

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
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 Noam Berk
 Larry Burda
 Daughtry Carstarphen
 Genevieve Christy
 Christian Haag
 Susan Kaplan
 Trudy Katzer
 Leslie Lewis
 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.

Save the date!

Boerum Hill House Tour

May 23, 2010

If you are interested in being a part of this great event,

contact Howard Kolins

718-625-4073

JOIN NOW!

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2010, then stop reading this, go directly to page 7 to fill out the form and write that check immediately!

What does the BHA do? We plan public forums on important community issues, initiate public safety measures and engage in proactive community planning. We support development that is consistent with the neighborhood's character, landmark architectural heritage and diversity here and throughout Brooklyn.

In short, we love living in this great neighborhood among wonderful people! And we're counting on your continued support in 2010.

Over the past year we have:

Received Community Board 2's support for our R6B zoning application that will promote neighborhood development in keeping with our existing scale and character, and protect our beautiful brownstones.

Continued to oppose the bloated Atlantic Yards project and any expansion of the Brooklyn House of Detention.

Enlisted the backing of Borough Hall and the Parks department in renovating 16 Sycamores Park on Schermerhorn Street. Almost \$1 million dollars has been set aside to restore play equipment and re-open the comfort station.

Sponsored two clean up days and a well attended family movie night at 16 Sycamores Park. Join us for more activities in 2010!

Held several fun Pub Walks to meet new neighbors and learn Boerum Hill history.

Held General Meetings on topics such as local elementary schools, greening and quality of life issues.

Continued the great tradition of the Annual Pot Luck Holiday Party.

Created the full color Boerum Hill Association Newsletter to keep you informed.

And more!

The BHA provides you with a voice on issues that affect us all. We act as a liaison between you and our elected officials to amplify our voices. This year will be just as momentous, as we build on the achievements above, plan the Boerum Hill House Tour and more.

So join and please encourage your neighbors to join. The money you contribute makes it possible to get things done—and the more members we have, the stronger our voices for Boerum Hill. We look forward to keeping you in touch with local goings on.

BOERUM HILL HISTORY BY ERIK FORTMEYER

For over a decade the church at the corner of Pacific Street and Third Avenue guided thousands of souls as they traveled through Brooklyn and life. Now with the church vacant and pad-locked, facing an uncertain fate, we take a look at its history.

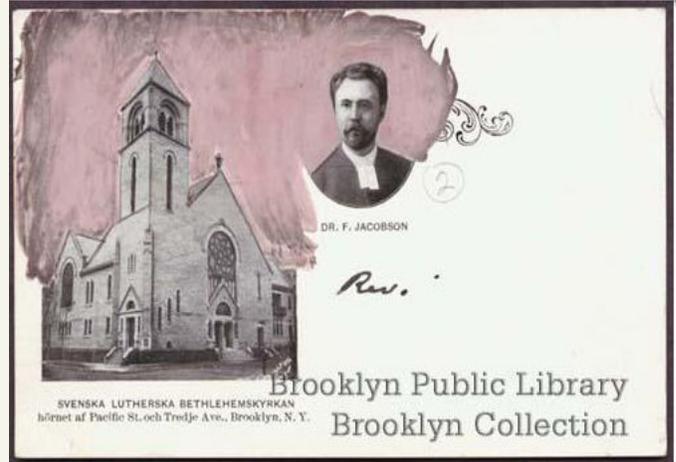
The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Bethlehem Church

By the 1800s Sweden was a declining military power with a rapidly growing population that was facing famine for many. From 1850 to 1910 over 1 million Swedes moved to the US looking for a better life. While most moved to Chicago and to the northern Midwest, after the Civil War Swedish immigration also picked up in New York and Brooklyn.

A robust group of Swedes held their first services at a small chapel on Bergen Street near 6th Avenue. They formed the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Bethlehem society in 1874 to pursue their mission to “guide, assist and direct the stream of Swedish immigrants” and continued to meet at a hall on Atlantic Avenue during that decade.

In 1880, when the Swedes were becoming a major influence throughout Brooklyn, this group bought the building at 299 Pacific for \$7,000 and spent \$9,000 on repairs. This building continues to serve a congregation today as the Primera Iglesia Bautista.

In 1883, 30-year-old Yale graduate Rev. Fritz Jacobson issued an appeal to Swedes and others to support a building fund as the Pacific Street building could hold only 450 persons, but the church congregation had 655 adults and 347 children.



The appeal was very successful for a church comprised of domestic servants and factory workers. The current lot, formally the site of a 1840s frame mansion, was purchased for \$18,500.

Designed by well-known New York architect R.L. Daus in the Romanesque style, the exterior featured Roman pressed brick with Dorchester stone trimmings. The interior featured quartered oak with doors of padded leather and a large balcony. The design included a statue of Christ by famous Danish sculptor Thorwaldsen, Konnopsky & Coleman stained glass, an organ built by Hook & Hastings of Boston and modern gas lighting with “improved electric light as occasion may require.” The parsonage was located behind the church on Pacific Street.

The cornerstone that is still there today was laid on October 28, 1894 and the building was completed in 1885 at a final cost of about \$100,000.

With the old church was rented was to the Salvation Army, a farewell sermon in Swedish was given and a Grand March took place on September 15, 1895. The procession formed on Pacific Street with two carriages of church VIPs, then Rev. Jacobson on foot, the deacons, trustees and the entire congregation while the bell in the new tower chimed to welcome the marchers.

With about 23,000 “conservative, law-abiding and thrifty” Swedes in Brooklyn, the area around the church was called the “Swedish Broadway.”

(continued on next page)

SAVE THE DATE

The **Boerum Hill House Tour** will take place on **Sunday, May 23rd**.

The tour begins and ends at the Bishop Mugavero Center parking lot, just east of Hoyt and Pacific Streets.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 the day of the tour. For info go to www.boerumhillbrooklyn.org

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Neighbors,

If you read the front page of this newsletter you'll have a better idea of what the board members have been working on during the past year.

We continue to build community by holding the Annual Pot Luck Holiday Party and this year's biennial House Tour. I ask you to either volunteer to be part of the House Tour or make sure to attend. This great event is also our most important fund raiser.

Look for more activity in 16 Sycamores Park. There will be more information about a May clean up date and, due to popular demand, more movie nights with popcorn!

For more adult diversions, as the weather gets warmer, join us for another Pub Walk. Meet new neighbors and learn a little Boerum Hill history at the same time.

In 2010, we will continue the process to seek R6B zoning protections throughout our brownstone neighborhood. We already have the support of our new councilman, Steve Levin.

We've been active in the fight against the expansion of the House of Detention and we'll stay engaged going forward. The City has agreed to adhere to review processes including Fair Share and ULURP and to establish a long sought after Citizens Advisory Committee to discuss how the jail functions in our community.

What we need is your support.

Make sure to renew your membership. Better yet, ask a neighbor to join. Ask your tenants to join.

Tell us what bugs you...are you happy with street cleaning once a week?

We're here to help and we need *your* help to keep Boerum Hill as a great place to live.



Gratefully,
Howard Kolins

Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Bethlehem Church,
(from previous page)

Hard economic times led to the questioning of church finances, however Rev. Jacobson was exonerated and it took until 1900s to pay down church debt. The old church building was sold in 1902 for \$7,000 to the Syrian Greek Orthodox Church.

202 Dean Street house was opened in 1906 where they ran a free employment service that also sheltered servant girls between jobs.

The church was honored in several ways. Rev. Jacobson was honored by decree as Knight of the Royal Order of the North Star by King Gustav V in 1910 for his "interest in the social advancement of Swedish residents of the United States." In 1949, King Gustav V hand embroidered an altar cloth for the church's 75th which was presented to the church by the Swedish Consulate.

Swedish emigration had slowed after WWI and after WW II many Swedes moved to the suburbs throughout the 1950s reducing the congregation. By 1960, the church hosted beatniks and

discussions on "the beat generation." (In 1962, it merged into the Lutheran Church of America.) In the 1970s, it hosted plays and old movies.

As the congregation sputtered and dwindled in the 70s, prostitution and violence visited the steps of the church and all of Boerum Hill. The congregation continued to decline during 1980s and 1990s. In 1987, the church merged into today's Evangelical Lutheran Church in America headquartered in Chicago.

The church hosted a wonderful Boerum Hill Millennium Celebration and the Boerum Hill Arts Center gave plays in basement, site of the old Sunday school classes.

When the congregation dwindled to less than 50 in 2005 the Synod closed the church. Some of the congregants are attempting to sue to regain control of the building. Both parties in the dispute have made comments about replacing the structure with more modern buildings that might include residential development.

The Boerum Hill Association urges the parties consider a plan that preserves this wonderful part of local history.

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:

- Thursday, April 22nd
- Thursday, June 17th

O U R E L E C T E D O F F I C I A L S

Here's the contact information for many of our elected officials. Feel free to contact them to make your voices heard.

Governor David Patterson

www.ny.gov/governor

State Capitol

Albany, NY 12224

518-474-8390

State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo

<http://www.ag.ny.gov/>

Office of the Attorney General

The Capitol

Albany, NY 12224-0341

800-771-7755

U.S. Senator Charles Schumer

schumer.senate.gov

757 Third Avenue, Suite 17-02

New York, New York 10017

212-486-4430

202-224-6542

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

gillibrand.senate.gov

780 Third Avenue, Suite 2601

New York, New York 10017

212-688-6262

202-224-4451

U.S. House Representative Yvette Clarke – District 11

clarke.house.gov

123 Linden Boulevard, Fourth Floor

Brooklyn, New York 11226

718-287-1142

202-225-6231

U.S. House Representative Edolphus Towns – District 10

www.house.gov/towns

186 Joralemon Street, Suite 1102

Brooklyn, New York 11201

718-855-8018

202-225-5936

State Assemblywoman Joan Millman - 52nd District

millmaj@assembly.state.ny.us

341 Smith Street

Brooklyn, NY 11231

718-246-4889

518-455-5426

State Senator Velmanette Montgomery – 18th District

www.nysenate.gov/senator/velmanette-montgomery

30 Third Avenue, Room 1100

Brooklyn, New York 11217

718-643-6140

518-455-3451

State Senator Daniel Squadron - District 25

www.nysenate.gov/senator/daniel-l-squadron

401 Broadway, Suite 1901

New York, New York 10013

212-298-5565

518-455-2625

Mayor Mike Bloomberg

www.nyc.gov/html/mail/html/mayor.html

City Hall

New York, NY 10007

Phone 311

Public Advocate Bill de Blasio

<http://pubadvocate.nyc.gov/>

1 Centre Street, 15th Floor

New York, NY 10007

212-669-7200

City Council Speaker Christine Quinn

<http://council.nyc.gov/d3/html/members/home.shtml>

224 West 30th St (Suite 1206)

New York, NY 10001

212-564-7757

City Councilman Stephen Levin – District 33

<http://council.nyc.gov/d33/html/members/home.shtml>

114 Court Street, 2nd Floor

Brooklyn, New York 11201

718-875-5200

8 4 T H P R E C I N C T C O M M U N I T Y C O U N C I L M E E T I N G

The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday, February 16th** at the **Baptist Temple, 360 Schermerhorn Street** at the corner of Third Avenue. Come and discuss crime and other issues.

Precinct crime reports and results will be presented along with the Cop Of The Month Award.

This is great way to speak directly with the 84th Precinct Captain Mark DiPaulo.

Refreshments are served!

SILENT FILM SERIES

The Brooklyn Chapter of the American Guild of Organists continues their series of silent films, accompanied by theater organist Ben Model. This series highlights the early relationship between the organ and film in the days before 'talkies' entered the American culture. The third film in the series is on **Saturday February 13**, with a showing of C.B. DeMille's original, 1923 version of The Ten Commandments at the **Brooklyn Baptist Temple, 360 Schermerhorn St.** at Third Avenue, in downtown Brooklyn. The admission charge is \$10, or \$5 for seniors/students.

The Ten Commandments is DeMille's first interpretation that presents the biblical story for roughly half the film. The remainder is concerned with a (1923) contemporary morality tale of a widow and her two young adult sons. One of the sons descends into a life of vice; at the same time, a contrast is drawn between the mother's strict reading of the Ten Commandments, and the other son's interpretation based upon the Gospel teachings of the New Testament.

For the past 25 years Ben Model has served as resident silent film accompanist for The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York City. He has played for silents in many other venues around the U.S., has recorded numerous scores for silent film DVDs, and produces The Silent Clowns Film Series with film historian Bruce Lawton. For more on Ben, visit his website: www.silentfilmmusic.com.

The public is invited to attend this series.

Baptist Temple, 360 Schermerhorn Street

February 13, 7:00 pm, DeMille's The Ten Commandments

Cost: \$10 General Admission; \$5 Seniors/Students

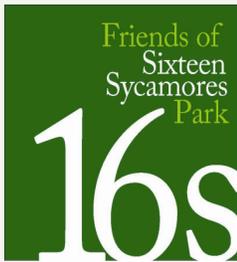
Website: www.brooklynago.org

Future films in the series will be:

April 10, 7:00 pm: The Mark of Zorro (Douglas Fairbanks, 1920)

June 12, 8:00 pm: My Best Girl (Mary Pickford, 1927)

16 SYCAMORES PARK



The BHA Board and friends have begun plans for exciting activities in 2010.

Expect to see a clean up day and kid's celebration during the middle of May.

Several Family Movie nights, a Water Celebration and a Fall Festival are some of the other suggested activities.

The first City scoping session is expected to be scheduled for this spring which will discuss the renovation of the comfort station and other facilities restoration.

We will update you as soon as the plans are finalized but we will always need volunteers...and its fun!

Contact: Daughtry Carstarphen at dcarstar@yahoo.com

Help us make this park come alive!

DOUGLASS / GREENE PARK

The 2nd Annual Gowanus Grind will take place in the park on April 25th. Come out for the fun and watch some great skate boarding.

Go to www.friendsofdoulassgreenepark.org for more info.

C P R T O G O

The FDNY is not teaching FREE CPR throughout the city. One hour sessions take place at 6:00pm and 7:00pm on the second Tuesday of the month at Station 32, 347 Bond Street, between 1st and Carroll St.

To reserve a spot call 718-999-2413 or email

eichlem@fdny.nyc.gov

You can also inquire at the NY Sports Club in Boerum Hill which is also organizing classes.

HOYT STREET ASSOCIATION MEETING

The Hoyt Street Association is holding a meeting on Thursday, **February 25th at 7:00pm** at the Mugavero Center, 155 Dean Street.

Winners of the 2009-10 HAS Community Funding Project Grants will be announced and application for 2010-11 will be available.

Order forms and information about the May 1st and 2nd Annual Plant Sale will also be available.

Noah Bernamoff, the owner of the newly opened Mile End restaurant, will be on hand to talk about the challenges of opening a small business in Boerum Hill (and he might bring some samples...if he hasn't sold out!)

**HOYT STREET ASSOCIATION PLANT SALE
SATURDAY, MAY 1ST AND SUNDAY MAY 2ND**

**ALTERNATE SIDE
PARKING DATES**

Holiday	Date/Day
Lincoln's Birthday	February 12, Fri
Asian Lunar New Year	February 14, Sun
Washington's Birthday (Pres. Day)	February 15, Mon
Ash Wednesday	February 17, Wed
Purim	February 28, Sun
Passover (1st/2nd Days)	Mar 30-31, Tues-Wed
Holy Thursday	April 1, Thurs
Holy Thursday (Orthodox)	April 1, Thurs
Good Friday	April 2, Fri
Good Friday (Orthodox)	April 2, Fri
Passover (7th/8th Days)	April 5-6, Mon-Tues
Solemnity of the Ascension	May 13, Thurs
Shavuot (2 Days)	May 19-20, Wed-Thurs
Memorial Day*	May 31, Mon
Asterisk (*) indicates Major Legal Holidays.	Parking meters will not be in effect on major legal holidays.

**ATTENTION TRADER
JOE'S SHOPPERS**

Please be advised that as of January 28th, "NYCDOT changed the signal timing at the intersection of Atlantic Avenue and Court Street. The new signal phasing replaces the former "lagging" westbound left turn phase (which followed the east-west phase on Atlantic Avenue), with a "leading" westbound left turn phase, (which precedes the east-west phase on Atlantic Avenue) . During this leading phase, westbound through movements have a green light as well. A leading pedestrian interval (LPI) across Atlantic Avenue is also provided to minimize conflicts between crossing pedestrian and vehicles turning from Court Street to Atlantic Avenue."

Last year, the BHA sent a letter to the DOT suggesting a second look at this corner. It's important for pedestrians to read the street signs and WAIT for the WALK signal.

Kudos to the DOT for their continuing work and responsiveness.

BQE SCOPING PROJECT

I attended a Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting on January 27th. Here's how the invitation email described this project.

"The New York State Department of Transportation in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration has initiated the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Rehabilitation of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway (BQE). The draft project limits extend approximately 1.5-miles along the BQE from Atlantic Avenue to Sands Street, including the triple cantilever section of the roadway that includes the Brooklyn Heights Promenade. The project address the structural deterioration and operational deficiencies in this segment of the BQE, which is characterized by narrow lanes, lack of shoulders, short merge/weave distances near on-/off-ramps that do not meet current highway design standards, and vertical clearance constraints."

Project information and the Draft Scoping Document can be found at www.nysdot.gov/bqedowntownbrooklyn.

The large and encompassing study area ranges from the Brooklyn waterfront to Bedford Avenue on the east, down to Eastern Parkway, around Prospect Park, down Prospect Park West, along Fifth Avenue and as far south as 39th Street.

Study criteria will include ways to reduce traffic diversions to local street, how to minimize environmental impacts, engineering considerations, the 24-hour operation of the road, structural deterioration and improving safety. The tone of the meeting was encouraging with both DOT and contractors repeatedly asking for comments and feedback from the community groups present.

The draft EIS is expected to be completed by mid-2012 and the final EIS in 2015. The design phase will continue through 2018 and construction will begin in 2020.

If you read the draft you will not be surprised to learn that this stretch of roadway has many "nonstandard features," such as narrow lanes, short on/off ramps, lack of shoulders and limited sight stopping distances. The accident statistics highlight the dangerous nature of this highway.

Boerum Hill residents are keenly aware of these facts and we can often walk out of our homes to see our streets clogged with traffic as a result of the ubiquitous "jack-knifed tractor trailer" or multi-vehicle collision. Although improvements are a long way off, they are certainly welcome.

Oh yes, the project cost is approximately \$254,300,000 and a combination of Federal and State funds.

A special thank you to State Assemblywoman Joan Millman and to the State of New York for the financial support that makes 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.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Atlantic Yards <input type="checkbox"/> Block Captain (help distribute BHA notices on your block) <input type="checkbox"/> Boerum Hill History <input type="checkbox"/> Community Events (meetings, holiday party, house tour) <input type="checkbox"/> Greening & Neighborhood Beautification <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use (development, zoning, building noise) <input type="checkbox"/> Land marking <input type="checkbox"/> Membership (recruitment, member services) <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations and Communication (neighborhood calendar, block associations, press releases, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Parks and Playgrounds (improving Douglass/Greene Park) <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of Life (public safety, sanitation, recycling, noise) <input type="checkbox"/> Technology (website, email, online tools) <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic and Transportation (transit, parking, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Tutoring (homework help to neighborhood youth) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
|--|--|

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

Mile End

Well there are no latkes but the eating is still really good at **92A Hoyt Street**. Stop in on the way to work for coffee with a bagel and cream cheese or a breakfast egg sandwich. However the main event is the smoked meat sandwich of brisket that is flavorful and tender. Try the frites if your cholesterol was down at your last check up. Smoked turkey and salami sandwiches are also featured. What a great neighborhood hang out in its first month! Welcome!

Olga's On Smith

Olga's catered the recent BHA General Meeting by providing wonderful sandwiches. Although this business is not in Boerum Hill being located at 407 Smith Street, near 4th Street, we accepted her generous offer. Dine in, take out or get delivery of wonderful paninis, sandwiches and full dinners. The food is carefully pre-

pared and kosher. Fish dishes from fish burgers to gingered salmon are featured but meat is not on the menu. Catering for parties and events is also available. Please give this new business a try, call 347-335-0981 or go to www.olgaonsmith.com and come to our next general meeting on April 22nd so you don't miss out.

Iris Nail

Coming to 110 Smith Street, on the corner of Pacific Street.

Closed

It was Gravy, it was Trout and finally Bueno, side-by-side with BBQ 1963 at 102 Smith on the corner of Pacific Street. Pacifico remains open at this location and we hope to see some other dining options at this location soon.

"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