

Boerum Hill Bulletin

THE BOERUM HILL ASSOCIATION IS A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION OF RESIDENTS OF BOERUM HILL. WE SEEK TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE UNIQUE QUALITIES OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY BUILDING. VISIT US ON THE WEB AT WWW.BOERUMHILLASSOCIATION.ORG

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

Howard Kolins, President

Dwight Smith, Vice President

Chuck Wells, Vice President

Rose Weber, Treasurer *

Doug Barnes

Ben Barrett

Leah Barrett

Larry Burda

Michael Cosaboom

Brian Gorlick

Trudy Katzer

Leslie Lewis

Hannah Mason

Steve Neiman

Stephen Radacinski

Melissa Telzer

(*non-board member)

Board meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month from September through June at 7:00pm in the Hopkins Center.

BOERUM HILL TURNS 50!

Did you know that Boerum Hill didn't exist until 1964?

This area known as "Downtown Brooklyn" or "North Gowanus" was redlined due to the trash strewn streets and the City's Urban Renewal designation for demolition. Bulldozers were used to make room for high rises.

Instead, a new resident named Helen Buckler saw the possibilities and charm of the old buildings. She moved in during 1962 and started renovating her brownstone - she had affection for fireplaces so she opened four in her home.

She gathered a few neighbors to create a neighborhood association but initially it didn't have a name. She wanted a name that could conjure the charm of the well established neighborhoods like Brooklyn Heights and Park Slope.

Ms. Buckler considered the name Sycamore Hill until a trip to the Brooklyn Historical Society led her to discover a map from 1775 depicting the 80 acre farm of Simon Boerum. Although there was no hill at all, the name Boerum Hill was adopted for the association in 1964.

It took a while for the name Boerum Hill to take hold but in a few years other renovation-minded homeowners purchased buildings and rolled up their sleeves. For the next decade, these families were tightly bound by trading tips on the best ways to renew these old homes.

Early residents included Robert Snyder and his wife Patricia Stegman (who opened Boerum Hill Realty in an effort to encourage more renovators), Nat Hendricks, Susan Benson and her husband Dennis Holt, Howard Lewis, novelist L.J. Davis, Tom Butson and Heloise Gruneberg.

A 1977 New Yorker article about the "Making of Boerum Hill" describes a down-and-out area with trash, crime and few trees.

Over the past 50 years the renovations that started on Dean Street from Nevins to Smith have spread through all the blocks of Boerum Hill. When you take the biennial House Tour you see the many interpretations of classic and modern Brownstone style.

Beginning later this year, we will start to celebrate our 50-year journey and look for a special 2014 House Tour to continue the festivities.

Join the BHA

New Members

Only \$10

(See page 5)

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The BHA continues to balance preservation and progress.

Our recent down-zoning will protect our Brownstone charm as we learn to cope with the additional traffic from the events at the Barclays Center. There is occasional "carmageddon" but it could have been much worse. The coming 20 mph speed limit in the Neighborhood Slow Zone should discourage some of the cut-through traffic we endure. Look for this project to be completed next spring.

The renovation of 16 Sycamores Playground (on Schermerhorn Street, just west of Third Avenue) is complete! While we had hoped to cut a ribbon by the fall we're still excited to see the upgrades. Enjoy the quiet now as our little park will be joined by a 52-story residential tower just across the street by 2015. While that building is technically in downtown Brooklyn not Boerum Hill, we will welcome the residents when they arrive.

As you can see, nothing stays the same for very long. We want to preserve our low-rise, leafy streets and continue to be a tight-knit, friendly community. Downtown residential construction will bring thousands of residents of the next decade who will dine and shop on Atlantic Avenue and Smith Street. It's important to keep the charm that first brought us to Boerum Hill.



In 2013 and beyond, let's remember to live up to our reputation as a friendly place. Frequent the local shops and restaurants, water your street tree, plant flowers and keep the streets clean. Say hello to your neighbors and hang out on your stoop to watch the sun set. Take a moment to enjoy it all.

In community,
Howard Kolins, BHA President

TREE GIVE-AWAY

During the warm months, Boerum Hill is a wonderfully green place. Many neighbors plant beautiful flowers in the front yards and have extensive gardens in the rear.

Inspired by this green spirit, the BHA has applied to the New York Restoration Project to receive 100 small trees that will be given away to local residents. Species may include dogwood, sour cherry, serviceberry, witch hazel, persimmon, black walnut, fig and sour cherry.

While it will take many years for them to mature, some can grow as high as 30 feet adding shade and beauty to front or back yards.

We intend to run the give-away on a weekend in late April or early May possibly in conjunction with the Hoyt Street Association Plant Sale (usually the last weekend of April).

Once our request is confirmed we will send out further information about how to acquire a tree. We hope to give all 100 away in Boerum Hill.

COMMUNITY MEETING

Thursday, January 17th at 7:00pm

Belarusian Church, Atlantic Avenue and Bond Street

Topics include:

The performance of our local Post Office and Boerum Hill Mohawk history

OUR ANNUAL POT LUCK HOLIDAY PARTY WAS A HUGE SUCCESS

Over 110 people attended this annual tradition that kicks off the holiday season each year. For many years the party was at the beautiful home of Claire and Lewis Okser, the site of the former Cuyler Church. Several years ago, when so many wanted to attend, we realized it was time to give them a break and move to the Belarusian Church.



Left: Lissa Wolfe and Eric Riley. Below: Bill Harris and Assembly Member Joan Millman.



Local artist and children's book author, Melissa Guion, led the kids in holiday craft making.

Santa dropped in to make sure all of us were staying on the "nice list." And Brooklyn's own Santa, Borough Prez Marty Markowitz, dropped by to spread holiday cheer.



Spreading cheer: Claire Angelica with Borough President Marty Markowitz.

The BHA purchased roast turkey, roast pork and side dishes from Cobblestone Foods and many neighbors showed off their culinary skills. Terry and John Urban

We urge you to brush up on your culinary skills and place a hold on the first Saturday of December 2013 for the next party!



Local artist and children's book author, Melissa Guion, led the kids in making holiday crafts.

brought a wonderful ham and Jo Anne Simon and Bill Harris brought a second wonderful ham.

New members Jin and Hunter Clark brought Korean bulgogi

that was simply terrific and not something easily duplicated!

Local chef Joel Wolfe brought delicious fingerling potatoes (too bad for us he's retired!). Many others contributed salads, wine, dessert and an abundance of good cheer.

It was great to see old friends, new members and so many children.



Left: Board VP, Chuck Wells with Gary Lee.



Below: Jim Crow, Carol Kolins and Marilyn Donahue-Schiller.



Below left: BHA President, Howard Kolins.

WE NEED YOU TO JOIN THE BHA FOR 2013

USE THE FORM ON THE
OPPOSITE PAGE TO
JOIN OR RENEW
YOUR MEMBERSHIP

OUR 2012 HOUSE TOUR SPONSORS

We want to thank all the people and businesses who contributed to the success of the House Tour. Please support them with your business and thank them for being caring members of our community.

HEROES

Terry Naini, *Town Real Estate*
Jim Kerby, *Prudential Douglas Elliman*

Peter McGuire & Jean Sardo, *Smith Hanten Properties*

Kim Soule, *The Corcoran Group*

Troutbrook Development - Fairfield Inn and Suites

Brooklyn Marriott, Boerum Hill

Emily Fisher, Halstead Properties

PATRONS

Broken English

Jean Austin & Ellen Gottlieb, *Brooklyn Bridge Realty, Ltd*

Joe Fuer, *The Corcoran Group*

James Crow & Sue Wolfe, *The Corcoran Group*

Tracy Makow, Esq. & Howard Brickner, *Brickner Makow LLP*

FRIENDS

Susan Peck, *Citibank Retail Partnership Sales*

Trezza Management

Annie's Blue Ribbon General Store

Exit 9

Festival Five Records

GRDN

Gumbo

Sterling Place

SPONSORS

61 Local

Bar Tabac

Building on Bond

Brian Scott Cohen, *Wells Fargo Home Mortgage*

Abby Hamlin, *Hamlin Ventures*

Sisi Kephida, *Schneider and Kephida, P.C.*

Mile End Deli

Rucola

SAUL Restaurant

RECEPTION DONORS

Brooklyn Fare

Sahadi's

Sterling Wines

Trader Joe

Zap Wines

B E C O M E A M E M B E R O F T H E B O E R U M H I L L A S S O C I A T I O N

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Your contact info will never be shared or sold, and you may opt out of any communications at any time.

Yearly Membership (open to all residents of Boerum Hill) **\$10 – NEW MEMBERS ONLY**

- \$25 – Individual \$15 – Individual Senior/Student/Low-income
 \$40 – Family \$25 – Family* Senior/Student/Low-income

Business Supporters (listed on BHA website, newsletters, and other publications)

- \$125 – Business Donor \$250 – Business Sponsor

Contributions (Not a resident or business owner? Or checked a box above but still want to do more? Contributions of any size are always welcome and help support the important work of the BHA)

- + \$100 “Good Neighbor” + \$250 “Neighborhood Hero!” + \$_____ Other

The BHA membership year is from January 1 to December 31. Members in good standing as of June 1 may vote in the June board election. All others, including business supporters, may not vote but are welcome at all BHA events and activities.

* Family memberships (2+ adults in the same household), are entitled to two votes. Individual members receive one vote.

Contribute Your Talent and Energy

Join your neighbors who volunteer to work on BHA activities and community priorities. Identify your areas of interest.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Atlantic Yards | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations and Communication (neighborhood calendar, block associations, press releases, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Block Captain (help distribute BHA notices on your block) | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks and Playgrounds (improving Douglass/Greene Park) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boerum Hill History | <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of Life (public safety, sanitation, recycling, noise) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Events (meetings, holiday party, house tour) | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology (website, email, online tools) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greening & Neighborhood Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic and Transportation (transit, parking, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use (development, zoning, building noise) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tutoring (homework help to neighborhood youth) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land marking | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership (recruitment, member services) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | |

Make your check payable to the **Boerum Hill Association**.

Mail this form and the check to the:

Boerum Hill Association, P.O. Box 020583, Brooklyn, NY 11202



Boerum Hill Association
P.O. Box 020583
Brooklyn, NY 11202-0583
www.boerumhillassociation.org

Growing a better Boerum Hill

C H E C K I T O U T

Hollow Nickel

This cozy and friendly bar at **494 Atlantic Avenue** is a great place to meet neighbors. They serve small plates of food that include mini-burgers, crisp onion rings, hot wings and more. The beer menu is wonderfully diverse and the prices are extremely reasonable. We're sorry to lose the Flying Saucer but this is a great replacement. (Go to Wikipedia and search for "Hollow Nickel Case" to read about Brooklyn Newsboy Jimmy Bozart who dropped a strange nickel that lead to Soviet spies).

Krescendo

Another changeover at **364 Atlantic Avenue** from Downtown Atlantic to Krescendo...I will miss the cupcakes! Crispy pizzas prepared in a wood burning oven include the classic Margherita and the award winning Finnochio Flower Power topped with rich mozzarella, provolone, chili powder, fennel sausage, braised fennel, fennel fronds and fennel pollen. Imaginative appetizers, salads, pastas and

more pizzas, from clams to hummus, are also on the menu. A nice selection of wine, beers and signature cocktails are also available.

"Sorry for Blocking Your Car"

Placards are available on the **BHA website**. Although double parking for street cleaning is clearly illegal, the Police do look the other way if we behave. The placard is intended for use during alternate side parking periods to balance the competing problems of street sanitation and the shortage of available parking places. You just put your phone number in the windshield and make sure to move your car when called.

Go to **www.boerumhillbassociation.org** and print out the form.

JOIN THE BHA

Help us be advocates for Boerum Hill by becoming a member. Join us on the web at www.boerumhillassociation.org