



**Next BSW Neighborhood Association Meeting Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8 PM at 238 Argyle--  
Come at 7:30 for wine and snacks**

**Agenda** for February meeting:

- 1- Landmarking- 10 minutes
- 2- Solar energy presentation- 20 minutes
- 3- Treasurer's report- 5 minutes
- 4- Private security- 20 minutes

**Jan-Feb 2015 Newsletter**

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

Also, you can join the BSW E-mail group and send e-mails for all **directly to this group. Feel free to just send it directly to [beverleysquarewest@googlegroups.com](mailto:beverleysquarewest@googlegroups.com) and it will go out to the whole group.** instead of to Bob.

**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-** Louise Moed, 243, 718-826-1119,  
**Marlborough-**Sally Bowman-Schneider, Tel 516-768-8059.

**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.

Minutes from BSW Meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 (from Miriam Rubman, edited by Bob Pandolfo)

The meeting, hosted by co-President Jack Rubman, began at about 8:10 pm. Many thanks to our host house.

**Town Meeting:** There was a discussion of the recent town meeting held at PS 139, different opinions.

**Social committee:** Carole reported that 60 people came to the recent event at her house, thank you notes were sent to all vendors, The Farm was very generous! Thanks so much to Carole and the committee!

**Landmarking:** The situation is being monitored.

**Treasurer's Report:** Miriam gave the treasurer's report. Call her at 718-469-6633 for a detailed account.

# Here Comes Solar

By Emma Conroy

If you're a homeowner, the thought of installing solar panels on your roof may have crossed your mind. After all, it's good for the environment and good for your finances. If you ever looked into the endeavor it's likely that the process seemed long, complicated and expensive. That's why I'd like to introduce the neighborhood to Here Comes Solar.

Here Comes Solar (HCS) is a project run by Solar1, a not-for profit organization whose goal is to get as much solar energy in New York City as possible. Here Comes Solar is specifically designed to help reduce the costs and hassles of solar energy for home owners with viable roofs.

The first part of the process is finding out if your roof will support solar panels and provide enough energy to make the investment worth your while. Here Comes Solar will provide this site assessment for free! Next, HCS finds a group of 3-10 families in one neighborhood to band together and pre-approved contractors will put a bid on the whole group. (Remember, HCS is a non-profit, so the approval is based on quality, not backroom agreements!) Working in a group like this brings costs down considerably and allows contractors to work with more complicated roof situations that otherwise wouldn't break even for them.

Here Comes Solar stays with each household throughout the whole process, from the first site assessment to the registration with ConEd.

If there's some interest in this program, Elana, a Here Comes Solar representative, will come and give an information session with a short presentation and plenty of time for questions! The site assessments will happen beforehand so if your roof isn't viable, we won't be wasting your time.

In recent years, renewable energy has gained considerable momentum as part of the solution to climate change and energy independence. Solar energy in particular appeals to many. The idea of putting panels on the roof and thereby providing our own power source is, frankly, powerful! In New York, however, a majority of the state's energy consumers, are unable to invest in rooftop solar energy, or their roofs are non-viable for panels.

Shared Solar Energy would be a solution to this problem. Neighborhood or borough-wide solar gardens would make solar energy available for anyone. Without even the cost of panel installation, shared solar energy would be immediately less expensive for anyone who chose to buy a share of the garden. This is an incredible option! It affects renters, families and businesses in apartment buildings and homeowners with shaded or otherwise unviable rooftops. That's a lot of us.

There is currently a bill (A 9931), put forward by NYS assemblywoman Amy Paulin that would allow this kind of solar energy initiative to take root and grow in Brooklyn. Last session, the bill went through several committees but didn't get the chance to be passed. If we want Shared Solar to go through this coming year, we need to let the New York State Assembly and Senate know that we support this bill! Over the next few months, there will be opportunities for anyone interested to show their support.

I will be at the next Beverley Square West meeting to talk about these initiatives. Even if your roof isn't viable for HCS and you are still interested in Solar Energy I will be talking about the project concerning Shared Solar Energy as well.

I hope to see you at the meeting.

It is very definitely still winter! Just remember that snow is an excellent mulch. The Vernal Equinox is March 20<sup>th</sup> this year, and there are actually some signs of spring: those “borrowing days” of warm sun; bush and tree branches have a gleam and are subtly fuller; rhododendron buds are plumper; primrose leaves are poking up. Don’t worry about crocus leaves that shoot up: the flowers are still below ground, enclosed in the bulbs, even if the leaves are killed by frost.

Days are longer. We gain over an hour of sunlight in February and about an hour and a half in March. Plants, even those indoors, respond to lengthening days, not just to warmer sun. In February, begin to feed plants at a quarter rate of the strength on the fertilizer package. Go to the full rate in April.

February’s full moon is on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. It is the Snow Moon or the Hunger Moon. In March, the full moon is on the 5<sup>th</sup> and is variously called the Pink Moon, the Egg Moon, or the Sprouting Grass Moon, or the Fish Moon. February 2<sup>nd</sup> is Groundhog Day; if the groundhog, or woodchuck, who has been hibernating emerges from his burrow (which can be six feet deep and forty feet long) and sees his shadow, country lore says he goes back in and sleeps for another forty days, but if it is cloudy so he does not see his shadow, he stays out, and we have an early spring.

Venus is visible in the west at dusk and makes a striking partner with the new moon of the spring. Jupiter is high in the sky all night.

Daylight time resumes March 8<sup>th</sup> (“spring forward”). Valentine Day is February 14<sup>th</sup>; Presidents’ Day is February 16<sup>th</sup>. Ash Wednesday is February 18<sup>th</sup>; Purim begins March 4<sup>th</sup>; and Palm Sunday is March 29<sup>th</sup>.

As weather permits, there are outdoor tasks waiting. Any spent perennials can be cut to about three inches. Any annuals can be pulled out. These can both go to the compost pile. If you have spring-flowering bulbs which never got planted in the fall, plant them any time the ground is open and workable. Check bulbs which you have wintering in the basement; if there is growth starting, bring them to a warm sunny windowsill and water them with a light fertilizing. For a cure for late-winter blues, buy narcissus, hyacinth and crocus to force. Later, they can be planted out to grow on. They may, or may not, “take” but may bloom a few years from now.

As snow melts, keep lawns clear of leaves. Rake them in to compost piles, or into the beds of the bushes and trees; they will be mulch. Prune shrubs, but not those which bloom in spring. They are pruned after blooming. Roses can be cut to about 12 inches, about March 25<sup>th</sup>; on climbing roses, cut back to the canes. Tree peonies can also be cut because they bloom on new wood.

Check catalogs and nurseries, but check the proper planting time. For seeds, check the packet. It is better to start seeds a week or more late. The plants will catch up, but early starts result in gawky, spindly plants which often perish in mid-summer. Consider the temperature of the soil when you plant seedlings or purchased plants; if the soil has not warmed (think Mid-May) growth may be stunted from root shock. Order caladiums to plant in early June. The corms (“bulbs”) are far less expensive than the growing plants.

In late March, cut branches for indoor forcing – forsythia, cherry, apple, pear. These go in water and do not need much light. If you cut pussy willows, or buy them, keep them dry.

Grass seed can be scattered in mid-April and then kept watered. If you can, press the seed lightly into the soil. However, tread carefully as you do not wish the soil and roots to plants to be compacted. Put out food for birds, especially on top of snow cover. Toss it near planted areas so they have shelter for eating. Squirrels are pests, but they need food too.

When it is warm enough in spring to turn on your outside water, remember to turn off the outside faucet first, then turn on the inside water. Check for possible leaks which may indicate a broken pipe. If in doubt, turn off the indoor control and check the leaky area again to determine if you need to call a plumber.

As you begin to use your garden tools, remember that they may need a spring cleaning – oil and sharpening. If they are electric, unplug them, not just turn them off, before any maintenance work. If battery powered, remove the batteries.

Enjoy the quiet of your winter garden, and then the sudden rush of growth and green as the year turns.

**From Co-President Bob Pandolfo:**

**NYC Trees and Sidewalks Program-**

Homeowners can sign up for this program if tree roots have damaged their sidewalks, and possibly get free repairs:

<http://www.nycgovparks.org/services/forestry/trees-sidewalks-program>

**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

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

**CY 2015 LIST OF BEVERLEY SQUARE WEST DUES PAYING MEMBERS (JANUARY 1, 2015 - DECEMBER 31, 2015) AS OF January 27, 2015**

STRATFORD ROAD

Huttner/Miller; Feldhusen

WESTMINSTER ROAD

Hamann; Ellis

ARGYLE ROAD

Rubman; Wahrmann

BEVERLEY ROAD

Aranda

MARLBOROUGH ROAD

Cunningham

Total: 8 (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 CY2015 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 meetings. Please see form below.

Thank you for your continued support of our community organization.

**BSW Dues for 2015**

BSW membership dues are payable on a calendar year basis. All 2015 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: \_\_\_\_\_