

WEST MIDWOOD NEWS

Volume 36

Number 1

March 2022



This Spring, We're Getting Together Again (Almost) Like Old Times!

Things are truly beginning to return to something like our old neighborhood normal. As the COVID-19 numbers continue to drop, and the temperature rises, there are many activities planned where we can meet and greet our neighbors, renew old friendships, and forge new ties. The West Midwood Community Association Board met on Thursday, March 3 and decided to sponsor two major events for the coming months:

The West-Midwood Progressive Dinner – Backyard/Garden Edition will be held on the evening of May 21, 2022. As with our previous indoor progressive dinners, three or four families will host the pot-luck appetizer portion of the evening in their yard or garden, and then we'll gather outside at another home for dessert and coffee. Melissa Scott will be coordinating this event, and will soon send out an email assigning tasks and asking for volunteers to host a portion of the evening. If you are interested in being one of the host gardens, please email Melissa at m.scottvideo@gmail.com



What is better than a **West Midwood Yard Sale**? **A two-day Yard Sale!** On Saturday and Sunday, May 14 and 15, West Midwood will sponsor a yard sale from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm both days. There's no fee to participate. You can sell your extra stuff and find new homes for things you no longer need or want on either day – or both days, if you like. Marilyn Cuff will be coordinating this event. If you have any questions, contact her at artemis1947@hotmail.com

The next **West Midwood Community Association General Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, June 15 at 7:00 pm, at the Mormon church on the corner of Argyle and Glenwood. Come meet your neighbors, hear speakers, learn about what the West Midwood Community Association has been doing, and find ways to get more involved in this spectacular community.

The Stories Your House Could Tell:

By Joe Enright

725 Argyle Road

Six families have occupied 725 Argyle Road since it was built by John R. Corbin in 1905 and they provide an interesting mix of professions: publishing, policing, music, facilities management, sales, nursing, architecture and teaching.

The first residents were Joseph and Ruth Peck and their two young daughters. The Pecks were born in Cincinnati, married there in 1903, and shortly thereafter moved to Brooklyn, buying a home in the new suburban development of West South Midwood. Ruth's parents, Harry and Cecilia Crossley, then in their 70s, joined them in the spacious dwelling. Sorry baseball



Caleb, Nate, Allidah and Ethan at home at 725 Argyle Road.

fans, the Crossleys were not related to Powel Crosley (with one "s"), a radio manufacturer who bought the Cincinnati Reds in 1934 and re-named their ballpark after himself, naturally. No, the Pecks were purveyors of an older media: books. In the offices of Platt & Peck at 42 Broadway you could pick up works they published ranging from Black Beauty and Charles Dickens to unique children's coloring books that Joseph himself patented (many of their titles can still be purchased from rare book dealers). In 1915 tragedy befell the family when grandfather Harry, who'd been suffering from cancer, died in an upstairs bedroom of asphyxiation from gas said to be

Editor's Note

Hello Neighbors,

As we emerge from the winter doldrums and look forward to Spring, when West Midwood is perhaps at its most beautiful, it's a good time to check in on neighbors we might not have seen in a while. One thing that helps us stay connected is this newsletter – a quarterly reminder that we live in a great place, with a lot happening. Pre-COVID, the newsletter was printed and delivered to you four times a year. The generous owners of Park Slope Copy, Jon and Jamie Kalb, who grew up right here in the neighborhood, donated the printing. When the pandemic hit, we pivoted to a full-color online version, and at the height of the pandemic we published it virtually every week.

We've returned to our quarterly schedule, but some of the advantages of online publication seem worth retaining. First, we can publish color photographs and drawings, instead of the less-than-satisfying black and white copies of yesteryear. Second, the production time is faster, so we don't need to wait for printing, divide up the physical copies among members our trustee distribution team, and then wait until each of them has the free time to deliver the newsletter to your home.

The disadvantage, of course, is that there are still some people in the neighborhood who will not see or read an on-line newsletter, either because they are not computer-savvy, don't have an email listed on our ListServ, or simply prefer to read the paper version and ignore or delete the online one.

So, here's a suggestion, which could accomplish several things at once: Check in with your neighbors, particularly people who might be older, or ill, or isolated, and ask them whether they've seen this edition of the newsletter. If they have not, offer to print out a copy for them. It's a good excuse for starting a conversation, helps bring people together, and saves a few trees into the bargain!

Happy spring, everyone!

Tori Rosen



President's Message Spring 2022



Dear Neighbors,

Another spring season is creeping through the London Planes.

As we prepare our seeds, rakes and hoes, the WMCA Board continues to advocate for our neighborhood and to plot and plan new and exciting upcoming spring / summer events, all of which are announced in this newsletter. These events, including a progressive dinner, yard sale, community meetings and liaising with local elected officials and city agencies all require hard work and dedication of people that live in the community. Please consider lending your passions and talents to the Board – you can help maintain our Glenwood Road mall, be in touch with a certain agency, or plan an event.

We all recently learned that long-time business friends Ox Tavern and Almac Hardware are closing. While the Ox may reappear, please take the news as yet another reminder to shop at and support our local businesses. Yes, it's easier to click around Amazon and welcome fresh cardboard at your door in mere hours, but remember that time you walked to Newkirk Plaza for a screwdriver and ended up getting great advice from Javi or Henry at the store along with your purchase? And perhaps you ran into a neighbor while crossing the Plaza and made plans to have the kids play together – and maybe one of those neighbors offered a job to your child twenty years later, all because you bought that screwdriver from a local store instead of online! You never know...

Please contact any Board member listed in this newsletter if you wish to get involved, and please remember to support your neighbors and local business.

Thanks,
Eric Goldberg

In This Issue:

Getting Together	1	Mark Your Calendars	14
Stories Your House Could Tell	1	Advertisements	14
Editor's Note	2	What is West Midwood Online	14
President's Message	2	WMCA Dues Payments.	14
Christine Pappacoda-Esposito	3	Who You Gonna Call	15
Alternate Side Parking	3	Artist's Notebook	15
West Midwood Cooks	4	Businesses & Services	16
School News	5	WMCA Board of Directors	16
Artifacts in the Attic	6	WMCA Dues Notice	17
Neighborhood News	7		
My Ukraine Connection	7.		
Omni Ensemble	7		
Ask Mr Trivia Guy	9		
Puzzle	10		
West Midwood Bookshelf	11		
On the Turntable	11		
Westwood Rides into Town.	13		

West Midwood News
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In Memorium — Christine Pappacoda-Esposito

On March 1st, 2022, we lost our neighbor and long-time resident of West Midwood, Christine Pappacoda-Esposito. Chris was the wife of Retired Chief of Department NYPD and OEM NYC, Joe Esposito. Together, they've resided at 33 Wellington Court for over 30 years.

For those who were fortunate to know Chris, they can attest that she was an absolutely beautiful woman, both inside and out. She lit up the room with her amazing laugh, her glamorous style, and her positive energy.

On Wellington Court, you could always find Chris sitting by her pool, enjoying a martini and laughing with her friends, family, and neighbors. A lover of music, Chris would invite friends to listen to Rob Garcia's live jazz band from across the street. She checked in on her neighbors, offering a helping

hand when they needed one. She created close friendships with many of us and acted like an adopted godmother to our children.



Chris cared deeply for her beautiful children and for her grandchildren who are always over to spend time with their grandparents. Her love for her husband Joe was a thing of exceptional beauty. Married 52 years, they acted like newlyweds until her last day on Earth.

Chris will be deeply missed by her neighbors on Wellington Court. Our deepest condolences to Joe Esposito and the entire Esposito family.



Alternate Side Parking Calendar

The city suspends alternate side parking rules on the following legal and religious holidays. No Stopping, No Standing and No Parking regulations are also suspended, except where those regulations are normally in effect seven days a week (for example "Mp Standomg Amuto,e"). Parking meter regulations are also suspended. On all other holidays, only street cleaning rules are suspended.

March 2 - Wednesday — Ash Wednesday

March 17 - Thursday — Purim

April 17 - Thursday — Holy Thursday

April 15 - Friday — Good Friday

April 16 - Saturday — Passover

April 21 - Thursday — Holy Thursday (Orthodox)

April 22 - Friday — Good Friday (Orthodox)

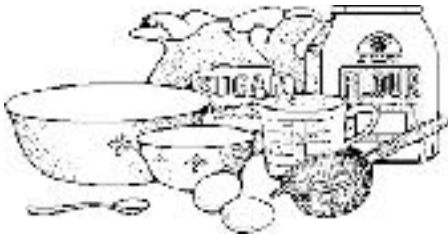
April 22-32 - Friday-Saturday — Passover 7th & 8th Day

May 2-4 - Monday-Wednesday Idul Fitr (Eid Al-Fitr)

May 26-Thursday — Solemnity of the Ascension

May 30-Monday — Memorial Day

Argyle Road snowman and snow dog, created in the last blizzard of 2022 (we hope) by Emi Hermosa.



West Midwood Cooks (and Bakes!) by Allidah Muller

Our new tiny roommate just turned four months old at the end of February, so admittedly, our dinners have been a little simpler as of late. My mom gave me a great cookbook for Christmas by Julia Turshen called *Simply Julia*, and we have been making lots of recipes out of it over the last several weeks. If you're not familiar with Julia, she has published a few wonderful cookbooks of her own (*Small Victories*, another favorite of ours) and has also co-written several cookbooks with other chefs or food people (*In Bibi's Kitchen*, a book about East African cuisine being one of the more recent ones). Most recipes in *Simply Julia* can be made with easy-to-find ingredients in 30-45 minutes and are quite delicious. Here are two that we will definitely be adding to our weeknight rotation:

Roasted Cauliflower & Red Cabbage Tacos

(Serves 4)

From Julia: A one-sheet-pan dinner, these tacos combine nutty roasted cauliflower and cabbage with a bright, creamy avocado sauce. If you don't have a food processor to make the sauce, just mash everything together in a bowl with a fork or a potato masher. It won't be as smooth, but it will still be delicious and provide the right balance for the tacos. What's the best way to warm corn tortillas? If you have a gas stove, just warm them directly over the flame, using tongs to flip them. Once they're a little bit charred, wrap them in a kitchen towel and let them sit and steam amongst themselves for a minute before serving. No gas stove? Do the same thing in a hot cast iron skillet.



For the filling:

- 1 small cauliflower (about 2 lbs), outer leaves and core discarded, cut into small florets
- 1 pound red cabbage, thinly sliced (about ½ small red cabbage or 6 cups sliced)
- ¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp ground coriander
- 1 tsp kosher salt

For the sauce:

- 1 ripe avocado, peeled, pitted and roughly chopped
- 1 large handful fresh cilantro, finely chopped (a little stem is fine)
- 3 Tbsp fresh lime juice
- 3 Tbsp regular or vegan mayonnaise

½ tsp kosher salt

To serve:

- 12 small corn tortillas
- Finely diced white onion, thinly sliced radishes, pickled jalapeños, and/or hot sauce

First, preheat your oven to 400°F.

Next, make the filling. Place the cauliflower and cabbage on a large sheet pan. Drizzle with the olive oil and sprinkle with the cumin, coriander and salt. Use your hands to mix everything together and spread it out into an even layer. Roast, stirring every 15 minutes, until the vegetables are softened and browned in spots, about 45 minutes.

Next, make the sauce. Place the avocado, cilantro, lime juice, mayonnaise, and salt in the bowl of a food processor and puree until smooth. Season to taste with more salt if necessary.

And serve. Evenly divide the sauce and roasted vegetables among the warmed tortillas (or set out bowls of everything and let everyone build their own tacos). Serve immediately with the toppings.

Allidah's note: This creamy avocado sauce is AWESOME. I would put it on many different kinds of tacos. In order to give these tacos a bit more protein, I also added a schmear of refried beans to each tortilla before putting in the toppings. I also usually double the recipe in order to have lots of leftovers.

Jody's French Lentil & Kale Stew (Serves 4)

From Julia: Working with Jody Williams on *Buvette: The Pleasure of Good Food*, her cookbook named for her restaurant of the same name, was one of the most enjoyable professional experiences I've ever had. Jody, who also runs the famed *Via Carota* in New York with her wife Rita Sodi, is a funny, warm person who has the best taste in everything from food to hand soap to glassware. And her stewed French lentils with kale, which as of this writing continue to be on



Buvette's menu, are a great example of what makes her such a great cook. They're simple and not encumbered by too many ingredients or techniques. They're about patience and the willingness to let something cook low and slow and letting it all just surrender. They're warming and

letting it all just surrender. They're warming and comforting.

Here's my every-so-slightly-adjusted version (the biggest difference being that I add way more garlic and serve it with ricotta, which you can skip if you're vegan). If you make these in advance, be sure to wait until you reheat the lentils to add the vinegar and nutmeg so they hit the mixture just before serving. Also note that if you want a little bit of flavorful meat in the mix, start the recipe by browning some sausage (reduce the oil to a single tablespoon) and then go from there.

3 Tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
1 small red onion, finely diced
8 garlic cloves, minced
1 lb kale (preferably lacinato or dinosaur kale), rinsed, tough stems discarded, coarsely chopped (2 standard bunches)
1 cup French lentils (also known as Le Puy lentils)
6 cups chicken or vegetable stock (homemade, store-bought, or bouillon paste dissolved in boiling water)
2 tsp kosher salt
½ tsp freshly ground black pepper
2 tsp sherry vinegar
¼ tsp freshly ground nutmeg
Whole milk ricotta, for serving

Place the olive oil in a large, heavy pot (like a Dutch oven) over medium heat. Add the onion, garlic, and kale and cook, stirring now and then, until the vegetables begin to soften, about 5 minutes. Add the lentils, stock, salt, and pepper. Turn the heat to high, bring to a boil, then turn to low.

Partially cover the pot and let the mixture simmer gently, stirring every so often, until the lentils are softened, a solid 1½ hours, possibly up to 2 or 2½ hours depending on the age of your lentils. If the mixture threatens to try out as it cooks, add a splash of water. You want this to be a stew, not a soup, but at the same time, you don't want it to

be a dry dish. Note that the liquid will be quite dark and murky looking from the lentils. This is just fine!

Just before serving, stir in the vinegar and nutmeg. Season to taste with more salt if needed. Serve hot or warm in bowls with a big spoonful of ricotta on top of each serving.

Allidah's note: I will definitely be doubling this recipe next time I make it - it's so yummy and I imagine it will freeze really well. I haven't tried it with the sausage, but I bet it's a nice variation.

Carrot Soup

(adapted from *Moosewood Cookbook* by *Harriet Rhine*)

2 lbs carrots, peeled or scrubbed and chopped
4 cups stock or water
1 1/2 tsp. salt
1 medium potato
chopped
3 Tbsp butter

While the above is boiling for 15 minutes, sauté the following in 3Tbsp butter:

1 cup chopped onion
1-2 cloves crushed garlic
1 tsp. fresh grated ginger

Add 3/4 cup milk, or yogurt, or sour cream

Purée everything together in a blender.
Heat very slowly.



School News—PS 217 by Madison Wharton

The PS 217 students are just returning from their winter break. We will anxiously wait to see if COVID positivity numbers remain low. If so, after 2 years' time, the student mask mandate will be removed on Monday, March 7th!

During the month of February, we connected with our diverse body of families and students by celebrating the 2022 Lunar New Year, Black History Month, and Amor Ekushay. The school created a Black History Month museum in the auditorium which all of the children in the school had a chance to visit. And for Amor Ekushay,

parents of all backgrounds wrote letters of their hopes for their children along with pictures of their families' cultural moments which were posted in a long bulletin in the entrance. We have many students at PS 217 whose families are from Ukraine. We are looking for ways to support them in any way we can.

Scaffolding continues to come down off the school, albeit very slowly. We are all looking forward to spring when we can work with the students to revitalize the garden in the front courtyard with flowers and vegetables.

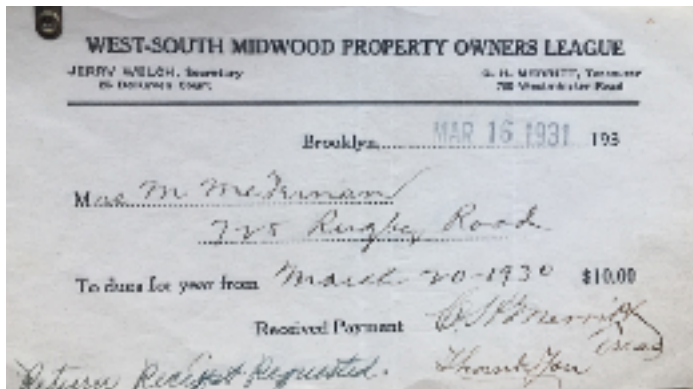


Artifacts in the Attic (and Basement, Under the Porch, and Behind the Walls)

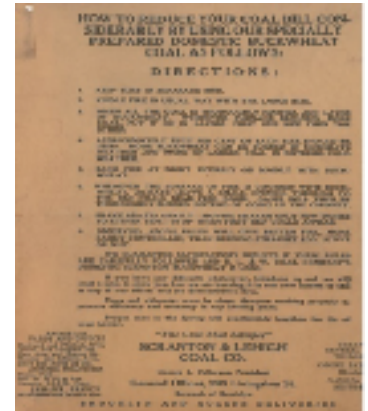
West Midwoodians find all kinds of interesting stuff when they renovate/restore their houses!
 Found anything interesting in your house? Let us know!

ARTIFACTS #1

In renovating her home, Marilyn Cuff found an annual dues receipt dated March 16, 1931, from the West-South Midwood Property Owners League. It cost \$10 back then. With inflation that's equal to about \$180 today, so I'd say the \$40 that WMCA presently requests is a good bargain.



1940: Coal Lighting Instructions



ARTIFACTS #3

Nate Rogers at 725 Argyle Road removed some cardboard-like wallboard from the small attic room over the north bay (the one with the small gable) and these two items were hanging behind the wallboard, dating to 1918 War Bond drives



Mr. Trivia Guy: Many a West Midwood resident used the news of the day and other papers for insulation, especially during the 1920s judging from the dated material recovered during many a renovation. Conclusion: The 1920s were very cold.

Mr. Trivia Guy: "West-South Midwood" was a nod to the 1903 name for the neighborhood which is more fully explained at <https://bit.ly/3JpRnsA>

ARTIFACTS #2

Dawn & Sandy Weiss of 759 Argyle Road purchased their home in 1991 from the Hegeman family, one of the earliest Dutch families to settle in ye olde town of Flatbush. Mr. Trivia Guy found that the last four digits displayed on the old rotary phone they inherited matched the last four digits in a 1940 NY Telephone Directory listing at 759 Argyle Road.

1940: 759 Argyle Rd, Charles Hegeman Listing



1991: Hegeman Phone

Neighborhood News

What's Happening in Your Life? Let Us Know!

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. Send your news to editor.WestMidwoodNews@gmail.com.

New Neighbors

Lana Bittman moved to the neighborhood in October and gave birth to twin daughters, Frankie Eloise and Georgia Beatrix, in November! They live with their cat, Winnie, on Rugby Road. Lana works as a librarian at the Fashion Institute of Technology, where she oversees the periodicals and database collections. Spare time is elusive these days, but she loves books, old movies, museums, music, and cooking. She is looking forward to embracing porch life with the babies this spring! Previously from Ft. Greene, Lana feels very lucky to be here. She loves the charming homes, tree-lined streets, sense of community, and subway access. She says, "West Midwood will be a wonderful place to raise my children, and I am excited to meet my new neighbors!"

My Ukraine Connection *By Jeff Ewing*

As I watch the horrific scenes on television of what is happening in Ukraine and the courageous Ukrainians facing down the Russian Goliath, I am reminded of something I rarely think about: my own connection to Ukraine. My Jewish grandfather on my mother's side always said he was from Russia (not Russian but "from" Russia.) I never asked him where in Russia he was from. The family left Russia in about 1900 and ultimately ended up in southern California, where I was born.

My great-Uncle Ben left the family behind in California and moved to Brooklyn to work in the New York garment industry, and when he died in 1983 I discovered an affidavit among his papers that identified the family's origins as Borzna, in the province of Chernigov, in Russia. But where is Borzna? Turns out it is in what is now Ukraine, about 112 miles from Kyiv, which, as we all know now, is Ukraine's capital. My grandfather's family definitely never identified as Ukrainian. Borzna, I gather, was a dangerous place for Jews. Some years after my grandfather's family left, the Red Army organized pogroms there, and most of the Jews that remained in the town were murdered by the Germans in 1941 and 1942 with the cooperation of the Ukrainian police. In 1939 a census counted 326 Jews in the town; in 2014 there were 10.

So it's not that my Ukrainian connection makes me nostalgic in any way. But I definitely feel very bad for the Ukrainians (as I'm sure we all do) as they try and preserve their fledgling democracy, facing what seems like a rerun of the German invasion of Poland in 1939, while we are safe here in our mini-democratic state of West Midwood. And I think about my own long-ago connection to Ukraine!

The Omni Ensemble Concludes its 39th Season at the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music With a Tribute to George Crumb



The OMNI Ensemble will conclude of their 39th season at the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music on Saturday evening, April 9 2022 at 8:00 pm. Music Director/Flutist David Wechsler will be joined by pianist John Cheek,

clarinetist Jeff Adler and cellist Jenna Girone-Virgilio for a program of music built around George Crumb's *Vox Balanae* and *Eleven Echoes of Autumn*. Also on the program will be the World Premiere of John Cheek's *Give Me A Minute* for solo piano, electronic

Renaissance music and improvisations. Continuing as the chamber music group in residence at the Brooklyn Conservatory, the OMNI Ensemble will continue to perform concerts of enormous variety all designed to provide their audience with a musical diversity not ordinarily encountered by one chamber music group. Throughout the season they perform in the recital hall at the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music.

Please note: As of this writing, proof of vaccination against Covid 19 must be shown for admittance to these concerts

Tickets at the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music are \$15.00, \$10.00 for students and senior citizens and \$10.00 for the live stream. Tickets for BCM are available in advance on the OMNI Ensemble website or at the door prior to the performance. For reservations to either concert please call 718/859-8649. For direct purchase of tickets on line please visit our web site: www.theomniensemble.org or go to <https://omniapril9.eventbrite.com>

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.

The OMNI Ensemble is a chamber music created to perform programs of enormous variety, with music ranging from the Renaissance to the 21st century, including Western classical music, jazz, and electronic and improvised music, all designed to provide their audience with a musical experience not ordinarily encountered in a single music event. Since its inception in 1983 the group has featured many guest artists including multi instrumentalist/composer David Amram, performance artist John Kelley, Singer Erika Banks, Kumongo player Jin Hi Kim, Saxophonist Roy Nathanson, Mezzo Sopranos Catherine Ciesinski and Charlotte Hellekant, Harpsichordists Gerald Ranck and Rebecca Pechefsky, and keyboardist Marco Benevento. The group has commissioned works by David Lang, Lee Hyla, Allen Shearson, & Michael Bushnell, and performed new pieces by Jim Lahti, Eric Klein, and David Wechsler.

This concert is made possible, in part with funds from the New York City Dept. of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, The New York State Council on the Arts, and Con Edison.

Stories Your House Could Tell - 725 Argyle Road — *continued from page 1*

“streaming from an unlighted lamp.” One of the tabloids labeled it a suicide. A memorial service was likely held at Wells Memorial Church across the street on the corner of Glenwood Road where Ruth had been active in funding their new kitchen and dining room.

Spring, only weeks after the US entered the World War, and with deployment overseas looming, the couple tied the knot. Despite being seriously wounded and contracting the Spanish Flu while serving in France, the groom survived and returned to live with the Zanes



The Pecks moved to Manhattan and sold the home in June 1917 for \$7,500 to Charles & Nellie Zanes and their three children. Charles’s forebears founded Zanesville, Ohio, and he was related to that city’s favorite son, the western novelist Zane Grey. The Brooklyn Zanes experienced plenty of real-life drama. First, Nellie, age 53, died of a stroke in her bed less than two months after moving in. And seven weeks later Charles

family. That’s when the drama escalated.

Charles A. Zanes had been an NYPD Lieutenant stationed at the 5th Avenue Precinct on 16th Street for 12 years when he moved the family to Argyle Road. More importantly, he managed the charity Police Games for Orphans and Widows at the old Sheepshead Bay Racetrack which annually drew 75,000 ticket-

buying citizens. In April 1919 Police Commissioner Richard Enright (no relation) promoted him to Captain during a Departmental reorganization to manage some of the new “Flying Squads” working out of NYPD Headquarters on Centre Street (now



Continued on page 12

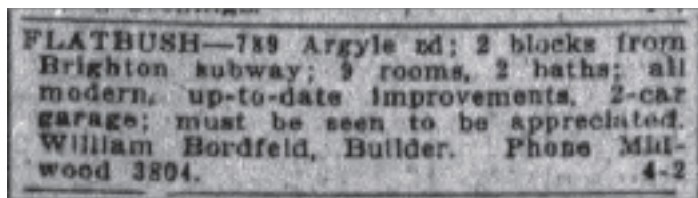
Ask Mr. Trivia Guy

Editor's Note: *In a probably futile attempt to satisfy our neighborhood's insatiable appetite for information about our own Small Town in the Big City, we've asked our incomparable local historian Joe Enright to answer some of your most frequent and perplexing questions. If you have questions you'd like him to address, please send them to us!*

[As always, Mr. Trivia Guy insists he should only be asked questions he already knows the answers to.]

NINA BICKELL & UDI HAZAN: *Our house at 774 Rugby Road is different from others on our block – the main entrance doesn't face the street, for instance. So what's up with that?*


TRIVIA GUY: *Your house sat on an undeveloped lot while the rest of the neighborhood was built. Then in 1921 William Bordfeld erected homes on the two remaining empty lots in West Midwood, 774 Rugby and 789 Argyle, which are mirror images of each other.*



PUZZLE

For the last two years, the news spotlight has been focusing on microorganisms, specifically those known as viruses and their variants, especially those that are involved with human disease. A zoonosis (zoonotic disease or zoonoses—plural) is an infectious disease that is transmitted between species from animals to humans under natural conditions. Here is a disguised list of visible organisms, namely amphibians, birds, fish, invertebrates, mammals, and reptiles. Some are extinct. None are fabulous, such as dragon, Pegasus, or unicorn. How many can you identify?

Rank: 90=good; 180=excellent; 270=genius.

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ON	LO _ S	A _ I _ OU	O _ GOO _ E	
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West Midwood Bookshelf — Joan Greenberg, librarian



Read any good books lately? Have a book recommendation for your neighbors?
Please send them to Joan Greenberg at joandaveyg@gmail.com.

The Sweetness of Water by Nathan Harris

This Author's debut novel is set in post Civil War Georgia. Two freedmen are hired to work on a white farmer's land. The ensuing story is tragic and also uplifting. Also helps shed light on our present political divide. *Recommended by Andrea Freshman*

All Creatures Great and Small by James Herriot

This book is the autobiographical story of country vet in the small rural English town of Darrowby in the 1930's. Between the people, the animals, and the setting, a truly charming story is told. The TV series on PBS, based on the book, maintains its charm.

Recommended by Harriet Rhine

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

This book helps one gain insight and understanding into the pervasive racism throughout the history of our country.

Recommended by Harriet Rhine

A Woman of No Importance by Sonia Purnell

An American woman becomes a spy during WWII and constantly outwits the Gestapo through her intelligence and sheer courage. Based on a true story.

Recommended by Linda Howell

Louise Penny's Inspector Gamache series

This intelligent mystery series is up to #17, I believe. I recommend starting at book #1 (Still Life) to follow how all the characters change and evolve over time. I have them all. And the mysteries themselves are pretty good too! *Recommended by Linda Howell*

Duende, Poems 1966 - Now by Quincy Troupe

As author Terry McMillan pointed out in a Zoom program I saw featuring her, Quincy, and Danny Glover, each poem is a symphony, and most will enjoy reading one or two at a time. Quincy was a professional basketball player in Europe and also wrote Miles Davis' autobiography, so this book has over 600 pages of poems about sports, jazz, inner thoughts, exotic travels, and his rich cultural heritage. *Recommended by Jan Castro*

Holbein: Capturing Character, edited by Anne T. Woollett

This book is a collaboration between The J. Paul Getty Museum in LA and The Morgan Library in Manhattan. It's a beautifully produced, years-in-the-making collector's item with many full-color and full-page images by Holbein and his circle and cogent essays about how Holbein captured the character of his sitters and how his portraits helped to "brand" Erasmus as a sage. Visually stunning and well written essays on the birth of humanism. *Recommended by Jan Castro*

On the Turntable — West Midwood listens to . . .

In this new feature, neighbors share what they have been listening to lately. Why? Because, as consummate wordsmith Hans Christian Anderson once wrote, "where words fail, music speaks."

"Imagine" by Eva Cassidy,

Recommended by Herbert Rubenstein.

WHY? Because it's a collection of some of the best songs of the twentieth century, stripped down to their purest, leanest forms.



"Hearts Town" by the War and Treaty

Recommended by Rosalía Aconite

WHY? Because the synergistic energy across a broad spectrum of genre achieved by these two artists and life partners is off the scale.

"Strong Heart" by PJ Brennan

Recommended by Eileen Brennan

WHY? Because it's good pop and a mother loves her child.

"Pony" by Orville Peck

Recommended by Amari Méndez

WHY? Because, what is there not to like about this modern-day singing cowboy?

Until next time...Happy listening, West Midwood.

Have a suggestion for this column? Send it to Rosalía Aponte at rosaliaaponte@gmail.com

Stories Your House Could Tell — *continued from page 8*

a landmarked luxury co-op building, home to Leonardo DiCaprio among others). These squads descended on bookies, pimps, and speakeasys for a few years until the next Commissioner derided them as elitist, dispersing its 300 members to walking beats in 1926. Zanes, then a Deputy Chief Inspector, immediately retired, remarried, moved to 554 Argyle Road, died in 1933 and is buried in Green-Wood.

The third family to occupy 725 Argyle was headed by a World War vet who served as an “Army song leader,” the famed choral conductor and vocal coach, Herbert Stavely Sammond. Census records reveal he

HERBERT STAVELY SAMMOND
VOICE TEACHER
 Conductor, Morning Choral, Brooklyn; Elizabeth, N. J., Oratorio Society; Organist Middle Collegiate Church, New York.
 Singers Coached for Church, Concert & Oratorio
 Walter Damrosch, inviting the Brooklyn Morning Choral to participate in a N. Y. Symphony Concert, wrote: "Artistically I know I could not have matters in better hands than yours."
 725 East 13th St., Brooklyn 50 7th Street, N. Y. C.

was born in Wisconsin in 1872 but grew up in an Atlantic Avenue orphanage run by the City of Brooklyn. Once an organist at Temple Beth Emeth, he advertised as a music teacher for many years, working out of his studio at 725 Argyle where many an accomplished out-of-town musician would spend the night tinkling the ivories with Herbert, his school teacher wife, Lena, and their three children.

The Sammonds sold the house in July of 1943 to Raymond Blitzler Leinbach and his wife, Mildred. Raymond spent his younger years as a lodger at the Brooklyn YMCA at 55 Hanson Place, then after a brief career as a chemist, went on to become the manager of the huge facility.



Following Raymond’s death, Mildred sold the house to Victor Krauthamer in 1975. Victor arrived at Idlewild Airport from Poland in 1949 at the age of two, with his infant sister, Julie. They were the precious children of Auschwitz survivors. Victor became a salesman at Macy’s and then Newsday. He and his wife, Ruth, a nurse who wrote a health column for the *West Midwood News* for many years while Victor provided all the graphics, bought a snow blower back in the early 90s. Neighbors scoffed when only two inches fell the entire winter. The next year the Krauthamers’ wisdom was widely recognized when Brooklyn was



Victor Krauthamer

buried in epic blizzards.

In 2017 Victor passed after a long illness. Two years later Nate Rogers and Allidah Muller arrived with their two-year-old son, Caleb, just in time to suffer through the pandemic with the rest of us, made a lot more bearable by watching Caleb beat his drum during the evening pot-banging ritual. Nate is an architect specializing in historic preservation while Allidah, when not writing a cooking column for the *West Midwood News*, teaches art at a charter school in Fort Greene. Since moving in, they’ve encountered interesting problems in restoring their home’s exterior, relying on the craftsmanship of Bullseye Exteriors (“fabulous,” raves Nate). Work along the way included asbestos abatement and even the “humane eviction” of a squirrel colony residing in the eaves. Amidst the chaos of construction, they also added a new member to the household, Ethan, born this past Halloween.

Quite a cavalcade. And that’s what I love about West Midwood: you can’t beat our variety!

Westwood Rides into Town *By Joe Enright*

On a cold night in early January BC - Before Corona - I passed a new bistro on Foster Avenue between East 18th & 19th Streets. "WESTWOOD" the backlit-acrylic letters blazed. Interesting name. Was this an homage to West Midwood, Midwood Park and South Midwood, the Victorian Flatbush neighborhoods, dark and somnambulant, looming across Foster Avenue in every direction? But the wooden décor looked southwestern. Or was Westwood an evocation of Clint Eastwood westerns? Either explanation would be fine with me. I decided to drop in for a drink and find out.

Sitting at the bar, I ordered a Dewar's.

"No Dewar's," said the bartender, Leo.

I took a McAllen's instead.

The minutes passed. Leo's wife, Lorena, who tended the six tables beyond the bar, said "the hanger steak is mighty fine tonight, Señor."

Some far flung tennis match displayed on the monitors while I pondered whether to eat.

Suddenly a guy in the shadows at the far end of the bar ordered Leo to top off my drink.

"That's by way of an apology, Mister."

"What for?"

"For not having Dewar's in stock yet," he said, adding, "That was my dad's drink. I should've had it. Dad had a shot every night when he got home."

"I appreciate it. So how did you come up with the name for this place?"

"Lucky Santos was my first choice," he replied. "But it didn't meet with enthusiastic responses."

"I can see why. How about if I guess where you got Westwood from?"

"Let's hear it."

"OK, but another shot of McAllen's if I'm right."

Blank looks.

"OK. A free beer chaser."

"Done."

"All right then," I announced. "Westwood is an homage to South Midwood, West Midwood, Midwood Park, Westminster and Glenwood Road."

A free drink is something to savor. And I did. Further conversation identified the owner as a long-time restaurateur I will call Billy Bistro for now, a former resident hereabouts who would prefer to remain anonymous.

The grub that followed was truly delicious. And oh yeah, Billy said the name and the décor were also influenced by Clint.

"A mighty fine hombre, that Clint Eastwood."

"Not a bad director either," I agreed before heading out into the night, now fortified against the cold.

The Rusty Nail, one block west on the corner of East 17th Street and Foster, opened just a month before Westwood. And Wattli, on Newkirk near Marlborough, just two blocks east of the sun-setting Ox Tavern, seemed to be doing well. One hopes they all survive. Time will tell.





Mark Your Calendars!

May 14-15 — Yard Sale

May 21 — Progressive Dinner

June 15 — WMCA Meeting

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.

Advertisements

Park Slope Copy Center

Owners: Jon and Jamie Kalb

123 Seventh Avenue,

Brooklyn, NY 11215

Phone: (718) 783-0268

Fax: (718) 622-8373

E-mail: pscc@nyc.rr.com

Goods & services: copies (color and black & white); engineering copies; digital prints (color and black & white); computer services including design; invitations; business stationery; business cards; mailing services; shipping services (wrap and pack) for UPS, FedEx, DHL and US Mail.

2022 West Midwood Community Association Dues Payments

by Jeff Ewing (j.r.ewing@verizon.net)

I have not yet distributed paper dues notices (with envelopes) – as of February 24 (but I will soon to houses that have not yet paid.) Nevertheless, with only one email to the listserv, 35 West Midwood houses have become early adopters and paid dues! The addresses are below. Thank you so very much to everyone who has paid, and special thanks to those residents who chipped in extra as donations. Your dues (and donations) are put to very good use to support all of our neighborhood activities, plus maintenance of our lovely Glenwood malls, 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). If you'd like to join the early adopters feel free to use the dues notice attached as the last page of this newsletter. And note you can pay by Paypal. Everyone who has paid will get a lovely light green dues sticker (watch for it under your mail slot or in your mailbox), and the satisfaction of supporting your neighborhood.

2022 WEST MIDWOOD DUES PAID AS OF 2/24/2022

663 Argyle Road
671 Argyle Road
685 Argyle Road
715 Argyle Road
721 Argyle Road
745 Argyle Road
716 Argyle Road
726 Argyle Road
732 Argyle Road
740 Argyle Road
780 Argyle Road
784 Argyle Road
1318 Avenue H
815 East 12th Street
37 De Koven Court
1127 Glenwood Road
1114 Glenwood Road
1304 Glenwood Road
1316 Glenwood Road
1431 Glenwood Road
1410 Glenwood Road
652 Marlborough Court
659 Rugby Road
692 Rugby Road
755 Rugby Road
734 Rugby Road
815 Rugby Road
764 Rugby Road
790 Rugby Road
26 Waldorf Court
775 Westminster Road
716 Westminster Road
732 Westminster Road
744 Westminster Road
766 Westminster Road
776 Westminster Road

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 Manglani



Neighbors' Businesses and Services

To add, cancel, or update a listing,
contact **Tori Rosen** at editor.WestMidwoodNews@gmail.com

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.robgarciamusic.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.

Laura Campbell-Lui *Literacy Tutor* ELA help for reading strategies . Phonics/decoding help for kindergarten-grade 4. Spelling help with common rules and word root hints. Grammar help with punctuation, capitalization and conjugating. Writing help with sentence construction. New York State-certified Reading Specialist and Elementary School Teacher. Licensed in Reading, Common Branches and Early Childhood Education. 30 Years of teaching experience. Email Laura at literacytutor@aol.com

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 Swedish massage or Thai body work. Safe, clean, open space. I've had 3 vaccine shots. Credentials & references on request. 60–120 minute sessions, reasonable rates. Phone 314-323-9060.

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.

WEST MIDWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021 - 2022

ALVIN BERK	735 ARGYLE ROAD	alvin_berk@verizon.net
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WEST MIDWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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



2022 DUES NOTICE

Dear Neighbor,

It's time to pay your annual membership dues to the West Midwood Community Association (WMCA) - your neighborhood organization - for 2022. 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.

You may also 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 2022 for the West Midwood Community Association.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ EMail _____

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