisite number while leaving all other jacks untouched and unmoved ended your turn. Failure to catch the ball ended your turn, as did hitting a stationary jack with the ball. It is universally agreed by the girls of Midwood that swooping up all ten jacks was a nearly impossible task requiring as much time and training as teaching a Little Leaguer to switch hit.

Once again, my memory fails me, having never played a whole round of jacks ("tensies"), as to whether or not there was a winner. It may have been competitive as to who got to a higher number of successfully picked-up jacks. At least as likely is that it was a seated, nicely social game which encouraged congenial chatting.

Jump Rope

Jump rope is typically played by professional boxers and young girls. Any boy in Midwood who joined the girls wound up loving to jump rope, but we had to keep it quiet.

Jump rope took many forms. First was individually. The jumper would take one end of the rope in each hand and circle the rope over her head in a back-to-front direction, then jump over it as it came down to the ground and under her feet. Tricks were not common; crossing the rope on the downswing or turning the rope two revolutions per jump were rare. Individual jumping encouraged "jumping in." An observer would request permission to jump in and, when granted, would enter—as the rope was at its zenith—the circle formed by the rope. Facing the jumper, you could jump in time with her while coming close, which appealed to some of us boys.

Jumping in is not to be confused with doubles, in which two jumpers would stand next to each other, the one on the left holding the end of rope with her left hand, the one on the right holding the rope with her right hand. They proceed to jump together as one person.

Another jump rope variety was a group game in which two girls held each end of a long rope and swung it between them in a big arc. A third girl, or even several girls, would jump in,

entering the circle by ducking under the oncoming rope and proceeding to jump with both feet or—faster—one foot at a time. The jumper would jump a prescribed number of times, until she flubbed, or until the accompanying rhyme [see below] ended her turn; then she would jump out and a new girl would jump in. Jumping in could also be played with one rope-turner, if the other end of the rope was tied to a tree or a laundry-line wall screw.

Double Dutch, a brilliant variety of jump rope, was played by turning two ropes in opposite directions into which dizzying whirlwind the jumper(s) would jump in. Although Double Dutch has grown in the past 60 years to the level of mega-competitions for complexity and speed, it was never played by the grade-school girls of Midwood.

Almost all jump rope games were accompanied by songs or rhymes usually sung or recited by onlookers and turners as well as the jumpers themselves. Several examples, with special thanks to the great Peace Eagle from Bedford and Avenue I, are as follows:

Oliver Twist Twist Twist
Can't do this this this
Touch his head head head
Touch his knee knee knee
[Other body parts are mentioned *ad infinitum*, which must be touched by the jumper]

Hello hello hello sir
Meet me at the grocer
No sir
Why sir?
Because I have a cold sir
Where'd you get the cold sir?
Up at the North Pole sir
Whatcha doin' there sir?
Catching polar bears, sir
How many did you catch, sir?
One sir two sir three sir [*ad infinitum*]
[The speed of the turning rope frequently increased as the numbers did.]

Apartment for rent
Inquire within
When [current jumper] moves out,
Let [next in line] move in.

Cinderella dressed in yella
Went downtown to kiss her fella
How many kisses did she give?
One, two, three [*ad infinitum*]

Teddy Bear Teddy Bear touch the ground
Teddy Bear Teddy Bear turn around
Teddy Bear Teddy Bear touch your hair
Teddy Bear Teddy Bear climb the stairs
[Jumper must perform *Teddy Bear's* actions]
[I have heard this rhyme more recently disguised as a children's bedtime story]

[Girl] and [boy] sitting in the tree
K – I – S – S – I – N – G
First comes love
Then comes marriage
Then comes [next jumper] in a baby carriage.

*Enjoy the Spring, oh girls and boys.
Please remember nature's joys.
Teddy Bear Teddy Bear turn out the light;
Now it's time to say goodnight.*

The Stories Your House Could Tell — *continued from page 1*

Improvement Company took the survey map that Dennington filed with the City in January 1904 and used it to sell his meticulously measured lots to developers. Five hundred of the lots were bought by John Corbin for \$500,000.

In 1905 Corbin's team finished erecting a Colonial Revival masterpiece, designed by architect Benjamin F. Driesler, 110 feet south of Foster Avenue. It was one of Corbin's "Model C" houses, crowned by a triangular gable that contains a smaller, off-center gable heading a second-floor three-sided bay window. Its back yard faced a large empty field that fronted the Brighton railroad tracks, populated only by Corbin's sales shack (which looked much like the T. B. Ackerson sales shack that became the Brighton station house at Avenue H).

The first owner of this home was James L. Crosby, an Irish inspector for the city in his early 30's who undoubtedly owed his job to Tammany Hall. His wife, Catherine, made dresses in the home, assisted by three other females in the household. Then the political tides shifted, and Crosby found himself a railroad clerk. In 1913, when Edward R. Strong started constructing 13 beautiful low-profile bungalow homes in that empty field behind his house, Crosby fled to Freeport in Nassau County. I suspect he didn't like all that hammering.

The second owner was a retired fruit broker, John Relyea, and his wife, Susie. Both were born in Brooklyn in the 1840s, when Brooklyn definitely wasn't cool. They had two sons in the clothing business, one of whom, Albert, rented an apartment nearby at 782 Westminster Road. The Relyea's also took in a young lass, Elizabeth Tapley, who was very active in the new Wells Presbyterian Church at Argyle and Glenwood Roads. Alas, John Relyea died in the home and was waked there in October 1917. His widow sold the house months later.

The third owners, the Winslow family, would stay 55 years, for which I am grateful since it saves me from a lot of additional typing. Soon after Walter B. Winslow, an insurance broker, and his wife Julia bought the home, they were joined by Walter's 84-year-old aunt, Margaret E. Winslow. Margaret had devoted her life to the temperance movement and never married. She wrote many articles and books, becoming "an

authoress of no small reputation" as her nephew boasted. But only two weeks after America "went dry" with the kick-off of Prohibition on January 17, 1920, Margaret kicked the bucket at 659 Rugby Road. Perhaps the excitement was just too much.

Unfortunately, a long-protracted probate battle commenced when Walter and two other nephews

inherited her estate. A disappointed great niece and great nephew, living ten blocks away, just off Foster Avenue, accused Walter of fraud and claimed great auntie Margaret must have been nuts to leave them nothing. After hearing a couple of witnesses, however, the Surrogate judge directed the jury to deliver a verdict in favor of Walter.

The Winslows had two sons, both Erasmus alums. Edward, the oldest, became an attorney and formed a partnership with his father in the Wall Street area, Winslow & Son, where the younger son, John, also worked on marine insurance matters for the firm. Both were married in Episcopal ceremonies as war clouds gathered, with John moving to a new home on Glenwood Road, while Edward and his bride took an apartment in the West Village. All of that was short-lived. Months after Pearl Harbor, Edward enlisted in the Signal Corps and John became an Army warrant officer. The Winslows survived the war but in 1950 their father, at the age of 67, became the third resident to die in their bed at 659 Rugby Road.

Walter Winslow's widow, Julia, hung onto the house until 1977 when she sold it to Margaret O'Conner, a nurse at Brookdale Hospital, and Patrick Moylan, a Midwood native working for AT&T. Rugby Road would become their home for the next 17 years. Pat and Marge were newlyweds and

soon, children filled the house. Their neighbor, Marilyn Cuff, remembers the Moylans with fondness, particularly Margaret, "a wonderful homemaker, cook and always good company." But in 1994 when Patrick's employment took him north of the city, the family was forced to relocate.

Meanwhile, Gail Wasserman was living in Windsor Terrace but looking for a new home after she and her husband had split up. She was unfamiliar with this neck of the woods until a broker showed her a house on Westminster Road. It was much too big and expensive—not a good fit for a busy executive managing public affairs activities for American Express (such as masterminding the debut of "Small Business Saturday," which has benefited local shop-keeps all over America). Then Gail saw 659 Rugby Road. "It was *perfect*, with all the charm of the original house, including stained glass windows, parquet floors, pier mirror, and working gas fireplace. By August of 1994 it was mine." A short time later Gail met Ilene Miklos, a divorce attorney with a heart of gold (she once drove to West Virginia in a midnight blizzard to rescue two children kidnapped by their father) and in December 1996, Ilene joined Gail in the Corbin-Driesler wonder house.

Gail's recent retirement has allowed her to spend more time creating ceramic artworks, which have sold like hot cakes at the Metropolitan Museum of Art gift shop. But she also spends much time in community service (even though she was never sentenced to do it by a court—imagine!!) Gail summed it all up: "We have made such wonderful memories with our family and friends here." House proud and happy, they're staying put. If West Midwood is lucky, they'll break the Winslow longevity record.





A DeKoven Court Memoir

By Eileen Brennan

My youth was spent at the crossroads of Rugby Road and DeKoven Court. On record, 12 houses on our side of the subway tracks have an actual DeKoven address, with the even numbers on the south side and the odd on the north.

But we, the locals,

know there are actually 14 homes on the Court. Over the years, the residents of the two corner homes that face Rugby favor DeKoven. This choice may be because each garage is located on DeKoven. But I believe that beyond this practical, location reason, there is a warm and tender choice that defines DeKoven residency.

My life experience is that DeKoven Court is, and has been, gathering of personalities and experiences. In the early fifties there were six of us, three sets of brothers and sisters living on the Court, attending three different school systems—public, Catholic, and Jewish—and all real friends, although it was mostly the three girls who played together. After school, once homework was done, we six gathered as faithful as the postman, skating, bicycling, and playing street games. Hide and Seek was perhaps the favorite for at least three years. Three of us jumped rope for ages, and when there were only two of us,

the rope was tied to a garage and we took turns turning and jumping. Well into high school we played stoop ball with a pink Spalding. The point system was clear: Balls caught on one bounce was worth 5 points; on a fly (no bounce), 10 points; and a high-fly that came off the very edge of the step and was caught with no bounce earned 100 points.

Before many of the current city regulations were imposed, fall was a series of outdoor fun. From the front of all the houses, parents and kids raked the leaves into 10-foot piles. Then, for a few days after school, we six would roller-skate and bike-ride into the “hills.” And finally, on Saturday, the entire neighborhood would smell from the delicious aroma of burning leaves.

In truth, it is all the families combined that created the DeKoven community. Like most, I had my favorites. My most favorite family, the Lanes, lived on the north side, adjacent to the train tracks. I loved Dan because he was much like my grandfather, had been a singing bartender on the Coney Island boardwalk, and was a great storyteller. One of his best tales began with his describing that when he and Grace first moved onto DeKoven Court, the train tracks were even with the street. There were few cars, and many of the drivers were new. Often enough, when these “newbies” heard the train coming, they got scared, the car stalled, and they abandoned the cars on the tracks. Trains crashed into these cars and the city decided that safety would be better had if the train tracks were below ground.

School News PS 217 by Sherry Goldberg



Here’s a glimpse of the latest activities in the PS 217 school community.

On February 10, PS 217 hosted a Nepali, Tibetan, and Chinese New Year Celebration and Potluck. Tons of school families and faculty participated, bringing a cornucopia of dishes to share. The kids and adults danced together and enjoyed a unique mix of music and celebrations, representative of the school community.

February was also Black History Month, and the school used this as a way to further educational learning across all grades. From a focus on Black authors to participating in a classroom door decorating contest, the kids came home more learned and with an increased understanding and respect. You may have even heard about the experiential pop up Black History Museum on News 12. Some school parents created this really cool educational experience, which included virtual reality, right in the school library.

The fifth graders have continued their partnership again this year with the New York City Ballet. Each week all

fifth graders participate in hands-on education and work on ballet pieces and skills, which they will perform later in the year. Even those not initially drawn to ballet (fifth graders sure are opinionated!) are finding it fun. They also went on a field trip to LIU to experience a lecture and demonstration, which was made all the cooler by taking the subway to and from the theater.

Speaking of fifth graders, they are already gearing up for their graduation from PS 217 later this spring. A little birdie shared that they recently voted on the fifth-grade dance theme (space, candy land, neon lights, and winter wonderland are the top contenders so far) and discussed a graduation theme. I’ll look forward to sharing the winning themes and maybe even some pictures if I’m lucky enough to be let in!

And finally, our PS 217 Instagram account is now up and running! Search for us using **ps217k** and look for our pictures identified with **#ps217strong**. Follow and like us—you might even see some of your neighborhood kids featured! This is a great opportunity for everyone to see the wonderful teaching and learning that takes place on a daily basis at the

Have an idea for this newsletter? Let us know! Email us at Editor.WestMidwoodNews@gmail.com

Buying Local

Meredith Jacks of Brooklyn ARTery

By Gail Wasserman

Editor's note: Although Meredith doesn't live in West Midwood and Brooklyn ARTery isn't within its boundaries, the store is near enough—within walking distance—to be considered local.

On January 8th, Meredith Jacks took over Brooklyn ARTery, at 1021 Cortelyou Road, from neighbor/founders Susan Siegel and Jocelyn Lucas Kirouac, when the pair decided to focus on other ventures.

Prior to opening the shop, Meredith taught English and special education at a public middle school for 13 years. And, while she loved teaching, she nurtured a dream that she would cut her commute and open a local business that would let her spend more time in the neighborhood she loves. Then last year, she gave birth to her second child, —so when the Brooklyn ARTery opportunity opened up, “All the pennies just dropped and I jumped in,” she said.

Meredith grew up prizing handmade, beautiful things from spending time with her mother and grandmother, who were both antique collectors. She and her husband, Max, lived in Fort Greene and moved four years ago to Westminster



Road, where they now live with five-year-old son Guy, one-year-old daughter Noa, and their 10-year-old rescue pup Reba.

“I love our neighborhood. So my aim is to make Brooklyn ARTery a place where there's something for everyone, and our wares are either locally made or celebrate Brooklyn,” she added. “And an added bonus: I'm now just a two-minute walk from home — or PS 139, —where my son just started kindergarten.”

Brooklyn ARTery's inventory includes everything from ceramics and other home furnishings (full disclosure: my pottery is sold there) to beauty products and toys. The two top sellers: cards and jewelry. Meredith added, “If you don't find what you're looking for, let me know and I'll see if we can consider ordering it!” Next up, is a small plant pop-up coming in the Spring.

So think of Brooklyn ARTery the next time you need a special gift, are hosting some out-of-town guests who want a souvenir to remind them of their visit, or, maybe, you've earned a special gift for yourself!

The People in Our Neighborhood

What's Happening in Your Life?

Let West Midwood News readers know about significant events in your life — a birth or a loss, an engagement or a marriage, an honor or a promotion. Please contact us at editor.WestMidwoodNews@gmail.com.

Community Service This month West Midwood's **Anthony J. Finkel**, along with Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, Assembly Member Robert Carroll, non-profit organizations and other community leaders organized a clothing and toiletries drive throughout the 40th Council District help raise materials for the recently opened men's homeless shelter located on Coney Island Avenue and Beverly Road. The Peace, Dignity, & Threads Clothing and Toiletries Drive helped to raise 1,155 items, (237 articles of clothing and 918 pieces of toiletries). These items will help several hundred residents as they transition into permanent housing

Congratulations to Rugby Road's **Jennifer Firestone** on the publication of her new book of poetry, **Story**, Ugly Duckling Presse, December 2019. <https://uglyducklingpresse.org/publications/story/>



Congratulations to grandparents **Patricia and Mike DeSiano. Sal DeSiano** who grew up on Avenue H and Laura are proud to announce the birth of their second child, Francesca, on December 19, 2019. The family, including their first child Michelangelo, live in San Francisco

Congratulations to **Nathan Silverberg** on his graduation with a BA in History (minor in Music) from Hofstra University in December.

The Financial Planner's Perspective — *Some Estate Planning Considerations*

By Jeff Ewing

Do you have an “estate”? If you own anything of value that you would like to pass on to someone else when you're no longer around, the answer is yes. But what is an estate plan, and when should one be prepared? The most important function of an estate plan is to help assure that your assets are distributed at your death according to your wishes. The answer to the second part of the question is simple: *now*. Estate plans should be updated when life changes occur, or at least reviewed periodically, even annually if possible.

Wills:

The most basic estate planning document, a will, specifies how you want your property distributed at your death, along with naming an *executor*, whose role is to see that your wishes expressed in your will are properly carried out, and, if you have young children, a *guardian* for them. Note that wills are individual. Each member of a couple needs his or her own will. Wills are administered after death through a legal process called *probate*, overseen in New York by the Surrogate's Court in the county in which you reside at death. Some of your property may be able to pass outside of probate, depending on how it is titled, as discussed below. Incidentally, someone who dies without a will is considered *intestate*, and in that case probate property is distributed according to state law, regardless of what your wishes might be. This is not something that you would want to happen. As with all estate planning documents, wills should be periodically reviewed and updated as necessary.



Assets That Can Pass Outside of Probate

Retirement accounts, such as 401(k)s, 403(b)s, and IRAs should name beneficiaries (and contingent beneficiaries, who would inherit the accounts if the primary beneficiary predeceases you.) Those accounts will pass directly to the named beneficiaries. Non-retirement investment accounts and savings accounts can be jointly titled or titled “transfer on death” to a beneficiary. Life insurance policies, of course, have beneficiaries. They can also have contingent beneficiaries. Real estate can be jointly titled, or titled in other ways to keep it out of probate. Titling and beneficiary decisions, as well as all other estate planning decisions, ideally should be reviewed by an estate attorney and a financial planner who operates as a “fiduciary” (that is, who acts first and foremost in your best interests.) You should not hesitate to ask a financial planner if they are a fiduciary.

Trusts

Trusts are arrangements in which property is legally transferred to a separate entity (the trust) managed by a trustee on behalf of one or more beneficiaries. Generally they avoid probate. There

are many different types of trusts, depending on their purpose and the type of beneficiary they are intended for. An estate attorney can look at your assets and estate objectives and help you decide whether one is appropriate.

Asset Inventory

Yes it is aggravating, but it is very important to put together a complete and accurate list of all your assets, both physical and financial, and their estimated values, and to make sure that your designated executor has a copy. It also should be periodically updated. Your executor should also know where to locate tax returns, deeds, life insurance policies, and other important estate-related documents, as well as the financial account logins to access your bank, brokerage, and retirement account information.

Other Important Estate Planning Instruments

I believe you should seriously consider giving a durable power of attorney to someone you trust to make financial decisions for you if you are ever not capable of doing so. (A “durable” power of attorney is durable because it remains in effect if you do become unable to handle your own affairs.) I also suggest giving a medical power of attorney to someone you trust to make health care decisions for you in similar circumstances. These could be the same or different persons. You might also consider signing a “living will” that specifies your wishes regarding medical care and end-of-life decisions. These are documents on which you definitely should have an estate attorney's input.

Estate planning is complex, and the above list is far from complete. We are all capable of procrastination. I suggest setting up an appointment now with both a fiduciary financial planner and an estate attorney to get the ball rolling. A financial planner may be able to recommend a good estate attorney. Don't have a fiduciary financial planner? Try the Certified Financial Planner Board's website, letsmakeaplan.org, and enter your zip code as well as any other criteria you would like the planner to have. I suggest selecting planners that are “fee only,” since they are most likely to be fiduciaries. The alternative is a planner that earns commissions for the products they sell you, thus creating the potential for conflicts of interest. You can also try the website of the National Association of Personal Financial Advisors, nafpa.org. Its members are all fee only. You may be tempted to save on fees by using estate planning documents you find online and do yourself. This is a bad idea in my opinion. Sometimes it's worth paying a fee for a professional's hard-earned expertise.

Have topics you would like me to address in future columns? Please feel free to email me at j.r.ewing@verizon.net.

West Midwood Dues Payments *Jeff Ewing (j.r.ewing@verizon.net)*

Well, I am both gratified and impressed. Here it is still February (actually February 25 as I write this) and I have received dues payments from 95 West Midwood households! The list below contains all the addresses from which I have received dues payments. (If you count them— and I'm not suggesting you do so — there are actually 91 separate addresses because two separate households paid from four addresses.)

**Thank you very much to everyone who has paid dues.
Thank you also to those residents who chipped in extra as donations!**

Your dues, as you know, are put to very good use to support all of our neighborhood activities, maintenance of our lovely Glenwood malls and the brick stanchions that adorn the ends

of Westminster, Argyle, and Rugby Roads, and occasional donations to worthy organizations that are important to our neighborhood.

Don't see your address in the list but are sure you paid? Please let me know (my email address is above).

Don't see your address and know you haven't yet paid but would like your address included in the next issue? No problem. There's a handy dues notice included in this newsletter.

Everyone who has paid is also entitled to a lovely dues sticker. (This year they are blue.) If you paid and didn't get a sticker please let me know. (It may possibly be on the bottom of your mailbox or somewhere on the floor under your mail slot.)

West Midwood Member Dues Paid 2020

Argyle Road

663 Argyle Road
667 Argyle Road
677 Argyle Road
678 Argyle Road (2)
681 Argyle Road
715 Argyle Road
721 Argyle Road
725 Argyle Road
739 Argyle Road
745 Argyle Road
769 Argyle Road
783 Argyle Road
716 Argyle Road
726 Argyle Road
732 Argyle Road
736 Argyle Road
740 Argyle Road
746 Argyle Road
770 Argyle Road
784 Argyle Road
794 Argyle Road

Avenue H

1403 Avenue H
1407 Avenue H
1214 Avenue H

East 12th Street

815 East 12th Street

DeKoven Court

31 DeKoven Court
37 DeKoven Court
26 DeKoven Court

Glenwood Road

1117 Glenwood Road
1127 Glenwood Road (2)
1205 Glenwood Road
1304 Glenwood Road
1312 Glenwood Road
1315 Glenwood Road
1316 Glenwood Road
1410 Glenwood Road
1416 Glenwood Road
1422 Glenwood Road
1428 Glenwood Road
1430 Glenwood Road
1431 Glenwood Road

Marlborough Court

639 Marlborough Court
652 Marlborough Court

Rugby Road

655 Rugby Road
659 Rugby Road
664 Rugby Road
667 Rugby Road
678 Rugby Road
686 Rugby Road
691 Rugby Road
692 Rugby Road
721 Rugby Road
725 Rugby Road
726 Rugby Road
734 Rugby Road
741 Rugby Road
751 Rugby Road
754 Rugby Road
755 Rugby Road
770 Rugby Road
783 Rugby Road
784 Rugby Road
790 Rugby Road
794 Rugby Road

Waldorf Court

12 Waldorf Court
15 Waldorf Court
16 Waldorf Court

20 Waldorf Court
26 Waldorf Court
27 Waldorf Court
35 Waldorf Court

Wellington Court

15 Wellington Court
19 Wellington Court
20 Wellington Court
23 Wellington Court
28 Wellington Court
33 Wellington Court

Westminster Road

716 Westminster Rd
722 Westminster Rd
725 Westminster Rd
732 Westminster Rd
738 Westminster Rd
744 Westminster Rd
755 Westminster Rd
758 Westminster Rd (2)
762 Westminster Rd
766 Westminster Rd
776 Westminster Rd (2)
781 Westminster Rd
782 Westminster Rd
793 Westminster Rd

Advertisements

Mario Catanzaro

No Victorian house, like those in our neighborhood, should be without an antique clock. Whether it be mantle, wall, shelf, or grandfather clock, or something more modern like an early electric clock, I can probably help. If interested, call me at (718) 282-8471.

Park Slope Copy Center

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What Is West Midwood Online?

Want to ask folks in the neighborhood whether they have any recommendations for a plumber or roofer or such? Or maybe what local eateries or merchants they like? Perhaps you'd like to be in the know about issues affecting our area? Then join the West Midwood Online email discussion group, aka the listserv.

Send an email to joe@enright.com with your street address, name, and the email address that you want to use to post and receive messages. He will add you to the group and send you the simple instructions. There are presently over 200 email subscribers representing about 125 households.

To join you must be a permanent resident of West Midwood and agree not to post messages of a religious, political, or spam nature. Insulting or crude language can also lead to revocation of the ability to post. Finally, new and existing members can also request a daily recap containing all of the activity within the previous 24 hours, rather than receive messages as they occur.



Box Tops For Education

by Sherry Goldberg

Please help P.S. 217 raise money by clipping Box Tops for Education! Our school receives 10 cents for every single box top we submit, and the funds add up quickly! It's simple: keep an eye out for the

Box Tops for Education logo (shown above) on the products you use every day. Participating product lines include major brands such as General Mills, Green Giant, Pillsbury, Old El Paso, Ziploc, Hefty, Betty Crocker, and many more. Simply contact me at sherrymgoldberg@gmail.com. I would be happy to pick up boxtops or coordinate a drop off.

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of the *West Midwood
News*.

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jmislowack@gmail.com to
make payment and
submit your copy.

Mark
Your
Calendars!



Annual Yard Sale

April 26, 2020

Rain date: May 3, 2020

The OMNI Ensemble Concludes its 37th Season with a Rococo, Classical, and Modern Program

The OMNI Ensemble will conclude its 37th season of concerts in the recital hall at the **Brooklyn Conservatory of Music on Saturday evening, March 21, 2020 at 8:00 pm**. Music Director/Flutist **David Wechsler**, will be joined by harpsichordist Rebecca Pechefsky, Violinist Victor Costanzi, Violist Ina Litera, and cellist David Bakamjian for an evening of Rococo, Classical, and modern music for flute, strings and harpsichord. Works performed will be C.P.E Bach's *Quartet A minor* for flute, viola, cello and harpsichord, Antonio Soler's Solo Harpsichord Sonata, Mozart *Flute Quartet in D major*, Mark Janello's *Quartet* for harpsichord and String Trio, and David Wechsler's *Carmela's Blue Fit* for flute, violin, viola & cello.

Tickets at the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music are \$15.00, \$10.00 for students and senior citizens. Tickets for BCM are available in advance or at the door prior to the performance. For direct purchase of tickets online please visit our web site: www.theomniensemble.org The Brooklyn Conservatory is located at 58 Seventh Ave. at the corner of Lincoln Place in Park Slope, Brooklyn. It is in easy access of public transportation, Q or B train to Seventh Ave., or IRT #2 and 3 to Grand Army Plaza. For further information and ticket reservations, call 718 859-8649.

Neighbors' Businesses and Services

To add, cancel, or update a listing, contact Ellen Bilofsky at ebb11@optonline.net.

Babysitting

Griffin Umrigar Laguardia Arts High School student, available for babysitting. Creative, in the neighborhood and many references available! Please contact me at 917-244-9978.

Education and Lessons

Danielle Buonaiuto Private voice lessons for high-school age and adult students in classical, musical theatre, and pop styles. Master of Music from Peabody Conservatory, and 10+ years' teaching experience. danielle.buonaiuto@gmail.com.

Rob Garcia Drum lessons. I've been teaching private lessons to students of all ages for the past 25 years, and I have a great teaching studio in my home at 34 Wellington Ct. For more info about lessons, see <http://www.robgarciamusic.com/notepad.php>. Contact me at robjgarcia@hotmail.com.

Udi Hazan Private table tennis and archery lessons. Certified coach—level 1 in ping pong and level 2 in recurve bow archery. 718-859-8432.

Florence Manglani Semi-retired bilingual school psychologist, still teaching at Brooklyn College, is available for consultations. 718-434-2134; florence@imagineblue.com.

David Picton Music Lessons in Drums, Piano, and Composition. 35 years teaching experience. Graduate of Mannes College of Music. All ages, beginner to advanced. 718-859-6313; davidpictonmusic@gmail.com.

Julian Rhine Guitar lessons; SAT, SHSAT, and Regents tutoring. BA in music and English from Vanderbilt University. 917-981-0675; julian.m.rhine@gmail.com

Harriet Rhine Swimming instruction, at East Midwood Jewish Center, Fridays: children 6 months–3years old, 10:30–11:00 am; adults, all levels, 11:00 am–12 noon. 646-670-0822; hrhine165@gmail.com.

Amy Rowe Tutoring in math, reading, writing, ESL, test prep, and other subjects. All ages, all levels welcome. Experienced education program leader, researcher, teacher, tutor, writer, and editor can help make learning fast and fun. amyrowe.nyc@gmail.com; 917-723-0348

Melissa Scott Yoga for Every Body! Currently offering private or small class instruction. 718-781-6509; kettleandkame@gmail.com.

Jeannine Umrigar Collectiv3 Fashion Portfolio Lab. Individual mentorships for students to build fashion and art portfolios for



college entrance and beyond. Also weekend workshops in fashion, from illustration to sneaker design. For more information see our website: www.collectiv3.nyc.

David Wechsler Flute lessons. Many years of teaching at all levels from beginner to professional. Long-time member of Brooklyn Philharmonic and many other groups in the NYC area including Broadway, recordings, symphony, opera, ballet orchestras, and chamber music. 347-528-6318; davewechs@earthlink.net.

Health and Mental Health

Laura Campbell-Lui Shaklee Distributor household cleaning products; nutritional skin care; nutritional supplement products; appointments available. 917-767-3579; lauralui@yahoo.com.

Jan Castro Relax, heal, or de-stress with Swedish, Shiatsu, Thai, or myofascial massage. Choices of aromatherapy or unscented lotions or oils. Modest rates. Treat yourself or a loved one! Credentials/references on request. 314-323-9060; jancastro1@gmail.com.

Andrea Freshman, LCSW Specialty: trauma healing with emphasis on integrating the mind-body connection 718-434-6873.

Pet Sitting

Nell Mendlinger and Lauren Sullivan, Owners, Abby on Argyle Pet Sitting & Dog Walking, LLC. Available 365 days a year for your pets. Bonded and insured, and all staff members trained in Pet First Aid and CPR. Member of PetSitters International and an eco-friendly company. www.AbbyOnArgyle.com.

Real Estate

Miriam Hurwitz Associate real estate broker with Douglas Elliman on Cortelyou Road. 917-589-6717.

Ester Sciallo Brooklyn residential real estate. Office: 718-676-1755; cell: 646-389-6248; es@brres.com.

WEST MIDWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018 - 2019

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WEST MIDWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

12 Waldorf Court
Brooklyn, New York 11230
www.westmidwood.org



2020 DUES NOTICE

Dear Neighbor,

It's time to pay your annual membership dues to the West Midwood Community Association (WMCA) - your neighborhood organization - for 2020. For the modest sum of \$40, you help support all of WMCA's activities on your behalf.

Your dues fund a variety of expenditures. The largest outlay is for the upkeep of the Glenwood Road Malls, including supplies for the spring planting by residents. These malls help maintain the park-like environment of our neighborhood, and incidentally add to the value of your home

Other WMCA activities include the Halloween Parade, the annual Progressive Dinner, yard sales, maintenance of our website, www.westmidwood.org, our quarterly newsletter, and other activities carried out by members that help preserve the character of West Midwood as a small town in the big city. WMCA works on an on-going basis with our Community Board 14, elected officials, and City government agencies to address problems. Your dues also fund contributions to worthy neighborhood causes approved by the Board.

Please send (or drop off) your check made out to WMCA, with the completed tear-off below, in the envelope that this letter came in, to Jeffrey Ewing, WMCA Treasurer, 776 Westminster Road.

Rather use Paypal? WMCA's Paypal email address is info@westmidwood.org. Please include your name and address with the Paypal payment, & check "Send Money to Friends and Family"

Paid up members are acknowledged in the WMCA newsletter. Have a question about WMCA? You can email WMCA at info@westmidwood.org.

Are you on the WMCA email listserv? Join the conversation! Email joe@enright.com and ask to have your email address added.

Many thanks for your support!

Eric Goldberg
President

Enclosed is my \$40 annual dues for 2020 for the West Midwood Community Association.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ EMail _____

[] I have included an additional contribution of \$ _____ with my dues payment.

Time to find new treasures!



Don't miss the West Midwood Yard Sale!
Sunday, April 26, 2020
(Rain Date: May 3, 2020)

Please provide the information below if you want to participate. Bring the completed form, with a check for \$15, payable to *West Midwood Community Association* to Marilyn Cuff at 725 Rugby Road

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone: _____
Email: _____

Please register ASAP with \$15 to ensure a good turnout!

RSVP to Marilyn at artimis1947@hotmail.com or telephone 917-548-7799