

# 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](http://WWW.BOERUMHILLASSOCIATION.ORG)

## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

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 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.

## CORN GROWS IN BROOKLYN!

Who would expect to see this drab corner sprouting corn! The Boerum Hill Association is proud to sponsor its first art project at the corner of Bergen and Smith Streets in partnership with the NYC Department of Transportation's Urban Design and Art program.

The Maize field is a public art project that highlights the city's continual change by integrating its historical past into the present landscape. The planting and growing of corn is a living excavation that is intended to positively transform our urban space. Carroll Garden artist Christina Kelly planted Native American corn and other plants in a patch of soil surrounded by granite benches.

Artist Kelly said, "I'm struck by the historical fact that the area now called Boerum Hill was once highly valued by the native inhabitants as an excellent place to grow their crops. The contrast between what once was and what is now seems so radical. The cornfields are gone without leaving a trace. This sense of something being lost -- without a trace -- is reminiscent of the ultimate New Yorker lament, 'wow this neighborhood has really *changed*.'"

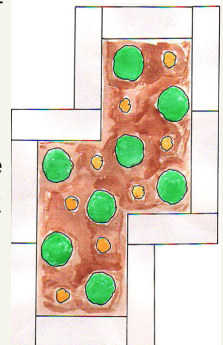
The heritage corn field is a symbolic gesture of restoration and represents the resiliency that is part of city life. Ms. Kelly felt that the new traffic calming neck down at the F strain station was an ideal place for her heritage garden.

Ms. Kelley added, "Last summer I planted two 'three sisters' gardens of heirloom Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) varieties. One garden was in collaboration with Lefferts Historic House in Prospect Park and another with the Waterpod, a floating barge in NYC. Seeds from these gardens were saved and some will be used in this year's gardens."

The installation began the week of May 24th with small plantings that will continue to grow throughout the summer and into September. Please come by and take a look!



Here's the "before" picture.



Here's the "after" picture.

# 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)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 – Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 – Individual Senior/Student/Low-income |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 – Family     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 – Family* Senior/Student/Low-income    |

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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 – Business Donor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$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)

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> + \$100 “Good Neighbor | <input type="checkbox"/> + \$250 “Neighborhood Hero!” | <input type="checkbox"/> + \$_____ 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**

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Neighbors,

The recent successful Boerum Hill House and Garden Tour featured the creative energy and vision that attracts many people to this neighborhood. The beautiful restorations and interpretations showed how modern brownstone style lives in Boerum Hill.

I want to thank the homeowners who kindly threw open their doors and the Sponsors who contributed to another successful fund raiser. A complete list of names is on page 4 of this newsletter. I ask that you repay their kindness with a visit to them soon.

It takes a lot of hard work from many peo-

ple to have a great event like the House Tour. I want to thank my co-chair Ann Armbruster of State Street for all her efforts in this endeavor as she did most of the heavy lifting. She was able to put together a wonderful team that included our copy writer, Anne Hoy, our graphic designer, Angela Panichi and our photographer, Francis Dzikowski.

Board members Hannah Mason, Ben Barrett, Trudy Katzer, Steve Radacinski and Dwight Smith added their support. Neighbors Rose Weber and Hank Sbrocco staffed our ticket tables for most of the day.

Long time residents Kristin Austin and

James Crow wrangled our volunteers who are too numerous to list but thank them I do.

Good neighbors build great neighborhoods so I treasure each of you. You make this a great place to live, work and play.

See you on the block!

In Community,  
Howard Kolins



## BROOKLYN BEET CSA COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE

Last year was the first for the Brooklyn Beet CSA, located in the lobby of the YWCA at Atlantic Avenue and Third Avenue. Local farm products are supplied to city residents who enjoy the fresh, seasonal and sustainably grown food.

By joining the Brooklyn Beet you have an opportunity to buy local, eat well, be healthy and protect the environment.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) initiatives, or food-buying clubs, link family farms with new groups of people who may be under served by supermarkets.

For an upfront payment, CSA families purchase a "share" of fresh vegetables that arrive weekly direct from a local farm. These upfront payments allow the farmers to plan for the season and, in turn, prices are held down by purchasing these prod-

ucts directly from the farmer. The payment covers the season which runs from June to November. (Pricing varies depending on household income and on what size share people want to have. In 2009 full price vegetable shares were \$470 for full shares and \$235 for half shares, which are picked up every week. Low cost vegetable shares were \$380 for full and \$190 for half. Families with household income below \$40K and individuals with incomes below \$30K could buy a low cost share. Prices may change for the 2010 season.)

Shares include a variety of 6-8 vegetables. These include corn, carrots, kale, lettuce, onions, potatoes, winter & summer squashes, tomatoes, onions, and lots more. The share changes throughout the season, starting out light with lots of greens in the early summer and ending

with winter squashes and potatoes.

In addition to local produce, for a few additional dollars fresh eggs and pasta are added to your order. (Fruit is also an option for an additional charge.)

Local groups are run by members so volunteers are welcome. (Only members are needed to volunteer; volunteering is a requirement for membership so we don't often need to take on outside volunteers.)

Go to [www.justfood.org](http://www.justfood.org) for more information. We also have our own website, <http://brooklynbeetcsa.ning.com>

**CSA is found at the  
YWCA  
Third Avenue & Atlantic**

## GENERAL MEETING DATES

Our General Meetings are held at the the Police, Sanitation and Noise; more information about topics and Belarusian Church at the corner of Greening; our Local Hero Awards; the speakers.  
Atlantic Avenue and Bond Street beginning at 7:00pm. Post Office.

Past topics have included Quality of Life issues with representatives from Look for posters on the BHA Bulletin boards and on our website, [www.boerumhillassociation.org](http://www.boerumhillassociation.org) for

The next tentative date is:

- Thursday, September 23rd

## OUR SPONSORS

### PATRONS

Jean Austin and Ellen Gottlieb, Brooklyn Bridge Realty Ltd  
 Building on Bond  
 Kim Soule, Corcoran Group  
 Sue Wolfe & James Crow, Corcoran Group  
 Abby Hamlin, Hamlin Ventures  
 Heights Woodworking  
 James Kerby, Prudential Douglas Elliman  
 Terry Naini, Prudential Douglas Elliman  
 State Renaissance Court

### SPONSORS

Moe Issa, Brooklyn Fare  
 Matthew Goldfine, Excel Builders and Renovators  
 Emily Fisher, Halstead Properties  
 Janet Liles Interior Design  
 Smith Hanten Properties  
 Tres Belle Petite Medi-Spa  
 Donna Da Vine  
 Bar Tabac

### Ticket Outlets

Exit 9, 127 Smith Street  
 Sterling Place, 363 Atlantic Avenue  
 Annie's Blue Ribbon General Store, 365 State Street  
 Gumbo. 493 Atlantic Avenue

### Floral Arrangements

GRDN  
 Opalia  
 QuartreCoeur

### Sponsor Brunch

Mile End

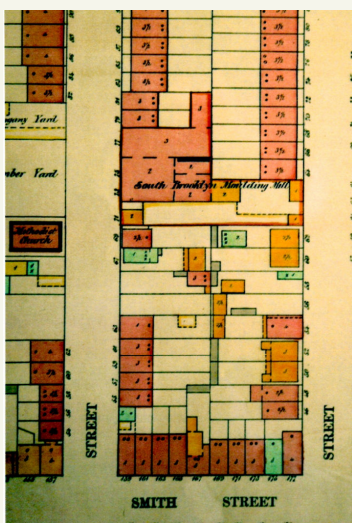
*They supported the 2010 House Tour, so please support them*



## WINDOWS, DOORS, BLINDS, AND J.S. LOOMIS

Ever wonder who made many of the original windows and doors when most of brownstone Boerum Hill was being built in the early 1850s? And what about those folding front window pocket shutters? Chances are they were made on Wyckoff Street between Smith and Hoyt. Back before the modern house numbering system was decreed in 1870, today's 100-110 Wyckoff was 71-79 Wyckoff Street and the location of the Loomis Moulding Mill complex.

John Sharp Loomis was a Pennsylvania trained carpenter who did extensive woodworking for a South Carolina railroad before the Civil War. By 1851, he had moved to "South Brooklyn" and built a new mill at this Wyckoff location producing many of the window sashes, window frames, doors, and "blinds" (as folding shutters were called in antebellum days) for the Brooklyn market. It is highly likely that John Doherty, William Alexander, Thomas Maynard, and other early builders of Boerum Hill purchased many of their items here at the South Brooklyn Moulding Mill. As the early building boom slowed in the mid-1850s, Loomis began



focusing on making high quality decorative wooden moldings that decorated doors, windows, stairs, and ceilings. He sought out new business in the Old South and was very, very successful. A mahogany hardwood storage yard was kept across the street at today's 107-109 Wyckoff while more common lumber was stored adjacent at 99-105. Business boomed even through the Civil War until the evening of June 15,

1868 when a massive fire gutted the entire manufacturing complex. Loomis chose to rebuild at a new location on the Gowanus Canal and returned to even greater success nationwide for many more years.

Today's 100 Wyckoff Street was the old wood frame sawmill of Mr. Loomis. 102 was a two story brick building with the Loomis Moulding Mill on the ground floor and Mr. Jordan's carpet cleaning rented out on the upper floor. A building



existed in 1868 in the backyard of 104 where the fire of 1868 began in an apartment "drying room". The front was Mr. Loomis' office with Hart & Sons sash and blind makers rented above. 106 and 108 today was a large to-the-property-line brick building serving as the Loomis salesroom with the tenant Hayes & Co. twining mill above. 110 Wyckoff today was once the dwelling of four Loomis employees.

All of the original buildings were owned by Mr. Loomis and destroyed one by one in the fast-moving fire of June 15, 1868. Most of these structures contained valuable machinery, all destroyed. The damage from the fire was estimated at \$75,000 when it was over – a huge sum in 1868. The year 1869 would bring indoor running water to the new buildings of Boerum Hill being constructed, but only the antebellum brownstones would have Loomis wood building components made right in the neighborhood by "South Brooklyn" locals.

*Left, the South Brooklyn Moulding Mill in the middle of the block*

### Join the Board of the Boerum Hill Association

We need people who want to be advocates for our neighborhood. If you would like take tackle a local issue with us please come to a monthly board meeting and introduce yourself.

For more information about the BHA  
contact Howard Kolins 718-625-4073

### C P R T O G O

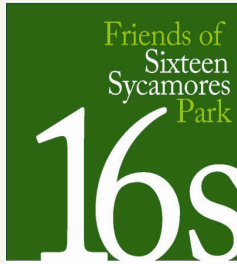
The FDNY is now teaching FREE CPR throughout the city. One hour sessions take place at 6:00pm and 7:00pm on the second Tuesday of the month at Station 32, 347 Bond Street, between 1st and Carroll St.

To reserve a spot call 718-999-2413 or email  
[eichlem@fdny.nyc.gov](mailto:eichlem@fdny.nyc.gov)

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

**The 84th Police Precinct Community Council Meetings** take place on the third Tuesday of every month from September through June. Precinct crime reports and results and the Cop Of The Month Award are presented monthly. You can speak directly with the 84th Precinct Captain Mark DiPaulo. Make yourself heard! Refreshments are served!

## 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 announced soon.

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

The first City Scoping Session was held this past spring to discuss park renovations. Phase 1, beginning this fall, will bring new sprinkler equipment, restoration of playground equipment and the addition of some adult equipment. Phase 2, time to be determined, will restore

the comfort station. No changes are planned for the handball courts.

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](mailto:dcarstar@yahoo.com)

***Help us make this park come alive!***



## DOUGLASS / GREENE PARK



There's a lot going on in this park. The 2nd Annual Gowanus Grind was held on April 19th bringing out a horde of fabulous skateboarders. A local all girl band provided some top notch entertainment under cloudy skies.

More recently, two days of volunteer efforts headed by the Friends of Douglass Greene Park have turned the park's benches into beautiful rainbows of color. 32 benches were painted in May on "It's My Park Day" while the others received their new coats on June 19th.

This park is an oasis in an otherwise industrial area that includes the wonderful Double D Pool (which may not open this year due to city budget cuts). Our area is underserved when it comes to parks and recreational areas so many of us are working to prevent the closing of the pool. The Friends of Douglass Greene Park are continuing their efforts to create a first class skateboarding park that will include other amenities as well.

Former Boerum Hill President, Sue Wolfe, continues her passion for community service by working with other dedicated Brooklynites, including Maria Pagano and Jean Manon, to improve this park. For more information go to [www.friendsofdouglassgreenepark.org](http://www.friendsofdouglassgreenepark.org). Get involved in this wonderful project!



*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.*



## ZONING UPDATE

The Boerum Hill Association's request for R6B for most of our neighborhood is moving along. The City Planning office is working on the specifics of this change. This zoning change is consistent with zoning throughout neighboring brownstone Brooklyn and would be non-controversial. Key protections would preclude "non-contextual" development. Specifically, it would limit out-of-scale development by providing high and bulk limits and matching new construction to existing buildings. The proposal would also maintain commercial development on Smith Street and encourage the same on Third Avenue.

This change is *not* highly restrictive but it gives us additional protections and would prevent a developer from buying several lots to construct a tall building that is out of character. We are the only "orphan" blocks from Fort Greene to Carroll Gardens.

City Planning will begin an environmental review that will take several months before the proposal goes to CB2, then through the ULURP process which can take seven months and eventually to City Council for approval.

In the next months, we will be able to share the specifics of the plan and we look forward to neighborhood input.

## GREEN ROOFS

Green roofs are an intriguing idea well suited to Brooklyn's flat sloping roofs. Greensulate, a company working with the BHA on the Maize Project, is a certified Green Roof Professional. They design, engineer, install and maintain green roofs for residential and commercial markets.

Green roofs filter particulate matter from the air and absorb greenhouse gases. A 1000 sq. ft. green roof eliminates approximately 40 lbs of particulate matter yearly which equals the emissions of 15 cars that travel 12,000 annually.



In addition, studies show these roofs reduce energy demand through shading, insulation and cooling. They also increase the life of the existing

standard roof by reducing the roof temperature. Energy costs are reduced in both winter and summer.

New York City offers a one-time \$4.50 per sq. ft. tax abatement for covering 50 percent of a roof.

While not inexpensive at about \$20 sq. ft., these costs are partially offset by the longer roof life and reduced energy costs as well as the beauty and green value. They also increase the value of the property.

For more information, call 800-613-3180 or go to [www.greensulate.com](http://www.greensulate.com)



## TUGBOATS & WATERFRONT SCENES

Boerum Hill artist Rich Samuelson's encaustic paintings are currently showing at Red Hook's Waterfront Museum. Encaustic involves the mixing of pigments, along with varnish and thinner, into heated beeswax which the artist applies to the canvas. The resulting image is luminous with deeply saturated colors.

Now through October 30th, Saturdays 1–5pm and Thursdays 4–8pm,

[www.waterfrontmuseum.org](http://www.waterfrontmuseum.org)





Boerum Hill Association  
P.O. Box 020583  
Brooklyn, NY 11202-0583  
[www.boerumhillassociation.org](http://www.boerumhillassociation.org)

### Growing a better Boerum Hill

## C H E C K   I T   O U T

### Paper Source

Coming to the corner of Pacific and Smith Streets, this new business replaces the string of restaurants that were located there. They carry all kinds of invitations, custom printing, decorative paper and more. Go to [www.paper-source.com](http://www.paper-source.com) to their full line of products.

### Ecopolis Cafe

The Ecopolis Café, at Warren and Smith Streets, serves as an anchor for the site, which is actually a non-profit community based education and resource center aimed at promoting access to sustainable products, services and innovations for healthy living.

The Café supports the mission of Brooklyn Ecopolis by enhancing access to high-quality local sustainable food and drinks, including baked goods and sandwiches

from the famed **City Bakery/Birdbath Neighborhood Green Bakery**, coffee and espresso drinks from **PT's Coffee Roastery**, and organic tea from **Rishi Tea**.

The Cafe also includes other local treats made or developed in Brooklyn, such as delicious vanilla and chocolate **Egg Creams with U-Bet syrup** with a complimentary pretzel rod, and **Joyva raspberry jelly bars**. They look forward to expanding the menu of soda fountain drinks and other locally made sweets.

The Café uses biodegradable and recycled paper supplies and focuses on recycling and composting as a strong aspect of waste management for local sustainability.

### Lions

Coming to 282 Atlantic Avenue across from the House of Detention. The BHA

looks forward to a nice attention to this block.

### "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](http://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](http://www.boerumhillbrooklyn.org)