



**Next BSW Neighborhood Association Meeting Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 8 PM at 330 Westminster-- Come at 7:30 for wine and snacks**

**Agenda for May meeting:**

- 1-City Council candidate Sandra Thomas- 15 minutes
- 2-Good Neighbor committee report- 15 minutes
- 3-Mosquito spraying in BSW- 20 minutes
- 4-City Council candidate Mathieu Eugene- 15 minutes
- 5-Treasurer's Report- 5 minutes
- 6-Other business- 10 minutes

**April-May 2013 Newsletter**

To receive the newsletter electronically, e-mail [BSWneighbors@gmail.com](mailto:BSWneighbors@gmail.com) with your name and house number.

**Officers:**

Co-Presidents  
Bob Pandolfo and Jack Rubman  
Secretary: Open  
Treasurer: Miriam Rubman  
Member at large: Glenn Wolin

**Block representatives:**

**Stratford/Beverley-** Bob Pandolfo, 214, Tel 347-578-4146,  
**Westminster-** Audrey Campbell, 297, 718-282-5937/ Janice Hamann, 330, 718-287-5408,  
**Argyle-** Jack Rubman, 261, Tel 718-469-6633,  
**Rugby-** Tom Montuori, 306, Tel 718-287-6502,  
**Marlborough-** Sally Bowman-Schneider, Tel 516-768-8059.

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**Contributions** to this newsletter are always welcome. If you would like to write a one-time or regular column, please e-mail Bob at [robert.pandolfo@gmail.com](mailto:robert.pandolfo@gmail.com).

***BSW Spring Yard Sale***

Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> (Rain date Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>)

Details to follow.

***From Co-President Bob Pandolfo:***

Homeowners are advised to use porch lights at night. There are energy-efficient lights with photo-electric switches available. Lights on houses add needed light to our blocks, and are a crime deterrent. Also, placing your house number on the back of your house can identify your house to a neighbor just in case.

If your house is adjacent to a storm drain, keeping it clear of debris helps prevent floods on the street and possibly in our homes.

**Minutes of BSW April 1, 2013 Meeting (recorded by Miriam Rubman, edited by Bob Pandolfo)**

**Private Security:** BSW's private security contract terminated on March 21, 2013 due to insufficient membership to sustain it through June 30, 2013. If you are interested in a personal private security contract with Marge Blaine (the company will answer alarm calls only- Ed.), she needs five participants to keep the fee at \$50.00 per month, please contact her by e-mail at [drmarge@EARTHLINK.NET](mailto:drmarge@EARTHLINK.NET). In the future, all incidents should be reported to the police. (continued on page 2.)

**Good Neighbor Committee:** Olgierd is one signature short to get a police permit for the block party to be held on Sunday June 2, 2013 from 10-7., but he doesn't anticipate a problem. He hopes to rent a pony for the occasion.

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*(Minutes continued from page 1.)*

**70<sup>th</sup> Precinct Representatives:** Dominick Scotto and two police representatives gave the following information: keep windows and doors locked as well as ladders; don't answer the door for utility workers unless they show proper ID; call 911 for any suspicious activity; tires have been punctured on Argyle Rd.; security camera are highly recommended for individual homes; most crimes involve the theft of computer equipment.

**Treasurer's Report:** Miriam gave the treasurer's report. Call her if you want a detailed account.

**Landmarking:** Glenn stated that the proposal, a 500 page book, has been submitted to the Landmarks Commission. Now, the politicians have to push it. At the end of April, the political action committee will meet on strategy. You can view the book at our next meeting.

**Other Business:** The memorial service for Ilse Henry will be held on April 21, 2013 at the Brooklyn Friends school, 375 Pearl St.

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**From Member at Large Glenn Wolin:**

### ***Why I Should Join My Local Neighborhood Association***

Many of us are fortunate enough to live in one of the beautiful Victorian Flatbush neighborhoods. It doesn't matter if we own or rent, we all benefit from the beauty, cohesiveness, and friendliness of these neighborhoods that are more like living in a suburb or a park than in a major urban center, New York City. We are close to Manhattan by subway or car and we can park with ease in our driveways or the local streets. If you take a walk on Cortelyou Road, there is a good chance that you will meet people that you know, or pass people who will be happy to smile and say hello. We live in a great neighborhood.

### **Downzoning**

The neighborhoods are great because many people with a sense of community have organized into neighborhood associations to protect the things we love and continue to improve our quality of life.

Many of you may not know that the city zoning in Victorian Flatbush would have allowed for hundreds of our beautiful homes to be knocked down and replaced with six story

apartment buildings. Can you imagine what that would do to the quality of life if it happened on your block? Many people, working through their local neighborhood associations and Community Board 14, managed to get the zoning changed so our neighborhoods can never again be threatened by developers. That took dedicated people, associations, letters, phone calls, meetings, and four and a half years to accomplish.

### **Landmarking**

There is now a group of people working with the local neighborhood associations and the Flatbush Development Corporation trying to get landmark status. If you want to know why that is important, go look at the house on Argyle Road between Ditmas and Dorchester. The house that bricked up the front from the ground to the third floor. How would you like to walk out of your house and look at that every day? What do you think that did to the values of the houses nearby?

### **Security & More**

Many things get accomplished by neighbors getting together and recognizing the problems, forming a plan of action, and working to solve them. We are fortunate to have these neighborhood associations so we have an opportunity to affect change. How about personal safety? Most neighborhoods have Security Patrols to help keep us safe. We have a green market on Cortelyou Road also brought to you by neighbors working through their neighborhood associations. The general upgrading of Cortelyou Road was a cooperative effort of the Flatbush Development Corporation, Councilman Mathieu Eugene, Cortelyou Road Merchants, and local neighborhood associations. Traffic calming, traffic lights and speed bumps, Mathieu Eugene and neighborhood associations. Social events to meet your neighbors like block parties, wine tasting, progressive dinners, ice cream socials, arbor days and much more are brought to you by your local neighborhood associations. Historic street lights, Marty Markowitz and neighborhood associations. The list is quite long and glorious but it takes new people getting involved all the time to continue the trend.

Most people don't realize that when neighborhoods crumble around them it is their lack of involvement that allowed it to happen. Most people also don't realize that when their neighborhood is improving it is only because some of their neighbors are getting involved. It  
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## **Why I Should Join My Local Neighborhood Association** *(Continued from page 2.)*

is now time for you to get involved, for yourself, your family, and your neighbors.

You can start small, just show up at your local neighborhood association meetings. Find out what's going on, bring your concerns, if you have any, but mostly, meet your neighbors. Find out about educational activities, or how to get paid for using your house for a film shoot, or maybe, how to get a new traffic light like the one on Cortelyou and Westminster. There is a world of knowledge and information easily available to you, just come to a few meetings. You might even enjoy yourself or make new friends.

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### **In the Garden Corner**

**by Vera Julia Gordon**

**May.** High Spring and April's showers will indeed bring us May flowers: lilacs, late tulips, wisteria, bluebells, early lilies, azaleas, rhododendrons, and locust and linden trees, among others. It has been a beautiful spring. Don't let me forget dogwood, which is just outside my window as I type. Of course, it is also the time of the flowering annuals.

The full moon of May 25<sup>th</sup> is, quite appropriately, the flower moon. It is also the sheep shearing moon. The new moon of May 9<sup>th</sup> and the annual solar eclipse are not visible here. Days still increase in length; we gain about an hour of daylight in May.

May temperatures can range from 30° to 100°, and there are often periods of heavy rains in May (and droughts). Orthodox Easter is May 5<sup>th</sup>, while May 9<sup>th</sup> is Ascension Thursday in the Western church. Mothers' Day is May 12<sup>th</sup>. May 15<sup>th</sup> is Shavuot and May 19<sup>th</sup> is Pentecost, and May 27<sup>th</sup> is the observation of Memorial Day.

Saturn dominates the night sky. By the end of the month Venus is low in the western sky shortly after sunset. On the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Venus and Jupiter are close, with faint Mercury just above them, but as they are low in the sky, only 6° above the horizon, and the sunset glow remains, it makes them hard to see. Mars is low in the northeast at sunrise.

Our soils are warming up, so we can set out our newly purchased annuals and our seedlings, which we started indoors. Don't be too hasty; chilly soils can inhibit root development and some plants never do well if planted too early. It's time to set up your outdoor watering and fertilizing schedules. Yes, you can move those indoor plants to deck or patio late in the month. If possible, move them when cloudy weather is predicted so you avoid leaf burn. Our gardens need about an inch of water a week, between our efforts and rainfall. A drip irrigation system saves water and gets it to the roots, but try not to have it on automatic because there is no need to run it if we have enough rain.

As you buy/plant annuals, consider the Greenest Block in Brooklyn contest. Will we win? Maybe not, but we all win when our homes and gardens look good with effective plant colors and arrangements. The judges make their first visits in June.

Be aware that powdery mildew has been attacking **impatiens walleriana**, a very popular and much used variety of impatiens, used in bedding and pots – both the single and double varieties. The mildew ruins the appearance of the plants and then basically kills them. Check plant labels, and ask your supplier. New Guinea impatiens is not affected. Other alternatives are begonias, pansies, nasturtiums, coleus and petunias. Avoid most phlox as they are also subject to powdery mildew.

When planting — annuals, perennials, vegetables, anything – be sure to water them in, when you plant, and then the next day. The adage that it is the second day's watering that really counts is a reminder that you can't plant and forget. Don't rely on Mother Nature! Plant no deeper than the soil level in the pot. The exception is tomatoes! Their stems can be buried 4 or 5 inches below pot level and at a 45° angle. Caladium corms can be planted at the end of May or the beginning of June. They are tropical plants and want warm soils, but not too much sun. Cannas, also tropical, want sun.

Leave bulb foliage to mature, and then cut it and always compost. If you find the maturing foliage unsightly, overplant with colorful annuals. Once lilacs fade, cut off the blossom heads, but not the leaves at the base. The same technique applies to rhododendrons, but you can twist off those spent blossoms manually. If azaleas have grown too vigorously, prune them just after blooming to slightly lower than you want them to be, so buds will form for next year's bloom and be a good show. Cut forsythia on the same "cut just after bloom" schedule. If you have seen forsythia or azalea with

*(Continued on page 4.)*

(Garden continued from page 3.) spotty bloom, they are probably plants that were pruned too late, and the buds for this year were sheared off.

It is always weeding season. Do it when the ground is damp. Encourage children to give you dandelion bouquets. No children? Then at least pull off the blossoms so they will not set seed, even if you have no time to weed, or your back will not let you!

There is still time to tie your climbing roses to horizontals.

Enjoy your spring garden!

## USEFUL CONTACTS

### Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency: 311

70<sup>th</sup> Precinct: 718-851-5511

Gas / National Grid: 718-643-4050

Electricity/ ConEdison:

800-75-CONED

Community Board 14:

718-859-6357/ [cb14brooklyn.com](http://cb14brooklyn.com)

Councilmember Eugene:

718-287-8762

Assemblymember Brennan:

718-940-0641

Senator Parker:

718-629-6401

### Ditmas Park Blog:

[www.ditmasparkcorner.com](http://www.ditmasparkcorner.com)

[ditmasparkcorner@gmail.com](mailto:ditmasparkcorner@gmail.com)

## CY 2013 LIST OF BEVERLEY SQUARE WEST DUES PAYING MEMBERS (JANUARY 1, 2013 - DECEMBER 31, 2013) AS OF APRIL 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013

### ARGYLE ROAD

Rubman; Clemens/Tyroler; Lozada; Eiss; Gordon; Wahrmann; Ho; Bonnadonna

### BEVERLEY ROAD

Intratter; Intratter; Krainin/Woolever; Aranda; Popkin; Gross; VerEecke; Cherkis

### MARLBOROUGH ROAD

Litchman; Draho; Garfinkel; Wendroff; Troy/Iozzio; Borbolla; Blaine; Taylor/Boucaud; Bilanow;

### RUGBY ROAD

DelQuaglio; Turoff; Herzog; Fallon/Hunter; Moed/Nelson; Wertheimer/Goldsmith; Bellivan; Tishcoff

### STRATFORD ROAD

Wolin; Landy/Colen; Martin-Grady; Popkin; Speranza; Pandolfo; Rosenberg; Riback; Miller/Huttner; Angus

### WESTMINSTER ROAD

Silverman/Hohman; Jaffee/ Warshawsky; Cheung; Mintz; Mangiacapre; La Marita; Campbell

### SLOCUM PLACE

Varon

Total: 51 (out of @ 255 houses)

If you think that I made a mistake in omitting your name, please call me at (718) 469-6633.

### **BEVERLEY SQUARE WEST DUES for CY2013 are due now.**

Your dues support:

Printing the monthly newsletter and social event flyers, supporting social events- refreshments, other expenses, financing our biennial party, buying wine for our monthly meetings. Please see form below.

Thank you for your continued support of our community organization.

## BSW Dues for 2013

BSW membership dues are payable on a fiscal year basis. All 2013 dues are due now. Dues are \$25.00. Please fill out the form below and mail it today with your check made out to Beverley Square West Association to Miriam Rubman, BSW Treasurer, 261 Argyle Road, Brooklyn, NY 11218. Thank you for your continued support of our beautiful neighborhood. If you have any questions, please call Miriam, Treasurer of BSW Neighborhood Association at 718-469-6633.

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_