

### Upcoming Events

- **October 2 and every 1st Thursday of the month (except July/Aug) - Park Slope Civic Council Board Meeting**, customarily at the Old Stone House in Washington Park, 7:00 PM (check website beforehand to confirm location)
- **October 15 - Food For Thought Tasting Event**, Picnic House in Prospect Park, 6:30-9:00 PM (Tickets on sale now! See our website)
- **October 19 - Fall Civic Sweep**, Washington Park, on 5th Ave. between 3rd and 4th Street, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
- **October 31 - Annual Halloween Parade**, kicks off at 14th Street and 7th Avenue, 6:30 PM, this year's theme; "Monster Mash"
- **Holiday Program** - details available soon on our website for a fun filled line-up of activities including: **Jingle Bell Jamboree, Park Slope Civic Council Holiday Party, Toys for Tots and Mulchfest**

For more information visit our website at parkslopeciviccouncil.org

### From the Civic Council Archives



The Lafayette Monument, Prospect Park West at 9th Street (circa 1960s), Brooklyn, New York. Sculptor, Daniel Chester French, 1850-1931. Photography by Col. James L. Holton. The Memorial was unveiled and dedicated May 10, 1917... A piece of American History commemorated in Park Slope.

*Presidents' Letter continued from p.1*

showcasing samplings from a variety of our favorite local restaurants and wine shops, funds these critical scholarships.

We love that there's a Veterans' museum and archives from many decades of Civic Council activities and events at the Armory, that is recruiting volunteers to conduct tours and allow more visitors to enjoy the artifacts.

Our advocacy will continue with projects for Livable Streets and Sustainability; commitments to city-wide changes like safer streets and composting, and keeping our eyes on zoning changes, lack of affordable housing and development issues that affect Park Slope. We will continue to work with elected officials, city agencies and other advocacy groups.

Our upcoming initiatives include: Arts Festival 2016, a rejuvenated Civic News, a Small Business forum and more coordination with and cooperation among adjoining neighborhoods.

We appreciate the trust and confidence our fellow Trustees have shown by appointing us. We intend to be an ever-stronger voice for the community. And now we want to hear YOUR voice. So join us. Let us know what matters to you. And welcome!

### PARK SLOPE CIVIC COUNCIL

Established 1896 as the South Brooklyn Board of Trade. Incorporated 1938.

- Judith Lief, Co-President
- Gilly Youner, Co-President
- Jeffrey Roth, First Vice President
- Joe Rydell, Second Vice President
- Bob Gilbert, Treasurer
- John Casson, Assistant Treasurer
- Candace Woodward, Corresponding and Recording Secretary
- Cathy Sokil Milnikiewicz, Membership Secretary

*Trustees-at-Large:*

- S.J. Avery, Richard Bashner, Robert Braun, Peter Bray, Michael Cairl, Darryl Cook, Joan Emerson, Sarah Gersowitz, Martin Goldin, Kyle Johnson, Joni Kletter, Josh Levy, Kim Maier, Martie McNabb, Thomas Miskel, Melinda Morris, Chandru Murthi, Eliza Pepper, Lauri Schindler

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Facebook: Park Slope Civic Council / Twitter: @PkSivCouncil  
www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org

The Park Slope Civic Council is a 501(c)3 organization

### Join the Park Slope Civic Council!

Become part of one of Brooklyn's most active community organizations! Sign up online at [www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org](http://www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org), or mail this form and your check to Park Slope Civic Council, P.O. Box 172, 123 Seventh Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11215.

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Email questions to [mailbox@parkslopeciviccouncil.org](mailto:mailbox@parkslopeciviccouncil.org) or call (347) 871-0477.

### Enclosed is my check for:

- Household: \$40
- Household Referral (Intro Level): \$35
- Non-Profit / Organization Partners: \$50
- Business / Professional or Patron: \$100
- Benefactor: \$250
- Student/Elder Community: \$25
- Yes, I'd like to contribute an extra \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Civic Council's Scholarship Fund!
- I'm interested in Volunteering. Please contact me \_\_\_\_\_ by phone \_\_\_\_\_ by email



# Civic News

The Newsletter of the  
Park Slope Civic Council  
Fall/Winter 2014-2015

### Nominations Due Oct. 1 for the 2014 Evelyn and Everett Ortner Preservation Awards



The Historic District Committee of the Park Slope Civic Council has established an annual awards program to encourage renovation projects and interventions that enhance the appearance of Park Slope. The six Evelyn and Everett Ortner Park Slope Preservation Awards honor the couple that did so much to transform our community from a neighborhood in decline to the vibrant community it is today. Information about the awards program and a link to the Application Form can be found on the Park Slope Civic Council's website at [parkslopeciviccouncil.org](http://parkslopeciviccouncil.org). Applications are now being accepted for the 2014 awards. To suggest a project or intervention that might qualify for one of the six awards, please e-mail us at [ortnerawards@parkslopeciviccouncil.org](mailto:ortnerawards@parkslopeciviccouncil.org).

### Join Us at the Third Annual Food for Thought Fundraiser Oct. 15



The Park Slope Civic Council is thrilled to be planning our third annual "Food for Thought" fundraiser on Wednesday, October 15, 2014, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m., at the beautiful Prospect Park Picnic House to support our scholarship program.

We're hoping to make this year's event even more successful than our past two! There will be outstanding food from local restaurants, drinks, music, mingling and lively conversation—all to support a worthy cause. Each year, the Civic Council awards an education scholarship to an outstanding high school senior graduating from each of the Secondary Schools at John Jay High School who exhibit exceptional commitment to community service. Our goal is to establish an endowment for the scholarships from the surplus funds raised by the event.

Tickets are now on sale on our website for \$75 per person for General Admission before October 15 (\$100 per person at the door), and at the NEW Deluxe Ticket price of \$125 (only 30 available) that includes an exclusive tote bag loaded with fabulous giveaways PLUS a chance to win a randomly placed Golden Ticket. Donations to the scholarship program are welcome if you are unable to join us at the Fundraiser.

For questions or more information please call us at 718-369-4006, or visit our website at [foodforthought@parkslopeciviccouncil.org](http://foodforthought@parkslopeciviccouncil.org).

### Presidents' Letter... a new take on the Park Slope Civic Council: Judith Lief & Gilly Youner, Co-Presidents.

The Civic Council has been active in Park Slope for almost 120 years, and now it's our turn to shake it up a bit, starting with having two presidents instead of one...to share tasks, expand our network, and welcome an even wider range of community memberships.



Gilly (pictured right), an architect working with a Soho firm on a wide variety of projects all over the city, has lived in Brooklyn on and off since 1962. Her father was raised here and shared stories of Ebbets Field, Coney Island and the old trolleys that imbued her childhood with a strong sense of our town's history.

Judith (pictured right), a thirty-year resident of Park Slope, has been extraordinarily fortunate to work in the neighborhood for most of that time, first as an art director and editor of two national architectural magazines and then in residential real estate.



Our prime motivation for stepping up: We both deeply love Park Slope. With many decades between us of living, working and raising families here, we have seen the neighborhood change, and we greatly appreciate its virtues -- and want to make it better still. We have both worked with the PSCC as Trustees on various committees and events, and we are so proud of the Civic Council's achievements over the years.

We have tremendous respect for our Historic District Committee, which has now helped Park Slope become the largest historic district in New York City. The work goes on; they have another phase in process and another still in development.

We are excited to present the first annual Ortner Awards, to recognize owners who have demonstrated sensitivity in facade restoration, completed smart adaptive reuse or in some other way, contributed to the richness of our built environment.

We love hosting and marching in the annual Park Slope Halloween Parade, which brings out all the silliness and creativity of our neighbors, young and old. This year's theme: "Monster Mash!"

We look forward to Civic Sweep, where twice a year, neighbors and kids, volunteer groups and Food Co-op members help sweep, eliminate graffiti and plant daffodils. We look forward to engaging more block associations, schools and youth groups.

We love our proactive and energetic Forth on Fourth Committee, which helps bring awareness to and make improvements upon the beauty and safety of the thoroughfare. It will continue its mission of improving aesthetics and street-level activity and also engage with our neighbors in Gowanus and Boerum Hill.

At our annual May House Tour, owners who have either restored brownstones to Victorian splendor or brought imaginative solutions to modern living in century-old structures invite us to peek at their beautiful homes. Each year, busloads of visitors come to view our houses and listen to expert lecturers on history and architecture.

We support and value our Scholarship Committee, which identifies graduating seniors who participate in community service and rewards them with an academic scholarship to help with college. Our Food for Thought tasting event,

*Continued on p.4*

# Meet the Park Slope Civic Council Trustees

Our newest moms on the board:

## Joni Kletter

It was Prospect Park that inspired Joni Kletter and her husband, Doug Schneider, to move to Park Slope in 2006. "We were living in Chelsea, and we wanted to get a dog and live near a park," remembers Joni, age 36, who lives in a co-op on 12th Street. Now the mother of a 7-month old (and owner of a French-bulldog), she finds that she's in the park just about every morning. It was during the effort to landmark part of the South Slope that Joni became aware of the Civic Council. "I was very involved. I testified at hearings and got people to sign petitions," she says. The next step was to join the Civic Council. "I saw that these were civic-minded people who care about what's happening in the neighborhood," she says. "Like me, they want to help make our neighborhood a better place." This civic mindedness infuses her efforts to help maintain the essence of Park Slope through policy, landmarking and development with a preservationist perspective. A born multi-tasker, Joni energetically juggles her life as a mom, an employment lawyer at Meyer, Suozzi, English and Klein, P.C., a Trustee and the Treasurer of Mayor Bill de Blasio's 2017 re-election campaign. Food for Thought is one of Joni's favorite Civic Council events. "It combines the pleasure of getting together with your neighbors and sampling food from our wonderful restaurants while raising money for our scholarship program," she says. In her role as a Trustee, she is committed to forging ways to work with local politicians and leaders to influence policy and make meaningful changes in Park Slope.



## Sarah Gersowitz

You don't get much more Park Slope than Sarah Gersowitz. Raised in an apartment on Lincoln Place and later in a brownstone on Sixth Avenue, Sarah attended the Berkeley Carroll School, where she met her husband Elliott Gersowitz. "I never thought of moving anywhere else. What could I possibly get that I don't have here?" says Sarah, who loves the Slope's sense of community and the child centeredness. "Now that I have a daughter, it's fabulous," she says citing the Third Street Playground, where she played as a child, and the newly renovated JJ Byrne/Washington Park, where she brings her one-year old, Fiona. A graduate of Barnard College and Fordham University Law School, Sarah now works as a lawyer at Drexel LLC, a boutique family law firm. Strangely enough, she'd never heard of the Civic Council until she was in her twenties working at a legal recruiting firm in Manhattan. One of her colleagues brought in a copy of the Civic News with a picture of the Clean Streets Initiative, and Sarah was intrigued. "I've always been very community oriented and interested in volunteer work. From that moment, I knew I wanted to get involved in my neighborhood," says Sarah, 30, who enjoys spreading the word about the Civic Council. "It's a great way to meet your neighbors and to socialize. There are so many different committees, you're bound to find at least one thing that interests you." In her role as a Trustee, she'd like to see better connections to neighborhoods near Park Slope. "I'd like to build a better bridge between communities."

University Law School, Sarah now works as a lawyer at Drexel LLC, a boutique family law firm. Strangely enough, she'd never heard of the Civic Council until she was in her twenties working at a legal recruiting firm in Manhattan. One of her colleagues brought in a copy of the Civic News with a picture of the Clean Streets Initiative, and Sarah was intrigued. "I've always been very community oriented and interested in volunteer work. From that moment, I knew I wanted to get involved in my neighborhood," says Sarah, 30, who enjoys spreading the word about the Civic Council. "It's a great way to meet your neighbors and to socialize. There are so many different committees, you're bound to find at least one thing that interests you." In her role as a Trustee, she'd like to see better connections to neighborhoods near Park Slope. "I'd like to build a better bridge between communities."

## Candace Woodward



If you like the No Flyers, No Ads, No Menus signs you see in the doorways of Park Slope brownstones and apartment buildings, you have Candace Woodward to thank. She got the idea after seeing something similar in Boerum Hill. But Candace knew the Civic Council could do better. "It's a simple sign but it has a clear message, gives the Civic Council some publicity and has a description of the Civic Council on the back. I'm proud of that," says Candace, who moved to Park Slope with her husband in 1982. For twenty years she worked for Chase Manhattan Bank where she planned events for senior management and traveled all over the world. Still, Park Slope is where her heart is. "I love the beauty of the architecture, the fact that it is adjacent to Prospect Park and so near to the Museum and Botanic Garden," she says. Candace became a Trustee in 1999 and has been either chair or co-chair of the House Tour Committee for fourteen years. "I had helped out with the House Tour before I became a Trustee so it just seemed like a natural thing," she says. She also serves on the Sustainability Committee and participates in planning the Civic Sweep events, held twice yearly. Her appreciation for the beauty and historic architecture of Park Slope fuels her interest in the expansion of the historic district and the creation of a 7th Avenue BID. In addition to her activities with the Civic Council, Candace serves on the Prospect Park Alliance Community Committee and volunteers at New York Methodist Hospital. She is a member of a walking group called The Shorewalkers.

## OUR MISSION

**The Civic Council's mission is to understand the concerns of the various Park Slope constituencies and to select and implement effective responses through events, activities and advocacy efforts that engage the community and enhance our quality of life.**

### Thanks to our Government, Business and Professional Supporters!

Assembly Member Jim Brennan, Assembly Member Joan Millman, Council Member Brad Lander, Council Member Stephen Levin, Corcoran Group, Lion in the Sun, North Flatbush BID, Park Slope Chamber of Commerce, Park Slope 5th Avenue BID, Matthew Pintchik



## Who We Are

Front row: Judith Lief, Joan Emerson, Josh Levy, Joni Kletter (and baby Micah), Candace Woodward, S.J. Avery, Melinda Morris, Sarah Gersowitz, Joe Rydell, Richard Bashner. Back Row: Chandru Murthi, Darryl Cook, Kyle Johnson, Peter Bray, Thomas Miskel, Bob Braun, John Casson, Gilly Youner, Marty Goldin, Kim Maier, Michael Cairl, Cathy Sokil Milnikiewicz, Martie McNabb. Not in picture: Bob Gilbert, Eliza Pepper, Jeff Roth, Lauri Schindler.

## Our Committees in Action

**The Committee on Trustees (COT)** consists of two Trustees and four PSCC members who are non-Trustees, and is generally responsible for oversight of the governance functions of the Park Slope Civic Council. Among its specific responsibilities are recruiting, nominating and orienting new board members, working with the Executive Committee to ensure leadership succession, ensuring the active participation of board members at board meetings and on committees, monitoring compliance with the Conflict of Interest Policy and reviewing and recommending changes to the Bylaws. -- *SJ Avery, Peter Bray, co-chairs*

**Forth on Fourth Avenue (FOFA)** provides an active forum and voice for people who live, work and make use of Fourth Avenue in order to identify and address community concerns. Our objectives include improved safety and a greener, cleaner streetscape and a more vibrant pedestrian experience along Fourth Avenue; enhanced aesthetics and stronger design of the buildings on Fourth Avenue as they relate to street-level activity; greater diversity of housing options on or near Fourth Avenue; greater economic vitality for diverse retail and commercial businesses on Fourth Avenue; and improved street experience of pedestrians, cyclists, commuters, drivers and residents who make use of Fourth Avenue. -- *SJ Avery, Grace Freedman, co-chairs*

**The Grants Committee** coordinates the process of applications, and reviews and selects two types of community Grants the Park Slope Civic Council awards each year, which support local groups that reflect the variety of active, creative organizations in Park Slope and contribute greatly to our community's diversity and vitality. The grants are given to non-profit/non-commercial organizations that serve the greater Park Slope community, and whose services, programs and projects are open to residents of Park Slope. -- *Gilly Youner, chair*

**Green Initiatives**, a brand-new venture, is devoted to advancing Park Slope as a model of community sustainability by serving as a conduit for green events, inquiries, forums and programs that reflect our neighborhood's unique characteristics. With an emphasis on interactive and long-term efforts, we seek to engage our neighbors and schools in community-wide educational activities, address alternative energy issues in brownstones and historic buildings and partner with existing Park Slope organizations to support their green agendas. -- *Marietta Abrams Brill, Cathy Sokil Milnikiewicz, co-chairs*

**Livable Streets** will be re-launched with a breakfast to be conducted in the next few months, engaging people in the community who are not transportation professionals to consider what works and what does not on the streets of our community. We will use the report of the 2009 Livable Streets brunch for guidance and comparison. The results of the upcoming breakfast will help determine which Livable Streets initiatives the Civic Council will undertake in the future. -- *Michael Cairl, acting chair*

**Toys for Tots** is a gift-collection drive organized by the Civic Council that helps local children and families in need celebrate the holiday. -- *Thomas Miskel, coordinator*

**The Historic District Committee** preserves our neighborhood's special architecture, streetscapes and character through the expansion of the historic district. Launched in 2007, the committee advocates with the community, elected officials and other stakeholders; conducts extensive outreach at community events by canvassing homeowners within proposed expansion areas and drives the landmark designation process forward through persistent advocacy on behalf of the neighborhood with the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC), the City Council and other government agencies. -- *Peter Bray, chair*

**The House Tour Committee** plans and executes the annual House Tour and post-tour architectural lecture. We strive to create an event that showcases the beautiful residential architecture of Park Slope, displays the diversity of interior design and encourages ticket buyers to return year after year. The proceeds of the House Tour fund our Grants Program. -- *Candace Woodward, Darryl Cook, co-chairs*

**Outreach** brings awareness to and support for the Civic Council. Our Annual fundraising event, Food for Thought, funds our scholarship program. Additional projects throughout the year include organizing informational and marketing efforts, sponsorships, recruitment of new members and partnering with all PSCC committees and other local organizations on various community issues -- *Melinda Morris, Sarah Gersowitz, co-chairs & Cathy Sokil Milnikiewicz, chair, Membership division*

**Sustainability** advocates for the responsible use and conservation of natural resources and promotes practices that have a beneficial effect on the environment. Towards this end, we provide information relating to sustainability issues, such as reduction of energy use, encourage practices which reduce waste and increase recycling activities. The committee coordinates Fall and Spring Civic Sweeps, which bring the community together for a day of clean up and beautification, as well as co-sponsorship -- with the Prospect Park Alliance -- of Mulchfest, which facilitates the collection of Christmas trees for mulching and distribution. -- *Chandru Murthi, Robert Gilbert, co-chairs*

**The Scholarship Committee** grants annual scholarships to one college-bound graduating senior from each of the four high schools at The John Jay Campus in Park Slope. Criteria for these awards are based on volunteer and community service, scholarship, passion and counselor recommendation. The proceeds from the Civic Council's annual fundraiser, Food For Thought, have permitted the scholarship committee to significantly increase the amount of scholarships in recent years, allowing the committee to build its reserve for future awards. -- *Joan Emerson, Joe Rydell, co-chairs*

**Arts Festival** is a newly forming group focused on a multi-faceted event for the Fall 2016, which will include residents of our neighborhood engaged in all aspects of the arts in a large scale curated/juried exhibition and installation of interactive works. It will be neighborhood-wide and incorporate retailers, galleries and restaurants, as well as open-air performance, ongoing art installations, readings and publicly accessible site works. -- *Gilly Youner, chair*