

WEST MIDWOOD NEWS



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It Has Been an Excellent Summer in West Midwood, and Autumn is Looking Good!

The summer in West Midwood has been full of activity: porch concerts, trips to Coney Island and the beach, new neighbors moving in, and a whole new cadre of kids riding all manner of wheeled vehicles: scooters, skates, bikes and even the occasional small electric car. Now school has opened and we're settling into quieter routines, but there's still a lot to do: the annual block party in September and the Halloween Parade in October!

Jazz, and Opera, and Rock, Oh My!

Above: Rob Garcia and friends fill the evening on Wellington Court with wonderful jazz. Right: The New Camerata Opera brings favorite arias to Argyle Road. Far right: Scott Stein and his band celebrate the release of Scott's new album, *Uphill*, with a high energy Argyle Road concert.

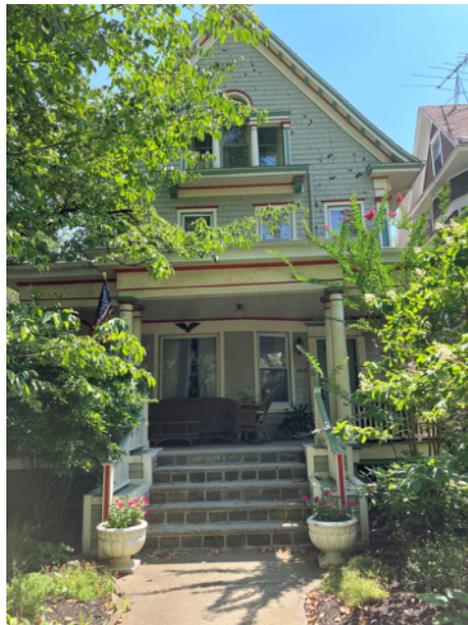


The Stories Your House Could Tell: 1410 Glenwood Road

By Joe Enright

The 17th house in our 240-part series once served as a Convalescent Home and was fondly remembered by a famous scientist in his dying hours as a childhood refuge. It was also occupied by a Suffragette whose ancestry dates back to the Norman invasion of England. This same home was also the destination of a traveler who died on the way, the victim of the worst rail disaster in American history – whose life might have been saved years earlier by the era's most famous actor.

Many of us have spent time in this house, as hosts of its gracious owners. It's the Russo home at 1410 Glenwood Road, yet another masterpiece built by John R. Corbin. He sold it, soon after it was erected in 1905, to a remarkable couple. Oscar Lawrence Williams grew up on the American frontier in his father's Dakota Territory hotel, while his Southern Belle wife, Florence Bullington, traced her lineage back to Sir Richard le Forte, the leader of the Norman army at Hastings in 1066. Sir Richard's heirs were the Fortescue family and in 1150, Lady Elizabeth



Fortesque wed Sir John Crocker in Devon, England, further cementing ties between the French Normans and English Anglo-Saxons. Sir John Fortesque, another ancestor, served as the Lord Chancellor to King Henry VI. We could continue, but this isn't the Internet, so let's move on.

Oscar owned a successful dredging company which allowed the Williams to take many a "motor car" trip hither and yon in their Packard. During one such trip in early September of 1914, Florence's sister and brother-in-law, Phoebe and Ben Kinsie, were house-sitting, asleep on the second floor. Two burglars broke in with socks taken from a backyard clothesline they wrapped around their shoes to muffle the sound. After chloroforming the Kinsies, they began pocketing jewelry until the barking of a neighbor's dog interrupted the thievery. The next day the press reported that the socks and the dog both belonged to John Bunny at 1416 Glenwood Road. Bunny was the most famous

actor of his time, a former Broadway star who was then making dozens of short film comedies at the Vitagraph Studios, located at Avenue M, two short stops away on the Brighton line. When Bunny died a year later, the New York Times



By 7am on Thursday mornings, carts are lined up along Glenwood, in anticipation of the three o'clock distribution at the PAYO food bank. The line often stretches for four or five blocks. This is only one of many food banks operating in our vicinity.

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President's Message Fall 2022



Dear Neighbors,

You're pulling that rake past your garden, zipping its teeth through the dirt and leaves, and your mind drifts off – there must be something more than this! Yes, leave the leaves to whisper with the trees and lend your hand, wallet or both to one of many local organizations working to improve and enhance the lives of many in Flatbush.

Multiple food pantries exist in our area, both long-running and newer. One long-time pantry is operated out of the garage at Our Lady of Refuge Church (Foster Ave. at E. 21st Street). It is staffed by male and female parishioners, mainly senior citizens, who are also its largest beneficiary group. This pantry has seen need increase greatly over the years and it now serves over 300 people every Wednesday. Food aid is decreasing, so the pantry needs both donations and volunteers.

Heading west, PIN (People in Need) was started by local dynamo Nowshin Ali while she built and ran the very successful Jalsa restaurant. PIN first focused on assistance to low income immigrants, particularly women, in our area.

Besides regular food distribution, PIN has sponsored school supplies/backpack distributions, information sessions on public assistance programs, an after school program, and a women's center that will soon host adult computer literacy classes.

Flatbush Development Corporation (FDC) is a larger organization formed in the 1970's in response to redlining.

FDC works in and with the greater Flatbush community in many ways. Its housing section works with seniors to stay in their home and neighborhood, and assists in affordable housing and SNAP applications. The Youth Program operates free after school and summer school programs in several nearby schools. The Economic Development arm of FDC works with local merchants on Cortelyou Road, Newkirk Avenue, Newkirk Plaza and Foster Avenue to organize and promote these areas and merchants. The FDC organizes the open streets program and hosts the Flatbush Frolic on Cortelyou Road, which is on the same day (Sept. 18) as our very own West Midwood Block Party!

These organizations are worthy of our support. We hope you consider donating your time or financially to one of them, and we will see you at the WM Block Party and Flatbush Frolic.

— *Eric Goldberg, President*

— *Linda Howell, President Emeritus*

Jonah Kinigstein, West Midwood’s “Unrepentant Artist,” is Still Making Art

While many of us struggled to figure out how to pass the time of Covid lockdown, West Midwood’s Jonah Kinigstein did what he has always done: paint and draw. His wife Eileen, herself a talented ceramicist, spent the past two years helping Jonah organize his studio, inventory his work, and assist in producing a beautiful volume of his works, Unrepentant Artist: The Paintings of Jonah Kinigstein, recently published by Fantagraphics Press.

Born in Brooklyn in June 1923, the third of three boys, he moved with his family to the Bronx when he was about eight. He began drawing when he was very young – on whatever surface was available – with chalk on the sidewalks, pencil on paper, even occasionally on the walls. After graduating from James Monroe High



The artist in his studio on the third floor of the Westminster Road home where he and Eileen have lived for nearly 40 years.



School, he went to Cooper Union for a year, and then was drafted. During his three-year stint in the army during World War II, his graphic skills were put into service making maps of the Pacific islands. Then he went to Paris on a Fulbright

Scholarship, and to Italy, soaking up the art and culture of Europe and honing his talent.

Kinigstein says, “The war was over, and it left a scar.” He became fascinated with images of carnivals and circuses, and with soldiers. His fantastical, sometimes hallucinatory paintings offer often allegorical images of the chaos, idiocy, and absurdities of human existence. They are beautiful, disturbing, and often very funny. Several of his paintings of Coney Island were recently included in the BWAC Coney Island show in Red Hook. His work is in the collections of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the National Academy of Design, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

An earlier volume, The Emperor’s New Clothes: The Tower of Babel in the “Art” World, is a collection of drawings and cartoons in which his fierce wit and talent critique the trends of abstract and modern art. He is particularly scathing in his view of the gallery system and the often arbitrary power of Leo Castelli and his compadres, the “art industry’s” arbiters of what is “good” art.

As he approaches his 100th birthday, Jonah continues to make art. And if the stars align, perhaps he and Eileen will celebrate with another trip to their beloved Paris.



Three of Kinigstein’s paintings were prominently displayed in Redhook at the recent BWAC show about Coney Island.



HALLOWEEN PARADE



West Midwood's Halloween Parade Monday October 31st @ 6:30 PM

Gather @ 6PM @ End of Glenwood Rd. @ Q Train Cut off Rugby Rd
Bring cookies, donuts, cupcakes
Call Virginia Waters @ 718-421-3237

38th Annual Halloween Parade



West Midwood Community Association Annual Block Party

Sunday, September 18, 2022 from 1:00 - 4:00 PM
Glenwood Road (at the dead end)

Come enjoy food, drinks, music, sports and fun in a safe way with the entire West Midwood neighborhood. Meet your neighbors new and old.

Please contribute to the Potluck food table as you wish. Food and drinks will also be provided by the West Midwood Community Association.



Protect Yourself Against Digital Scams

Digital money movement fraud is on the rise. A scammer can contact you requesting payment through a Wire Transfer or transfer services such as Zelle® — these methods allow money to be sent quickly, and the funds are often hard to trace and recover.

You should never wire money or send money using Zelle® or other online money transfer services to:

- Anyone who claims to be from a government agency
- Any stranger, no matter what reason they give
- A telemarketer trying to sell you something
- Anyone claiming your account is compromised
- Unauthorized, unverified cryptocurrency sites or salespeople
- Anyone asking you to send money to yourself

(Editor's note: Thanks to Citibank.com for this alert.)

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, "No Standing Anytime"). Parking meter regulations are also suspended. On all other holidays, only street cleaning rules are suspended.

- September 5 Monday -- Labor Day
- September 26-27 Monday-Tuesday -- Rosh Hashanah
- October 5 Wednesday -- Yom Kippur
- October 10 Monday -- Columbus Day
- October 10-11 Monday-Tuesday -- Succoth – 2 Days
- October 17 Monday -- Shemini Atzereth
- October 18 Tuesday -- Simchas Torah
- October 24 Monday -- Diwali
- November 1 Tuesday -- All Saints' Day
- November 8 Tuesday -- Election Day
- November 11 Friday -- Veterans Day
- November 24 Thursday -- Thanksgiving
- December 8 Thursday -- Immaculate Conception
- December 26 Monday -- Christmas Day (Observed)



West Midwood Cooks (and Bakes!) by Allidah

In the summer, I try as much as possible to not turn on my oven. With all of the amazing produce and herbs coming into the markets, my favorite thing is to make all different kinds of salads: bean, pasta, corn, lentil, zucchini, etc. I especially love salads that are just as delicious for lunch the next day as they were for dinner the night before, as well as easily portable to beachers, potluck picnics and block parties. You might just see one (or more!) of these on September 18th!

Grilled Eggplant with Tomatoes, Torn Croutons, and Lots of Herbs

This comes from a perennial favorite cookbook of mine, *Six Seasons* by Joshua McFadden. When I made it most recently, I subbed a can of chickpeas in for the croutons and it was equally yummy. McFadden writes, “Eggplant is amazing on the grill, but sometimes the exterior can char before the inside is fully cooked and creamy-tender. Let the eggplant sit in a warm place for a few minutes after you’ve pulled it from the grill. This allows the interior to steam a bit more - carryover cooking - guaranteeing the lush texture you’re looking for.”

- 1½ pounds eggplants (aim for a nice variety of small Asian types)
- Extra-virgin olive oil
- ¼ cup red wine vinegar
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 pound tomatoes (go for a variety here, too, in colors and sizes), cored and cut into chunks if large
- 1 bunch scallions, trimmed (including ½ inch off the green tops), sliced on a sharp angle, soaked in ice water for 20 minutes and drained well
- 1 cup homemade croutons (i.e. torn, craggy pieces of bread tossed in a healthy amount of olive oil and baked at 350° until crisp and golden)
- A couple of handfuls of mixed herb leaves:
 - basils (lemon, opal, Genovese, etc.), flat-leaf
 - parsley, chives (cut into 2-inch lengths), cilantro

— Trim the ends off the eggplants, halve them lengthwise, and sprinkle with a generous dose of salt. Set them on a rack or in a big colander and leave for at least 1 hour and up to 12 hours (if longer than 2 hours, put them in the fridge).
 — Heat grill to medium-high.
 — Blot the moisture and excess salt from the surface of the eggplants. Grill the eggplants - unoiled - until they are lightly charred on the outside and tender on the inside, about 10 minutes total, though this will depend on the variety of the eggplant. (Alternatively, to roast them: heat the oven to 450°, and heat a baking sheet for

15 minutes in the oven, getting it ripping hot. Toss the eggplants in a couple of tablespoons of extra-virgin olive oil and place them cut side down on the hot - be careful! - pan, and blast it back in the oven. Roast until both sides are nicely browned and eggplants are tender, about 18 minutes.)

— When the eggplants are cooked, pile them into a large bowl. Add the vinegar, ½ teaspoon salt, and lots of twists of pepper, and toss to distribute all of the seasonings. Add the tomatoes, scallions, croutons, and herb leaves and toss gently. Add ½ cup olive oil and toss. Taste and adjust the seasoning. Let the dish sit for a few minutes so the tomato juices soak into the croutons and serve at room temperature.



Grilled Zucchini Ribbons with Pesto and White Beans

This recipe comes from Deb Perelman’s *Smitten Kitchen* blog. I love this recipe, because it’s very flexible and you can change it into many different versions of itself. Deb writes, “This is a very loose recipe. Sure, I made it with zucchini ribbons, but there’s no reason you cannot use smaller or angled slices. Sure, I grilled it, but if you don’t have a grill outside or an indoor grill plan, you could roast or broil it instead. It will taste essentially the same, which is to say, I hope, awesome. You could eat this with grilled bread for a light summer meal. You could crack open a ball of burrata over it for extra luxury (you may find the parmesan unnecessary in this case). You could finish it with toasted pine nuts for an extra crunch. You could build it into a larger meal for a small crowd with grilled sausages and a caprese salad too.”

- 1¼ to 1½ pounds zucchini, thinner longer ones are ideal here
- Olive oil
- Coarse or kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 lemon
- 1¾ cups (from 1 15 oz. can) small-to-medium sized white beans, drained
- 1 garlic clove, peeled
- 1 2 oz bundle of basil (this is the small clamshell size at most groceries)
- 1 to 2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
- Coarsely grated parmesan, to taste

Prepare the zucchini: trim ends and cut zucchini the long way into ¼-inch strips. I use a mandoline for this but a

West Midwood Cooks (and Bakes!) *continued*

knife works too. Spread out strips on a large tray and brush lightly with olive oil and season well with salt and pepper.

— Prepare grill or grill pan for medium heat. Grill zucchini in a single layer until grill marks appear underneath, then flip over and repeat the same on the other side. Transfer zucchini back to the platter and squeeze lemon juice over it.

— Meanwhile, in a food processor or blender, combine basil and garlic with a few good pinches of salt and a few grinds of black pepper until chopped. Drizzle in olive oil until it blends smoothly; you'll want about 4, sometimes 5, tablespoons. Add 1 tablespoon vinegar and blend until well-mixed; taste and add more vinegar, up to 1 more tablespoon, to taste. Season to taste.

— Combine beans with about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the dressing in a small bowl. In a larger bowl or serving platter, pour half of the dressed beans in the bottom. Arrange grilled zucchini on top, twisting and turning so that it looks extra ribbony. Spoon remaining beans in the spaces. Drizzle the remaining dressing over the platter, to taste.

— Finish with a light blanket of parmesan and eat whenever you're ready. As assembled, it keeps well at room temperature for an hour, giving you time to do everything else.

Crunchy Coleslaw

My mom has been making a version of this coleslaw since I was a little person. It has been served at many a potluck in Greenville, South Carolina, sometimes with chicken, sometimes without. I recently saw a version of it in *Bon Appetit's* June/July 2022 issue, and it would seem that I'm not the only one whose mom has this in her repertoire. The recipe developer recommended springing for good quality ramen, such as Shin.

1 cup sliced almonds
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup toasted sunflower seeds
1 3-4 oz. package any flavor instant ramen noodles
1 cup extra-virgin olive oil
 $\frac{2}{3}$ cup sugar

Kosher salt, freshly ground pepper

1 small head of green cabbage (about 1 lb. thinly sliced)

$\frac{1}{2}$ small head of red cabbage (8 oz.) thinly sliced

1 bunch scallions, thinly sliced

— Preheat oven to 350°. Toast almonds and sunflower seeds on a rimmed baking sheet, tossing halfway through, until golden brown, 8-10 minutes. Let cool.

— Meanwhile, remove the seasoning packet from the ramen noodles and set aside. Crush noodles with your hands or a rolling pin until pieces are peanut to walnut-size.

— Vigorously whisk vinegar, oil, sugar, and ramen seasoning from the reserved packet in a large bowl until sugar is dissolved. Season dressing with salt and pepper. Add green and red cabbage, scallions, half of ramen noodles, and half of almonds to dressing; toss to combine.

— Top with remaining ramen and almonds.

— If you want to add chicken to the coleslaw, you could throw in a couple of shredded grilled or baked chicken breasts.

Two Summer Drinks from Harriet Rhine

(Which you can make with or without alcohol!)

Watermelon Cucumber Cooler

Scoop the watermelon into the blender for 30 seconds

(If you like it as is, you don't need to strain it.)

Add juice from 2 limes

1 Tablespoon honey

3 oz. Vodka or rum if you like booze

Cucumber Caipirinha

3 slices cucumber

$\frac{1}{2}$ lime

1 teaspoon sugar

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. White rum or vodka, if you like

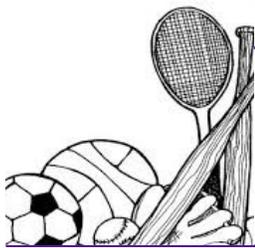
Club soda and ice to fill glass

School News—PS 217 by Eric Ost

It's September already??? Oh my! For our two older kids and many others in the neighborhood that means the countdown is on for the start of the 2022-2023 school year at PS 217 Colonel David Marcus Elementary School. Nearly 1,000 kids from Pre-K through 5th grade will be returning to the building on September 8 at 8:00am. At the Back-To-School Town Hall this past Wednesday, Principal Bonilla shared some exciting news about the upcoming school year. Despite the severe budget cuts, the school was able to retain almost all of its staff. Hopefully, more of that budget will be restored in the coming months. In the meantime, with the help of Friends of PS 217, there will also

be a new after-school collaboration with KoKoNYC (offering young engineer and inventors labs for our kids). And perhaps the biggest news for us all: the School Construction Authority has finally, finally --- after 4 long years --- finished the exterior building renovations and upgrades to the theater/auditorium. Principal Bonilla has been promised that all of it should be gone by the first day of school. If the windows we can already see are any indication, the building will look beautiful. I think everyone in the neighborhood will be celebrating when the last scaffold is gone! I hope everyone enjoyed the Labor Day Weekend. One last summer weekend before it all begins anew!





Brooklyn Sports

By Argyle Art Rhine

Ancient History Part II

Back in the June issue of West Midwood News, we began a discussion of the greatest Dodger of all time by summarizing the career of Brooklyn's own Sandy Koufax. Did you hear his story and see his statistics?! So, he must be the greatest Dodger ever, right? And can there be any doubt that his four year stretch winning 97 games was the most amazing sustained dominance ever? Hmnn.

Let's look at "**Parisian**" **Bob Caruthers**, who pitched for the Brooklyn Bridegrooms from 1888 to 1891. For six years, they had been known as the Trolley Dodgers (a name applied to residents of Brooklyn) but changed their name when six players got married during the 1889 season. They played in Washington Park, which was located between 4th and 5th Avenues as the West-East boundaries, and between 3rd and 5th Streets to the North and South; supposedly, this was the site of the Battle of Long Island. During those four years, Caruthers won 110 and lost 51. He had 147 complete games. Those were not his best years. He was nearing the end of his career. During the three prior years, while pitching for the St. Louis Browns, he won 99 games while losing 36, with 134 complete games. I wonder what happened in that 135th game. Was he the greatest Brooklynite? He won 5 World Championships in his 10-year career. He had a career ERA of 2.62. He had the 5th highest won-lost percentage (69%) in the history of baseball – 218 wins and 99 losses. He weighed 138 pounds.

Please consider **Arthur "Dazzy" Vance**. First, as an aside, I want to reflect on how baseball players are not called Arthur. Art? Once. Art Shamsky of the Mets batted .309 in 1969. There was "Bugs" Raymond of the N.Y. Giants and "Cutrate" Irwin who played for Boston and Philadelphia in the late 19th century. The one exception – finally -- was Arthur Rhodes, an all-star reliever for the Cincinnati Reds [who had gotten their name back] in 2010 and a World Series champion for the St. Louis Cardinals (relieving in three Series games) in 2011. I guess that's not as bad as for people named Dwight. Mets' Cy Young Award winner Dwight Gooden was called "Doc." Boston Red Sox star Dwight Evans was called "Dewey." U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower was called "Ike."

Let's get back to Dazzy. He joined the Brooklyn Robins and won his first Major League game in 1922. These were the Dodgers; they were called the Robins for about two decades in honor of their manager Wilbert Robison. In 1922, when he won his first game, Dazzy was 31 years old. He really knew nothing about pitching.

Somebody had noticed he could throw fast. Faster than anybody ever. And he could throw it accurately. He only threw fastballs. Nobody could hit Dazzy's fastballs. To win for Brooklyn when Dazzy pitched for them, you'd better be able to strike people out, because it was one of the worst teams in history. From 1922 through 1932 – Dazzy was 41 in 1932 – they never won a pennant and finished 6th (in an 8-team league) 8 times. Yet Dazzy went 28-6 in 1924 with a 2.16 ERA. That was the most wins and lowest ERA in the league. He was the National League MVP. In 1925, he again led the league with 22 wins. In 1928, he again won 22, leading the league with a 2.09 ERA. In 1930, he won 17 and again led the league with a 2.61 ERA. Most spectacular was that he struck out more batters than any other pitcher in the Major Leagues for seven consecutive years. Dazzy was traded after his 12-win 1932 season, but returned to Brooklyn for a final hurrah in 1935, during which he won 3 more games and struck out 28 batters. He was 44 years old.



Jake Daubert, one last Brooklyn ball player I would like you to consider, never made it past 40 years old. Daubert graduated to the Majors with Brooklyn (they were called the Superbas at the time) in 1910. He played 1st base. He was fast, he was a sensational fielder – lifetime fielding percentage of .991 -- and he could hit. In 1911, he established himself as a superstar, stealing 32 bases and batting .307. Over the next five years, he stole 111 bases and batted, respectively, .308, .350 (leading the league), .329 (league leader again), .301, and .316. He won the National League MVP Award in 1913. Adoring fans flocked to the new ballpark, Ebbets Field, to see him play -- and nominated him for Brooklyn Alderman. (He lost). Although I've never seen it written, I believe his extraordinary popularity stemmed from his attempt to organize one of baseball's first unions, the Baseball Players' Fraternity. In 1913, he became its Vice President. The BPF petitioned the National Baseball Commission (comprised of owners) with the following requests: (a) clubs would provide players with ten-days' notice before releasing them; (b) clubs would furnish uniforms and shoes free of charge; (c) clubs would provide travel expenses from home to training camp; (d) players would not be sent to the

Continued on page 10

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!

We are excited to welcome **Mardi Miskit** to West Midwood. She relocated from Clinton Hill to Westminster Road, where she lives with her cousins Mark and John and her best friend. Mardi says she has to pinch herself everyday to remind herself that she isn't dreaming and this is where she lives. Having lived in New York for over 20 years, she has loved every neighborhood she has lived in for its unique charm, but she says "West Midwood instantly felt like home."

Mardi spends most of her days working at Shell's Loft, a female owned and run event space in Red Hook. She has been with the space since its early days of Shell's Lofts and helped the owner build, manage, and promote her now thriving business. She is also a freelance website designer who practices reiki.

Though she is a woman of many talents, her happy place is in the kitchen whipping up new recipes and playing with bold fun flavors. Neighbors can find Mardi cooking up big meals for her housemates, and enjoying family style porch dining. She said that her favorite moments, so far, of living in West Midwood are these dinners, especially because of the community of people on Westminster who drop by when they see them on the porch. "We manifested our own little dream community," she said, "made even better by the larger community we've found in West Midwood." Mardi once hosted a monthly supper club out of her home.

Also new to Westminster are **Evan McMurry, Flanery Amdahl** and their 22 month old son **Patrick** better known as Paddy. They moved to West Midwood from Baltimore, where they had moved from Clinton Hill at the beginning of the pandemic. They are thrilled to be back home in Brooklyn! Though they don't have much free time with a precocious toddler on their hands, they enjoy spending time in the outdoors hiking, visiting breweries, and, when possible, spending some quiet time with a good book. When not managing the social media for ABC News, Evan is working on a novel which he says is about "history's two pettiest dinosaur hunters." Flanery is a former adjunct political science instructor at CUNY, who worked in government before becoming an educator. When Paddy arrived, she became a stay at home mom, but is eager to get back to education now that Paddy is growing.

When Evan's job said that the staff was coming back into the office earlier this year, he and Flannery had to

return to New York City. They were sad to leave behind their outdoor space in Baltimore and Flannery told Evan she had one request, "Find a place with as many trees as possible." Flannery said, of Evan's discovery of West Midwood, "He sure did deliver." After a two-day marathon search Evan found their new home (with outdoor space and trees) at Westminster and Glenwood. They say that the neighborhood has been very welcoming, and that it's vibrant and alive without having the hectic city feel.

Megan Anhalt, John Cassidy, and fifteen month old Merrett are new neighbors on Wellington Court. Megan and John both work in the tech industry. Megan is the COO of Whole Whale, helping nonprofits and social impact companies make major changes through their social media and digital presence. John is an interaction designer at Google, working to make our experiences with their suite of applications smooth and enjoyable. And Merrett... is walking, talking, and getting into all kinds of good trouble. He's been having a great time exploring all the playgrounds nearby.

The three moved back to New York from a stint in San Francisco to be closer to John's parents who live on Staten Island. Though they moved in a while back, during the second wave of the pandemic, we hadn't had a chance to properly introduce and welcome them. They have been loving the neighborhood, the local restaurants, and meeting new neighbors on their strolls with Merrett. A highlight for them was, "after years of street parking... having our own driveway!"

NEW BABIES:

Argyle Road's **Shelly Mendlinger** is the delighted grandfather of two new little ones. Born to Nell Mendlinger, who grew up on Argyle, and her wife Lauren Sullivan, Eoin and Eleanore Mendlinger Sullivan were born on July 11, 2022 — Nell's birthday! Eoin weighed in at a solid 6 pounds and his sister Eleanore was not far behind at 5.14 pounds!



Stories Your House Could Tell — continued from page 1

headline read: *John Bunny, Movie Funmaker: Fat, Big, Round-Faced Actor Who Made Millions Laugh Succumbs at 52.* The Vitagraph smokestack still stands at Locust Ave & E 15th St as an enduring reminder of the film studio that once thrived from 1906 to 1939.

Alas, Ben's misfortune continued. On Friday evening, November 1st, 1918, he was on his way from the Kinsies' Washington Heights apartment to join Phoebe and the Williams on Glenwood Road for the weekend. But his Brighton-bound train derailed near the Prospect Park station, killing Ben and 92 other Brooklynites (four from West Midwood) in what became known as the Malone Street Wreck, resulting in the renaming of Malbone Street as Empire Boulevard and the bankruptcy of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company, replaced by the BMT.

Ben was waked in the Williams house. A heartbroken Phoebe would die there a year later. Although the family was Episcopalian, Rabbi Nathan Krauss presided at both wakes. Over the years, the Williams clan had attended the Rabbi's sermons at Brooklyn and Manhattan Synagogues, bonding over his support for Florence's Suffragette activities. By 1919, in recognition of her organizational skills, Florence became the district captain for the Republican Party in Flatbush.

In May of 1930, Oscar died in his home following a short bout with pneumonia. A year later Florence sold the house to Levin Melson, a 57-year-old mortgage lawyer, who was then renting 794 Argyle Road.

Among Melson's large dysfunctional household, a ten-year-old grandson, Henry Stommel, was his favorite. Levin, who had struggled with alcohol most of his life, nevertheless managed to instill in the boy an avid interest in science, aided by a subscription to *Popular Mechanics* magazine. Henry was also fortunate to be educated in public schools at a time when many highly educated, inspirational Brooklynites had sought security during the Depression as teachers. Henry Stommel went on to become the most important oceanographer of the 20th Century. Most obituaries would cite his ground-breaking study of the Gulf Stream on Cape Cod and its impact on understanding global climate. More on him later.

When Henry's grandfather died, the house was sold in November of 1935 to Marie Kearney and John Cottle, who

turned it into The Glenwood Convalescent Home. Weekly ads in Brooklyn newspapers advertised the house as "ideal for aged chronic convalescents, rates reasonable," until

February of 1937 when the Home moved down the next block to 1312 Glenwood Road. The house then passed to Aaron Klein, a Poland-born real estate broker, and his extended family. As World War II ended, an accountant, Louis Landau, and his wife Francis, bought the house. When their two sons moved out to raise their own families, the Landaus sold the home to a WWII vet, a liquor company executive, Joseph Borreca, and his Bensonhurst sweetheart, Anne. But business assignments forced Borreca to relocate and in 1965 he sold the house to Harold and Irma Asen.



1940 (above) and in 1983 (right)



Harold Asen and his brother Milton were real estate developers in Mill Basin. Harold became President of the New York City Builders Association and a founding member of Mayor John Lindsey's Building Industry Council, advising the City on housing issues.

He and Milton also partnered with Brooklyn Union Gas to create their "Cinderella Projects," renovating old buildings to showcase the use of gas for fireplaces, lighting and cooking.

In 1974, the Asens sold the house to Neil and Evelyn Goodwin Potter. Not much is known about Neil, but Evelyn, like Florence fifty years before, was a glass-ceiling buster. At Downstate Medical Center she rose from a file clerk in 1954 to Assistant to the President in 1967. Months after her move to Glenwood Road (inspired by the spirit of Florence?), she created a new position for herself as Director of Public Affairs and then formed a professional organization for press secretaries. Following the death of her husband, Evelyn sold the home to Ron and Diane Russo in February, 1981.

Diane was a NYC school teacher. Upon retirement, she became the Treasurer of the Flatbush Development Corp and graciously made her house available for West Midwood Progressive Dinners and community gatherings for many years. Ron served as an Assistant US Attorney in the Eastern District of New York, working on official corruption cases before moving on to become Deputy

Brooklyn Sports — continued from page 6

minor leagues if another Major League team wanted them; (e) players would be allowed to negotiate with other teams if they were unconditionally released; (f) players would be informed of the terms of their contract when traded to another team; and (g) players would receive written notice of fines and suspensions. None of these terms, nor any others, were accepted by the commissioners. However, Daubert did succeed in being labeled a “troublemaker” by the owners. His skills had not diminished in 1918 – he led the league in triples and he hit .308 -- but then he committed an unpardonable sin.

As we recently have been reminded, the year 1918 was ravaged by the Spanish flu epidemic and World War One. The season was scheduled to end October 14th, and the players’ contracts provided for payment through that date, but the owners and the government ended the season on September 2nd. Daubert asked team owner Charles Ebbets for the rest of his salary. Ebbets laughed. Daubert assigned his claim and the assignee sued the team and its owner for the rest of his salary -- \$2,150. A vindictive Ebbets traded Daubert to the Cincinnati Reds – while the suit was pending -- before the 1919 season

began. The case was settled out of court. He who laughs last.... The Reds won the World Series in 1919 (perhaps with a bit of help from Arnold Rothstein).

Daubert was still one of the best players in all of baseball. He played in almost every game for six more years, averaging over .300 at the plate, with his best year being 1922 when he hit .336 leading the league in triples (22) and in scoring (114 runs). Daubert died in 1924, still an active player, when he bled to death after an appendectomy. He shamefully has never been elected to the Hall of Fame —which is a stupefying omission given his statistics enumerated above to which we should add that he was an eight-time All-Star and still holds the National League career record (392) for the most successful sacrifices! He was, however, elected to the Reds HOF in 1966 and I guess we gotta give the Dodgers some props for electing him to their HOF in 1990. If the Dodgers were to continue to exclude their activists – Andy Messersmith (“reserve clause” strike), Jackie Robinson, Jake Daubert, yes and of course Don Drysdale and Sandy Koufax (“a union of two” who held out for higher salaries in 1966) -- there would hardly be a Dodger Hall of Fame!

Stories Your House Could Tell — continued from page 8

Commissioner of the NYC Department of Investigation. Upon leaving government, he went into private practice. Among Ron’s many accomplishments, Broadway fans will appreciate this one. In 2012, a much-anticipated major musical called “Rebecca” collapsed on the eve of rehearsals when millions of dollars promised by European investors never materialized. Ron investigated on behalf of the producers and found a flim-flam attorney had painstakingly concocted every one of the foreign investors in order to collect \$60,000 in fees. The FBI, with whom Ron worked on this caper, put it this way: “A convincing portrayal on stage can earn you a Tony, but a convincing act that fleeces a Broadway production can earn you a prison term.” That attorney is still behind bars.

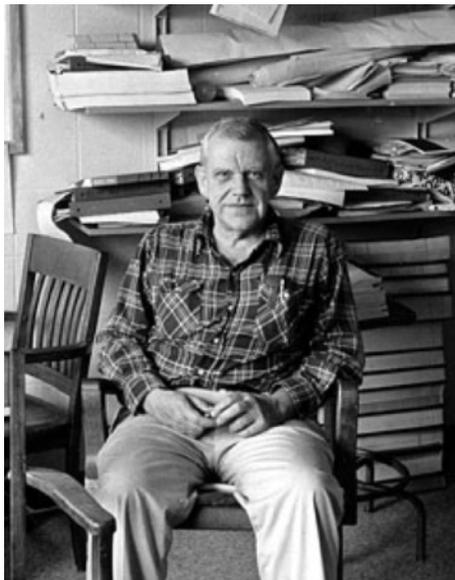
Diane and Ron have many fond memories of their home, particularly watching Ron Junior grow up in a wonderful neighborhood that survived the City’s decline and a bout with red lining to remain an urban oasis. One of their most vivid recollections occurred on a cold winter’s day in 1992 when they noticed an old-timer snapping

photos of their house from the street. They invited him in. He claimed he was a childhood friend of a former resident named Henry. Every afternoon, sixty years before, he and Henry would play with puppets on the third floor, he said. But now his friend was dying and he wanted to see photos of his old home. When Ron asked the stranger who Henry was, the man replied, “Why he’s

the guy who discovered the Gulf Stream.” Soon thereafter the Russos chanced upon Henry Stommel’s obituary in the New York Times. Later they learned their visitor had managed to get his snapshots to Henry just before he died.

“Above all I must thank my lucky stars for being born in this century and this country where the public has taken such a benevolent interest in sponsoring scientific research. The freedom to work on a scientific problem when one goes to bed and awakes the next morning, to be able to give undivided attention to unraveling some puzzle of nature, is a privilege beyond compare.”

– Henry Stommel, formerly of 1410 Glenwood Road.



PUZZLE

By The West Midwood Puzzler

Do you know what's in your medications? Below is a list of brand names of over-the-counter products that may be found on the shelves of most pharmacies, some grocery stores, and even some gas stations. The second list is common active ingredients. How many products can you correctly match with their active ingredients?

Rank: 40=good; 80=excellent; 120=genius



Brand-Name List

1. A & D OINTMENT	37. CONTAC	74. IMODIUM	109. POSTAFEN
2. ABSORBINE	38. CORRECTOL	75. KAOPECTATE	110. PREVACID
3. ADVIL	39. CORTAID	76. KONDREMUL	111. PRILOSEC
4. AFRIN	40. CORTIZONE	77. KONSYL	112. PROCTOFOAM
5. AFTATE	41. CRUEX	78. KONSYL FIBER	113. PYRIDIUM
6. ALAVERT	42. CURAD	79. LACTITOL	114. REGULOID
7. ALEVE	43. CYSTEX	80. LAXMAR	115. RETINOL
8. ALLEGRA	44. DERMACEPT	81. LIQUI DOSS	116. RICOLA
9. ALLEROFF	45. DESITIN	82. LOTRIMIN	117. ROBITUSSEN
10. ALOPHEN	46. DIAPARENE	83. MAALOX	118. ROLAIDS
11. AMLACTIN	47. DIMETAPP	84. METAMUCIL	119. SEA LEGS
12. ANEST HEMOR	48. DIPHENHIST	85. MICATIN	120. SENEXON
13. ANTIVERT	49. DOXIDAN	86. MIDOL	121. SENOKOT
14. AQUAPHOR	50. DRAMAMINE	87. MILK O	122. SILADRYL
15. ARLEX	51. DUCODYL	88. MAGNESIA	123. SINEX
16. AVEENO	52. DULCOGEN	89. MILKINOL	124. SOMINEX
17. AXID	53. DULCOLAX	90. MIRALAX	125. SUDAFED
18. BACTINE	54. DYPROTEX	91. MODANE	126. TAGAMET
19. BANOPHEN	55. EQUALACTIN	92. MOTRIN	127. TAVIST
20. BENADRYL	56. EVAC-U-GEN	93. MUCINEX	128. TINACTIN
21. BETADINE	57. EX-LAX	94. MURI-LUBE	129. TINADERM
22. BISAC-EVAC	58. FEEN-A-MINT	95. MYLANTA	130. TING
23. BISA-PLEX	59. FEMATROL	96. NARCAN	131. TRIAMINIC
24. BISCO-LAX	60. FIBER LAX	97. NEOSPORIN	132. TRONOLANE
25. BONINE	61. FIBERCON	98. NEXIUM	133. TUMS
26. CALADRYL	62. FIBERLAX	99. NYQUIL	134. TYLENOL
27. CARPE	63. FIBERTAB	100. NYTOL	135. UNISOM
28. CARTER'S LITTLE PILLS	64. FLEET BISACODYL	101. ORAJEL	136. VASELINE
29. CEPACOL	65. GAVILAX	102. PANADOL	137. VERACOLATE
30. CHLORASEPTIC	66. GAVISCON	103. PARACETAMOL	138. VICKS
31. CITROMA	67. GENTLAX	104. PEG3350	139. XYZAL
32. CITRUCEL	68. GIALAX	105. PEPCID	140. ZANTAC
33. CLARINEX	69. GIALAX	106. PEPTO-BISMOL	141. ZEGERID
34. CLARITIN	70. GLYCOLAX	107. PETROLATUM	142. ZYRTEC
35. CLEARLAX	71. HALLS	108. PLAN B	
36. COLAX	72. HYDROCIL	ONE STEP	
	73. HYDROPHOR	PODACTIN	
	ICY HOT		

Active-Ingredient List

ACETAMINOPHEN	DEXTROMETHORPHAN	LOPERAMIDE	PHENAZOPYRIDINE
ADAPALENE	DIFFERIN	LORATADINE	PHENOL
ALUMINUM	DIMENHYDRINATE	MAGNESIUM CITRATE	PHENYLEPHRINE
BACITRACIN	DIPHENHYDRAMINE	MAGNESIUM HYDROXIDE	PIZ ENSY
BENZOCAINE	DOXYLAMINE	MECLIZINE	POLYCARBOPHIL
BENZOIC ACID	DYCLONINE	MENTHOL	POLYETHYLENE GLYCOL
BISACODYL	ESOMEPRAZOLE	METHENAMINE	PRAMOXINE
BISMUTH	FAMOTIDINE	METHYLCELLULOSE	PSEUDOEPHEDRINE
SUBSALICYLATE	FEXOFENADINE	METHYL SALICYLATE	PSYLLIUM
BROMPHENIRAMINE	GLYCERIN	MICONAZOLE	SENNOCIDES
CALAMINE	GUAIFENESIN	MINERAL OIL	SESQUICHOLORHYDRATE
CALCIUM CARBONATE	HYDROCORTISONE	NALOXONE	SODIUM SALICYLATE
CAMPHOR	IBUPROFEN	NAPROXEN	SORBITOL
CETIRIZINE	LANOLIN	NEOMYCIN	TOLNAFTATE
CHLORPHENIRAMINE	LANSOPRAZOLE	NIZATIDINE	UNDECYLENIC ACID
CLEMASTINE	LEVOCETIRIZINE	OMEPRAZOLE	VITAMIN A
DESLOTRATADINE	LIDOCAINE	OXYMETAZOLINE	ZINC OXIDE

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.*

Recommended by Andrea Freshman:

Still Life by Sarah Winman.

Set in Tuscany in 1944: Allied troops are advancing and a young English soldier named Ulysses Temper finds himself in a wine cellar in an abandoned wine cellar. There he meets Evelyn Skinner, an art historian, who has come to salvage paintings from the ruins. Ulysses and Evelyn develop a lifelong friendship and their experiences over the next four decades ensue. Beautifully written!

Recommended by Harriet Rhine:

Plainsong by Kent Haruf

Plainsong is set in a fictional small town in eastern Colorado and tells the interlocking stories of the inhabitants. It is an unusual novel with unusual relationships between the characters. It requires expanding one's understanding of many traditional values.

Recommended by Linda Howell:

The Lost Apothecary by Sarah Penner

In the late 18th century, a hidden apothecary that helps women exact revenge against men that have oppressed and wronged them. In present day, a frustrated would-be historian discovers a mysterious vial. The story of three women: the older woman who concocted the potions, a young maid who aspired to learn magic and the young woman, upset about her husband's infidelity. The mystery of

the apothecary murders and the research into the origin of the vial form a dark, clever story about poisons, retaliation and the awakening of long hidden dreams.

One by One by Ruth Wade

10 workers in a startup go for a company retreat to a chalet in the mountains. Avalanche snows them in. When one person dies, they think it's an accident. When the next succumbs, they realize a killer is among them.

Recommended by David Rosen:

The Books of Jacob, by Olga Tokarczuk

The Polish Nobel Prize winner historical novel about the rise and fall of the Jewish "false Messiah" in Poland in the 18th Century. A powerful story of how this Messianic movement ripped through the Jewish community, filled with great details about daily life in the community.

Cherokee America, by Margaret Verble

A family saga within the Cherokee Nation in the aftermath of the Civil War. It's a complex tale, since the Cherokee often sided with the South in the Civil War, and many were slave holders. The memory of the Trail of Tears removal of the Cherokee Nation resonates deeply through the story. I also recommend her other novels: When Two Feathers Fell from the Sky and Maud's Line.

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 Lstserv.

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.



**Mark Your
Calendars!**

September 18 — Block Party

October 31 — Halloween Parade