
WEST MIDWOOD NEWS



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It Has Been a Tough Winter, But Spring is Coming!

This winter has seemed endless, with snow, ice, and freezing temperatures. For all of us who have been essentially stuck in our houses throughout the Covid pandemic, it was like adding insult to injury — how much more could we take? And then... vaccinations began to be available, the temperature began to rise, and the sun came out! Things are looking up, folks. More snow photos on page 5.

Photos: (l)David Wechler (r)Tori Rosen



Purple Pantries—Neighbors Helping Neighbors Through a Crisis

There is a newly installed "purple pantry" in front of 774 Rugby Road. The purple pantries were the idea of Lindsay Manolakos, inspired by the tiny libraries in front of houses in our community as well as the long food bank lines in the neighborhood.



According to Lindsay Manolakos, the "tiny pantries could be a simple way for neighbors to help each other out in a safe, no contact, anonymous, simple, and sustainable way." Lindsay notes that some people are too ashamed to wait in food pantry lines. Lindsay built her first purple pantry for installation in front of her own house and then asked on her neighborhood's blog if others were interested in installing them. The positive response was overwhelming. So far, Lindsay has built and installed ten pantries, with more in the works. Lindsay says of her efforts, "I know this is just a drop in the bucket, but a bucket full is just a lot of drops." Most of the pantries are filled and emptied every day and some multiple times a day, resulting in several hundred meals per week!

Remember, the purple pantries are for food and not clothing, books or household items. If you'd like to donate to a pantry or if you want more information you can contact Lindsay

The Stories Your House Could Tell — 12 Waldorf Court

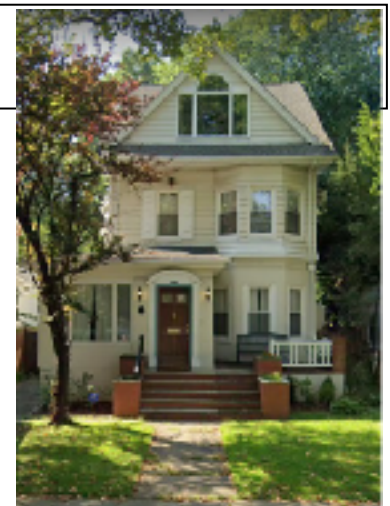
By Joe Enright

After the ornate Waldorf Hotel opened in 1893 on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue—built by the American-British millionaire William Waldorf Astor—the name Waldorf instantly evoked images of wealth and prestige. And so, in February 1900, developer Henry Meyer, a former unsuccessful candidate for the mayoralty of Brooklyn, appeared before the Brooklyn Borough President. He successfully petitioned that his Waldorf Court, part of a vacant expanse surrounding surface railroad tracks that ran to the Brighton Hotel on Coney Island, be added to the New York City street grid, along with the other Anglophilic street names that would constitute West Midwood.

In September 1903, John R. Corbin and his architect, Benjamin Driesler, filed plans with the Buildings

Department for a new house, later dubbed 12 Waldorf Court, at an estimated cost of \$4,500. The lingering effects of the Recession of 1902–1904 likely explains why their typically splendid creation did not sell until March of 1905, when Henrietta C.

Segelken, an apparent realty speculator, became the owner. Eleven months later, Henrietta filed a \$5,000 mortgage on the property, and in



Continued on page 9

Editor's Note

Most of us in West Midwood have safe shelter and enough to eat. But not everyone. We've all seen the long lines of people waiting for food distributions. Covid-19 has pushed many families into poverty, and the dedicated volunteers at these organizations are trying to help fill the gap. Here is a partial list of food distribution sites in and near our neighborhood. Contact them if you'd like to volunteer or to donate, or if you or anyone you know is in need of food.

COPO (Council of Peoples Organizations). 1077 Coney Island Avenue. info@COPO.org
718-434-3266

MASBIA –1372 Coney Island Avenue
718-534-7410 www.masbia.org

PAYO (Pakistani American Youth Organization). 1045 Coney Island Avenue. info@PAYO.org Call to pre-register: 718 415-9424

GOKE Food Pantry at Christ Apostolic Church. 622 Cortelyou Road. admin@gokefoodpantry.org
718-284-7479

Here is a valuable resource maintained by the Greater NY Hospital Assoc. :<https://hitesite.org> The Health Information Tool for Empowerment (HITE) is an online directory offering free information on more than 6,000 health and social services available to low-income, uninsured, and underinsured individuals in New York City, Long Island and Westchester."

The site lists no fewer than thirty food pantries within a three-mile radius of West Midwood, and isn't even a complete listing. Two of the pantries closest to our neighborhood are not yet included. Each of these organizations is doing its part to address the huge problem of food insecurity in Brooklyn. As Lindsay Manolakis said about her Little Purple Pantries, each one is "just a drop in the bucket, but a bucketful is just a lot of drops."

— **Tori Rosen**



Food pantry line, more than seven hours before food distribution begins. Photo: Linda Howell

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President's Message Spring 2021



Dear Neighbors,

Recently the issue of litter has caused an understandable concern of many in our community. It is not, however, a new issue. In past years, we have tried to manage the waste with public garbage cans. Experience has shown that this only led to additional piles of garbage on our street corners. Until recently, our open stanchions were used as garbage receptacles. In 2020, The Board financed the update and repair of these stanchions, closing the receptacle openings.

It does seem that the amount and type of litter has increased. There are more food containers, coffee cups, bottles, and plastic bags filled with other assorted contents. Sidewalk strips in front or on the side of some of our homes are filled with the litter of others. Those West Midwood residents who have corner properties or locations that are on main thoroughfares experience a larger litter issue than others. It is a thankless chore and usually needs to be repeated daily.

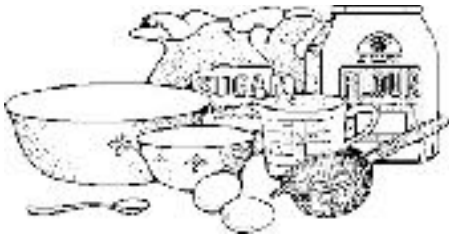
There are no easy answers. The litter challenge, unfortunately, is here to stay. Doing what we can to keep our neighborhood beautiful is what we need to do. Some neighbors have recently created "litter squads" to help each other clean the sidewalk strips that seem to be "litter magnets." Others have "adopted" a street corner and are cleaning their "adopted" area. Those efforts have already netted noticeable results and are greatly appreciated. The Board strongly encourages everyone to assist with these litter squads and sign up on the Google Docs mentioned in the Listserv. The Board has also undertaken an effort to speak to businesses that border our area – as well as the nearby food pantries – about encouraging their patrons to be responsible with litter.

On a similar topic, the Board is funding and conducting a graffiti removal push in the neighborhood in the coming months. We are all extremely fortunate to live in West Midwood, a community of caring, well-intentioned people. The West Midwood Board thanks you for all you do.

— **Eric Goldberg**

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West Midwood Cooks (and Bakes!) *by Allidah Muller*

Greetings, neighbors. I don't know about y'all, but after almost a year of preparing nearly every. single. meal at home, cooking has lost a little bit of its joy for me. I have tried to combat this culinary apathy by purchasing quite a few new cookbooks over the last several months. I have discovered many good ones (email me if you need recommendations), but hands-down the best one is Six Seasons by Joshua McFadden. It's not a new cookbook (published in 2017) and some of you may already have it, but every single recipe I have made out of it is incredibly delicious and not too complicated. McFadden is a farmer and a chef, and his spiel is that the year can actually be divided up into six seasons (winter, spring, early summer, midsummer, late summer, and winter). His recipes are vegetable forward though not strictly vegetarian. He lets seasonal vegetables shine and the results are just scrumptious. What follows are two standouts.

The Kale Salad That Started It All

McFadden's words: "This is the raw kale salad that changed my life. I was the chef de cuisine at Franny's in Brooklyn in 2007. I was mad that I couldn't find good salad greens in the middle of winter and I especially hated (still hate) the "mesculun mix" that lines the shelves of supermarkets - no flavor, no texture. I created this kale salad in rebellion against those miserable greens, having no idea it would take the world by storm. But once it got written up in the *New York Times*, the world seemed to have an unending hunger for kale salads."

1 bunch lacinato kale (aka Tuscan kale or cavolo nero), thick ribs cut out
 ½ garlic clove finely chopped
 ¼ cup finely grated Pecorino Romano cheese, plus more to finish
 Extra-virgin olive oil
 Juice of 1 lemon
 ⅛ tsp dried chili flakes
 Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
 ¼ cup dried breadcrumbs

Stack several kale leaves on top of one another and roll them up into a tight cylinder. With a sharp knife, slice crosswise into very thin, about 1/16 inch, ribbons (this is called chiffonade). Put the kale in a salad spinner, rinse in cool water, and spin until completely dry. Pile kale into a bowl.



Comforting Cabbage, Onion, and Farro Soup

McFadden's note: "This soup has a definite grandma vibe - warm, comforting, nourishing, and maybe just the tiniest bit old-fashioned, which is what you want on a cold, drizzly, day."

1 pound cabbage, savoy or green
 Extra-virgin olive oil
 1 medium onion, thinly sliced

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
 3 garlic cloves, smashed and peeled
 1 healthy sprig rosemary or thyme
 1 Tbsp red wine vinegar or white wine vinegar
 ⅔ cup farro
 About 4 cups meat or poultry broth, homemade or store-bought
 1 Tbsp fresh lemon juice
 1 cup freshly grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese

Cut out the cabbage core and finely chop it. Cut the leaves into fine shreds, either by slicing through the chunk of cabbage or by separating the leaves, rolling them into a cylinder, and slicing crosswise into ⅛-inch ribbons (called chiffonade).

... Heat ¼ cup olive oil in a large pot or Dutch oven over medium heat. Add the onion and cabbage core, a pinch of

Signs of Spring!

salt, and a few twists of pepper. Cook, stirring frequently, until the onion starts to soften and become fragrant - but not at all browned - about 10 minutes. Add the garlic and cook for another 5 minutes until the garlic is soft too.

.... Add the shredded cabbage leaves and rosemary. Cover the pot and let steam for a bit to soften the leaves, then toss the cabbage to help it wilt and soften more. Cook, covered, until the cabbage is very tender and sweet, at least 30 minutes.

.... When the cabbage is ready, stir in the vinegar. Taste and adjust with more salt or pepper.

.... Meanwhile, in another saucepan, heat a glug of olive oil over medium heat. Add the farro and cook, stirring constantly, until the farro is lightly toasted and fragrant, 5 to 8 minutes.

.... Scrape the farro into the cabbage pot (or put the cabbage into the farro pot - whichever is bigger) and add 4 cups of broth. Adjust the heat to a lazy simmer and simmer until the farro is tender and all the flavors are married, 25 to 35 minutes.

.... Stir in the lemon juice. The soup should be very thick, but if it seems like it needs more liquid, add another ½ cup water or broth. Taste and adjust with more salt, pepper, or lemon juice. Serve the soup in shallow bowls, with a shower of Parmigiano and a drizzle or olive oil on top, with more cheese passed at the table.

Allidah's Note: You want to keep the cabbage and onions from browning too much while they are softening, so stir them often.

Harriet Rhine's Quick Banana Bread

Makes one 8-1/2 x 4-1/2" Loaf



Preheat oven to 350 degrees
Have ingredients at about 75 degrees
Sift together-
1-3/4 cup all-purpose flour
2-1/4 teas. baking powder
1/2 teas. salt

Blend until creamy:
1/3 cup butter
1/2 cup sugar
3/4 teas. grated lemon rind

Beat in :
1 or 2 beaten eggs

1 to 1 1/4 cups ripe banana pulp

Add the sifted ingredients one-third at a time to the sugar mixture.

Beat the batter after each addition until smooth.

Place the batter in a greased bread (loaf) pan

Bake for about 1 hour or until a knife inserted in the bread comes out clean. Cool before slicing.

Winter in West Midwood—Photos from the Neighborhood



Robert Seidel



M. Lantner



Florence Manglani



Jan Castro



Mr. Mysterioso



Robert Seidel

Winter in West Midwood—Photos from the Neighborhood

David Wechsler



Arthur Rhine



Sue Bolles



Sue Bolles

Rosalia Aponte



L. Kuttnicki



Linda Howell

From the OMNI Ensemble:

Hello Friends and Neighbors!

As some of you know I am a flutist and live in West Midwood. I am also the Music Director of The OMNI Ensemble, a chamber music group I founded 38 years ago. We have put our schedule of concerts in the WMCA newsletter for many years.

My group, like so many other cultural institutions, has been on hiatus for about a year due to the pandemic. We have finally gotten out from under the dark cloud of this unprecedented time and have produced a number of on line concert videos for your viewing pleasure! If you visit the link at the end of this notice, it will take you to The OMNI Ensemble You Tube channel. There you can find some past concert videos and the newest on line content produced in the last few weeks. We are very excited about these new videos! The players are all fine musicians and veteran performers with The OMNI Ensemble from past seasons.

We hope to be returning to live concerts in the not too distant future. But for now, we hope you will take heart and enjoy the fine performances on these videos The OMNI Ensemble - YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxycyueJB5-8vdGLIAIjCr1A>

If you enjoy our channel, and are so inclined, we would gratefully accept a tax deductible donation! Please visit our website at www.theomniensemble.org and click on the donation button or go directly to:

https://www.paypal.com/donate?token=Cyq8uQl2WSpwkMg5PlfFiZZnJediX31VI-BKjxyAu5KHADe2-jWe9XxCappbTIG75Q_zVV_pqZvc2jdT

Thank you so much, and please stay safe, and look forward to better times!

— *David Wechsler*

Neighborhood News

What's Happening in Your Life?



School News — PS 217

by Sherry Goldberg

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

Westminster Road's **Justine Kiefer**, her husband **Eric Ost** and their two children Elise (5) and Sidney (7) welcomed a new member to the family on January 21. **William Kiefer Ost** weighed in at 8 pounds 11 ounces. Grandparents **Dave Kiefer and Andrea Freshman** are thrilled, of course. The three generations of Kiefer/Freshman/Osts share a two-family house on Westminster.

And there's another welcome (re)arrival on Westminster: **Alfred Nofi** has moved back to the neighborhood from Austin, Texas, where he's been living for the last few years. Welcome back to the neighborhood, Alfred!

PS217, like the other public elementary schools in NYC, continues to offer students a fully remote or hybrid (partially virtual and partially in school) model to choose from. In January, the school was able to switch from a three track to a two track hybrid offering and so the hybrid students now go two to three days a week and learn from home the other days. This offers nice consistency...except when it is inconsistent due to COVID-19. Thirty percent of the in person student/administration is tested at least once a week and if there are two cases deemed as "related" by the City's situation room the building must close. But alas, we all seem to enjoy the days school is open.

For all school students, Virtual Discovery Zone was recently launched, with tons of virtual after school activities to choose from, all designed to get the kids moving and engaged. Run on zoom, but with creative approach in mind given zoom fatigue is real. Many neighborhood businesses contributed to the options. Some of the Virtual Discovery Zone options include dojo/karate, science and sign language, dance choreography and musical theater.

The building facade work continues, albeit slowly. We hear the construction will be completed by the end of summer and the full playground and garden will be back for use. Fingers crossed summer comes. And that we have a neighborhood

PUZZLE

Although it is common practice for film stars to refer to themselves and each other as actors regardless of gender, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) still awards OSCARS® for Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actor, and Best Supporting Actress. Did the AMPAS just eliminate half of the awards? No. Did they rename the categories as Best Male Actor, Best Female Actor, Best Male Supporting Actor, and Best Female Supporting Actor? No. What about the nonbinary performers who do not identify as male or female?

Many professional practitioners already have titles with no implied gender, so no changes in terminology are necessary to satisfy a desire to exclusively use gender-neutral, inclusive nomenclature. Below is a list of nearly 300 gender-neutral disguised occupation titles. Some of the occupations are obsolete. Can you figure out what the occupations are? All of the vowels are provided, but dashes replace some of the consonants.

Rating: 90=good; 180=excellent; 270=genius

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| A I OR. | E U A OR. | I AYER. | O I I IAN. | |

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

Henrietta filed a \$5,000 mortgage on the property, and in April 1906 she sold it to James and Elizabeth Fairley.

James Fairley was a 40-year-old English-born minister who had married Elizabeth Ware Woodward in Boston five years earlier. They had a two-year old son, Lincoln, and Fairley taught at Commercial High School in Crown Heights, where his brother was the principal. As a member of the Flatbush Board of Trade, in February of 1908 Fairley spoke out against gambling at nearby racetracks, arguing that they were poisoning the community. On November 3, 1908, the first presidential election to be held since West Midwood had sprung into being,

Reverend Fairley was one of the first to vote—which also made him one of the first to be arrested for voter fraud by police from the Parkville Station, then an inn at Ocean Parkway and Foster Avenue.

Residents of the newly populated parts of Flatbush were primarily Republicans. But Tammany Hall controlled the political apparatus and certain quarters of the Police Department. Thus dozens were carted off to Magistrate's Court on Snyder Avenue that morning, charged with proffering nonexistent addresses. The presiding judge, perhaps noticing reporters who had gotten wind of these fine top-hatted gentlemen being trundled off in paddy wagons, freed them, announcing no more arraignments until the police could produce expert witnesses to testify all about this business with the addresses and such. In defensive remarks to the press, the Precinct Captain explained that the Police Department had been using address directories from 1904, when West Midwood did not exist. Of course his officers had been roaming through the same area for the past three years and would have been well acquainted with these streets. As Mark Twain once reminded us, history doesn't repeat itself, but it does rhyme.

The Fairley's son, Lincoln, led an interesting life. He married Margaret Tynes, a well-regarded lyric poet in Boston who was friends with e. e. cummings and acquainted with Robert Frost. After securing his doctorate in Economics from Harvard, Lincoln taught at MIT and eventually found his way to San Francisco, where he became the research director for the California longshoremen's union, publishing numerous monographs about labor negotiations that are still cited today. In return he was branded a Communist from 1939 to 1955 by red-baiting politicians. Shortly before his death in 1989, he

published a history of Mount Tamalpais, 20 miles north of San Francisco, which one reviewer noted "clearly has a bone to pick with hippies."

Back to West Midwood. The Fairley family moved on prior to the next presidential election (possibly the result of PTSD). The new owner, May Lewis, had a maid, Agnes Madison, earning \$18 a month (\$494 today). On Sunday, May 26, 1912, Madison stole rings worth two weeks' salary and the next day telephoned Ms. Lewis to say she quit because the work was just too darn hard. Detectives from the Parkville Station tried to find the maid at her



Coney Island home and were told she was in New Jersey. But she was lured back to Waldorf Court to retrieve her uniform and was immediately arrested. Enter Myra Hughes, intrepid probation officer (alas, Agnes had sinned before). Hughes appeared at the arraignment and testified that she found the missing rings embedded in a wig

in the maid's room and accused the detectives of railroading poor Agnes. The accused then miraculously remembered admiring the rings in her employer's bedroom on Sunday and when the doorbell rang, ran to her room to spruce up before answering. Somehow, Agnes theorized, she must have absent-mindedly taken the rings with her and laid them down on her wig. The judge wasn't buying it. He remanded Agnes for the grand jury. In the end, May Lewis got her rings back, Agnes Madison went to jail, and Myra Hughes garnered future press coverage with more theatrics.

The next owners, the Barnaby family, appear in the historical record for the first time in 1915 by virtue of the death of 73 year old Fiorella Electra Badger Peabody at 12 Waldorf Court. She was the grand aunt of Nellie Frances Tower Barnaby, who owned the house with Walter Barnaby, an auditor for the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company (BRT), which then owned the Brighton line. The Barnabys would rear their five children there.

While Walter was a humble immigrant from Cornwallis, Nova Scotia, Nellie was descended from colonial American stock dating back to the mid-1600s. Her mother, Frances Tower, who would also die at 12 Waldorf Court in 1920, was the widow of Charles Tower, a Civil War veteran. Both sides of the Tower family had forebears who fought in the Revolutionary War. In fact, the Battle

Pass (Prospect Park) Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution met regularly in Nellie's parlor.

1918 began as a year filled with promise for the Barnabys. In March, their 21-year-old son, Henry, who had enlisted in the Army weeks after the 1917 declaration of war on Germany, announced while on leave that he would wed Olivia Heindl, a German lass residing at 484 Marlborough Road. He shipped out to Europe a few months later with the 106th Infantry Division. On September 27th, while advancing with Company G in northeastern France to attack the Hindenburg Line, Corporal Henry Barnaby and most of his comrades were killed by artillery fire, 45 days before the armistice that ended the World War.

Then, on November 1, 1918, a train operated by an inexperienced BRT (Brooklyn Rapid Transit) dispatcher during a strike by its motormen took a Brighton train into the Prospect Park Station at breakneck speed from what is now the Franklin Shuttle curve, killing three West Midwoodians and 90 other Brooklynites in the worst train crash in New York history. It doomed the negligent BRT, but Walter Barnaby survived the bankruptcy reorganization of the company into the BMT and eventually became its comptroller.

In 1921, Corporal Barnaby's remains were returned to Brooklyn, and after a service at 12 Waldorf Court, he was buried in the Green-Wood Cemetery family plot. In 1924, the funeral for Nellie's uncle John Higbie was also held in the Barnaby home. This parade of grief was interrupted in 1926 when the Barnabys' daughter Frances was betrothed to a relative of the original inhabitants, George Fairley of 343 Marlborough Road. When the Depression struck, the couple moved in with the Barnabys at 12 Waldorf Court (then worth \$11,000 per the 1930 Census), along with another daughter, Marie Barnaby, and her husband, Charles Collis.

Back to the grief. In 1932, Nellie Barnaby passed away in the home and joined the family plot. As the Depression deepened, Walter Barnaby made more room for his children's families by moving to an apartment at 1819 Beverly Road, but in 1939 his son-in-law Charles Collis became the fourth death and sixth funeral at 12 Waldorf Court. The following year Barnaby put the house up for rent or sale, and dozens of ads described it as "8 rooms-3 baths-oil heat-double size garage," until it finally sold in 1944. Walter passed away in 1948 at the age of 85, eight years after retiring from the BMT.

The next-known owners of 12 Waldorf Court were Dr. Abraham Gralnick and his wife, Mildred. Gralnick was a dentist and Mildred was active in the Williamsburg

Jewish community, serving on the YMHA board and as VP of the Charitot Day Nursery. In 1967, the Gralnicks sold the house to Joseph and Toby Charney, who were living in the Brigham Park Coop Apartments on Bragg Street in Sheepshead Bay and needed more room for a growing family. One of their children, Douglas Adam Charney, won a fellowship to Johns Hopkins, became a clinical pathologist at St. Luke's Hospital, and is now an Assistant Director at Montefiore Nyack Hospital, with more than 30 peer-reviewed articles to his credit.

In 1980, the Charneys sold 12 Waldorf Court to Anthony and Margie Pye, who were then renting space in the sprawling northeast corner building at Glenwood and

Westminster Roads. Anthony was an insurance insolvency attorney, and one of his four children, Lorien Pye, followed in his footsteps, working in his Manhattan firm, leaving to eventually found an energy and mineral law practice in Tucson, Arizona. Lorien left behind a teenage diary at 12 Waldorf Court, which its current occupants found decades later when replacing a carpet, so Lorien, if you come across this newsletter, drop us a line!

In late 1986 the Pyes relocated to New Jersey, selling the home to Michael and Susan Chubak, who were renting an apartment on Dorchester Road in Ditmas Park West. Michael rose through the ranks to become the NYC Transit Authority's CFO, while Susan saw

patients as a speech-language pathologist. Their son Adam became an ophthalmologist and was a vascular surgeon at SUNY Downstate before moving to a practice in New Jersey.

In June of 2012, the Chubacks sold the house to Eric & Sherry Goldberg who were living in an apartment near the Barclays Center and wanted to raise their two young children in a less bustling neighborhood. Today, Bria is a 3rd grader at PS 217, while Roen is in the 6th grade at MS 890, the new middle school on Coney Island Avenue near the Park Circle. Eric is an attorney and Sherry is president of GCI Health, a global communications agency. Despite their busy lives, the Goldbergs have devoted incredible energy to serving our neighborhood. Sherry has been active with the PS 217 Parents Association, and Eric has served as President of the West Midwood Community Association since 2018. We can only hope they break the Barnabys' longevity record at 12 Waldorf Court. By a lot.



Roan, Sherry, Bria and Eric Goldberg



Brooklyn Sports

By Argyle Art Rhine

Three Strikes Yer Out (Part I)

Brooklyn Dodgers' stories have dominated "Brooklyn Sports" these past coupla years, and rightly so. The prevailing feeling is that the Bums play a joyful tune in our reminiscences of youth, although a dirge is still chanted, given their desertion to Los Angeles in 1957. The perfidy of Walter O'Malley has been examined and some measure of forgiveness now governs our view of him, given the revelation that it was Robert Moses who forced O'Malley to abandon his quest for a new stadium in Brooklyn. On the other hand, recently unearthed information – especially regarding Dodger Stadium in L.A. -- has cast dark shadows across childhood's sunshine. Our love for the Bums is more than just a human tendency to love the home team. This was a team of struggle and numerous knockdowns, with dem stoopid idjits from Brooklyn giving the razz to the rest of the world and prevailing in an uprising of epic proportions. In 1947, when Jackie Robinson made it to the Majors, the double play combination was Reese to Stanky to Robinson. [Reese was from Kentucky and his job was challenged by Robinson, yet he embraced Jackie and hushed the racists. Stanky's role has not much been examined. When Jackie came up, a petition was circulated amongst Dodger players to keep him off the team. The petition was led by Dixie Walker (aka the "People's Cherce"), one of the Dodgers' stars. Branch Rickey had no truck with this insurrection and they were told, "You don't want to play with Robinson? No problem, you're gone." Walker was traded.

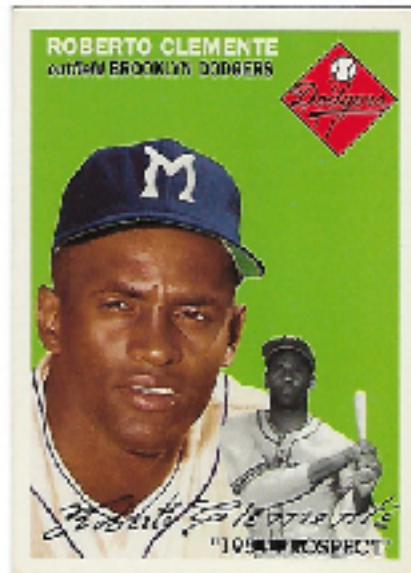
Stanky, who went to college at Southern Alabama and played minor league ball in Mississippi, seemed to be a sure bet to join this racist gang, but you would lose that bet. Stanky was one of the most competitive players in the game. Leo Durocher, then the Dodgers' manager, said of Stanky, "He can't hit; he can't field; he can't run; all he can do is win." Stanky saw in Robinson a teammate with the identical ferocious drive to win. He told Robinson he had his back; he worked with Robinson for hours every day to make Robinson a better first baseman. It was Stanky who became the first Dodger to stand up for Robinson when he screamed back at the Phillies and their manager, Ben Chapman, "Listen, you cowards, why don't you yell at someone who can answer back?" As we know, the Bums, now toughened by fire, won the NL championship in Jackie's rookie year. And, of course, after falling to the Yankees in the World Series four times, the Bums emoigned victorious in 1955, an

achievement which still warms our hearts and teaches us that even Sisyphus sometimes makes it to the mountaintop.

So why are we still so hurt by the Dodgers abandonment of Brooklyn? Well, jeez, of course there's no way a child's broken heart can be mended by a mere avowal that it wasn't all O'Malley's fault. De Bums is gone! Dey ain't comin' back. Dey dezoited us. [Expletive deleted] 'em. But there's more; it's that they broke their vow to play the game with heart.

Strike One: By 1954, most Major League teams were integrated. Some teams had several Black players. Fears that baseball would suffer from decreased attendance were long since allayed. The Brooklyn Dodgers had Roy

Campanella, Jackie Robinson, Jim Gilliam, Joe Black, and Sandy Amoros on their roster, and Don Newcombe had just returned from the service. In the Dodgers' farm system, the Montreal Royals had one of the greatest players of all-time: a teenager named Roberto Clemente. The greatness of Black ballplayers could no longer be denied, even by racists; there was Mays, Aaron, Banks. . . and now came Clemente. But the Dodgers perceived a problem: the team was too Black. The brain-trust



Clemente —Not meant to be.

felt they could not promote Clemente into the Majors. It's true that Snider in center, and Furillo (batting champ in 1953) in right, were tremendous ballplayers, but left field was a perpetual weakness. Plus, to put it bluntly, there has never been a team in the history of baseball that couldn't find room for Clemente. However, with a half-Black infield, an MVP-caliber Black battery, and others, the Dodgers would not promote Clemente until they could shed Black or Amoros.

The rules of the game at the time provided that a Minor League player could be drafted by another Major League team if the team that owned him did not promote him to the Majors in a specified length of time. Such was now the case with Clemente. The Dodgers knew he was

gone if any of the scouts for the other fifteen Major League teams got a gander at how great Clemente was. So the Dodgers tried to hide him. When scouts were in the stands, he did not play. As the season progressed, Clemente, by far the team's best player, was benched for almost two months. As knowledge of Clemente's abilities got around through the word of mouth of opposing players, the Dodgers upped the ante and exaggerated that he was oft-injured. "We tried to sneak him through the draft," Montreal's manager later confessed. Over time, the deception got more dramatic and turned into a destructive lie; the Dodgers said that he was always injured – that he was a "head case" who imagined he was injured.

These unjust accusations were to follow Clemente for the rest of his baseball life; casual baseball fans still believe it. In fact, Clemente's resilience was better than most: he played in 140+ games (154 game season) for 10 of his first 12 seasons from 1956 through 1967. Ted Williams (a "tough-as-nails" Marine) played 140 for 8 seasons; Duke Snider also 8; Mantle 9, at similar junctures in their respective careers. Unfortunately for the Dodgers, Clemente spent those sensational seasons in Pittsburgh with the Pirates. The Montreal smoke-screen of course didn't work and, ironically, it was Branch Rickey, now General Manager of the last-place Pirates' organization after being forced out of Brooklyn by O'Malley, who drafted Clemente from the Royals with the first pick in the November, 1954 draft. Serves the Bums right: a multiple World Series penalty for unsportsmanlike, contemptible behavior.

Strike Two: Al Campanis was a baseball man. He had a cup of coffee in the Majors in 1943 when the Dodgers brought him up during the War. He was the first Greek player in the Major Leagues. He was demoted to the Minors and, in 1946, played shortstop for the Montreal Royals. His keystone partner was Jackie Robinson. They turned double plays for 116 games. They were friends and room-mates – at a time when inter-racial room assignments were rare, indeed. In 1947, Robinson was promoted to the Majors and Campanis became the manager of the Nashua (NH) Dodgers, where he most notably refined Dan Bankhead into a 20-game winner and one of the pioneers who integrated baseball in Jackie's footsteps. It sounds almost like Bull Durham, with Campanis playing Kevin Costner.

In 1948, Campanis became a Dodger scout. Campanis' ability as a scout was second to none: he discovered and signed Roberto Clemente [whoa!] and Brooklyn's own Sandy Koufax [whoa!!]. Campanis moved up in the Dodger executive hierarchy, becoming scouting director and, in 1968, General Manager. There can be no question as to his relationship with Jackie Robinson; in 1955, at the height of his stardom, Jackie still found time to go to Campanis' son's public school class as his entry for "show and tell." Jimmy Campanis must have been the biggest kid on campus for years.

In April, 1987, after almost twenty years as General Manager, Campanis appeared on Nightline, a late-night TV news show with Ted Koppel, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Jackie's first game in the Major Leagues. Roger Kahn, author of *The Boys of Summer*, and Rachel Robinson, Jackie's widow, were also guests on the show. I watched the show. Ms. Robinson and Mr. Kahn each spoke before Campanis, and both mentioned the lack of Blacks running ballclubs. Koppel was an aggressive reporter; after establishing Campanis' credentials and noting with approval how integrated the players were on the team and in the league, Koppel asked, "How come there are no Black managers, no Black executives, no Black team owners?" Campanis answered, "There were a couple of Black managers." Koppel pressed, "You know, I mean is there still so much prejudice in baseball today?" Campanis replied, "I'm not exactly sure, but I think it may be that they lack the necessities."

I must confess I didn't realize the magnitude of what he had said until Koeppel, more attentive than I, became really alert and said, "Sounds like the same kind of garbage we heard about players forty years ago." Campanis generalized that he meant they didn't have the necessary experience of running a team in the Minors or perhaps they didn't have the necessary money to own one. Koppel pressed again: "Do you really believe that lack of experience is the cause for the absence of Black executives?" Campanis replied, "It just might be that – why are Black men just not good swimmers? It's because they don't have the buoyancy." Koppel took a break and tried to give Campanis another chance, "because I think you need it," but Campanis turned on Koppel and said it's the same thing as the lack of Black TV executives and anchormen. Koppel took the rebuke in stride and replied that in broadcasting, the absence of Black executives wasn't because of their lack of intelligence, but because of the "unyielding white control of the establishment." [Italics are mine but the quote is exact]. Koppel asked if baseball wasn't analogous, but Campanis, a company man now all the way, replied, "they're outstanding athletes, very God-gifted, and they're very wonderful people, and that's all I can tell you about them."

Koppel calmly moved to commercial, saying, "Perhaps we haven't made that much progress in forty years." There was more later in the show as Campanis continued to talk about Black players' "great musculature" and that "they're fleet of foot" and all of us watching just kind of took a silent poll as to how long would it be before Campanis was fired. Perhaps other Major League executives had similar thoughts and prejudices, but they didn't air them on network TV. Campanis was gone from baseball, forever, within 48 hours.

Two strikes on the batter but the Bum ain't out yet. All dues-paying members of the West Midwood Community Association will see the next pitch in the June issue of West Midwood News.

Who You Gonna Call?

When you need help, it's important to call the right number. Here's a list of useful phone numbers with an explanation of when to call which number. It's not a bad idea to cut out this list and stick in on your refrigerator or by your phone.

911—The number to call for emergencies, such as fire, medical emergencies, accidents of any type, a crime in progress, violent behavior, or a person in trouble. Remember to stay on the line until the operator tells you it is okay to hang up. The operator will also ask you your location, so note the nearest house number and street address.

311 — Call this number for non-emergencies such as noise complaints, animal control, air quality, blocked driveway, dangerous tree situation, or to find out where to get other information. For a complete list, see www.nyc.gov/311.

If you're unsure, call 911. The operator will either take your information or redirect you to 311. Remember to get a complaint number and write it down.

Neighborhood Coordination Officers (NCOs):

P.O. Viodelys Brathwaite (917-864-7912)

Viodelys.Brathwaite@nypd.org

P.O. Roshael Layne (929-270-7068)

Roshael.layne@nypd.org

The NCOs are usually on duty Tuesdays to Saturdays from noon to 6:30 p.m. (Sometimes they are unavailable because they have been pulled for training or special duty.) Former West Midwood president Linda Howell reports that she relies on the NCOs for quality-of-life issues, especially situations “where I do not have complete details, only secondhand reports of events. I feel comfortable giving them as much information as I can and asking them to check into the potential problem.” Examples include gatherings at the dead ends, abandoned cars, chronic parking violations, and patterns of package theft from porches. You can also contact them if you feel a 911 or 311 call was not handled correctly. Note that while they will make every effort to assist, they may also be handling other more time-critical issues.

Community Board 14 (CB14), 718-859-6357

This office and its staff are a valuable resource that can be contacted for a myriad of situations. Call them to find out the status of a 311 complaint, why your recycling wasn't picked up, how you can get a tree planted in front of your home or a dead one removed, or what's going on with construction (or lack of it) at a specific location. They can also help you get in touch with the local representative for a specific city agency. This is by no means a complete list. If you're unsure of how to handle an issue, call them and ask. They are there to help.

For Information About Covid-19:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-main.page>

Artist's Notebook:

Florence Mangani



WEST MIDWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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



2021 DUES NOTICE

Dear Neighbor,

It has definitely been a crazy year, and it's hard to believe, but it's time to pay your annual membership dues to the West Midwood Community Association (WMCA) - your neighborhood organization - for 2021. 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 plantings 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 (which will hopefully be possible again soon) 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. Even better – pay with 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". [Paypal is at www.paypal.com, and it's very easy to set up an account if you don't have one.]

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 2021 for the West Midwood Community Association.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ EMail _____

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

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

**Would you like to advertise your
Brooklyn-based business in this space?
For the bargain price of \$50 per year, you can be
included in all four issues of the *West Midwood News*.
Please contact Joe Mislowack at
jmislowack@gmail.com
to make payment and submit your copy.**



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 box tops or coordinate a drop off.



Mark Your Calendars!

Alternate Side Parkings is suspended:

Passover (1st/2nd Days). Mar 28 to Mar 29, 2021

Holy Thursday. Apr 01, 2021

Good Friday. Apr 02, 2021

Passover (7th/8th Days). Apr 03 to Apr 04, 2021

Holy Thursday (Orthodox). Apr 29, 2021

Good Friday (Orthodox). Apr 30, 2021

Eid al-Fitr (Idul-Fitr). May 13 to May 15, 2021

Solemnity of Ascension. May 13, 2021

Shavuot. May 17 to May 18, 2021

Memorial Day. May 31, 2021

Calling All Writers!

- and editors
- and cartoonists
- and photographers
- and reporters
- and poets
- and artists
- and idea generators

Your newsletter needs you! If you have bright ideas for stories, but don't know how to get started, let us know, we'll help you, of find a writer to bring your idea to life. See something interesting on your daily walk? Take a picture and send it to us. Do you have a new neighbor we haven't yet met? Let us know so that we can introduce them. Tried a great new recipe? Send it along, so that your friends and neighbors can share the bounty.

Share your talents and your ideas at:
editor.westmidwoodnews.org

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 have a well-equipped teaching studio at my home. More info www.robgarciamus.com; Contact: robjgarcia@hotmail.com; 917-273-7875

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, other academic subjects, test prep. Advising on Medicare enrollment and basic nutrition. Meet on Zoom, by phone, or outdoors. Expert educator, researcher, writer, and editor makes complex topics clear. 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. 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; lauraclui@yahoo.com.

Jan Castro De-stress with *massage or Thai body work*. Safe, clean, open space. I've had 2 vaccine shots. Credentials and/or references upon request. 60–120 minute sessions, reasonable rates. Phone 314-323-9060, 2-5 days in advance.

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

Sara Hochman *Nutritionist*, MS, RD, CDN. Registered Dietitian specializing in chronic disease management and weight loss, nutrition therapy for all ages. Reasonable rates, in-person or televisit appointments. Sarahoch780@gmail.com

Pet Sitting

Nell Mendlinger and Lauren Sullivan, Owners, Abby on Argyle Pet Sitting & Dog Walking, LLC. Available 365 days a year for your pets. We have been in the neighborhood for 10+ years. Bonded and insured. 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.

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