

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.BOERUMHILLBROOKLYN.ORG

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

- Howard Kolins, President
- Dwight Smith, Vice President
- Chuck Wells, Vice President
- James Forrester, Secretary
- Rose Weber, Treasurer *
- Doug Barnes
- Ben Barrett
- Noam Berk
- Larry Burda
- Daughtry Carstarphen
- Genevieve Christy
- Christian Haag
- Susan Kaplan
- Trudy Katzer
- Leslie Lewis
- Jean Manon
- Hannah Mason
- Stephen Radacinski
- Sarah Wikenczy
- (*non-board member)

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

Boerum Hill House Tour

June 2010

If you are interested in having your house featured on the tour, contact Howard Kolins 718-625-4073

SIXTEEN SYCAMORES PARK GETS A SPRUCE!

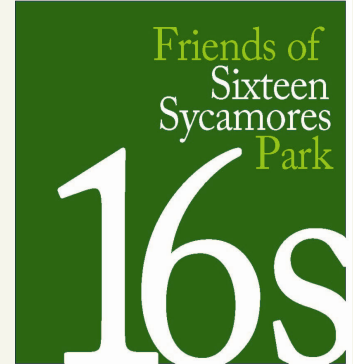
Over the past few months, the "Friends of Sixteen Sycamores Park" (FOSS) continued its efforts to improve this beautiful, but neglected park.

On July 18th, a group of spirited volunteers spent most of the day raking leaves and debris in an effort to clean out the plant beds. On September 19th, more volunteers came out to paint the handball courts and park benches. This effort was gleefully supported by a large number of children armed with paint brushes!

All this was leading up to the main event - **Movie Night** which took place on September 26th. A large number of children and parents enjoyed the popcorn cart, underwritten by the Boerum Hill Association, and the refreshments, **sponsored by Annie's Blue Ribbon General Store.**

FOSS will continue these events to raise awareness about the park in 2010. They have been working with CB2, Councilman David Yassky's office, and the NYC Parks Department to develop a plan for the park. Almost \$1 million has been set aside to restore playground equipment and to reopen the comfort station.

Look for announcements in the near future.



The beautiful FOSS logo was designed by Frank Cusack



Become a Friend!

Please join us at a future event!

FOSS can be reached through the BHA, or you can contact:

Daughtry Carstarphen at dcarstar@yahoo.com

BOERUM HILL HISTORY BY ERIK FORTMEYER

A stroll today down either Pacific or Dean Streets between 3rd and 4th Avenues will undoubtedly cause you to notice the **Brooklyn High School of the Arts** co-located with **The Math & Science Exploratory Middle School**. Recently, the building was best known for the squabble over whether or not to locate the Khalil Gibran International Academy in it. However, the Art Deco building has a more interesting history.

Long before the current school was there, the site contained

particularly in Brooklyn. Twenty-one new schools were completed including the Brooklyn Industrial High School for Girls on Dean Street at a cost of \$1,350,000. The school was built for 1,600 girls as an extension of the popular, but overcrowded, Manhattan Trade School.

The building was designed in the “semi-modernistic trend” to complement new office buildings under construction, including the Williamsburg

The main function of the academic and trade school was to equip girls for immediately marketable skills in the commercial and industrial world. Classes were taught in running a tea room, shoe sewing, personal hygiene, beauty parlor work, cafeteria management, lunch-room service, dressmaking, millinery, artificial flower-making, garment machine operation, hat making, and other trades. Evening classes were offered as well.

By World War II, the school was known as the Brooklyn High School of Women’s Garment Trades before changing to the Sarah J. Hale Vocational High School in 1947. In 1973, it became coeducational and was renamed the Sarah J. Hale High School while adding some bilingual classes. The comprehensive high school concept was in vogue then with half the school focused on academics and the rest still a trade school specializing in cosmetology, business education, and health careers. Much work was done to improve the facilities and curriculum when it switched to its current dual roles in 2001. The old New York Times printing plant on Third Avenue is now the school’s annex.



several wood frame houses from the 1840s and the Dean Street Methodist Church until 1858. The area stayed much the same, but became dilapidated by the 1920s resulting in demolition *en masse* around 1929. The 1930 Census confirmed that many new schools were needed in New York City,

Savings Bank. The main building is in the setback style, with a roof in the arc and angle design. Materials include granite, stone, terrazzo, and colored marble. Several murals still exist that were commissioned as government art projects in the 1930s.



(Left) The Brooklyn Industrial High School for Girls, 1946, the year in which 156 diplomas were given out. (Right) A 1936 mural depicting the many vocations taught at the school.

SAVE THE DATE

The **Annual Boerum Hill Holiday Pot Luck Party** will take place on **Saturday, December 5th**.

Join us for another great tasting of feasts prepared by your neighbors (and a visit from Santa Claus)

Location and details to follow — look for flyers or go to our website, www.boerumhillbrooklyn.org

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Neighbors,

The BHA seeks to preserve and enhance our neighborhood and I want to thank several of our board members for doing just that by working on 16 Sycamores Park.

Daughtry Carstarphen, Hannah Mason, Sarah Wikenczy and Chuck Wells organized the cleaning and painting as well as the tremendously successful Movie Night. They were joined by a wonderful group of neighbors and their children.

We're just at the beginning of a process of revitalization that will bring more children and families onto this underutilized stretch of Schermerhorn Street. Look for a

series of new activities that the Boerum Hill Association will sponsor in 2010.

If you have a way to make Boerum Hill a little better, please approach the board for support.

Don't forget to renew your membership or become a member. Membership is for the calendar year 2010 so please join now!

I want to make sure all our neighbors come to the **Annual Pot Luck Holiday Party** to start the season off right. Let's gather together and make sure we get in the holiday spirit.

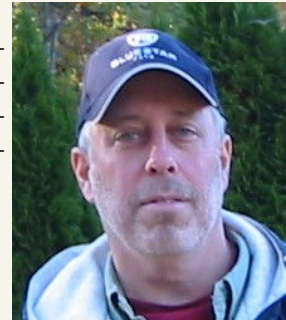
Lastly, I want to say that in these rough economic times, please remember to

contribute your time for a good cause. This is another way to build our community and all of Brooklyn. Please read the article below to see how a wonderful organization supports elders every day.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and may your Holidays be filled with family and love.

And shop locally to support our wonderful merchants.

Gratefully,
Howard Kolins



HEIGHTS AND HILLS

SUPPORTING BROOKLYN'S OLDER ADULTS

Since 1971, Heights and Hills has helped people live out their "older years" on their terms, independently and with dignity.

They connect older adults and their caregivers with the information, support and services they need to age in place - in their own homes and neighborhoods in Brooklyn.

For some, just a little help can make all the difference. Others need more comprehensive services, which Heights and Hills identifies and coordinates.

In addition to information, they hold workshops for people caring for older adults. They create volunteer opportunities and hold special holiday dinners. **All services are provided free of charge.**

Caring, professional staff from Heights and Hills can:

- arrange for someone to help with household chores, such as laundry and cleaning
- sign you up for home-delivered meals
- facilitate in-home care
- ensure you're getting the right entitlement and benefits
- help you create a support system
- answer questions about long-term planning
- work with you to manage your finances
- monitor your well-being over time
- connect you to transportation for medical appointments and shopping trips

Brooklyn is home to more older adults than any other borough and the largest number of people over the age of 85.

Recently, the city has consolidated social services so Heights and Hills which had previously served only Brooklyn Heights, Boerum Hill and Cobble Hill is now serving more than 1300 older adults in 18 neighborhoods.

Therefore please consider volunteering or making a much needed gift so they can continue to support this growing group of neighbors, some of whom live alone without the support of family or friends.

To volunteer or for information about services, call 718-596-8789 or go to www.heightsandhills.org. They are located at 57 Willoughby Street on the Fourth Floor.

GENERAL MEETING DATES

Our General Meetings are held at the Belarusian Church at the corner of Atlantic Avenue and Bond Street beginning at 7:00pm.

Past topics have included Quality of Life issues with representatives from the

Police, Sanitation and Noise; Greening; our Local Hero Awards; the Post Office.

Look for posters on the BHA Bulletin boards and on our website, www.boerumhillbrooklyn.org for more information about topics and speakers.

Tentative dates are:

- Tuesday, January 26th
- Thursday, April 22nd
- Thursday, June 17th

BHA SEEKS REZONING

On October 21st, BHA Vice President Dwight Smith went before the land use committee of CB 2 to request a rezoning of Boerum Hill.

A change from R6 to R6B (see *note at the end of this article*) zoning would provide for contextual zoning that would prohibit a developer from purchasing air rights that could result in taller buildings than currently exist in our brownstone blocks.

Many local residents are aware of the Cobble Hill tower that motivated our southern neighbor to seek the protections of R6B zoning. Additionally, under this zoning, property owners can build on only about 60 percent of their property, thereby preserving gardens and light in our backyards.

"We feel that it is imperative to rezone the 19 orphaned blocks of Boerum Hill from R6 to R6B in order to preserve and enforce contextual development throughout our entire neighborhood," wrote BHA President

Howard Kolins to CB 2 District Manger Rob Ferris.

Dwight Smith told the committee that Boerum Hill was the zoning gap between Cobble Hill and Fort Greene, therefore the Boerum Hill Association was making the request of Community Board 2 to support our rezoning efforts.

All the other downtown Brooklyn brownstone neighborhoods are already zoned R6B from DUMBO to Brooklyn Heights, Carroll Gardens Cobble Hill, Fort Green, Clinton Hill and South Park Slope.

"Our housing stock is also similar intact brownstone rows," Smith added. "This is really the argument that all the other surrounding brownstone neighborhoods have used to preserve existing housing stock quality," he said.

The Boerum Hill Association believes that with all the exciting development taking place in downtown Brooklyn that it's impor-

tant to protect the character of our neighborhood.

"It's a very dramatic shift from downtown commercial to residential along State Street in just the span of one block," Smith said.

At the October 21st meeting, the CB 2 Land Use Committee voted unanimously to recommend the zoning change to the full CB 2 board which will make its own request to the Department of City Planning.

Note: R6B is a typical row house district that includes height limits and street wall lineup provisions to ensure that new buildings are consistent with the scale of the existing built context. R6B permits residential and community facility uses to a maximum FAR of 2.0. Building base heights must be between 30 and 40 feet, with a 50 foot maximum building height after a setback (10 feet on a wide street, 15 feet on a narrow street).

ETCETERA

ages everyone to live a better life by kicking the habit. Take some good advice from this former smoker.

ALTERNATE SIDE PARKING

We've had a nice long break from moving our cars but the change of street signs is complete. **Alternate side of the street parking will be enforced beginning Monday, November 9th.**

So remember to move your car and also to display a BHA "Sorry for Blocking Your Car" sign on your dashboard. Go to our website to print one for yourself.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

There were a lot of e-group postings about pedestrians crossing Boerum Place at Atlantic Avenue. The DOT has promised to study this intersection.

However, it is important for all of us to follow the posted signs that exist. At Atlantic and Court Streets, many pedestrians ignore the large "Wait for Walk Sign" that is there to protect pedestrians from the cars turning left from Atlantic to Court.

Please take your time, obey the signs and be safe each time your cross.

Welcome Spencer Fortmeyer!

Born to Crissie and Erik Fortmeyer, grandparents Delores and Jack Fortmeyer.



LESLIE'S CORNER

Long time Boerum Hill resident, Leslie Lewis is President of the 84th Precinct Community Council; therefore safety is one of his ongoing concerns.

He reminds Boerum Hillers to enjoy their bike lanes by wearing a helmet and to follow the traffic rules as if you were in your car. That is, ride in the correct direction of traffic flow and stop at all red lights.

Leslie hosts the monthly 84th Precinct Community Council meetings which take place every third Tuesday of the month. The meeting on November 17th will be in DUMBO, 45 Main Street, Suite 411. (Between Front and Water Streets). Make your voice heard and meet the police.

Lastly, Lewis wants to remind everyone that smoking is very unhealthy. He encour-

A special thank you to State Assemblywoman Joan Millman and to the State of New York for the financial support that made this newsletter possible.

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE BOERUM HILL ASSOCIATION

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)

- \$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.boerumhillbrooklyn.org

Growing a better Boerum Hill

C H E C K I T O U T

Jonathan Adler

378 Atlantic Avenue, has an assortment of home furnishings and gifts. Pottery, pillows, lighting, rugs, wall décor, frames, candles and curiosities. Check out the spouting whales done as salt and pepper shakers.

Loretta

407 Atlantic Avenue offers oatmeal in the morning as well as coffee, pastries, wi-fi and a sunny backyard. If you like a non-fat cappuccino, they make a real work of art. Reduced prices are featured in the middle of the day.

Bueno

It was Gravy, it was Trout and now its Bueno. Side by side with BBQ 1963. At 102 Smith on the corner of Pacific Street. Serving an eclectic array of seafood, meat and sides.

Ocean View Diner

Can't agree on what to eat? Then head to the diner. 515 Atlantic Avenue, at the corner of Third Avenue, the newly re-opened dinner has a full menu and is open 24 hours.

Bail Bonds

At 75 Smith Street. Not what we wanted, not what we needed, but its new in our hood. 'Nuff said.

Closed

Before it was **Sandbox**, it was named **Stamp It, Ship It**. At 141 Smith, this copy shop with mailboxes and shipping is a loss. I had passed James Stamp, who ran the store, about two weeks before it closed. He didn't mention any difficulty. He gave the BHA a great price break on printing the newsletter...I wish him well wherever he travels in life.

Hello Deli!

Coming to **101 Hoyt Street**, just south of Atlantic will be a Jewish Deli. Opening late November. Maybe we'll see latkes before Hanukah!

"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 move your car when called. Go to www.boerumhillbrooklyn.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.boerumhillbrooklyn.org